

Notice of Availability
Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport
Wood Stork Rookery
Draft Environmental Assessment

The Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SAV or Airport), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a proposal to alter the habitat of any existing and/or potentially future suitable rookery sites to encourage the movement of wood storks (*Mycteria americana*) and other wading birds off the SAV property. The Proposed Action would include tree removal at existing and/or potentially future suitable rookery sites on Airport property. This Preferred Alternative would include long-term maintenance of the SAV property to control existing habitats from maturing into suitable rookery sites. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to enhance human safety and safeguard aircraft at the Airport.

The Draft EA includes an analysis of potential environmental impacts due to implementation of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action has been evaluated in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act, and under Federal Executive Orders 11990 and 11988 for impacts to wetlands and floodplains. The results of the Draft EA indicate that there would not be any significant adverse effects to resource areas associated with the Proposed Action. However, implementation of the Proposed Action *may affect, and is likely to adversely affect* the federally protected wood stork. An ESA Section 7 Biological Assessment has been prepared for the wood stork and is provided as an attachment to the Draft EA.

The Savannah Airport Commission will be accepting written comments on the Draft EA from 23 October 2017 through 22 November 2017 (postmarked by 22 November 2017). Written comments may be submitted to the following address:

Ms. Elaine Ceccacci
Environmental Services, Inc.
101 B Estus Drive
Savannah, GA 31404
Email: ececcacci@esinc.cc
Fax: 912-236-3668

The Draft EA is available for public review during regular business hours at the Savannah Airport Commission, located at 400 Airways Avenue, Savannah, GA. The Savannah Airport Commission offices are located on the third floor of the Airport Terminal. The Draft EA is also available for review at the downtown branch of the Live Oak Public Library, Reference Desk, 2002 Bull Street, Savannah, GA. The Draft EA may also be reviewed on the Airport's website: www.savannahairport.com.

A **Public Open House Meeting** on the Proposed Action will be held on 28 November 2017 at the Savannah Airport Commission Conference Room, Third Floor, 400 Airways Avenue, Airport Main Terminal from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Persons wishing to comment on the Proposed Action may do so at the Public Meeting or they may provide written comments following the meeting until 8 December 2017. Comments may be sent to Ms. Elaine Ceccacci of Environmental Services, Inc. at the address listed above.

All substantive comments will be carefully reviewed and addressed in the Final EA. In accordance with federal regulations, the Federal Aviation Administration will not decide whether to implement the Proposed Action or take an alternative action until the review process is completed and an environmental finding is issued.