DIVISION OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION & SYSTEM INFORMATION
Research Initial Scope of Work
SUBMITTAL FORM - FY 2024/25

I. Task Title: Research to Update Airport Land Use Planning Handbook Phase 2

II. Task ID: 4517

III. Project Problem Statement:

The current California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook, last updated in 2011, does not reflect current data, land use trends, or emerging aviation technologies. Safety zone criteria are based on outdated accident data, and existing guidance lacks relevance in the context of state housing policies, densification, and future aviation systems.

IV. Objective:

To update the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook with accurate safety zone dimensions, revised residential density and non-residential intensity criteria, and acknowledgment of future aviation technologies, ensuring statewide consistency and utility for Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUCs), local agencies, consultants and stakeholders.

V. Task Description of Work:

This project will: Integrate updated aircraft accident data to revise safety compatibility zones. Reevaluate and refine guidance on residential and non-residential land use near airports. Introduce preliminary language addressing Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and related technologies. All content will be reviewed for consistency, accessibility, and technical integrity, with final outputs prepared for both digital and print publication.

VI. Expected Deliverables:

Deliverable #1: Revise Safety Zone with Dimensions and Geometry. Deliverable #2: Revise Densities and Intensities as warranted. Deliverables #3: 1)Determine criteria for Vertiport Site Location 2)Model local zoning regulations for vertiport site and surrounding communities addressing above-mentioned criteria.

VII. Background:

The Handbook is a non-regulatory document mandated by the California State Aeronautics Act (PUC §21001 et seq.) and published by Caltrans' Division of Aeronautics. It guides ALUCs and local jurisdictions in compatibility planning for public use airports. This update builds upon Division of Research, Innovation and System Information (DRISI) Task 4517 research and addresses new planning challenges statewide.

VIII. Related Research:

Task 3917- Recommendations for Update of California Airport Land Use Handbook.

IX. Deployment Potential:

The research will contribute significantly to the update of the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook. The Handbook is the primary source of guidance to Airport Land Use Commissions, professional practitioners, local planning entities, and community stakeholders. The findings of this research will be immediately useable.

X. Estimate of Duration:

12 months