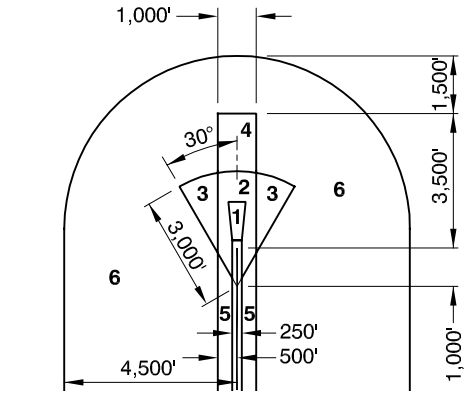
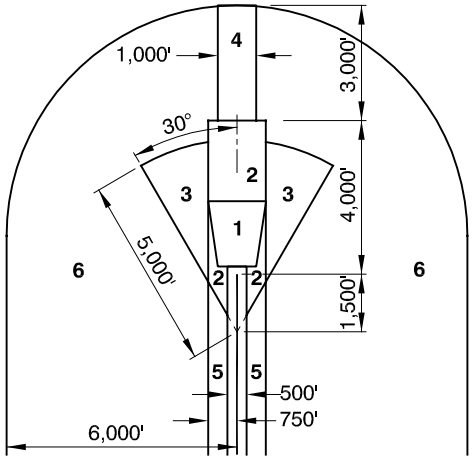
Appendix E

Caltrans Airport Compatibility Planning Guidelines



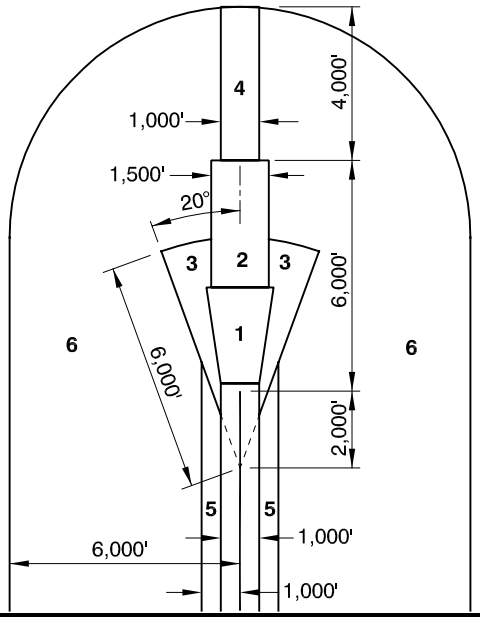
Example 1:
Short General Aviation Runway

Assumptions:
- Length less than 4,000 feet
- Approach visibility minimums ≥ 1 mile or visual approach only
- Zone 1 = 250' x 450' x 1,000'



Example 2:
Medium General Aviation Runway

Assumptions:
- Length 4,000 to 5,999 feet
- Approach visibility minimums ≥ 3/4 mile and < 1 mile
- Zone 1 = 1,000' x 1,510' x 1,700'



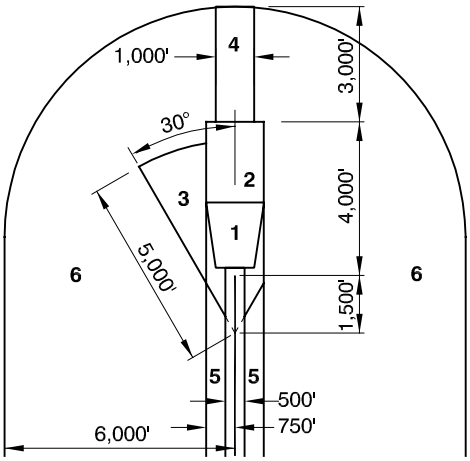
Example 3:
Long General Aviation Runway

Assumptions:
- Length 6,000 feet or more
- Approach visibility minimums < 3/4 mile
- Zone 1 = 1,000' x 1,750' x 2,500'

FIGURE 9K

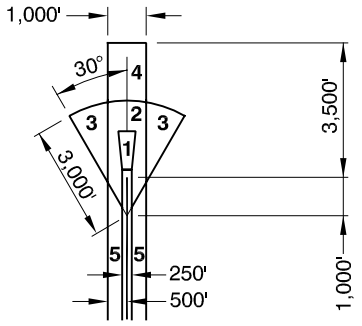
Safety Compatibility Zone Examples

General Aviation Runways



Example 4:
General Aviation Runway with Single-Sided Traffic Pattern

Assumptions:
- No traffic pattern on right
- Length 4,000 to 5,999 feet
- Approach visibility minimums ≥ 3/4 mile and < 1 mile
- Zone 1 = 1,000' x 1,510' x 1,700'



Example 5:
Low-Activity General Aviation Runway

Assumptions:
- Less than 2,000 takeoffs and landings per year at individual runway end.
- Length less than 4,000 feet
- Approach visibility minimums ≥ 1 mile or visual approach only
- Zone 1 = 250' x 450' x 1,000'

Legend

1. Runway Protection Zone
2. Inner Approach/Departure Zone
3. Inner Turning Zone
4. Outer Approach/Departure Zone
5. Sideline Zone
6. Traffic Pattern Zone

Notes:

- RPZ (Zone 1) size in each example is as indicated by FAA criteria for the approach type assumed. Adjustment may be necessary if the approach type differs.
- See Table 9A for factors to consider regarding other possible adjustments to these zones to reflect characteristics of a specific airport runway.
- See Tables 9B and 9C for guidance on compatibility criteria applicable with each zone.

These examples are intended to provide general guidance for establishment of airport safety compatibility zones. They do not represent California Department of Transportation standards or policy.

FIGURE 9K *CONTINUED*

The generic sets of compatibility zones shown in Figures 9K and 9L may need to be adjusted to take into account various operational characteristics of a particular airport runway. Among these characteristics are the following:

- **Instrument Approach Procedures**—At least within the final two to three miles which are of greatest interest to land use compatibility planning, the flight paths associated with precision instrument approach procedures are highly standardized from airport to airport. Other types of instrument approach procedures are less uniform, however. If such procedures are available at an airport, ALUCs should identify the flight paths associated with them and the extent to which they are used. Procedures which are regularly used should be taken into account in the configuration of safety zones (and in setting height limits for airspace protection). Types of procedures which may warrant special consideration include:
  - *Circling Approaches:* Most instrument approach procedures allow aircraft to circle to land at a different runway rather than continue straight-in to a landing on the runway for which the approach is primarily designed. When airports which have straight-in approaches to multiple runway ends, circling approaches are seldom necessary. However, when only one straight-in approach procedure is available and the wind direction precludes landings on that runway, aircraft may be forced to circle to land on at another runway end. Pilots must maintain sight of the runway while circling, thus turns are typically tight. Also, the minimum circling altitude is often less than the traffic pattern altitude. At airports where circling approaches are common, giving consideration to the associated risks when setting safety zone boundaries is appropriate.
  - *Nonprecision Approaches at Low Altitudes:* Nonprecision instrument approach procedures often involve aircraft descending to a lower altitude farther from the runway than occurs on either precision instrument or visual approaches. An altitude of 300 to 400 feet as much as two to three miles from the runway is not unusual. The safety (and noise) implications of such procedures need to be addressed at airports where they are in common use. (A need for corresponding restrictions on the heights of objects also exists along these routes.)
  - *Nonprecision Approaches not Aligned with the Runway:* Some types of nonprecision approaches bring aircraft toward the runway along a path that is not aligned with the runway. In many cases, these procedures merely enable the aircraft to reach the airport vicinity at which point they then proceed to land under visual conditions. In other instances, however, transition to the runway alignment occurs close to the runway and at a low altitude.
- **Other Special Flight Procedures or Limitations**—Single-sided traffic patterns represent only one type of special flight procedures or limitations which may be established at some airports. Factors such as nearby airports, high terrain, or noise-sensitive land uses may affect the size of the airport traffic pattern or otherwise dictate where and at what altitude aircraft fly when using the airport. These procedures may need to be taken into account in the design of safety compatibility zones.
- **Runway Use by Special-Purpose Aircraft**—In addition to special flight procedures which most or all aircraft may use at some airports, certain special-purpose types of aircraft often have their own particular flight procedures. Most common among these aircraft are fire attack, agricultural, and military airplanes. Helicopters also typically have their own special flight routes. The existence of these procedures needs to be investigated and, where warranted by the levels of usage, may need to be considered in the shaping of safety zones.
- **Small Aircraft Using Long Runways**—When small airplanes take off from long runways (especially runways in excess of 8,000 feet length), it is common practice for them to turn toward their intended direction of flight before passing over the far end of the runway. When mishaps occur, the resulting pattern of accident sites will likely be more dispersed around the runway end than is the case with shorter runways. With short runways, accident sites tend to be more tightly clustered around the runway end and along the extended runway centerline because aircraft are still following the runway heading as they begin their climb.
- **Runways Used Predominantly in One Direction**—Most runways are used sometimes in one direction and, at other times, in the opposite direction depending upon the direction of the wind. Even when used predominantly in one direction, a busy runway may experience a significant number of operations in the opposite direction (for example, a runway with 100,000 total annual operations, 90% of which are in one direction, will still have 10,000 annual operations in the opposite direction). Thus, in most situations, the generic safety zones—which take into account both takeoffs and landings at a runway end—are applicable. However, when the number of either takeoffs or landings at a runway end is less than approximately 2,000 per year, then adjustment of the safety compatibility zones to reflect those circumstances may be warranted.
- **Displaced Landing Thresholds**—A displaced threshold moves the landing location of aircraft down the runway from where they would land in the absence of the displacement. The distribution pattern of landing accident sites as shown in Appendix F would thus shift a corresponding amount. The pattern of accident locations for aircraft taking off toward that end of the runway does not necessarily shift, however. Whether the runway length behind the displaced threshold is usable for takeoffs toward that end of the runway is a key factor in this regard. The appropriateness of making adjustments to safety zone locations in response to the existence of a displaced threshold needs to be examined on a case-by-case basis. The numbers of landings at and takeoffs toward the runway end in question should be considered in making this determination.

TABLE 9A

Safety Zone Adjustment Factors

Airport Operational Variables

Zone 1: Runway Protection Zone

Risk Factors / Runway Proximity

- Very high risk
- Runway protection zone as defined by FAA criteria
- For military airports, clear zones as defined by AICUZ criteria

Basic Compatibility Qualities

- Airport ownership of property encouraged
- Prohibit all new structures
- Prohibit residential land uses
- Avoid nonresidential uses except if very low intensity in character and confined to the sides and outer end of the area

Zone 2: Inner Approach/Departure Zone

Risk Factors / Runway Proximity

- Substantial risk: RPZs together with inner safety zones encompass 30% to 50% of near-airport aircraft accident sites (air carrier and general aviation)
- Zone extends beyond and, if RPZ is narrow, along sides of RPZ
- Encompasses areas overflown at low altitudes — typically only 200 to 400 feet above runway elevation

Basic Compatibility Qualities

- Prohibit residential uses except on large, agricultural parcels
- Limit nonresidential uses to activities which attract few people (uses such as shopping centers, most eating establishments, theaters, meeting halls, multi-story office buildings, and labor-intensive manufacturing plants unacceptable)
- Prohibit children's schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes
- Prohibit hazardous uses (e.g. aboveground bulk fuel storage)

Zone 3: Inner Turning Zone

Risk Factors / Runway Proximity

- Zone primarily applicable to general aviation airports
- Encompasses locations where aircraft are typically turning from the base to final approach legs of the standard traffic pattern and are descending from traffic pattern altitude
- Zone also includes the area where departing aircraft normally complete the transition from takeoff power and flap settings to a climb mode and have begun to turn to their en route heading

Basic Compatibility Qualities

- Limit residential uses to very low densities (if not deemed unacceptable because of noise)
- Avoid nonresidential uses having moderate or higher usage intensities (e.g., major shopping centers, fast food restaurants, theaters, meeting halls, buildings with more than three aboveground habitable floors are generally unacceptable)
- Prohibit children's schools, large day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes
- Avoid hazardous uses (e.g. aboveground bulk fuel storage)

TABLE 9B

Basic Safety Compatibility Qualities

Zone 4: Outer Approach/Departure Zone

Risk Factors / Runway Proximity

- Situated along extended runway centerline beyond Zone 3
- Approaching aircraft usually at less than traffic pattern altitude
- Particularly applicable for busy general aviation runways (because of elongated traffic pattern), runways with straight-in instrument approach procedures, and other runways where straight-in or straight-out flight paths are common
- Zone can be reduced in size or eliminated for runways with very-low activity levels

Basic Compatibility Qualities

- In undeveloped areas, limit residential uses to very low densities (if not deemed unacceptable because of noise); if alternative uses are impractical, allow higher densities as infill in urban areas
- Limit nonresidential uses as in Zone 3
- Prohibit children's schools, large day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes

Zone 5: Sideline Zone

Risk Factors / Runway Proximity

- Encompasses close-in area lateral to runways
- Area not normally overflown; primary risk is with aircraft (especially twins) losing directional control on takeoff
- Area is on airport property at most airports

Basic Compatibility Qualities

- Avoid residential uses unless airport related (noise usually also a factor)
- Allow all common aviation-related activities provided that height-limit criteria are met
- Limit other nonresidential uses similarly to Zone 3, but with slightly higher usage intensities
- Prohibit children's schools, large day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes

Zone 6: Traffic Pattern Zone

Risk Factors / Runway Proximity

- Generally low likelihood of accident occurrence at most airports; risk concern primarily is with uses for which potential consequences are severe
- Zone includes all other portions of regular traffic patterns and pattern entry routes

Basic Compatibility Qualities

- Allow residential uses
- Allow most nonresidential uses; prohibit outdoor stadiums and similar uses with very high intensities
- Avoid children's schools, large day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes

Definitions

As used in this table, the follow meanings are intended:

- *Allow:* Use is acceptable
- *Limit:* Use is acceptable only if density/intensity restrictions are met
- *Avoid:* Use generally should not be permitted unless no feasible alternative is available
- *Prohibit:* Use should not be permitted under any circumstances
- *Children's Schools:* Through grade 12
- *Large Day Care Centers:* Commercial facilities as defined in accordance with state law; for the purposes here, family day care homes and noncommercial facilities ancillary to a place of business are generally allowed.
- *Aboveground Bulk Storage of Fuel:* Tank size greater than 6,000 gallons (this suggested criterion is based on Uniform Fire Code criteria which are more stringent for larger tank sizes)

TABLE 9B *CONTINUED*

MAXIMUM RESIDENTIAL DENSITY

Current Setting	(1) Runway Protection Zone	(2) Inner Approach/ Departure Zone	(3) Inner Turning Zone	(4) Outer Approach/ Departure Zone	(5) Sideline Zone	(6) Traffic Pattern Zone
		Safety Compatibility Zones[a]				
Average number of dwelling units per gross acre						
Rural Farmland / Open Space (Minimal Development)	0	Maintain current zoning if less than density criteria for rural / suburban setting				No limit
Rural / Suburban (Mostly to Partially Undeveloped)	0	1 d.u. per 10 – 20 ac.	1 d.u. per 2 – 5 ac.	1 d.u. per 2 – 5 ac.	1 d.u. per 1 – 2 ac.	No limit
Urban (Heavily Developed)	0	0	Allow infill at up to average of surrounding residential area[b]			No limit

[a] Clustering to preserve open land encouraged in all zones.
[b] See Chapter 3 for discussion of infill development criteria; infill is appropriate only if nonresidential uses are not feasible.

MAXIMUM NONRESIDENTIAL INTENSITY

Current Setting	(1) Runway Protection Zone	(2) Inner Approach/ Departure Zone	(3) Inner Turning Zone	(4) Outer Approach/ Departure Zone	(5) Sideline Zone	(6) Traffic Pattern Zone
		Safety Compatibility Zones				
Average number of people per gross acre[a]						
Rural Farmland / Open Space (Minimal Development)	0[b]	10 – 25	60 – 80	60 – 80	80 – 100	150
Rural / Suburban (Mostly to Partially Undeveloped)	0[b]	25 – 40	60 – 80	60 – 80	80 – 100	150
Urban (Heavily Developed)	0[b]	40 – 60	80 – 100	80 – 100	100 – 150	No limit[c]
Multipliers for above numbers[d]						
Maximum Number of People per Single Acre	x 1.0	x 2.0	x 2.0	x 3.0	x 2.0	x 3.0
Bonus for Special Risk-Reduction Bldg. Design	x 1.0	x 1.5	x 2.0	x 2.0	x 2.0	x 2.0

[a] Also see Table 9B for guidelines regarding uses which should be prohibited regardless of usage intensity
[b] Exceptions can be permitted for agricultural activities, roads, and automobile parking provided that FAA criteria are satisfied.
[c] Large stadiums and similar uses should be prohibited.
[d] Multipliers are cumulative (e.g., maximum intensity per single acre in inner safety zone is 2.0 times the average intensity for the site, but with risk-reduction building design is 2.0 x 1.5 = 3.0 times the average intensity).

TABLE 9C

Safety Compatibility Criteria Guidelines

Land Use Densities and Intensities