



Experience, Resources, and Personal Commitment

When airport operators plan improvements or need additional environmental expertise, they seek environmental planners with relevant *experience*, state-of-the-art *resources*, and involvement that transcend contractual requirements and become *personal commitment* to the project's goals. L&B has the perfect blend of all three:

Experience - L&B's environmental staff members average decades of direct, relevant experience in airport environmental planning, making L&B the world leader in the field.

Resources - L&B has compiled the most complete set of resources in the industry. We use and develop the most advanced computerized systems, establish innovative methodologies, and provide ongoing training to keep our staff on the cutting edge of airport environmental planning.

Personal Commitment - When it comes to project commitment, the relationship between L&B and our airport customers is transparent: we are as committed to achieving their objectives as they are. Nowhere is this more readily apparent than in our public participation programs that use extensive, innovative methods to involve public officials and airport neighbors in the consensus-building process.

Environmental Impact Assessments

Many of our largest assignments are focused on gaining environmental approvals for airport improvement projects through FAA Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), sponsor Environmental Assessments (EAs), FAA Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSIs), Categorical Exclusions, and environmental permitting. In these efforts, we provide an experienced team of planners, environmental scientists, and engineers to clearly define project purpose and need, thoroughly evaluate all relevant alternatives, identify impacts, and propose the most acceptable forms of mitigation. Our success in achieving approvals for these projects begins with early and extensive coordination with regulatory agencies and the public. L&B environmental planners design mitigation programs for land use compatibility projects (operational modification, acquisition, sales assistance, sound insulation, redevelopment), air quality offsets, historical and archaeological resource recovery, wetland replacement and enhancement, and endangered species habitat relocation and restoration.

Noise Compatibility Planning

Noise compatibility planning under Part 150 of the Federal Aviation Regulations has provided airports the tools they need to operate and improve conditions within already-developed environments. With experience at more than 100 airports, the L&B staff of acousticians, noise modelers and abatement planners assists airports with virtually every possible aircraft noise issue. When feasible, L&B often recommends combining Part 150 studies with EAs and EISs, using the Part 150 studies as a forum for focused, intense public involvement and mitigation planning regarding the impact category that is generally of greatest public concern - aircraft noise. As members of the AEDT design team, L&B is one of the leaders in the development of new integrated technology for the delineation of aircraft noise exposure. Our experience in the evaluation of noise and access restrictions on Stage 2 and 3 aircraft operations at busy airports incorporates our breadth of capability - noise, land use, economics, operations - to provide all facets of expertise required for successful Part 161 Studies.

Air Quality Compliance

For airports located in areas of non-attainment or maintenance, a key focus of airport environmental studies is the demonstration of air quality conformity with the Clean Air Act and compliance to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). L&B has a team of air quality professionals experienced in evaluating General Conformity and assessing compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Our team focuses on early and extensive coordination with local, state, and federal air agencies to ensure a thorough and comprehensive review of air

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quality. As a result, our analyses have withstood the most rigorous legal challenges related to Clean Air Act and NEPA requirements. Our staff is experienced in preparing emission inventories using the FAA Emissions and Dispersion Modeling System (EDMS) and can supplement the analysis with inventories of greenhouse gases and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). Our construction emissions inventories are meticulously prepared using the USEPA NONROAD2005 and NMIM programs. In addition, L&B staff assisted the FAA in preparing the Presumed to Conform list, which can be applied to projects in demonstrating conformity. To assist airports in meeting future conformity requirements, L&B prepares applications for emission credits under the FAA Voluntary Airport Low Emissions (VALE) program.

Air Quality Dispersion Modeling

Our team approach integrates L&B's expertise in airport operations and planning with air quality modeling to enable our clients to successfully negotiate complex air quality regulations. Staff specialists use the latest technology to model the dispersion of air emissions at airports, along roadways, and at intersections affected by airport activity. Our studies use a variety of air quality computer models including MOBILE, CAL3QHC, AERMOD, and EDMS. For airport studies, EDMS is the FAA-required and USEPA-approved model for estimating inventories and calculating pollutant dispersion of airport sources of emissions. At the request of the FAA, L&B air quality specialists participate in the FAA's AEDT Design Review Group to assist the FAA with further development and testing of the new integrated AEDT software.

NEPA/Permitting

Successful permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires a supportable project need and consideration of alternatives. L&B develops comprehensive alternatives, usually based on avoidance and minimization of impacts through innovative mitigation plans, up-front agency coordination, and extensive public involvement. Our approach to permitting calls for agency coordination early in the planning process, accomplishing permitting and environmental assessment simultaneously. Our permitting experience with federal, state, and local regulatory agencies has helped many of our clients implement airport improvements with minimum controversy, time, and cost.

Sound Insulation Acoustical Support Services

Airport sound insulation acoustical support services (SIASS) require thorough technical and acoustical insight that can only be gained through experience and practical application. L&B's SIASS professionals have provided consulting services on sound insulation programs in more than 25 cities nationwide. These services include helping airports and their architects determine cost-effective designs while ensuring that the airport sponsors adhere to the FAA's stringent criteria, and to maximize homeowner satisfaction. L&B optimizes the testing procedure for each new project, maximizing the cost effectiveness of in-field testing. Sound insulation testing is based on actual aircraft sources or artificial noise sources, depending on the client's needs and the best method for a given airport.

Airport Noise Office Support

Airports with extensive noise programs benefit greatly from consultant assistance to portions of or all of their noise office functions. L&B assists airports in monitoring aircraft noise and operating flight-tracking systems and applies our unique understanding of both flight and acoustic characteristics to help airports get the most out of their data. We offer strategic, operational, and administrative support to airports and their advisory committees with the implementation of noise-abatement initiatives and community outreach efforts.

Geographic Information Systems

For every airport with a L&B-prepared GIS database, there is no return to the old way of doing business. The accuracy of mapping, quality of graphics, and quantity of geographical data greatly improves the final product while shortening the time frame for completing a project analysis. Airports are discovering that the implementation costs of follow-on mitigation programs are reduced and the programs are more manageable when set up by our GIS specialists.

Public Involvement and Outreach

Often, the success of an airport improvement project is contingent upon an effective public involvement program. While there is no "one size fits all" approach to public involvement, L&B is renowned for our public outreach programs because of our commitment to honesty, respect, quality, and the value of face-to-face interaction. The Transportation Research Board's national guidance for community involvement in noise studies was written by L&B staff. We operate under the principle that there can never be too much public involvement.

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