

#### **ASSESSMENT**

21 March 2018

# Rate this Research



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# Mexico City Airport Trust NAFIN F/80460

Update to Green Bond Assessment - September 2016 and September 2017 issuances

# **Summary**







We are maintaining the GB1 (Excellent) Green Bond Assessments (GBA) on the aggregate \$6 billion of green bonds issued in September 2016 and September 2017 by Mexico City Airport Trust NAFIN F/80460 (NAICM, Baa1 negative). Following our review of NAICM's use of proceeds, ongoing disclosure and proceeds management practices, we are maintaining the transaction's overall weighted score at 1.35. We are not changing any factor scores at this time, given that all aspects of the transaction remain consistent with our initial expectations.

This report highlights findings from our review of NAICM's first five quarterly green bond reports, with the most recent report dated December 31, 2017. In this report, we also provide our analysis of the 2017 annual compliance report published by NAICM's second opinion provider. Finally, we discuss the potential effects of the upcoming Mexico presidential election on the new airport's construction.

Factor	Factor Weights	Score	Weighted Score
Organization	15%	1	0.15
Use of Proceeds	40%	1	0.40
Disclosure on the Use of Proceeds	10%	1	0.10
Management of Proceeds	15%	2	0.30
Ongoing Reporting and Disclosure	20%	2	0.40
Weighted Score			1.35

The transaction-weighted score for both transactions, using the GBA scorecard, is 1.35, which corresponds to a GB1 grade. For a full summary of the transactions' scoring under the GBA scorecard, please see "Methodology scorecard" below. For our full analysis of the transactions, please see the original in-depth report for the September 2016 transaction <a href="here">here</a>, and the original in-depth report for the September 2017 transaction <a href="here">here</a>.

#### **Profile**

The development and construction of Mexico City New International Airport (NAICM) was announced in September 2014. The new airport is designed to meet the long-term demand of air travel in Mexico City and provide a long-standing solution to the capacity constraints of the current airport. The existing airport is about to reach its maximum runway capacity, and by 2020 estimated total passengers would reach 44.8 million.

The first phase of the new airport is expected to start operations in 2020, and it will have an initial capacity of 57 million passengers per year. The new airport will be one of the major airports in Latin America, with three simultaneous runways and over 100 boarding gates (first phase). Future expansions are expected to increase capacity up to 125 million passengers by the year 2065.

The total cost of the first phase of the airport is estimated at \$13.3 billion.

#### **Recent developments**

Consistent with our expectations, NAICM has followed up on its commitment to provide quarterly green bond reports including quantitative and qualitative environmental performance indicators on the eligible green projects being financed with the green bonds. We expect these quarterly reports will continue until the net proceeds are fully allocated, and potentially thereafter in case of new developments.

To date, NAICM has published five quarterly green bond reports updating the market on various elements of the new airport project. The first report, dated December 2016, was published within approximately three months from the first bond issue in September 2016, in line with the original commitment. Four subsequent reports have been published, dated March 2017, June 2017, September 2017 and December 2017. All quarterly green bond reports are published on the <u>Investor Relations page on the NAICM website</u>, following review by the NAICM green bond committee.

Although the form of the reports has changed marginally over the five publications, the reports all include: a project overview, summary of the green bond framework, list of eligible green project categories with category overviews, summary of proceeds allocation to date listed by eligible green category, and summary of broad performance indicators.

The quarterly reports provide detail on proceeds allocations to date, divided up between eligible green project categories. Proceeds allocations at the point of publication of each of the five quarterly green bond reports totaled \$177 million at December 2016, \$197 million at March 2017, \$441 million at June 2017, \$481 million at September 2017 and \$558 million at December 2017 (see Exhibit 1).

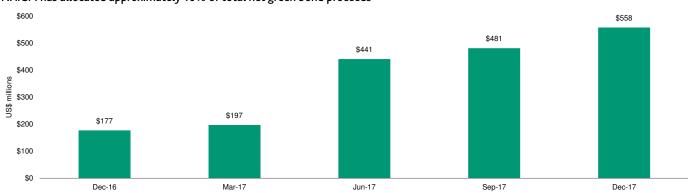


Exhibit 1
NAICM has allocated approximately 10% of total net green bond proceeds

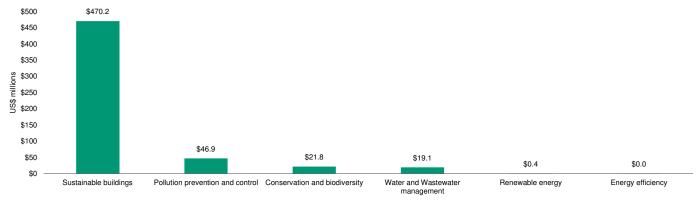
Source: Mexico City Airport Trust NAICM Green Bond Reporting, Reports 1-5

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page on www.moodys.com for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

Approximately 84% of proceeds were allocated to sustainable buildings as of the December 2017 report (see Exhibit 2), with the remaining proceeds split between pollution prevention and control, conservation and biodiversity, water and wastewater management, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Exhibit 2

Vast majority of NAICM green bond proceeds allocated to sustainable buildings



Source: Mexico City Airport Trust NAICM Green Bond Reporting, Report 5, 31 December 2017 (published 31 January 2018)

The individual quarterly reports have also contained additional unique information providing detail on various other aspects of the projects. For example, the March 2017 report highlighted a case study on the use of renewable energy during NAICM project construction, with specific details about installed photovoltaic capacity and tons of  $CO_2$  emissions avoided. The most recent December 2017 report provided detail on the LEED scoring of the various new airport buildings, and how these scores correspond to the expected LEED certification level (see Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3

Four NAICM buildings targeted to receive at least LEED Gold certification

Building	Total points	LEED certification level	Range of points to achieve LEED level
Passenger Terminal Building	81	Platinum	80 to 110
Ground Transportation Center	72	Gold	
Air Traffic Control Tower	71	Gold	60 to 79
Area Control Center	65	Gold	

Source: Mexico City Airport Trust NAICM Green Bond Reporting, Report 5, 31 December 2017 (published 31 January 2018)

Management remains in the process of developing detailed performance indicators to include in quarterly reports. Once developed, these performance indicators will carry through each of the quarterly reports with progress tracked relative to original targets. To date, quarterly reports have contained broad guidance indicating that management expects the new airport to achieve a variety of quantifiable environmental benefits, which are summarized in Exhibit 4. We may change the overall GBA score down if NAICM is unable to provide more detailed performance indicators in future reports, and evidence the actual benefits being realized by the new airport.

Exhibit 4 NAICM discloses broad quantitative performance metric targets

Performance metric	Target percentage
Reduction in potable water use	70%
Reduction in energy usage	40%
Reduction in energy costs	50%
Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions	50%
Reduction in waste generation	10-30%
Improvement in waste diverted to recycling facilities	10-30%

Source: Mexico City Airport Trust NAICM Green Bond Reporting, Report 5, 31 December 2017 (published 31 January 2018)

At the time of the creation of the NAICM green bond framework, Sustainalytics provided a second opinion to confirm the validity of the framework. Management has also engaged Sustainalytics to review the allocation of net proceeds and provide a report on its conformity with the NAICM green bond framework. The review will be conducted annually until the net proceeds are fully allocated to eligible green projects. The first of these annual reports was published in December 2017, and posted on the NAICM website. Sustainalytics evaluated the list of projects for compliance with the use of proceeds criteria outlined in the green bond framework, concluding that the list of projects is consistent with the framework, effectively providing an update to its original second opinion.

We view management's discipline in obtaining such a post-issuance review annually to be positive. However, we do not believe the Sustainalytics report takes the place of an official audit, leaving the new airport without a specific audit on its green bond account.

Two main entities are currently involved in the auditing and oversight of the new airport: the Ministry of Public Administration (Secretaría de la Función Pública, SFP) through the Internal Control Body (Órgano Interno de Control, OIC) of SCT; and the Superior Audit Office (Auditoría Superior de la Federación, ASF), which oversees all parts of the general government sector, reports to Congress and is completely independent of the new airport's management and the executive branch of government. However, there is no direct focus from either of these entities on the system used for tracking disbursements earmarked for eligible projects.

A potential threat to the successful completion of the new airport's construction is the upcoming July 2018 Mexico presidential election. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, a leading presidential candidate, has pledged to revise all contracts granted under the project and possibly also explore alternatives to the new airport. When the project was originally up for discussion, Obrador supported the idea of keeping the current airport open for international flights while starting to use a nearby military air base to service domestic flights. Under the current new airport construction plan (NAICM), both the existing airport (Aeropuerto Internacional Benito Juárez) and the military air base will close upon opening and operation of NAICM.

We believe the cancellation of the new airport project by a potential Obrador-led government is still an unlikely outcome given the progress made so far on the airport and other possible political implications. However, the potential cancellation of the airport is a risk that could lead to the downgrade of the GB1 overall assessments. We will continue to monitor the potential political implications for the new airport, and we will update our assessment analysis as warranted.

# **Methodology scorecard**

Factor 1: Organization (15%)	Yes	No
Environmental governance and organization structure appear to be effective	•	
Policies and procedures enable rigorous review and decision making process	•	
Qualified and experienced personnel and/or reliance on qualified third parties	•	
Explicit and comprehensive criteria for investment selection, including measurable impact results	•	
External evaluations for decision making in line with project characteristics	•	
Factor Score	1	
Factor 2: Use of Proceeds (40%)	Yes	No
>95% - 100% of proceeds allocated to eligible project categories that are determined based on the issuer's adopted policies and the categories established under the Green Bond Principles that will be further informed by one or more robust and widely recognized green bond frameworks or taxonomies that qualify eligible projects, including any applicable regulatory guidelines.	•	
Factor Score	1	
Factor 3: Disclosure on the Use of Proceeds (10%)	Yes	No
Description of green projects, including portfolio level descriptions, actual or intended	•	
Adequacy of funding and/or strategies to complete projects	•	
Quantitative and/or qualitative descriptions for targeted environmental results	•	
Methods and criteria, both quantitative and qualitative, for calculating performance against targeted environmental results	•	
Issuer relies on external assurances: Second Party reviews, audits and/or third party certfications	•	
Factor Score	1	
Factor 4: Management of Proceeds (15%)	Yes	No
Bond proceeds are segregated and separately tracked on an accounting basis or via a method by which proceeds are earmarked	•	
Application of proceeds is tracked by environmental category and project type	•	
Robust process for reconciling planned investments against actual allocations	•	
Clear eligibility rules for investment of cash balances	•	
Audit by external organization or independent internal audit unit		•
Factor Score	2	
Factor 5: Ongoing Reporting and Disclosure (20%)	Yes	No
Reporting and disclosure post issuance provides/to be provided detailed and timely status updates on projects	•	
Ongoing annual reporting is expected over the life of the bond		•
Disclosures provide granular detail on the nature of the investments and their expected environmental impacts	•	
Reporting provides/to be provided a quantiative and/or qualitative assessment of the environmental impacts actually realized to- date	•	
Reporting includes/to include quantitative and/or qualitative explanation of how the realized environmental impacts compare to projections at the time the bonds were sold	•	
Factor Score	2	
Overall Weighted Score	1.35	

Source: Moody's Investors Service

# Moody's Green Bond Assessment (GBA)

Moody's GBA represents a forward-looking, transaction-oriented opinion on the relative effectiveness of the issuer's approach to manage, administer and allocate assets to, and report on, environmental projects financed by proceeds from green bond offerings. GBAs are expressed using a five-point relative scale, ranging from GB1 (Excellent) to GB5 (Poor). A GBA does not constitute a credit rating.

# Moody's related publications

### Methodology:

» Green Bonds Assessment (GBA), March 30, 2016

#### **Credit Opinion:**

- » Government of Mexico A3 Negative: Regular update, November 2, 2017
- » Mexico City Airport Trust NAFIN F/80460: Pre Sale Report, September 6, 2017

#### **Green Bond Assessment:**

- » Mexico City Airport Trust NAFIN F/80460: Green Bond Assessment, September 1, 2017
- » Mexico City Airport Trust NAFIN F/80460: Green Bond Assessment, July 11, 2017

#### **Sector In-Depth:**

- » Green Bonds Global: Global municipal green bond issuance will continue to rise, March 19, 2018
- » Green Bonds Global: Global green bond issuance set to eclipse \$250 billion in 2018, January 31, 2018
- » Cross-sector Global: FAQ: The green bond market and Moody's Green Bonds Assessment, November 29, 2017
- » Green Bond Assessments Global: Issuers exhibit strong organizational frameworks but differ on disclosure, September 19, 2017

To access any of these reports, click on the entry above. Note that these references are current as of the date of publication of this report and that more recent reports may be available. All research may not be available to all clients.

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