Aviation Considerations:

The site is directly beneath the flight paths of the Mineta San Jose International Airport and presents the challenges of height and noise. The airport served 14.3 million passengers in 2018 with 200+ peak daily departures, activity levels that are projected to increase in the future. The recommended maximum allowable height under FAA airspace safety criteria is a maximum 200 feet above ground. In particular, competition entrants should be advised:

- Up-lighting may not extend beyond building heights as
- No flashing or strobe lights may be used
- Designers should consider the overall lighting design from a pilot’s perspective and not have the overall lighting design, as seen from 2000 feet in any way resemble a runway approach
- Use of solar panels on the roof of any structure should be designed to minimize glare

Structures on the Arena Green competition site are subject to federal aviation regulations regarding height, and may be required under these regulations to be filed with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for obstruction evaluation and, in turn, issued “determinations of no hazard” by the FAA which may include conditions requiring a design modification or subsequent FAA filing notification.

The site is located within an existing and projected cumulative aircraft noise impact zone of 65-70 decibels on the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) scale. This noise level is typically experienced as potentially disruptive to conversation during aircraft overflight events and is considered incompatible with noise-sensitive land uses such as homes, schools, hospitals, and passive outdoor recreation.