



Bill Brand
Mayor

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The Honorable Ted Lieu
House of Representatives
5055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 310
Los Angeles, CA 90036

RE: Noise and safety concerns (emanating from Hawthorne Municipal Airport, LAX, Long Beach Airport and Torrance Airport) adversely affecting the South Bay Cities as a result of recently adopted (FAA) Federal Aviation Agency - NextGen SoCal Metroplex flight paths.

Dear Congressman Lieu:

On October 16 and November 6, 2018, the City of Redondo Beach received and filed reports on noise issues as a result of increasing air traffic which heavily impacts our neighborhoods and residents. On behalf of myself, the Redondo Beach City Council and our residents, I strongly urge the FAA to re-evaluate and modify the NextGen Flight path guidelines that have been implemented over the highly populated South Bay Cities since the adoption of the SoCal Metroplex system.

We understand that the FAA began implementing the SoCal Metroplex in a phased approach starting in November 2016; that the project encompasses a broad region including local airports; and that it replaces conventional air traffic control systems with new satellite-based procedures with the intended purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the National Airspace System.

The FAA states that it “*complied with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and prepared an environmental assessment (EA) of the Southern California Metroplex project area*” and the FAA asserts that “***The EA found that the proposed project would cause no significant impacts to people, historic properties, parks or other applicable environmental resources; and, implementing the project will not significantly affect noise, energy, climate and air quality emissions in the study area.***”

Although a public comment period for the Draft EA was open for 120 days and the FAA conducted 11 public workshops, none took place in Redondo Beach. The lack of outreach to Redondo Beach or community engagement with our residents by the FAA has created adverse impacts on the quality of life in our vibrant community.

Some of the City's main concerns with the expanded use and flight plan changes emanating from Hawthorne Municipal Airport, LAX, Long Beach Airport, and Torrance Airport are as follows:

1. Increased noise resulting from a greater number of flights in compressed areas flying lower over homes, schools and parks.

We have been contacted by local residents from Redondo Beach and neighboring cities concerned about the significant increase in flights over densely populated areas that were not pre-existing flight paths prior to these changes. Noise abatement guidelines are not being followed or enforced due to "Voluntary" status or aircraft operators are choosing to ignore them. The flight paths and low altitudes are extremely disruptive to the health and wellness of our residents.

2. Increased environmental impacts from jet pollution and particulate matter create long-term health issues such as asthma, respiratory & cardiac disease, and sleep disruption.

The Hawthorne Municipal Airport currently operates 24 hours a day. The expansion of their private charter Jet Center coupled with the potential additional traffic as a result of Santa Monica airport's closure and the new Inglewood Stadium will create a dramatic increase in operations. Furthermore, the redirected LAX, Long Beach or Torrance Airport operations are causing an unprecedented increase in low altitude flight paths over the South Bay. Use of the Hawthorne Airport facility or any neighboring airport should not come at the cost of the peaceful enjoyment of neighboring cities' residents.

The City of Redondo Beach hopes that the Hawthorne City Council will consider its influence on and strive to enforce Fly Quietly guidelines as well as work with the FAA towards improving local operational guidelines that can mitigate the disruptions experienced by surrounding communities.

We request that you and other elected representatives advocate to the FAA for the re-evaluation of the negatively impacting NextGen Flight paths, updated noise abatement guideline responsibilities (i.e. not voluntary but enforceable), mitigate unnecessary low altitude aircraft noise, and encourage courtesy hours of operations such that our local airport operations cease to have detrimental impacts on the health and well being of your constituents.

Sincerely,



William Brand
Mayor
City of Redondo Beach

CC: Honorable Maxine Waters, U.S. House of Representatives, 43rd District
Honorable Ben Allen, California Senate, 26th District
Honorable Al Muratsuchi, California Assembly, 66th District
Honorable Mayor & City Council, City of Hawthorne