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March 24, 2016

Glen A. Martin, Regional Administrator
FAA Western-Pacific Region
P.O. Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA 90009

Dear Mr. Martin:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), I am writing to express our concern about the increasing negative effects of helicopter noise. These include:

- virtually no requirements for helicopter operators to follow when flying throughout the area
- no environmental studies,
- no databases of helicopters or helicopter owners,
- no best management practices for helicopter operators to utilize when flying over residential areas, and
- the inconsistent accuracy and effectiveness of the recently implemented centralized complaint system.

Due to this lack of regulation, our cities have asked the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to create unbiased regulations that helicopter operators must follow. It is long overdue for the FAA to create regulations that address this longstanding problem.

Our cities were optimistic with the passage of the FY14 Federal Transportation Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, approved in January 2014, which included language requiring that the FAA work with helicopter operators and community representatives on methods to reduce helicopter noise in Los Angeles County, but there has been no progress other than the imperfect centralized complaint system.

The areas listed within the appropriations bill that must be addressed by the FAA as follows:

- (1) evaluate and adjust existing helicopter routes above Los Angeles County and make adjustments to such routes if the adjustments would lessen impacts on residential areas and noise-sensitive landmarks;
- (2) analyze whether helicopters could safely fly at higher altitudes in certain areas above Los Angeles County;
- (3) develop and promote best practices for helicopter hovering and electronic news gathering;
- (4) conduct outreach to helicopter pilots to inform them of voluntary policies and to increase awareness of noise sensitive areas and events;
- (5) work with local stakeholders to develop a more comprehensive noise complaint system; and
- (6) continue to participate in collaborative engagement between community representatives and helicopter operators.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County

In good faith, our cities attended and/or monitored, the working groups that the FAA created for the past two years. The working group met to determine if there are other route options available to helicopter operators and if higher altitudes are feasible. While no agreement was reached with the helicopter operators, reasonable solutions were proposed and our cities have been pleased that the United States Coast Guard was able to modify their flights to decrease their noise impacts.

The SBCCOG endorses the four petitions that are being circulated by the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC) – Helicopter Minimum Altitudes; Helicopter Hover/Orbit Restrictions, Mandatory Media Helicopter Pooling, Coastal Shore Line Route. We strongly urge the FAA to respond to the long-standing concerns of our cities and their constituents. Alternatives have been identified and they have waited long enough for relief.

Sincerely,

Jim Gazeley, SBCCOG Chair
Mayor, City of Lomita