



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Regional Administrator

777 S. Aviation Blvd., Suite 150
El Segundo, CA 90245

September 12, 2023

Justin Erbacci
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles World Airports
1 World Way
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Mr. Erbacci:

Thank you for your letter to Executive Director Torpey dated August 8, 2023, outlining Los Angeles World Airport's (LAWA) concerns regarding the status of three departure procedures for Van Nuys Airport (KVNY)—HARYS, ROSCOE, and WLKKR. Mr. Torpey has directed your letter to the Western-Pacific Region for response.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) assigned the KVNY departure procedure amendments a higher-than-normal prioritization category from when LAWA agreed to move forward with the FAA's conceptual designs of the procedures in October 2021.

On October 19, 2022, an FAA environmental protection specialist received the updated procedure design and worked on it, and other projects, over the next several months. During the environmental analysis, the specialist identified that the project did not meet the presumed to conform clause for air quality because the changes were below the mixing height of 3,000 feet above ground level and would not enhance operational safety and efficiency. The FAA's Office of Environment and Energy (AEE) confirmed the requirement to conduct an air quality analysis on the procedure changes in June 2023. In July 2023, the air quality analysis was successfully completed.

On July 21, 2023, after the air quality analysis was completed, the FAA briefed LAWA staff on the project status. At this meeting, the FAA conveyed that the procedures would not make the January 2024 publication cycle because the next step in the Environmental Review process, Section 106 consultation, had to await the results of the air quality analysis. The FAA also explained that Section 106 consultation would take a minimum of 30 days and that California Native American Heritage Commission consultation could take a minimum of 60 days after receiving the letter. With these actions still awaiting completion, the procedures would not be completed by the January 2024 publication date. For quick reference, we are enclosing the KVNY Conceptual Design Implementation Timeline graphic presented to LAWA in September 2021, which shows that it would take an additional 6 to 11 months after completion of the Environmental Review process to publish the procedures under normal circumstances.

While we appreciate your support to move the date forward, the additional rescheduling driver is the rate that procedures can be published in each charting cycle based on FAA resources. The KVNY procedures remain ahead of all non-safety items (45 total), however in conjunction with the 56-day publication cycle of procedures, after prioritizing all safety projects and completing the remaining steps, the KVNY project's earliest possible publication date is December 2024.

We value our partnership with LAWA and realize the importance of these amendments to the KVNY community. Therefore, we will continue to seek targets of opportunity to move the project forward.

The FAA's mission is to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. We will continually strive to improve the safety and efficiency of flights in this country. If we can be of further assistance, please contact my office at (424) 405-7000.

Sincerely,



Raquel Girvin
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:

KVNY Conceptual Design Implementation Timeline Graphic

cc: Sean Torpey, Executive Director, National Engagement and Regional Administration, FAA
Shanetta R. Griffin, P.E., Associate Administrator Office of Airports, FAA
Clark Desing, Director, ATO Western Service Center, FAA
Mark McClardy, Director, Office of Airports, Western-Pacific Region, FAA

Van Nuys Conceptual Design Implementation Timeline

Environmental Review

Environmental review is conducted in accordance with FAA policies and procedures in compliance with NEPA and other applicable laws. *Process could be longer if a higher level of NEPA review is needed.

Notification to Proceed

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires notification from requester to proceed with conceptual designs.

Procedure Development

Final project development and Quality Control (QC) is completed. Project is sent to Flight Inspection and Flight Standards concurrently.

Final Package

Project is transferred to the publication element of AIS.

Post Implementation

Monitoring and evaluation is conducted to ensure procedure meets objective.

The FAA notified to proceed with conceptual designs.

1-2 months after the request to proceed.

*3-12 months after being sent to environmental team.

**0-1 month after NEPA environmental process completion.

2-3 months after AIS receipt.

2-4 months after QC completion.

0-1 month after Flight Validation and waiver approval.

2 months after final transfer.

For up to 12 months after implementation

Flight Procedures Team's Final Review

Conceptual designs are reviewed to ensure they continue to meet current flight procedure criteria. Waiver forms are prepared. The project is prioritized. The proposed designs are submitted for environmental review as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Final Design

Final design documents are submitted to the FAA's aeronautical charting authority Aeronautical Information Services (AIS), for final development and approval. **Project will be held until an open Flight Inspection slot is available, Flight Inspection slots will be assigned to higher priority projects first.

Project Flight Validation and Waiver Approval

Procedures are Flight Validated and procedural waivers are reviewed by FAA Flight Standards.

Procedures are Implemented

Procedures are made available to the public for use.