

Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force

Background

Within the past two years, residents in the southern San Fernando Valley have expressed increased concerns about noise from airplanes utilizing Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) and Van Nuys Airport (VNY). There are several factors causing airplane noise, including shifts in flight patterns and increases in flight volume. As the owners/operators of BUR and VNY respectively, the Burbank-Glendale Pasadena Airport Authority (BGPAA) and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) are committed to continuing to work with the community, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and other stakeholders to help identify potential actions to reduce airplane noise annoyance without shifting noise to other noise-sensitive communities.

Since communities south of the airports experience departures from both VNY and BUR, LAWA and BGPAA initiated a joint task force to address community concerns over noise generated by aircraft in the southern San Fernando Valley.

Governance structure and by-laws

The Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force (Task Force) consists of a set of voting members and nonvoting participants from the offices of elected officials. Staff from the FAA, BGPAA, and LAWA attend Task Force meetings as technical advisors. A third party facilitator (Facilitator) is responsible for the administrative conduct of Task Force meetings and providing technical writing services.

Purpose and intent

The Task Force has been created to provide a forum for representatives of communities that are currently being affected, and those that could potentially be affected, by aircraft procedural and operational changes related to aircraft noise in the southern San Fernando Valley.

The Task Force is time-limited and specific to this issue.

Representation

The Task Force is comprised of voting members and non-voting participants that are elected officials or designated staff members.

Eight (8) voting members are from the following offices:

Office of LA City Councilman Paul Krekorian

Office of LA City Councilman David Ryu

Office of LA City Councilman Paul Koretz

Office of LA City Councilman Nury Martinez

City of Burbank Mayor Emily Gabel-Luddy

City of Burbank Vice-Mayor Sharon Springer

City of Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian

City of Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek

Five (5) Nonvoting Participants are from the following offices:

Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein

Office of Senator Kamala Harris

Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas

Office of Congressman Adam Schiff

Office of Congressman Brad Sherman

Technical advisors will be individuals from the FAA, BGPAA, and LAWA staff. These representatives are present to provide technical explanations and to assist with the progress of the Task Force to address community concerns with aircraft noise in the southern San Fernando Valley.

Conduct of the meetings

The Task Force is a “legislative body” for purposes of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) (Government Code § 54950 et seq.). Task Force meetings will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act and Roberts Rules of Order, and will be moderated by the Facilitator. The Facilitator will produce an agenda and distribute each agenda at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Materials to be used during each meeting, such as presentations or handouts, will be distributed to the Task Force and made available to the public prior to the meeting whenever possible.

A majority of the voting members of the Task Force (5) constitutes a quorum. A quorum must be present for Task Force meetings. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, any action taken by the Task Force shall require the affirmative vote of the majority of voting members present at the meeting. A change in the bylaws can occur with a majority vote (5) of the Task Force voting membership.

Public participation

Each Task Force meeting will provide the opportunity for public comment on agenda items and on matters within the Task Force’s subject matter jurisdiction. Unless otherwise stated, there will be an overall time limit for public comment with a maximum time limit of 3 minutes per individual as determined by the Chair. Allocation of speaker time to another person is prohibited. Behavior that makes orderly conduct of the meeting infeasible is prohibited and may result in expulsion.

Members of the public and community representatives also may be invited by the Task Force to make agendaized presentations. Such presentations will have separate time limits as determined by the Chair.

Schedule and location of the meetings

The Task Force will hold a total of six, three-hour meetings. The time and location of the meetings will be determined as part of the Facilitator’s preparatory work and will be an agenda item at the first meeting.

At the discretion of the Chair, and by a majority vote (5) of the Task Force voting membership, additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Facilitator responsibilities

The Facilitator will plan and conduct a series of meetings in which the Task Force will discuss and attempt to identify recommendations that can be made to address aircraft noise concerns in communities of the southern San Fernando Valley. The Facilitator will guide the Task Force through a discussion and voting process to create a final list of recommendations that is approved by a majority vote (5) of the Task Force voting membership. The Facilitator will also provide in-person reports to Airport Commissions and Boards, City Councils, etc. as requested.

Final product

The final work product will be a set of recommendations to address the community noise issues related to aircraft from BUR and VNY flying over the southern San Fernando Valley. The Task Force will consider these recommendations for approval to submit to the identified responsible entities, such as the FAA or aircraft operators, for their review and response as to the feasibility of the recommendation(s) and agreement on implementation.