



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

Western-Pacific Region  
Office of the Regional Administrator

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

August 5, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Erbacci:

Thank you for your letter dated June 7, 2022, in which you outline your concerns with the timeline provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for proposed amendments to three Van Nuys Airport (KVNY) departure procedures—the HARYS, ROSCOE, and WLKKR.

The timeline is based on the publication date for the proposed amendments and follows FAA Order 7100.41A, *Performance Based Navigation Implementation Process*. As previously communicated, the KVNY departure procedure amendments cannot be published before January 25, 2024, due to higher priority work in the queue. This project has been prioritized with the earliest date possible. Projects for the January 2024 publication cycle will receive environmental review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and community engagement between March 23 and July 21, 2023. We are unable to schedule these processes sooner because the resources are already assigned to projects ahead of KVNY in the queue. Additionally, software updates and criteria changes for procedures are scheduled in the months leading up to March 23, 2023. If those changes require adjustment to planned procedures, a premature review by the FAA's environmental team would likely necessitate a new environmental review, which would waste valuable time and resources. To prevent this, the planned procedures will be reviewed against all recent criteria and software updates between January and March 2023. This will ensure the FAA's environmental protection specialists review the most up-to-date version of the procedures possible, with the least chance of future software and criteria changes impacting the results.

Recognizing that we have assigned the KVNY departure procedure amendments a higher-than-normal prioritization category is critical—more expeditious handling is not available. As of this letter, the FAA cannot pre-determine the level of environmental review required by NEPA, nor are we able to provide a timeline for this project outside of what has already been provided. However, we can tell you that an environmental review that results in a categorical exclusion is usually completed in about one to two months. Depending on the FAA's initial environmental screening results, typically, an additional one to two months is required for consultation under other environmental statutes such as the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act. If the FAA's initial environmental screening results in the

potential for extraordinary circumstances, an environmental assessment would be required under NEPA. This assessment could take one to two years depending on a number of factors, including but not limited to: the potential for noise impacts, community comments and concerns, the number of workshops/community engagement events held, and elected official involvement.

We understand your concerns regarding the project timeline and will continue to keep you updated throughout the process. Our mission is to provide the safest, most efficient airspace system in the world. We continually strive to improve the safety and efficiency of flight in this country.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact my office at (424) 405-7000.

Sincerely,

*Tamara A. Swann*

Tamara A. Swann  
Regional Administrator (A)