



LAX/COMMUNITY NOISE ROUNDTABLE

Recap of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2024

The Roundtable meeting was conducted virtually via video conference using the Microsoft Teams platform.

Roundtable Members Present

Denny Schneider, Chair, Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion
Jeff Moskin, 1st Vice Chair, Raintree Condo and Townhouse Association
Carl Jacobson, City of El Segundo
Mayra Guevara, City of Los Angeles – CD 10
Henry Lo, City of Monterey Park
Robert Nemeth, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Keith Eich, San Gabriel Valley COG
JoAnn Williams, United Homeowners Association
Curt Bouton, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council
Brad Vanderhoof, West Hills Neighborhood Council
Timi Romolini, Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council
Dan Yeung, Los Angeles World Airports

Airlines Present

Maximillian Weilbach – AeroLogic Airlines
Peter Blandino & Eddie Angeles – American Airlines
Elaine Mireles – Breeze
Carl Stallone – Spirit Airlines
Ashley Zayed, David Terry & Glenn Morse – United Airlines
Jack Hanna – Volaris

FAA Present

Carlette Young, Supervisory Senior Advisor
Christina Johnson-Ohwotemu, Community Engagement Specialist
Jay Cecil Ojeda, Community Engagement Specialist

LAWA and Consultant Staff Present

Sandy Lee, Virtual Meeting Host, LAWA
Crystal Lee, David Chan, Karen Chebatoris & Elizabeth Hernandez, LAWA
Gene Reindel, Facilitator, HMMH
Timothy Middleton, Alternate Facilitator, HMMH Mariano Sarrate, Scribe, HMMH

A quorum of the members was present at 1:42 pm.

1. Welcome/Review of the Meeting Format

Welcoming of the Roundtable membership and the public occurred at 1:38 p.m. The meeting was conducted virtually with the Chair running the meeting with assistance from the Facilitator and Alternate Facilitator as needed. General public comment was invited as scheduled on Agenda Item 3.

2. Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Identification of Those Present

The meeting was officially called to order at 1:40 p.m. The Chair welcomed the attendees. Quorum was not announced but achieved later during the meeting.

3. Comments from the Public

The Chair read a written comment submitted via email by Debbie Warfel. The comment was addressed to the FAA stating that airplane noise and activity have reverted to pre-COVID levels with planes flying over the Santa Monica Canyon and the Pacific Palisades. The comment cited many low flights over the area and expressed a sense of frustration.

Al Tate, a resident of Windsor Hills/View Park, commented on the increase of aircraft flying over his neighborhood, sensors on his property triggered by vibrations from aircraft activity, and an increase of aircraft noise in the community during overcast weather. He asked for a resolution to the noise pollution issue.

4. Update on LAWA Organizational Changes

Dan Yeung addressed this item on behalf of Jacob Haik. As part of a recent reorganization at LAWA, Jacob Haik was assigned to Van Huys Airport as the Airport Manager. Noise Management is now under the direction of Deputy Executive Director Crystal Lee and a part of the Airport Development Group. Dan Yeung will take Jacob's place as the LAWA representative at the Roundtable and will serve as the primary contact for the Noise Management Section.

5. Report from the Technical Working Group

Jeff Moskin provided a report on the progress of the Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG did not meet in July. In the August meeting, the TWG reviewed the open action items related to the north downwind arrivals and then focused on the Roundtable's proposed change to the LADYJ procedure. After further review, the FAA deemed the proposed change to the LADYJ procedure as operationally infeasible. Other related items discussed included the FAA's compliance with NEPA requirements as they relate to the implementation of Metroplex including the LADYJ procedure, and Section 4f requirements pertaining to open natural wildlife preserve. The TWG decided to not proceed with the proposed procedure, but to turn the focus on determining whether there are quieter ways to fly the existing LADYJ procedure. Roundtable member discussion ensued.

Timi Romolini stated while she concedes with the FAA's determination that they will not be moving forward with moving the flight path, she does not concede that the LADYJ is operationally infeasible. She stated that she will continue to challenge whether the LADYJ implementation met all NEPA requirements.

Roundtable member Curt Buton asked if an update is available regarding the north downwind flight paths be moved closer towards the interstate. Gene Reindel explained that the FAA is still looking into this.

6. Update on LAX Fly Quieter Program and Acknowledgement of Airlines

David Chan gave a presentation regarding the 2023 LAX Fly Quieter Program (FQP) and award ceremony. The FQP was created in 2019 as a way to encourage airlines to be more aware of the noise issues communities face and help to increase compliance with noise abatement procedures. The program recognizes operators at LAX and scores them based on five primary elements and two bonus elements. Airlines can receive either gold, silver, or bronze awards and are categorized based on the number of daily operations, Category 1, 100+ operations, Category 2, 5-99 operations, and Category 3, 1-4 operations.

Gold winners were United Airlines (Category 1), Volaris (Category 2), and Breeze (Category 3). Silver winners were American Airlines (Category 1), Avianca (Category 2), and Fiji Airways (Category 3). Bronze winners were Southwest (Category 1), Spirit (Category 2), and Lynx Air (Category 3).

Carriers earning Bonus Points were also acknowledged: United Airlines for their noise reduction efforts, and Spirit, United Airlines, and Alaska for their stakeholder engagement efforts. The airline representatives in attendance expressed their gratitude for the recognition of their efforts.

7. Review of Noise Provisions in FAA Reauthorization Bill

Timothy Middleton (HMMH) facilitated the remainder of the meeting as the primary facilitator, Gene Reindel, had to leave early.

Timothy reviewed the relevant noise provisions found in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. The timeline of the FAA Reauthorization process and the contents of the current FAA reauthorization act were shared. A detailed breakdown was given on certain sections pertaining to noise issues. The sections of the bill were categorized in three ways: near-term, long-term, and monitoring designations.

Roundtable member discussion ensued.

8. Article on HARD Summer Music Festival

The Alternate Facilitator shared an article regarding noise pollution from a music festival in Inglewood, known as HARD Summer. The article cited temperature inversion weather conditions and the effect it has on noise propagation. The inversion effect allowed the noise to travel 9 miles away to communities that would not have experienced the low frequency content of the music festival under normal weather conditions. Details of temperature inversion were shared with the Roundtable. Roundtable member discussion ensued.

9. Aircraft Noise Educational Series: Noise Measurement

The Alternate Facilitator delivered a presentation from the ongoing aircraft noise educational series focused on the fundamentals of noise measurements. Various purposes of noise measurements were discussed. Details on the noise certification process and the specifications for acoustic data collection were discussed. The specifications vary based on the use of the acoustic data. Measurement location selection criteria also vary based on the application of the acoustic data. Best practices for measurement locations and monitoring techniques were shared.

Roundtable member discussion ensued, and Tim was thanked for the quality of the information shared in the presentations today.

10. Roundtable Member Discussion

Curt Bouton expressed concerns raised by his constituents, which include loud and low flights over his community.

The Chair announced the upcoming UC Davis Airport Noise and Emission Symposium in Las Vegas. The Chair also announced the upcoming LAWA special board meeting in Westchester and encouraged Roundtable members to attend.

Timi Romilini reiterated her request for a presentation of APU usage at LAX.

Henry Lo requested that LAWA provide portable noise monitors in his community of Monterey Park. Dan Yeung explained that LAWA does not generally deploy noise monitors in residential areas where the noise issues and flight patterns are known as it would not provide any new information that ANOMS does not already provide (presence of flight activity, altitudes, etc.). David Chan covered the statistics for Monterey Park overflights and explained the merging of north downwind arrivals into the final approach for landing. He indicated that LAWA does monitor these overflights on a regular basis and post monthly reports on LAWA website.

The Chair suggested LAWA to look into a hybrid meeting format to be hosted in different communities in the region to allow for more community members to attend.

11. Review of Roundtable Formal Action Items

No formal action items.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th at 1:30 pm and will be held virtually.