



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

City Manager's Office
(949) 644-3001

September 14, 2011

Mr. Alan Murphy
Director, John Wayne Airport
Eddie Martin Administration Building
3160 Airway Avenue
Costa Mesa, California 92626

RE: Departure Procedures – STREL, RAWLZ

Dear Alan:

Thank you and your staff for all of your assistance and follow-up requests that the City has made to you regarding departure procedures from John Wayne Airport (JWA) such as DUUKE 1, DUUKE 2, and STREL. We sincerely appreciate the extra effort your staff puts forth to address community concerns about the procedures, including all of the noise data that is diligently provided to us. It is emblematic of the unique relationship JWA and the City have developed over the years concerning the airport.

We realize that finding the perfect departure path is challenging, but we remain hopeful that all final departure paths developed through NextGen will mirror, as close as possible, the traditional departure patterns historic to JWA and our community. To that end, we hope to be able to continue to work with you to “mine the data” into the near-term future to better understand exactly where the departure patterns are taking planes. Your support of this ongoing effort is appreciated.

As we look at that data, we will be especially concerned about:

1. Whether the location of the STREL waypoint or the fact that it is a “fly-by” and not a “fly-over” – is allowing or encouraging Air Traffic Control to permit planes to turn east slightly early, resulting in lower altitude turns over the coast and closer to homes in the southeastern part of our community, including Corona del Mar and Crystal Cove. If a fly-over point is more appropriate in this regard, or some other change is proper, we are likely to respectfully advocate for that to you and to the FAA.
2. Whether the STREL procedure has skewed planes slightly to the west upon departure, causing an increase in overflights in the Dover Shores and Westcliff areas that would not be expected had the overall STREL pattern directly mirrored traditional (MUSEL 6) departure patterns.

Additionally, it is our hope that we at the City will be able to work with JWA as a partner as we all respond to the FAA's development and implementation of RAWLZ, the departure pattern that may mirror STREL but be for planes traveling to or west of Las Vegas. As RAWLZ is developed, it would be very helpful to advocate for a number of test flights over a period of several days with observations by the community. Doing so may help avoid costly multiple revisions to the adopted procedure. If DUUKE 1, DUUKE 2 and STREL are any indication, "getting it right the first time" is an important goal.

Thank you again for your continued cooperation with the City in these and other important aviation matters. If you have any questions or concerns about these issues, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



DAVE KIFF
City Manager

cc: Members of the Newport Beach City Council
Honorable John Moorlach, 2nd Supervisorial District
Honorable John Campbell, Member of the US House of Representatives