



# AVIATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

March 3, 2020

## General Aviation Improvement Program (GAIP) Proposal Process – Updated Timeline

John Wayne Airport has clarified the timeline for when it will release documents from and related to the responses received for the County's Request for Proposals (RFP) for Fixed Base Operators (FBOs).

1. No later than **Friday, March 13**, JWA will release each respondents' evaluation panel scores, proposed conceptual renderings/layouts, and questionnaires for public review. Several organizations, including the City of Newport Beach, will be provided digital copies of the documents. Community members may call (949) 252-5155 or email [JWAConcessions@ocair.com](mailto:JWAConcessions@ocair.com) to receive a copy.
2. At its **Wednesday, April 1** meeting, the Orange County Airport Commission is scheduled to receive and file this information.
3. On **Tuesday, April 14**, the Orange County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to review the proposals received. The agenda item submitted for the Board's April 14 meeting will ask the Board to select a respondent for each available site.
4. FBO leases will be considered by the Board in **July**, following negotiations with selected respondents.

## Update on Aviation Committee Activities

### Priorities Approved

At its February 24 meeting, the City's Aviation Committee approved five priorities on which to focus its efforts this calendar year. The priorities include:

1. Work toward increasing altitudes to a minimum of 4,000 feet as early as possible during departures.
2. Pursue the "light dispersion" of flights in order to help bring some relief to those residents most impacted by the current departure paths.
3. Develop and advocate for local, state and federal policies and strategies that incentivize air carriers to transition their fleets and bring the most technologically advanced, quietest aircraft to John Wayne Airport.
4. Identify the quietest, safest and most efficient departure procedure technologically possible that will be approved by the FAA.
5. Support legislation to reduce overflight noise and pollution.

## Subcommittee Activities

The Aviation Committee formed four subcommittees focused on specific areas.

- **Technical Matters / Departures:** The subcommittee, working with the City's technical consultants, continues to research and investigate potential operational and equipment changes that could reduce aircraft noise and emissions. The subcommittee is also discussing potential meetings with representatives of the air carriers to move the City's proposals forward, once approved by the full Committee.
- **Communication / Outreach:** The subcommittee completed an outreach plan focused on six action items – providing content for community newsletters, developing a speaker's bureau, enclosing aviation-related information in City utility bills, creating educational videos, conducting outreach to high school students, and hosting aviation forums and workshops. The plan was adopted by the Aviation Committee at its February meeting. This subcommittee sunset and City staff has started to develop the communication materials outlined in the plan.
- **General Aviation Improvement Program:** Subcommittee members are developing a matrix for evaluating how well the conceptual renderings/layouts and questionnaires submitted by respondents to the County's Request for Proposals for Fixed Base Operators address our community's interests and concerns. They will present their findings to the full Aviation Committee.
- **Government Relations:** The subcommittee recently discussed focusing the City's near-term strategy on two main areas – the City's development of a Departures Task Force (Congressman Rouda's office has offered to take the lead) and tracking legislation related to aircraft noise and emissions, and the implementation of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act. The subcommittee will further develop and present a proposed strategy to the Aviation Committee.

## Committee News

Sue Dvorak was selected by Citizens Against Airport Noise & Pollution to serve as its representative to the Aviation Committee. Sue joined the Committee for its February 24 meeting.

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23, at 5:30 p.m. It will be held in the Community Room of the Newport Beach Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Drive.

## **Quiet Skies Caucus Expresses Disappointment with FAA's Response on Noise**

On February 26, the Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Quiet Skies Caucus released a [statement](#) expressing their disappointment in the [response](#) received from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Stephen Dickson regarding their [concerns](#) about airplane noise.

“Administrator Dickson’s response to our detailed questionnaire was the latest in a series of failures by FAA to respond to constituent concerns,” the Caucus Chairs and Co-Chairs said. “We have heard directly from our constituents that the FAA continues to ignore community issues and has failed to respond with timely information. In his written response to questions from Quiet Skies members, Administrator Dickson said that he did not see any ‘evidence of a lack of responsiveness to community concerns,’ yet constituents’ repeated complaints about airplane and helicopter noise indicate otherwise.

“We continue to receive complaints about interrupted sleep patterns, disruption of business and economic activities, shaking homes, and concerns about the effect on youth development and education. Furthermore, the Administrator’s view that community noise concerns are solely an aviation industry issue is not only inadequate, but false. The FAA has a responsibility to help mitigate noise concerns in impacted communities and the Administrator’s failure to recognize these concerns speaks volumes about why our communities feel slighted and shows a lack of willingness to make the necessary improvements to administration functionality. We plan to use our oversight function on the committees we serve to direct the FAA to engage with impacted communities and examine possible solutions to this debilitating problem.”