



# AVIATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

September 4, 2020

## **General Aviation Improvement Program Update: County Supervisors Scheduled to Review Fixed Base Operator Leases on September 15**

Last month, the Orange County Board of Supervisors (Board) selected the private companies, known as Fixed Base Operators (FBOs), that will build out and operate John Wayne Airport's new general aviation (GA) facilities. On a 3-2 vote, the Board selected Clay Lacy Aviation for the northwest FBO leasehold and ACI Jet for the northeast FBO. Jay's Aircraft was unanimously selected for the limited service FBO.

County of Orange (County) officials have spent the past few weeks negotiating lease terms with the selected FBOs. Throughout this time, the City of Newport Beach (City) has remained in regular communication with the County and we've been informed that the negotiated leases are scheduled to be on the Board's [September 15 agenda](#). (We expect the staff report to be posted on September 4 or September 8.)

The City continues to strongly advocate for the inclusion of lease provisions that we believe will help protect the communities surrounding the airport from further noise and air quality impacts. The City wants the negotiated leases to accomplish the following:

1. Eliminate the ability of any lessee to construct and operate a General Aviation Facility. (This is a space used for processing international passengers).
2. Prohibit the operation of commercial airlines, such as JetSuiteX, from an FBO facility.
3. Restrict the operational hours of the FBOs to match the hours of the commercial curfew at John Wayne Airport (JWA).
4. Require any future modifications to the terms referenced above, and the terms specific to the Board's direction on the parcels set aside for small GA and mixed use, must be permitted only with a vote of the Board of Supervisors and with reasonable notice provided to the City of Newport Beach.

The County has already confirmed that language preserving 34+ acres for small GA and setting aside the remaining 25+ acres for mixed use (GA jets and possibly smaller GA) will be included in the leases.

In addition to the provisions listed above, the City has asked the County to provide certain reports and a new program that we believe will provide transparency and further advance community noise and air quality protections. We have asked the Board to:

- a. Expand the Access and Noise Office's quarterly analysis, or its monthly curfew report, to include a list of GA jets that depart before 7 a.m. and after 10 p.m. This list would include the time of arrival or departure.
- b. Implement a Fly Quiet / Fly Friendly program with, among other things, voluntary restraints on GA jet operations during the "curfew hours" of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- c. Have County staff prepare a report to the Board re: the FAA's work with the general aviation industry on the Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative (PAFI) to evaluate and identify an acceptable unleaded replacement for the existing aviation gasoline for small airplanes.

Please visit [newportbeachca.gov/gaip](http://newportbeachca.gov/gaip) for more information about the County's General Aviation Improvement Program and a history of the City's efforts to stave off further impacts related to airport operations.

## **John Wayne Airport Statistics**

John Wayne Airport released its [July 2020 statistics](#) and the figures illustrate the continuing impact the pandemic is having on airline travel and airport operations.

- Airline Passenger Traffic - In July 2020, JWA served 239,120 passengers, a decrease of 74.7% when compared with the July 2019 passenger traffic count of 945,962.
- Commercial Aircraft Operations - In July 2020, there were 3,924 commercial operations, a decrease of 49.2% when compared with the 7,719 commercial operations that occurred in July 2019.
- General Aviation Activity - General aviation operations accounted for 81.2% of JWA's total aircraft operations in July. In July 2020, there were 19,249 general aviation operations, an increase of 0.3% when compared with the 19,194 general aviation operations that occurred in July 2019.

## **Departures Study Update**

HMMH is a consulting firm that, among other things, specializes in noise and vibration control, air quality analysis, and airport and airspace planning. The City initially retained HMMH to review the airport's 2017 annual report on the preventive maintenance and calibration of JWA's noise monitoring stations. (HMMH found the airport's consultant had appropriately calibrated the monitors.) The City then asked HMMH to analyze the community noise associated with the noise abatement departure procedures (NADPs) used at JWA. The next step involved comparing modeled to measured data to determine whether improvements are possible to NADP-1 or NADP-2 which would result in reduced noise levels at noise monitors 5, 6 and 7.

Justin Cook of HMMH and City consultant Tom Edwards joined Mel Beale of the Airport Working Group and City Manager Grace Leung for discussions with the major air carriers that serve John Wayne Airport. The group reviewed the data collected and explored possible ways to further reduce departure noise levels. A great deal of work and cooperation has gone into this nearly two-year effort. The high-level summary of the latest findings is that NADP-1 with a 1500-ft. power cutback generally results in lower noise levels at noise monitors 5, 6 and 7. Several of the air carriers have already voluntarily agreed to fly this departure procedure out of JWA.

HMMH will continue to work with the City and the Aviation Committee on analyzing ways to further reduce noise levels associated with aircraft departures.

## **Next Aviation Committee Meeting**

Monday, September 28, 5:30 p.m.