



AVIATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

September 3, 2021

City of Newport Beach - Federal Aviation Administration Meeting Overview

One of the Aviation Committee's 2021 priorities is to improve communication between the City of Newport Beach (City) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In support of that goal, on August 19, Council Members Diane Dixon and Noah Blom, chair and vice chair of the Aviation Committee, met with the FAA's Western Regional Administrator, Raquel Girvin, and about a half dozen of her staff members to discuss City aviation projects and issues. Arie Dana, chief of staff for Congresswoman Michelle Steel, City consultant Kevin Karpe, and Deputy City Manager Tara Finnigan also participated in the meeting.

The City representatives shared Newport Beach's multi-pronged approach to addressing airport noise impacts, and asked for the FAA's assistance in solving current issues that are within its purview. Among the topics discussed:

- The City and Airport Working Group's progress in working with the commercial air carriers on quieter departures, including the Aviation Committee's proposed, preferred departure profile.
- Our community's concerns about aircraft departure speeds and how those should be addressed.
- Early turns on certain commercial aircraft departures and "pattern" turns for general aviation, both of which affect Newport Beach neighborhoods.

The City team also shared information on federal and local legislative and advocacy efforts and gave the Aviation Committee's proposal for a voluntary Fly Quiet / Friendly program for General Aviation at John Wayne Airport as an example of ways Newport Beach is seeking solutions and working to mitigate impacts at the local level. (Note: Thanks to the County of Orange, that program is in development and expected to begin in early 2022.)

Ms. Girvin and the FAA staff were very receptive and committed to continuing the dialog with Newport Beach and having their office help us work with through issues as they arise.

John Wayne Airport Commercial Airline Noise Mitigation Workshop Update

Several years ago, Airport Working Group (AWG) and the City began meeting with representatives of the major air carriers that serve John Wayne Airport to collaboratively identify ways to reduce overflight noise. AWG's Mel Beale, City Manager Grace Leung, Aviation Committee Member Jack Stranberg and City consultant Kevin Karpe represent Newport Beach in the workshops.

Summer is historically a very busy time for the air carriers. Though there were still fewer flights this summer than in 2019 (pre-pandemic), air travel did increase significantly over 2020 levels and the air carriers have had the challenges of getting crews back to work and aircraft – that had been idle – prepared to fly again. With that in mind, the August workshop

was held via Zoom and the agenda was deliberately kept lighter than usual. In addition, the City-AWG team offered two identical Zoom meetings to provide the carriers with more flexibility. This enabled all seven major carriers to participate in one of the meetings.

According to Mel Beale of AWG, the City-AWG team used the August meetings to get everyone up to speed with four primary objectives:

- **Continue the engagement process.** It's important to keep the relationships and communication strong so that the collective group can continue the good work on the goals that were committed to in 2019.
- **Reemphasize local support for what Newport Beach believes to be the quietest departure procedure profile, and request that all airlines adopt these elements within the technical capabilities of their fleets.** The air carriers have been receptive and there has already been significant progress made toward broad adoption (including most of the carriers voluntarily flying the higher profile NADP-1 versus the lower altitude NADP-2).
- **Share information and analysis on 2021 flight performance.** The discussion centered on noise data by airline and equipment type. In reviewing the extensive data, the air carriers see the value of working together as a group.
- **Discuss next steps for the group for 2021 and beyond.** One of the carriers offered to conduct simulated departure runs on its own flight simulators to give the team more data on Newport Beach's preferred departure. The carrier found problems with the first set of data collection and offered to run the "test flights" on its simulators again. That will take place in early October. Once the simulated data is collected, the City-AWG team will have it analyzed for estimated noise footprints from the runway to past the shoreline for each simulated flight scenario. Once the analysis is complete, an onsite, in-depth workshop with the carriers will be held in mid to late fall to review the report and obtain further commitments on adoption of updated departure procedures at JWA.

Fly Quiet / Fly Friendly Meeting

The County of Orange and John Wayne Airport continue to make good progress toward the development of a Fly Quiet / Fly Friendly program for general aviation at John Wayne Airport. The County formed a working group comprised of representatives from Orange County Supervisor Foley's office, Airport Commissioner Sue Dvorak, airport staff and consultants, Fixed Base Operator representatives, Newport Beach Aviation Committee member Sharon Ray, Deputy City Manager Tara Finnigan, and Newport Beach residents Jack Stranberg and Julie Johnson. The group periodically meets to review the progress made by the County and airport staff and provides comments. The last meeting was held on August 19 and the working group reviewed and discussed the draft program goals. The County has fast-tracked the project and expects to have the first program component, one that focuses on general aviation jets, in place in early 2022.