

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0533

Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

October 2, 2015

Dear Administrator Huerta,

We commend the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for engaging in community outreach and briefings to discuss the proposed Southern California Metroplex (SoCal METROPLEX) Environmental Assessment and extending the comment period. We also appreciate that the FAA is attempting to increase efficiency, safety, and predictability with flight patterns and decrease flight wait times. However, due to the complexity of the proposed changes, recent modifications to the public comment website, and confusion among our constituents, we have some important questions that we request the FAA answer.

1. What are the exact, current flight paths? Please indicate on a map with cities and major landmarks such as freeways displayed, in addition to the flight path lines.
2. What are the future flight paths? Please indicate on a map with the cities and major landmarks such as freeways displayed, and how the paths change. Which areas will now be affected by flights that were not affected previously? Which areas, if any, will see diminished impacts?
3. What altitudes are the current flights using, and what will the altitudes be on the future flights?
4. What is the current Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) for the current flight paths at specific intervals? What will the new DNL be?
5. During the comment period, were the tools used for public viewing of the plan changed? Constituents contacted us citing confusion while attempting to view the plan, reporting that the website had changed from Adobe to Google Earth. If true, how did you notify anyone of this change, and what instructions directed the public about how to access the information? Did the switch in measuring tools change any projections on the flight paths?

Additionally, we are requesting one more community based meeting in order for members of the community to engage with the FAA and to get the most up-to-date information prior to the public comment period concluding. Again, we thank the FAA for your outreach and work to make our airlines safer, more efficient, and less noisy. We eagerly look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Karen Bass
Member of Congress