

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

October 1, 2015

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

Re: Comments on Draft SoCal Metroplex Environmental Assessment

Dear Administrator Huerta:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) associated with the SoCal Metroplex Project. I understand an undertaking this large requires years of planning, and I recognize the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) goals of establishing operational improvements and optimizing airspace.

This past June, I joined my colleagues to request the original EA comment period be extended beyond the original 30-day timeframe to ensure the public had sufficient time to thoroughly consider the possible impacts from these proposed changes. Thank you for agreeing to this extension.

In recent weeks, I have heard from many of my constituents who reside in the Point Loma community in San Diego. These residents are rightfully and extremely concerned over the proposed removal of waypoint LOWMA, a waypoint near the tip of Point Loma that eastbound flights departing from San Diego International Airport must pass to its south. The existence of waypoint LOWMA safeguards Point Loma residents from overhead flight noise and other potential impacts by guiding departures to the south of residential neighborhoods. The residents, as well as officials from the San Diego Regional Airport Authority, have communicated to me that some flights already bypass waypoint LOWMA under current conditions and, as a result, fly over San Diego communities somewhat regularly. I share the community's concern: if departures already at times disregard waypoint LOWMA, should the waypoint be eliminated altogether, our communities are far more likely to experience more frequent flights overhead, and the impacts that accompany them. The result could be an unacceptable increase in noise and visual disturbances over communities north of Cabrillo Point.

My office has also received calls and emails from residents who believe these proposed changes have already taken effect; they state that they are seeing and hearing airplanes over their neighborhoods more frequently. If this is not the case, my constituents need clear answers to their questions, and more opportunities to receive information from FAA officials.

Residents of Point Loma, and I as their federal representative, deserve precise answers to the very legitimate questions and concerns raised regarding these changes. These residents understand that their properties are adjacent to an airport. However, they were promised that future departure flight paths would not be directed over their homes. We owe it to these homeowners to fulfill these promises. For these reasons, I urge the FAA to immediately address the concerns raised and respectfully request that the FAA seriously consider preserving waypoint LOWMA.

I appreciate the FAA's efforts to include the community during this process, and I strongly urge you to give their comments and concerns serious consideration. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input, and I look forward to being a partner with you as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Scott Peters
Member of Congress

cc: SoCal Metroplex EA