

**To the Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force,**

**The Encino Neighborhood Council has been closely monitoring the work of the Task Force since its inception in August 2019. As such, based upon our review of the community presentations, expert testimony, and interactive discussions, we submit the following observations and requested actions for consideration relative to Van Nuys Airport (VNY) as you now work to develop a go-forward action plan.**

**Observations:**

- **The rollout of NextGen’s Southern California Metroplex program at Van Nuys Airport (VNY) was done contrary to Federal Law and FAA policy due to the insufficiency of both the Environmental Assessment (EA) and public notification process. In addition, it went against the FAA’s long-standing principle of not moving noise from one community to another.**
  
- **Thousands of Encino residents, as well as many others in adjacent communities, have had their lives wrongfully disrupted and potentially irreparably harmed by the FAA’s NextGen implementation.**
  
- **The incorporation of the PPRRY waypoint into the VNY NextGen navigation procedures has resulted in many detrimental impacts such as:**
  - **It has been associated with a wide-range of serious health issues as reported by community members due to the noise, fumes, and stress resulting from the concentrated “round the clock” disruption from low-flying aircraft.**
  - **It has substantially increased flights over the Santa Monica Mountains/Foothills thus creating an extreme fire hazard in a sizeable area with limited escape routes and access for emergency vehicles.**
  - **It has magnified noise impacts for many due to planes now flying closer to rooftops in higher altitude communities along with the effect of sound reverberating off of canyon walls.**
  - **It has disrupted wildlife habitat and biodiversity**

**Requested Actions:**

- **The FAA should conduct a comprehensive Environmental Assessment (EA) and in-depth technical analysis of the VNY solutions that were presented as well as any other options that may come forward via the scoping process. (Critical for inclusion**

**in the studies are projections for private jet/air taxi traffic growth, impacts related to the shifting of flight activity due to the closing of Santa Monica Airport, future operation volumes anticipated due to the expansion of ground-support facilities at the field and any other foreseeable factors across the Southern California Metroplex that may shape how VNY takeoff/landing patterns are designed.)**

- The goal of the above studies should be to identify a long-term VNY solution that 1) Eliminates noise, air pollution, safety hazards, and environmental risks to the maximum extent possible across all impacted communities; and 2) Keeps flights to the maximum extent possible away from the Santa Monica Mountains/Foothills due to the cross-community catastrophic fire and environmental risks associate with these unique neighborhoods.**
  
- The FAA should immediately revert to Pre-NextGen flight paths at VNY while the above studies are being conducted to help mitigate the damage wrought by the current NextGen flight paths and provide relief across all of the communities being harmed. (Per LAWA reports, it appears that in 2017 the FAA executed a very similar “interim relief” rollback at VNY within 60 – 90 days from the time a much smaller in scope community concern was raised.)**
  
- The FAA should incorporate steeper departure climb gradients within safety guidelines into all VNY flight procedures to help minimize ground-level noise and exhaust particulate.**
  
- The FAA should increase dispersion of where VNY flights turn to the East or West after takeoff so as to avoid any highly concentrated flyover paths.**
  
- Request the FAA and LAWA implement procedures that balance the number of VNY northerly and southerly takeoffs on clam wind days so as to share noise burdens across multiple communities.**
  
- LAWA should immediately implement a Voluntary Night Curfew at VNY to help mitigate community noise disturbances between 10:00pm and 7:00am weekdays and 10:00pm to 9:00am on weekends.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Encino Neighborhood Council**