



Information Item

Date: June 4, 2015

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Susan Cline, Interim Director of Public Works

Subject: Federal Aviation Administration Southern California Metroplex Public Workshops and Status Update

Introduction

This information item provides an update on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) project to improve the efficiency of air transportation in Southern California called Southern California Metroplex (SoCal Metroplex). According to the FAA, the SoCal Metroplex project's main objective is to provide more efficient and direct routes for aircraft to reach their destinations, improving airspace efficiency, and reducing fuel consumption, air emissions and travel time.

Background

Staff has been monitoring the FAA's progress of the SoCal Metroplex project since the FAA tested from December 2009 to June 2010 the new departure heading (the 250 degree heading), which routed departing aircraft over Ocean Park, rather than directly to the coastline. At the time, the FAA explained that an adjustment in the departure heading was required to decouple LAX and SMO departure paths over the ocean. Many City residents protested against the 250 degree heading test, and staff argued against it on the community's behalf. The FAA said, at the time, that it would defer action and address the issue later as part of the SoCal Metroplex project.

Staff has met with local FAA representatives several times in the last year. Earlier this year, FAA representatives stated that SoCal Metroplex proposals relating to procedures at SMO were not yet fully developed. FAA representatives stated that they anticipated

providing details at the start of the FAA's Environmental Assessment (EA) process. There will be a number of community meetings after the draft EA is released on June 10, 2015. Staff requested that at least one of the meetings be held in Santa Monica so community members will have the opportunity to hear directly from FAA representatives and to voice concerns directly to them.

Discussion

Staff received notification from the FAA that it intends to publish the Draft EA for the SoCal Metroplex on June 10, 2015. The Draft EA will document the FAA's analysis related to potential environmental impacts of the FAA's implementation of its program to optimize airspace usage in the SoCal Metroplex, which is a geographic area including multiple airports serving major metropolitan areas from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

The project's goal is to improve efficiency of the airspace by optimizing aircraft arrival and departure procedures at a number of Southern California airports, including SMO. The SoCal Metroplex project involves changing aircraft flight paths and/or altitudes in certain areas. It provides for new flight procedures that are more precise and creates a narrower flight path resulting in a concentration of flights over certain areas. According to the FAA, some residents in areas under the concentrated flight path may experience more noise.

The EA process provides for public workshops starting on June 16, 2015 and concluding on July 1, 2015. Per the request of Santa Monica City staff, the FAA has scheduled one of the public workshops in Santa Monica. This workshop is scheduled for June 17, 2015 at Santa Monica Main Public Library Multipurpose Room from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of these public workshops is to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the SoCal Metroplex project and to submit their comments. Representatives from the FAA will be available during the workshop to provide information about the project.

The City is not a sponsor of this project and has not been involved in identifying or evaluating changes to flight procedures. Staff continues to reiterate the Santa Monica's opposition to any modifications that would change headings on takeoff from the current heading, by which aircraft fly directly to the coast, rather than over Santa Monica's hills and more residences.

The SoCal Metroplex Draft EA is scheduled for release on June 10, 2015 and will be available for review at the following website:

http://www.metroplexenvironmental.com/socal_metroplex/socal_introduction.html

For additional information or comment about the Draft EA please contact the FAA directly at the following address:

SoCal Metroplex EA

FAA, Western Service Center - Operations Support Group

1601 Lind Avenue SW

Renton, WA 98057

Email: 9-ANM-SoCalOAPM@faa.gov

Staff will outreach to local community groups and encourage them to attend the public workshop. Additionally, links to the Metroplex website will be provided on the Airport's website.

Prepared By: Stelios Makrides, Airport Manager

Attachment A – Environmental Assessment Southern California Metroplex Status
Update Letter



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Air Traffic Organization
Western Service Center

1601 Lind Ave SW.
Renton, WA 98057

May 21, 2015

Reference: **Environmental Assessment
Southern California Metroplex
Status Update Letter**

This status update letter is to inform you that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) intends to publish a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on June 10, 2015. The Draft EA will document FAA's analysis related to potential environmental impacts of the implementation of the Southern California Metroplex (SoCal Metroplex).

A "Metroplex" is a geographic area covering several airports serving major metropolitan areas. The intent of SoCal Metroplex is to improve the efficiency of the SoCal Metroplex airspace by optimizing aircraft arrival and departure procedures at a number of airports, including Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), Burbank Bob Hope Airport (BUR), Long Beach Airport (LGB), Ontario International Airport (ONT), John Wayne Airport (SNA), Santa Monica Municipal Airport (SMO), Van Nuys Airport (VNY), Palm Springs International Airport (PSP), Santa Barbara Municipal Airport (SBA), and San Diego International Airport (SAN). The project may involve changes in aircraft flight paths and/or altitudes in certain areas, but would not require any ground disturbance or increase the number of aircraft operations within the Southern California Metroplex area.

Public participation is incorporated in the EA process. Public workshops will be conducted to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the project and to submit comments. The public workshops will be held during the 30 day public review and comment period for the Draft EA. Representatives from the FAA will be available during the workshops to provide information about the project. A schedule for the public workshops is provided in the table below. The public will have an opportunity to comment at one of the scheduled workshops and also electronically via email or via U.S. Mail.

June 16, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	McFadden Intermediate School Auditorium 2701 S. Raitt Street Santa Ana, CA 92704
June 17, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Santa Monica Public Library Multipurpose Room 601 Santa Monica Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90401

June 18, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Proud Bird Restaurant Grand Ballroom West 11022 Aviation Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90045
June 22, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Logan Heights Library Community Room 567 S. 28th Street San Diego, CA 92113
June 23, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Palm Desert Library Community Room 73-300 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260
June 24, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Ken Miller Auditorium 3341 Torrance Boulevard Torrance, CA 90503
June 25, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Beach High School Auditorium 3701 E. Willow Street Long Beach, CA 90815
June 29, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	E.P. Foster Library The Elizabeth R. Topping Room 651 E. Main Street Ventura, CA 93001
June 30, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	The Westside Neighborhood Center Auditorium 423 W. Victoria Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101
July 1, 2015 Attend anytime between: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Burbank Community Services Building Room 104 150 N. 3rd Street Burbank, CA 91502

The FAA will issue a Notice of Availability (NOA) notifying you the document is available for review. The NOA will be mailed to you just prior to the release. In addition, the FAA will publish a legal notice in major newspapers the day the document is available. On the date indicated in the NOA, you will be able to download a copy of the Draft EA on the project website: www.metroplexenvironmental.com.