



Rick Cole
City Manager

Office of the City Manager
1685 Main Street
PO Box 2200
Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200

April 2, 2018

Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell:

We are receiving an increasing number of noise complaints attributed to the recently implemented Metroplex GPS procedures over the Santa Monica area. Residents are reporting an unbearable amount of noise since the implementation of the new procedures. We investigated these complaints by analyzing a data range of flights over CLIFY waypoint, which is located above the Santa Monica VOR. Our results indicate that 28% of the aircraft during the time data was collected did not adhere to the FAA's established minimum altitudes.

We understand that a few municipalities have officially voiced their concerns to the FAA regarding increased and shifted aircraft traffic over their communities following Metroplex implementation. We further understand that these complaints have included air traffic occurring at altitudes below FAA established minimums. We also understand that in two filed lawsuits regarding the Metroplex implementation, the FAA reached an agreement with Newport Beach and is in litigation with Culver City.

We write to you to request: (1) strict enforcement of the FAA published minimum altitude standards, including in particular above the Santa Monica VOR, unless the deviation is needed for safety; (2) assurance that the City of Santa Monica will participate in any discussions regarding flight path and altitude issues that might affect the Santa Monica VOR; and (3) assurance that any settlement agreement with Culver City (our neighbor) will not adversely impact Santa Monica residents.

In the aforementioned analysis of flights over CLIFY waypoint, we sampled a data range of March 1, 2018 to March 5, 2018, which is nearly a year after Metroplex implementation. The complaints we have received seem to comport with data findings that 28% of the aircraft flew below the published crossing altitude of 7,000 at the CLIFY waypoint. We believe enforcement of the published minimum altitudes would bring some relief to the neighborhoods currently impacted.

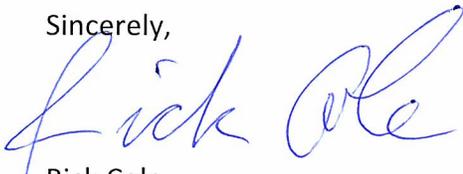
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Likewise, we want to ensure that neighborhoods in our community are not adversely impacted by any changes to the flight paths for LAX. Understanding that resolution of any litigation against the FAA may result in changes to the SoCal Metroplex or related flight paths, we want to ensure that our office participates in any such settlement discussions so that we may represent the interests of our residents, thus avoiding any further impacts to neighborhoods currently impacted or otherwise.

We look forward to your actively engaging our office as you resolve pending litigation, and we await your response to our request for strict enforcement of published minimum altitudes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Cole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Cole
City Manager