



# **LAX Community Noise Roundtable**

Aviation Noise News Update

November 12, 2014



## **A letter from 24 members of Congress urges the FAA Administrator to lower the 65 dB DNL compatibility threshold**

- **Most signing the letter represent districts near major airports in New York, Boston, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles**
- **California representatives include Judy Chu, Anna Eshoo, Michael Honda, Zoe Lofgren, Jackie Speier, Maxine Waters, and Henry Waxman**
- **Members stated, "rather than addressing the issue piecemeal in fragmented areas of the nation" they would prefer to tackle the issue at "national level," calling the 65 dB DNL threshold "outdated and disconnected"**
- **Representatives want the 65 dB DNL threshold lowered to "a more reasonable standard" of 55 dB DNL to increase eligibility for airport sound insulation programs**

# “Quiet Skies” Caucus Formed in Congress



## Caucus was formed to find solutions to noise problems

- **13 members of Congress announced the formation of the “Quiet Skies” caucus “to raise awareness on the issue of aircraft noise and to work to find meaningful solutions to the problem.”**
- **Members include representatives of community areas experiencing changes in aircraft noise resulting from flight path changes or noise from increased helicopter operations**
- **California representatives include Judy Chu, Anna Eshoo, Michael Honda, Zoe Lofgren, Jackie Speier, Maxine Waters, and Henry Waxman**
- **Caucus members hope to increase pressure on FAA to update almost 40-year old aircraft noise policy**

# FAA Receives Comments on Net Noise Reduction Method



- **FAA urged to ask Congress to clarify legislative intent of CATEX2 provision**
  - Former FAA Attorney, Steven Taber, stated FAA cannot rely on the congressional conference report that references quantifying noise “on an average per flight basis,” when the CatEx2 legislation requires FAA to quantify noise on a “per flight basis”
  - The LAX Community Noise Roundtable expressed concern about any approach that would result in shifting noise from one community to another, but expressed support for “the implementation of PBN measures that will result in measurable reductions in cumulative aircraft noise exposure across the entire community. . .”
- **FAA urged to quickly adopt the NNR Method**
  - ACI-NA told FAA it believes that the NNR method was “a reasonable interpretation” of the CatEx2 legislation and urged the FAA “to implement the recommendation as soon as possible.”
  - Several aviation industry groups including Airlines for America and NBAA joined ACI-NA in urging FAA to quickly adopt the NNR Method

# FAA and Aviation Industry Agree on NextGen Plan



- **FAA and industry announce plan to deliver NextGen benefits**
  - FAA sent the NextGen Priorities Joint Implementation Plan to Congress to show how it will deliver key benefits of NextGen initiatives in the coming years
  - Under the plan, FAA and various segments of the aviation industry share responsibility to meet milestones, locations, timelines and metrics for “high benefit, high readiness” NextGen initiatives, including:
    - Multiple Runway Operations, PBN, and Surface and Data Communications
- **NAC releases “Blueprint for Success” in implementing PBN procedures**
  - “The input of ‘non-technical stakeholders’ is critical to the success of efforts to implement PBN Procedures,” and is a guiding tenant of NAC’s “Blueprint for Success to Implementing PBN”
  - NAC’s new Blueprint now recognizes:
    - Airport and community input should be sought in early planning stages
    - Community engagement should go beyond public awareness
    - Community interests should be considered when possible
    - Trade-offs and compromises can be made in PBN projects



## FAA announces the launch of a stakeholder collaboration program

- Vehicle for recognizing and rewarding collaboration, stewardship, leadership, progress, and innovation in environment and energy arena
- Stakeholders include: airlines, manufacturers, airports, aviation associations, other agencies, academia, and local communities
- Program activities include:
  - Participation in conferences and forums
  - Annual report of state of aviation industry and environmental performance
  - System recognizing achievements toward environmental and energy goals
  - Information portal for data, reports, and training
- FAA will conduct the pilot project from January 2015 through June 2015 to test program design
- FAA is currently soliciting aviation industry stakeholders who are interested in participating in the pilot project



## Move reflects Delta's plan for a fleet geared toward trans-Pacific routes

- Delta stated it will “accelerate the retirement of [its] 747 fleet as part of its Pacific network restructuring”
- Delta acquired Airbus A330s to facilitate retirement of the last 16 747s
- Delta is shifting capacity on its trans-Atlantic flights to routes between US and Asia
- Industry analysts speculate the 747s days may be numbered



(Photo: Paul Sancya, AP)



## Air China has orders for seven Boeing 747-8i aircraft

- The airline has routes to 31 countries and regions including LAX
- GEnx engine family is fastest selling engine in General Electric (GE) Aviation history
- Features include:
  - 15% better fuel economy than previous engine line
  - Innovative twin-annular pre-swirl (TAPS) combustor
  - Approximately 40% lower noise level
  - Based on the ratio of decibels to pounds of thrust, the GEnx is the quietest engine GE produces



(Photo: General Electric)



# United Flying World's Longest Dreamliner Route



## United launched the route between LAX and Melbourne, Australia with new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner

- The route is the longest route of its kind at 7,920 miles
- 787-9 is a stretched variant of the 787-8 with greater range; 8,550 miles versus 8,200 miles
- United operated a 787-8 on the route, but said “. . . it would frequently have to account for weight restrictions flying with fewer passengers or cargo than it has capacity for, to make the journey on the westbound leg.”



(Photo: Boeing)



## FAA to establish comprehensive complaint system for helicopter noise in L.A. County

- The complaint system would:
  - Gather data about extent of problem and remedies
  - Identify problem helicopter operators
  - Give residents systematic way to register complaints
- Funding allocated to acquire 12 months of noise complaint data
- No firm has been selected to provide the complaint system yet



(Photo: Stephen Dunn/Getty Images)