



LAX Community Noise Roundtable

Aviation Noise News Update

March 9, 2016

FAA Accepts Updated LAX Noise Exposure Maps



On February 18, 2016, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a letter to LAWA accepting the updated Noise Exposure Maps (NEMs) for Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

- **The letter indicated that the 2015 and 2020 LAX noise contours and supporting documentation meet the requirements for the current and future NEMs as set forth in Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 150, *Airport Noise Compatibility Planning*, Section 150.21**
- **FAA-accepted NEMs serve as the basis for an airport proprietor to pursue federal funding for eligible noise mitigation measures such as sound insulation programs**
- **LAWA published three notices of the FAA's acceptance of the 2015 and 2020 NEMs in the Los Angeles Times on March 4, 5, and 6, 2016**
- **The Final Title 14, CFR Part 150 NEM Report is available on LAWA's website at <http://www.lawa.org/LAXPart150.aspx?id=9625>**

House FAA Reauthorization Bill Stalled



- **H.R. 4441, the Aviation Innovation, Reform and Reauthorization (AIRR) Act is a six-year FAA funding bill that includes funding for noise-related programs**
- **AIRR was placed on hold as federal lawmakers work out the details of the contentious FAA air traffic control privatization portion of the Act**
- **A short-term reauthorization is needed to keep the FAA and the programs it administers running, while Congress seeks agreement on the details of AIRR**

First Boeing 727 to Fly for the Final Time



- After 25 years of restoration work, the first Boeing 727 will make its final flight on Wednesday, March 9, 2016
- The aircraft will fly from Paine Field in Everett, Washington to Boeing Field in Seattle where it will be displayed at the Museum of Flight
- The 727 is Boeing's second best selling airplane with 1,831 sold between 1963 and 1984
- Despite its “Whisperjet” moniker, the 727 was a very loud three-engine aircraft that dominated the noise exposure at many airports in the United States



Photo Credit: Dmitry Avdeev

NASA Developing a Supersonic Passenger Plane



- **NASA selected a team led by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company to develop a preliminary design for the Quiet Supersonic Technology (QueSST) passenger aircraft**
- **The purpose of NASA's X-plane project is to develop a demonstration supersonic passenger aircraft that could begin test flights as early as 2020**
- **NASA said that the aircraft, "will create a supersonic 'heartbeat,' which will sound more like a soft thump rather than the loud boom associated with supersonic flight."**
- **The aircraft would be required to meet U.S. and International aircraft noise certification standards in place at the time of manufacture**



Photo Credit: NASA

United to Replace LAX to Sydney 747s with 787-9s



- At the end of March 2016, United Airlines will replace its daily Boeing 747 flights from LAX to Sydney, Australia with Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft
- United's transition to the 787-9 aircraft on its Australia routes began in October 2014 on its Los Angeles to Melbourne route
- United initiated service to Australia from Los Angeles in 1985 with a Boeing 747
- The twin-engine 787-9 is a more fuel efficient and quieter aircraft than the four-engine 747



Photo Credit: David McNew, Getty Images

(<http://www.ausbt.com.au/united-airlines-upgrades-sydney-flights-to-boeing-787>)

Aviation Industry Group Challenges East Hampton Curfew



- **On February 3, 2016 the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), the Friends of East Hampton Airport, and local operators filed suit seeking to overturn a U.S. District Court decision allowing a nighttime curfew on aircraft operations at East Hampton Airport**
- **The District Court had ruled that the Aircraft Noise and Capacity Act (ANCA) “as ‘encouraging, but not requiring’ compliance with the prohibition against new noise restrictions.”**
- **The suit alleges that the Court erred in not recognizing that the federal prohibition against new noise and access restrictions is mandatory**
- **NBAA stated, “East Hampton asserts that ANCA is not applicable. However, that conflicts with the plain text of the statute and FAA regulations. ANCA is mandatory for all airports.”**