

# Federal Update on Aircraft Noise Advocacy

## City of Culver City

Steve Palmer  
January 27, 2020



**VAN SCOYOC**  
**ASSOCIATES**

# Began Advocacy in Early 2018

- Primary focus – work with Congress/FAA to reduce aircraft noise
  - Prepare regular updates on advocacy strategy
  - Participate in bi-monthly calls with City’s Aviation Subcommittee
- Federal advocacy has been in support of litigation
- Initial and ongoing outreach targets
  - Culver City congressional delegation
  - Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus Members
  - House and Senate Aviation Subcommittees
  - House and Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittees

# FAA Reauthorization – Initial Focus

- Initial advocacy
  - Establish new standards for measuring noise, using both single event and cumulative event measurements
  - Mandate study on health impacts of noise
- Prepared letters for Mayor
- Engaged Rep. Bass and Senators Harris and Feinstein
- Coordinated City's federal advocacy trip in October 2018
  - Culver City congressional delegation
  - House Aviation Subcommittee staff

# FAA Reauthorization – Expanded Advocacy

- Advocate with Senators on FAA Reauthorization bill of 2018
  - Identified comprehensive list of policy initiatives on noise
  - VSA advocated directly with Senate Aviation Subcommittee
  - VSA drafted letter for Culver City to send to California Senators
    - Enhanced noise measures
    - Phasing out Stage III aircraft
    - Improving FAA engagement with communities
    - Appointing an ombudsman for each FAA region
    - Study of health effects of noise
    - Restore flight dispersion

# FY 2020 Appropriations Bill

- House and Senate Appropriations Committees
  - Continue to pressure FAA to act
    - Senate directs FAA to improve development of flight procedures, give fair consideration to public comment, reduce noise through procedure modification/dispersion to reduce impact on local communities;
    - FAA should utilize state-of-the-art technologies/metrics to measure actual noise at ground level in communities affected by flight paths;
    - FAA should give high priority to evaluating where increased noise levels disrupts homes and businesses, and threatens public health.
    - House urges the FAA to respond completely to the requirements in the FAA Reauthorization Act pertaining to noise reduction

# Other Congressional Advocacy on Noise

- Nomination of Steve Dickson to be FAA Administrator
  - Submitted questions to Senators on noise for confirmation hearing on whether Dickson would make noise a priority
- House FAA oversight hearing in September
  - Submitted questions on status of FAA implementation of noise provisions enacted in 2018
- Rep. Jackie Speier's introduction of 8 noise bills in November
- Quiet Skies Caucus meeting w/ Administrator; follow-up letter
- Letters this month to House and Senate aviation leaders
  - One year anniversary of FAA Reauthorization Act and urging they keep pressure on FAA to act on noise

# National League of Cities Resolution

- Culver City resolution to National League of Cities on noise
- Council Member Eriksson carried aircraft noise resolution through adoption by NLC
- Working with NLC to carry the policy resolution to Congress
  - Will include Council Member Eriksson's trip to NLC Legislative Conference in March
  - VSA will schedule and participate in meetings with Congress to make aviation policymakers aware of resolution on noise

# Next Steps on Federal Advocacy

- Aircraft Noise
  - Advocacy trip to Washington, DC during NLC Legislative Conference
  - Continue advocacy with California delegation and Quiet Skies Caucus
  - Develop legislative proposals this year
    - FY 2021 Transportation/HUD Appropriations
    - House infrastructure bill will address aviation
- Surface Transportation Authorization
  - Identify City's priorities on road, bridges, transit, and sustainability
  - Engage congressional delegation and House/Senate committees
  - Work with NLC and other stakeholders



# Questions