FAA Southern California Metroplex Fact Sheet

The Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is committed to being a good neighbor; we strive to reduce aircraft noise within our communities and keep stakeholders informed of any changes in flight procedures. As a result, we are providing information on the Federal Aviation Administration’s Southern California Metroplex (SoCal Metroplex) project,¹ which will modify some flight patterns to/from the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Project Description

- **Who:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- **What:** Optimization of air traffic procedures and airspace in the Southern California Metroplex, including the Los Angeles Basin, by upgrading from a ground-based navigation system to satellite-based technology.
- **Why:**
  - Provide more efficient and direct routes for aircraft to reach their destinations.
  - Improve airspace efficiency.
- **Result:**
  - New approach and departure procedures may change where and how aircraft fly.
  - Shorter, more direct routes for passengers.
  - Reductions in fuel consumption, air emissions, and travel time.

Facts

**Overview:**

- A “Metroplex” is a geographic area covering several airports serving major metropolitan areas, such as the Los Angeles Basin.
- The project involves changing aircraft flight paths and/or altitudes in certain areas.
- The new flight procedures, using satellite-based navigation technology, are more precise and create a narrower flight path, resulting in a concentration of flights over certain areas.
- Residents in areas under the concentrated flight path may experience more noise, while those outside the flight path may experience less noise.

¹ Please note: LAWA is not a sponsor of this project and has not been involved in identifying or evaluating changes to flight procedures.
The changes in flight paths may result in exposing new areas to aircraft overflights. Aircraft may fly at lower or higher altitudes than previously flown.

FAA Environmental Review:

- The FAA is preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider the potential environmental impacts of the SoCal Metroplex Project.
- The FAA established a General Study Area (GSA) to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft flight procedures.
- The GSA covers a wide region from Santa Barbara to San Diego and includes most Southern California airports, including the LAX.
- The FAA is close to completing the Draft EA and intends to release it in June 2015.

Tentative Project Schedule

- Final Procedure Design Completed: June 2014
- Draft Environmental Assessment: June 2015
- Public Comment Period: June to July 2015 (30 days)
- Public Workshops: June to July 2015
- Implementation: 2016

Resources

FAA’s SoCal Metroplex Environmental Assessment Website:
http://www.metroplexenvironmental.com/socal_metroplex/socal_introduction.html

Contacts

For more information on the SoCal Metroplex Project EA:
Ryan Weller, Environmental Specialist: 9-ANM-SoCalOAPM@faa.gov

For more information on general noise issues at LAX:
Scott Tatro, Airport Environmental Manager: statro@lawa.org

For LAX noise complaints, please contact: (424) 64-NOISE (424-646-6473) or file an online complaint at http://webtrak.bksv.com/lax.