



## **CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL**

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## **CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor Elaine Gennawey  
Mayor Pro Tem John Mark Jennings  
Council Member Laurie Davies  
Council Member Linda Lindholm  
Council Member Fred Minagar

### **Letter to Residents Concerning Aircraft Noise & Traffic**

January 30, 2018

Dear Residents of Laguna Niguel:

We at the City of Laguna Niguel wanted to provide information concerning commercial jet noise over our City limits and the efforts we have undertaken to preserve our quality of life. We have been working closely with our colleagues in local, state, and federal offices to address this issue and will continue to do so.

In 2017, the City hosted a regional forum to hear from our residents and elected officials to discuss the impacts from the implementation of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) program called "NextGen". The FAA has the sole authority to control air traffic and the "Nextgen" program was an effort to improve safety and efficiency by modifying flight corridors at 21 airports in our region, including John Wayne Airport. As a part of the implementation, the FAA was required to perform an Environmental Assessment to analyze the impacts of the newly proposed routes. The resulting Environmental Impact Statement resulted in lawsuits being filed by Newport Beach joined by the County of Orange and Laguna Beach challenging the adequacy of the assessment and the proposed routes which strayed far outside of the traditional departure patterns. While Laguna Niguel did not initiate its own litigation, it shared similar concerns as the City of Laguna Beach.

Most recently all claims have been resolved with the local governmental agencies reaching two separate settlement agreements with the FAA and United States Department of Justice. Both agreements, to the maximum extent practical, limit the departing flights from John Wayne Airport to specific routes. While the Newport Beach and Orange County settlement provides for four departure routes and allows for aircrafts to be vectored after reaching a specific waypoint (STREL), the Laguna Beach settlement agreement restricts, to the maximum extent practical, the departures to two routes and requires vectoring to occur at a much farther south waypoint (DANAH). In addition, both settlements require the FAA to monitor and report on deviations from those expected flight paths for a period of one year.

It is important to note that the FAA has the sole authority to control air traffic. Neither the City of Laguna Niguel nor the State of California can regulate the altitude, speed, direction or location of aircraft in flight. However, the County of Orange, as owner of the John Wayne Airport, is charged with strictly enforcing the noise limits. For noise complaints please contact the John Wayne Airport Access and Noise Office at (949) 252-5185 or the FAA's Noise Ombudsman at (202) 267-3521. For

reports of low-flying or unsafe maneuvers of aircraft in flight please contact the Long Beach Flight Standards District Office at (562) 420-1755.

The two settlement agreements were essential and very important to preserving the quality of life for many South Orange County cities by reducing the noise pollution over residential areas; however, we still believe more can be done. The City of Laguna Niguel will remain active working with our many partners and our Federal Advocacy group in Washington, DC to ensure that the best methods of noise and pollution reduction are ultimately achieved in our community.

Sincerely,

Kristine Ridge

City Manager

(949) 362-4300

[kridge@cityoflagunaniguel.org](mailto:kridge@cityoflagunaniguel.org)

Attachments: Schedule of Upcoming Forums

Laguna Beach Settlement Agreement Flight Paths

**Tentative Schedule of Ongoing Forums  
John Wayne Airport Operations and Issues**

**Location, Dates and Time**

City Council Chambers – Newport Beach  
100 Civic Center Dr,  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 9th



Attachment One



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