February 12, 2003

Mayor Beverly O'Neil
City of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Blvd. 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mayor O'Neil:

The Los Angeles International Airport/Community Noise Roundtable (Roundtable) is an organization started in September 2000 to seek possible ways to reduce noise impacts on people residing in the vicinity of LAX. The Roundtable is a forum of elected representatives from communities surrounding LAX, Senior Management of Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), the airline industry, the FAA and several community organizations. With the help and cooperation of the members, the Roundtable has been making progress in addressing specific noise issues that have been identified by the member communities and from information developed by staff of LAWA Environmental Management Division.

I am writing to suggest a possible cooperative effort between the City of Long Beach and the Roundtable on one of our Work Program items. This issue deals with loud noise from the overflight of a single jet aircraft during nighttime hours. While initially described by people in the South Bay as being a departure from LAX, it was determined from LAWA’s investigation to be FedEx Flight 1808, a hushkitted Boeing 727 departure from Long Beach Airport (LGB) to Oakland International Airport. This flight departs from LGB Runway 30 and overflies parts of Long Beach and several other communities as it proceeds west to the ocean before turning north.

During our January meeting LGB Airport Manager Chris Kunze indicated that this flight causes a significant noise impact to residents of Long Beach. We were also informed that efforts by LGB’s General Aviation Noise Committee to communicate with FedEx on this issue have not been successful.

The Roundtable would like to join with the City of Long Beach to discuss this mutual noise problem. I would like to invite you to attend the March Roundtable meeting when this matter will be discussed. The Roundtable is also extending an invitation to the Chairman, CEO and President of FedEx requesting his assistance in arranging for a representative of that company to attend this meeting to provide specific information to assist in our attempts to resolve this issue.

The Roundtable’s discussion with FedEx will be focused on the possibility of substituting a quieter aircraft for that particular flight, using a quieter climb profile, and exploring a
flight path modification to take advantage of an over-water routing. Input from FedEx would be most useful as the Roundtable considers these options and, perhaps, other possibilities that may be suggested during the meeting. Roundtable members understand that the application of any one or more of the options that will be considered will not totally remove the noise from this flight. In addition, the Roundtable does not support any change that results in the shifting of noise from one community to another.

In closing, we believe that the joint efforts of the Roundtable and the City of Long Beach in this issue has the potential of providing some noise relief to people residing in the communities and that it is an improvement is well worth pursuing. I look forward to your reply to this suggestion.

The Roundtable meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2003 at 7:00 PM. The location will be the Samuel Greenberg Board Room in the LAWA Administration Building at LAX, 1 World Way, Los Angeles. If you wish to correspond with the Roundtable, please address your reply to:

LAX/Community Noise Roundtable
c/o Los Angeles World Airports
1 World Way, P.O. Box 92216
Los Angeles, CA  90009-2216
Attention: Robert Holden.

Free parking is available in the visitors' parking lot located west of the LAWA Administration Building. If you need a map to the location please call Mr. Holden at 310-646-9410 ext. 1046.

Thank you for your consideration of this invitation. I look forward to working with you in attempting to resolve this issue.

Yours very truly,

John McTaggart, Chairman,
Councilman, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

cc: Lydia H. Kennard, LAWA
    Chris Kunze, LGB
    Roundtable Members