August 17, 2020

Honorable Emily Gabel-Luddy
Chair, Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force
City Council Member, City of Burbank
275 East Olive Avenue
Burbank, California 91502

Honorable Paul Krekorian
Vice Chair, Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force
City Council Member, City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street Room 435
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Noise Task Force Recommendations

Dear Chair Gabel-Luddy and Vice Chair Krekorian:

The Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority (BGPAA), owner and operator of the Bob Hope Airport (commonly known as Hollywood Burbank Airport), is in receipt of Chair Gabel-Luddy’s May 28, 2020 correspondence transmitting the recommendations of the Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force. I am writing to thank the Task Force for the significant work that led to the recommendations and to provide BGPAA’s responses to the five items that are specific to our agency.

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Recommendation 4

Conduct a study to determine how to obtain the lowest noise levels from aircraft departures from Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) Runway 15 and Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Runway 16R in the South San Fernando Valley communities through increased climb gradients, noise abatement departures profile (NADP) procedures, de-rated takeoff procedures, or a combination of the three alternatives.

Responsible Entities: Federal Aviation Administration, Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority and Los Angeles World Airports
BGPAAP Response: The geographical position, runway lengths, aircraft fleet mix, surrounding terrain, and nature of land uses in the departure areas would likely yield different results for best practices for noise abatement departure procedures at each airport. For that reason, such a study would best be conducted separately by each airport operator. In the case of BUR, this will be accomplished as part of a new Part 150 study. BGPAAP intends to undertake a new Part 150 study once there has been sufficient operational and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendation 7

Provide for Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) procedures for aircraft to arrive all runways at Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR).

Responsible Entities: Federal Aviation Administration and Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

BGPAAP Response: BGPAAP supports the publication of additional instrument arrival and departure procedures for the airport by the FAA. The design and implementation of any new instrument procedures is a federal action and would therefore require the FAA to undertake a review under the National Environmental Protection Act. BGPAAP would review and comment as appropriate during the design of such procedures.

Recommendation 11

Increase enforcement of the existing voluntary curfew at Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR).

Responsible Entity: Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

BGPAAP Response: BGPAAP currently monitors all aircraft operations for compliance with the voluntary curfew. Operators who appear to violate the voluntary curfew are consistently contacted by airport staff and appropriate actions are taken to encourage compliance. It should be noted that the voluntary curfew is applicable to the scheduling of air carrier operations and is not applicable to general aviation operations. Subject to consistency with the Airport Noise and Capacity Act, as part of an updated noise abatement best practices guide for airport users, BGPAAP will consider including language that encourages general aviation operators to be cognizant of the voluntary curfew applicable to the scheduled air carriers.
Recommendation 14

Maintain and update when and if necessary the Noise Exposure Map (NEM) and Noise Compatibility Program (NCP) at Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) and Van Nuys Airport (VNY) in order to continue to provide noise mitigation to all potentially eligible property owners and continue to monitor the aircraft operations and associated noise levels throughout the San Fernando Valley communities. The NCPs will specifically consider preferential runway use programs in a coordinated approach at both airports to determine whether more northerly flow provides noise benefits. The NCP at BUR will also analyze Runway 33 arrivals to limit the use of the flight path some operators use to arrive over the Santa Monica Mountains.

Responsible Entities: Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority and Los Angeles World Airports

BGPAA Response: As previously noted, BGPAA intends to undertake a new Part 150 study once there has been sufficient operational and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. That study will include updated noise exposure maps.

Recommendation 15

Create a Citizen’s Advisory Committee at Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) to address community concerns throughout the San Fernando Valley.

Responsible Entity: Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

BGPAA Response: BGPAA is currently evaluating issues associated with the creation of a Citizen’s Advisory Committee. The issues being considered include size, membership selection, function, and duration. BGPAA anticipates that a final determination will be made by the end of the year and will provide an update at that time.

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In closing, I wish to reiterate that BGPAW appreciates the Task Force’s efforts to identify measures that can help mitigate airplane noise impacts in the Southern San Fernando Valley region. This letter is the start, not the end, of BGPAW’s response to the Task Force’s recommendations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Frank R. Miller
Executive Director

cc: BGPAW Commissioners
Raquel Girvin, Regional Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration Western-Pacific Region
Justin Erbacci, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles World Airports