



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Region
Office of the Regional Administrator

777 S. Aviation Blvd. Suite 150
El Segundo, CA 90245

June 11, 2020

Patrick Lammerding
Director of Operations
Hollywood Burbank Airport
2627 N Hollywood Way
Burbank, CA 91505

Flora Margheritis
Airport Manager
Van Nuys Airport
16461 Sherman Way, Ste 300
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Dear Mr. Lammerding and Ms. Margheritis,

I am writing to confirm the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) received the South San Fernando Valley Task Force's recommendations on June 1, 2020 and to outline how we plan to evaluate them. I also acknowledge receipt of the Task Force's June 8, 2020 clarification email.

As we have noted before, the Los Angeles area has some of the busiest and most complex airspaces in the nation. Accordingly, for those recommendations that involve flight procedure changes, we must carefully and thoroughly analyze each Task Force recommendation to determine whether it is feasible. Our analysis will include but not be limited to these four feasibilities:

Technical Feasibility

- Can the aircraft's flight management system, pilots and air traffic controllers execute the proposed procedure safely?
- Does the proposed procedure meet flight-procedure safety and design criteria, as well as other FAA requirements for airspace and air traffic control?

Operational Feasibility

- Will the proposed procedure allow aircraft to fly safely through the airspace, considering traffic flows from other airports?

Environmental Feasibility

- Does the proposed procedure have the potential to significantly affect the human environment? We use the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC §§ 4321-4335) and FAA Order 1050.1F (Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures) to make this determination.

Financial Feasibility

- What are the anticipated FAA costs associated with the proposed procedure?
- Cost considerations include: the level of environmental review that must be done (e.g., Categorical Exclusion (CATEX), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)); community outreach; review of public concerns; the number of procedures that require modification, etc.
- We must determine if the necessary funds are available to execute the work and, if not, we will need to secure funding before proceeding.

The review and prioritization of the Task Force's recommendations will be a time-consuming process due to the number of recommendations and the complexity of the airspace. In addition to the 10 primary recommendations directed to the FAA, the Task Force provided an additional 40-plus sub recommendations. It's also important to note that the FAA team tasked with making feasibility determinations is, at the same time, responsible for safely managing tens of millions of square miles of airspace throughout multiple Western states as well as over the Pacific Ocean. Accordingly, we will not be able to complete the feasibility determinations for all recommendations within 60 days as you requested. However, we will plan to provide periodic, written updates about our progress in evaluating the recommendations. We will provide information about which recommendations can potentially be implemented in the short and long terms, as well as which are not feasible to implement.

As we review and evaluate the Task Force's recommendations, we will continue to work on the Environmental Assessment for the proposed amendments to the SLAPP and OROSZ departure procedures for Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR). As we previously stated, the FAA may consider those Task Force recommendations that offer alternatives to the proposed amendments as part of the Environmental Assessment process.

On May 6, 2020 we received a letter from several California members of Congress with similar recommendations to reduce airplane noise in the vicinity of BUR and Van Nuys Airport (VNY). We will provide them with copies of our responses to the Task Force recommendations accordingly.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact my office at (424) 405-7000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raquel Girvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Raquel Girvin
Regional Administrator

CC:

Senator Feinstein

Senator Harris

Congressman Schiff

Congressman Sherman

Congressman Lieu

Congressman Cardenas