



Helicopter Noise Relief

Update – January 6, 2015

Presented by:

Bob Anderson, President

Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition

LAHelicopterNoise.org

What Is LAAHNC?

- ◆ **An ad hoc voluntary coalition of residents brought together in late 2012 by former Congressman Berman**
 - **Our board members have been working to reduce helicopter noise for many years across various areas of Los Angeles County**
 - **Requested by Congressmen Berman then Schiff to represent the community and work with the FAA and helicopter pilots/operators**
- ◆ **Our mission is to recover and improve the quality of life throughout Los Angeles County by reducing helicopter noise in our communities, without compromising safety**
- ◆ **We are committed to partnering with local neighborhoods and working with appropriate government agencies, helicopter pilots and operators, and other entities to enhance the environmental quality of our neighborhoods today and for future generations**

Who Is LAAHNC?

◆ George Abrahams

- Member, Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association

◆ Bob Anderson, President

- Board Member, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association

◆ John Bailey

- President, SE Torrance Homeowners Association, and Member, LAX Community Noise Roundtable

◆ David Garfinkle, Treasurer

- President, Tarzana Property Owners Association

◆ Gerry Hans

- President, Friends of Griffith Park

◆ David Rankell

- Member, Van Nuys Airport Citizens

Advisory Council

◆ Richard Root, Vice President

- Founder, Citizens for Quiet Helicopters (HelicopterNoise.com)

◆ Mike Savidan

- Mayor, City of Lomita

◆ Donna Sievers

- Vice President, Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association (Long Beach)

◆ Gerald Silver

- President, Homeowners of Encino

◆ Rudy Whitcomb

- Resident, Rolling Hills Estates

◆ Wayne Williams

- Member, Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council

Helicopter Noise Events and Actions

Jul 2011	Carmageddon I (Mulholland Bridge demolition)
Dec 2011	Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011 (Berman and Feinstein)
Aug 2012	Congressman Berman's initial helicopter noise hearing
Sep 2012	Carmageddon II (Mulholland Bridge demolition)
Dec 2012	LAAHNC first meeting with FAA
Jan 2013	Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013 (Schiff and Feinstein)
Feb 2013	First LAAHNC-Pilots-FAA meeting where six Working Groups established
May 2013	FAA Report on the Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Initiative
May 2013	Congressman Schiff's public safety helicopter meeting
Jun 2013	Congressman Schiff's helicopter noise field hearing
Sep 2013	Second LAAHNC-Pilots-FAA meeting
Dec 2013	Third LAAHNC-Pilots-FAA meeting
Jan 2014	LA helicopter noise rider in Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014
Mar 2014	Fourth LAAHNC-Pilots-FAA meeting
May 2014	First detailed FAA flight track data collection for Cahuenga Pass area
Jun 2014	Fifth LAAHNC-Pilots-FAA meeting
Jul 2014	LAAHNC initiation of formal written agreement to reduce helicopter noise
Sep 2014	FAA testing of new radar identification codes for helicopters
Dec 2014	FAA contracts with Bruel & Kjaer for helicopter noise complaint system
Jan 2015	Deadline for significant progress in 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act

FAA Recommendations in May 2013 Report

- ◆ **Explore a more comprehensive noise complaint system**
- ◆ **Evaluate existing helicopter routes to identify feasible modifications that could lessen impacts on residential areas and noise-sensitive landmarks**
- ◆ **Analyze whether helicopters could safely fly at higher altitudes in certain areas along helicopter routes and at specific identified areas of concern**
- ◆ **Develop and promote best practices for helicopter hovering and electronic news gathering**
- ◆ **Conduct outreach to helicopter pilots to increase awareness of noise-sensitive areas and events**
- ◆ **Continue the collaborative engagement between community representatives and helicopter operators, with interaction with the FAA**

LAAHNC Has Participated in 54 Meetings

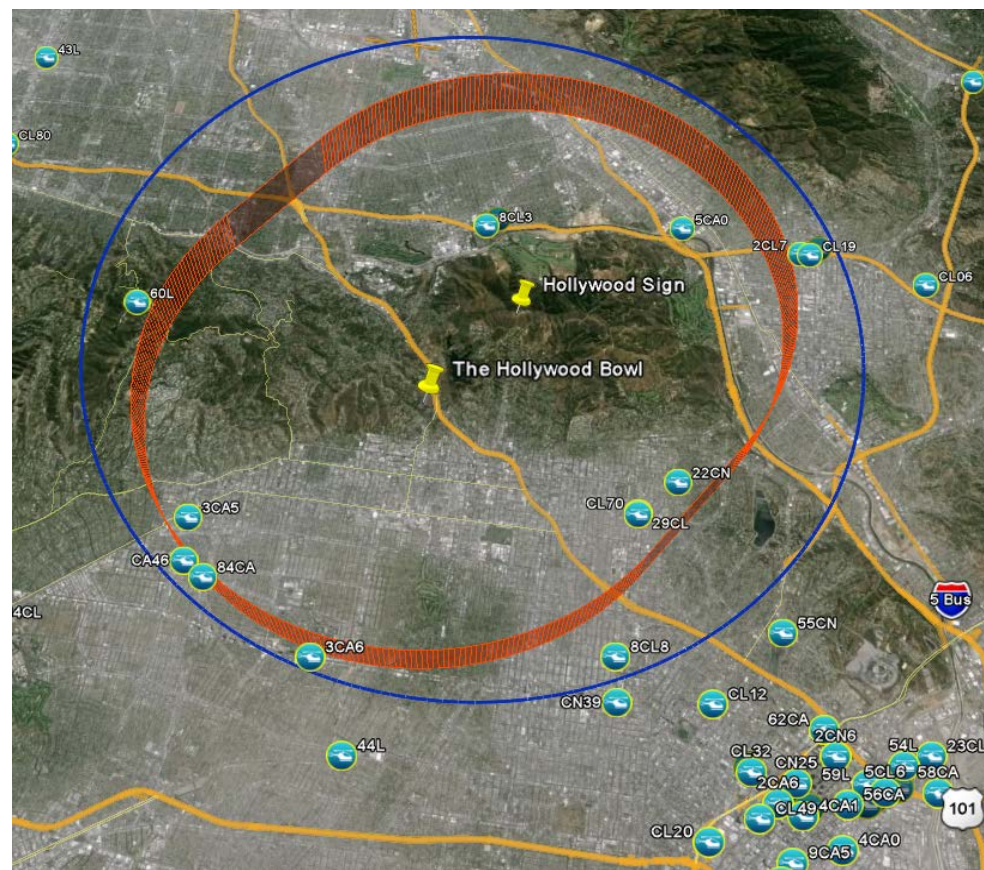
Dec 05, 2012	Initial LAAHNC meeting with FAA	Jun 13, 2014	Best Practices WG meeting
Feb 12, 2013	LAAHNC, pilot, and FAA meeting	Jun 20, 2014	Long Beach Routes WG meeting
May 29, 2013	Congressman Schiff public safety roundtable	Jun 20, 2014	Pilot Outreach WG meeting
Jun 10, 2013	Congressman Schiff field hearing	Jun 25, 2014	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting
Sep 18, 2013	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting	Jul 14, 2014	Long Beach Routes WG meeting
Oct 14, 2013	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting	Jul 14, 2014	Pilot Outreach WG meeting
Oct 29, 2013	Noise Complaint System WG meeting	Jul 17, 2014	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting
Nov 07, 2013	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting	Aug 12, 2014	Long Beach Routes WG meeting
Nov 11, 2013	Best Practices WG meeting	Aug 12, 2014	Pilot Outreach WG meeting
Nov 19, 2013	Noise Complaint System WG meeting	Aug 19, 2014	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting
Dec 03, 2013	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting	Aug 21, 2014	Best Practices WG meeting
Dec 04, 2013	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting	Aug 29, 2014	Cahuenga Pass-Griffith Park Routes WG meeting
Jan 28, 2014	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting	Sep 04, 2014	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting
Feb 05, 2014	Noise Complaint System WG meeting	Sep 08, 2014	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting
Feb 12, 2014	Cahuenga Pass-Griffith Park Routes WG meeting	Sep 16, 2014	Long Beach Routes WG meeting
Mar 13, 2014	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting	Sep 16, 2014	Pilot Outreach WG meeting
Mar 27, 2014	Best Practices WG meeting	Sep 17, 2014	Best Practices WG meeting
Apr 02, 2014	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting	Oct 03, 2014	Cahuenga Pass-Griffith Park Routes WG meeting
Apr 14, 2014	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting	Oct 07, 2014	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting
Apr 17, 2014	Long Beach Routes and Pilot Outreach WGs combined meeting	Oct 23, 2014	Long Beach Routes WG meeting
May 06, 2014	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting	Oct 23, 2014	Pilot Outreach WG meeting
May 08, 2014	First route data analysis presentation for Cahuenga Pass area	Nov 04, 2014	LAAHNC and FAA meeting
May 20, 2014	Long Beach Routes and Pilot Outreach WGs combined meeting	Nov 13, 2014	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting
May 27, 2014	Cahuenga Pass-Griffith Park Routes WG meeting	Nov 24, 2014	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting
Jun 04, 2014	Torrance Area and Offshore Routes WG meeting	Dec 03, 2014	Cahuenga Pass-Griffith Park Routes WG meeting
		Dec 09, 2014	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting
		Dec 17, 2014	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting
		Jan 07, 2015	Noise Complaint System stakeholder meeting
		Jan 07, 2015	LAAHNC, pilot and FAA meeting

FAA Flight Track Data Collection

- ◆ **In May 2014, the FAA completed initial, extensive flight track data collection for the Cahuenga Pass area**
 - **Once thought impossible, the FAA worked to develop special mathematical techniques to isolate helicopter traffic in specific areas (up to about 50 square miles each)**
 - **FAA analysts stated they were “amazed” at the helicopter traffic level in the Cahuenga Pass (and later corrected an error that increased that traffic level by 30 percent)**
- ◆ **Cahuenga Pass data now updated multiple times**
 - **Including December 2014 update depicting traffic versus AGL**
- ◆ **South Bay and Long Beach analyses now underway**
- ◆ **LAAHNC recommending other critical areas in the County for subsequent data collection**

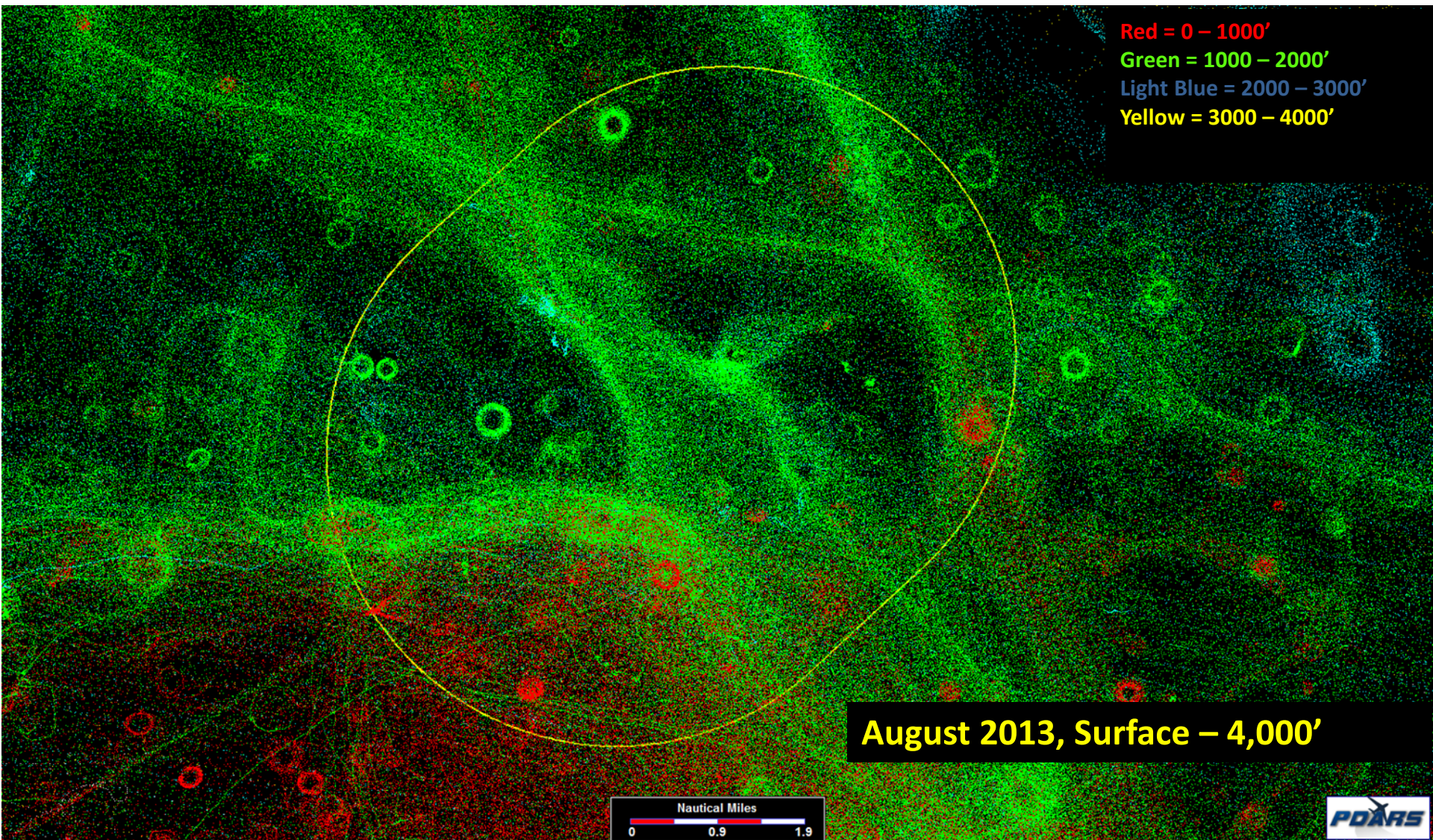
Cahuenga Pass Flight Track Study Area

- ◆ **Oval around Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood Sign, and Griffith Park from surface to 4,000 feet mean sea level**
 - 52 square miles
 - Includes portion of voluntary Hollywood Freeway helicopter route
- ◆ **Helicopter traffic data for August 2013 (one month)**
 - Mean Sea Level (MSL)
- ◆ **Cahuenga Pass data for October 2013**
 - Above Ground Level (AGL)



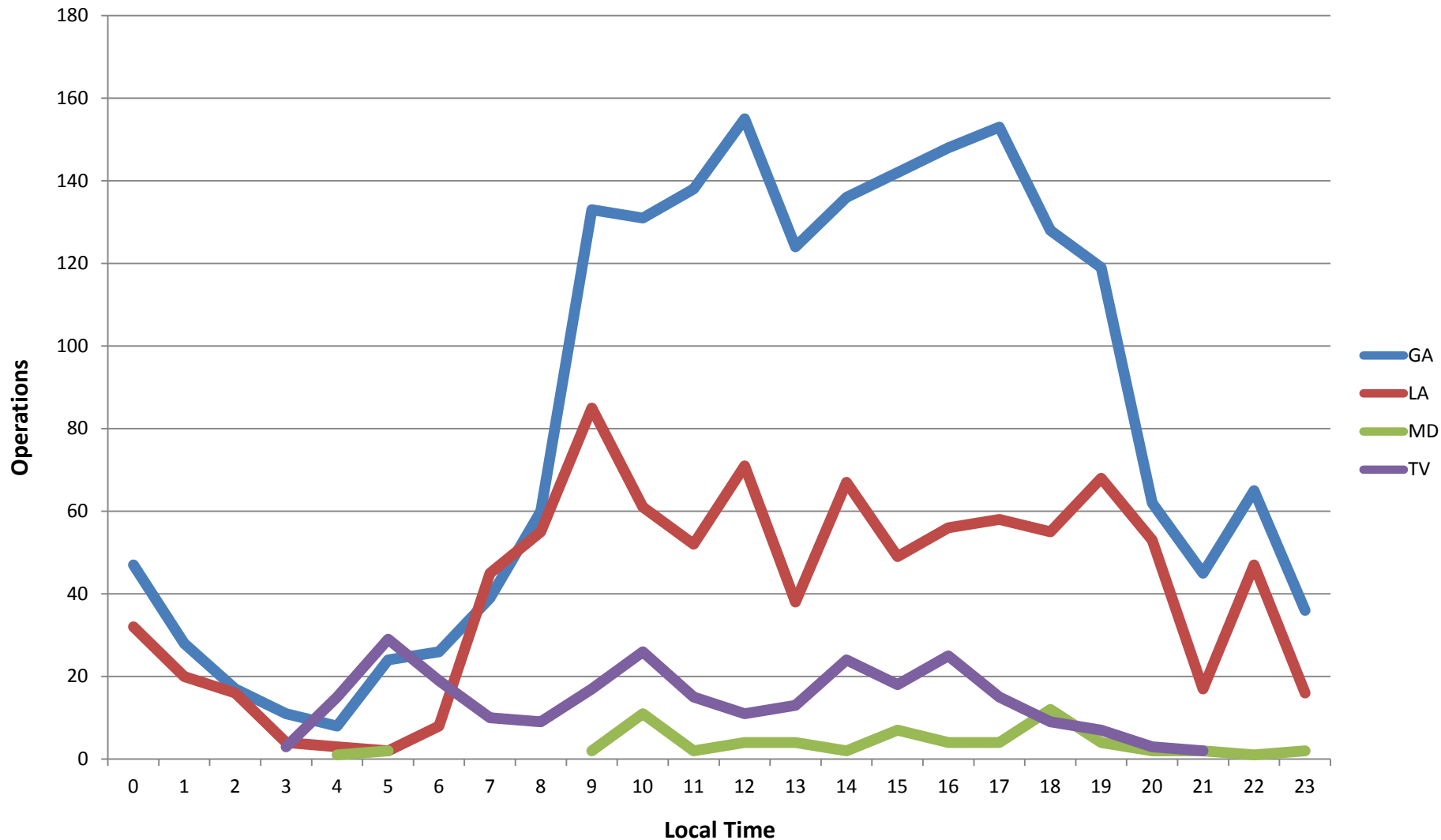
Helicopter Traffic Data: August 2013

- ◆ 42% of total traffic is helicopters (~3,300 helicopter tracks)

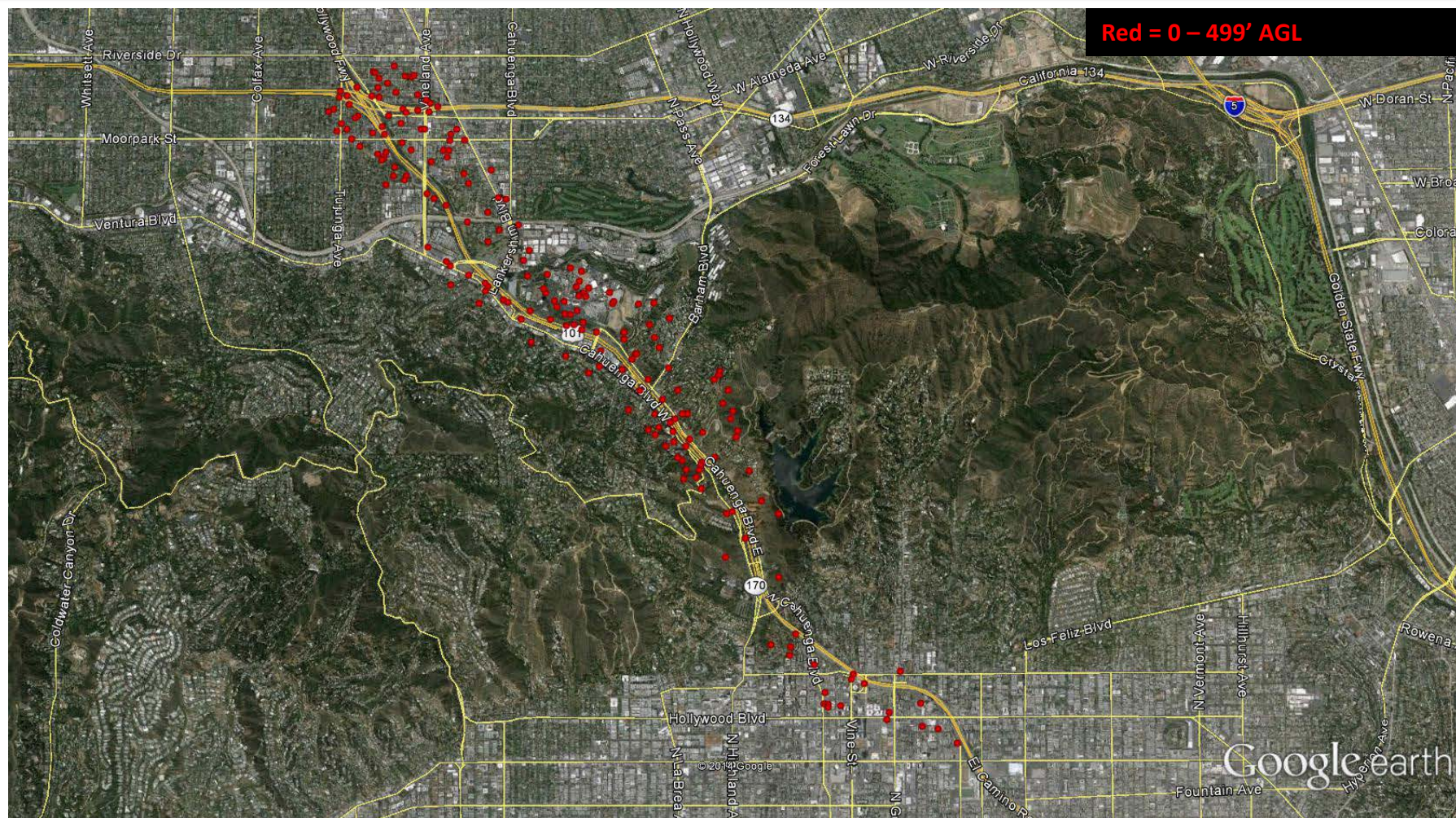




Hourly Helicopter Traffic: August 2013

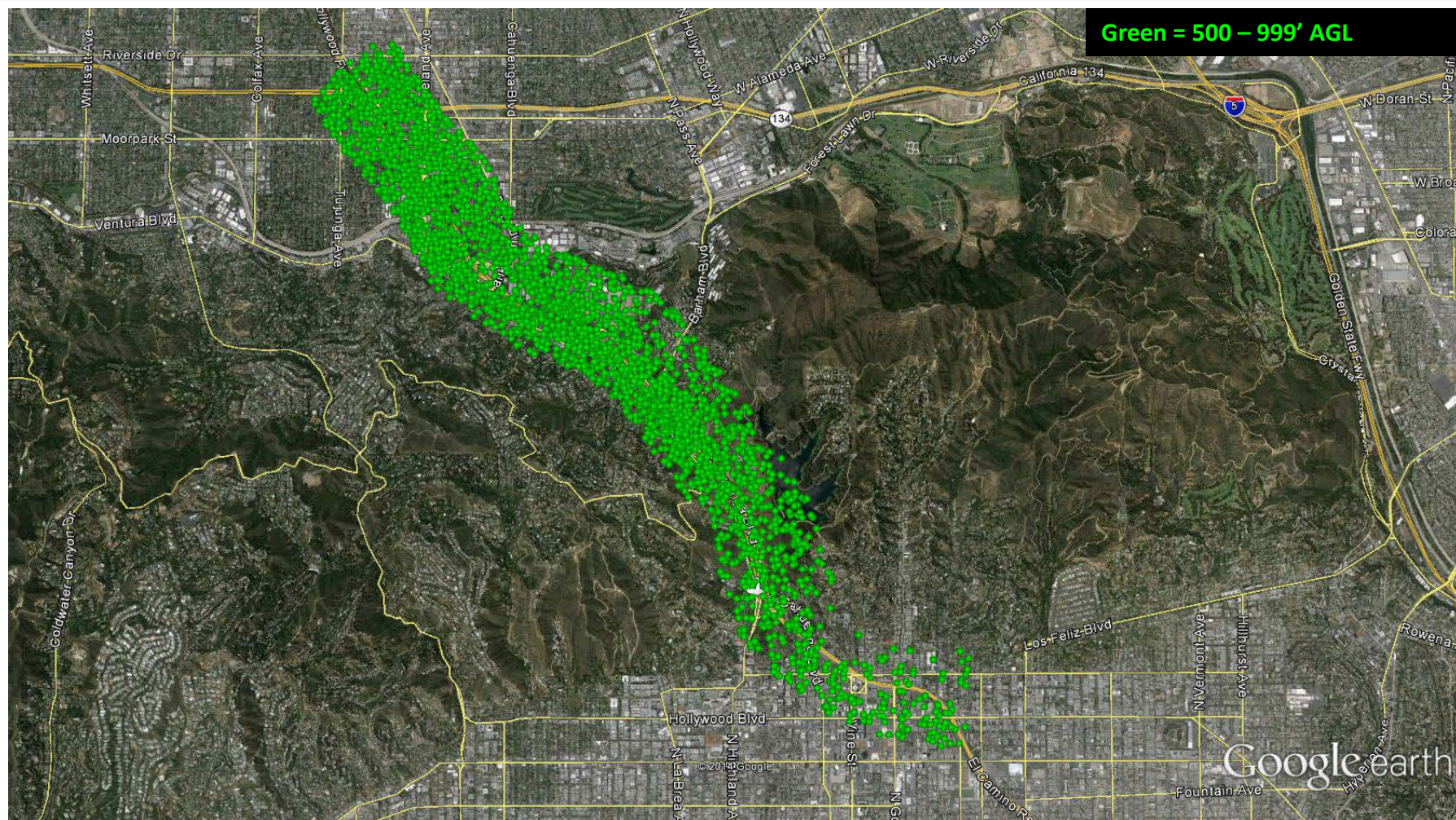


Cahuenga Pass Traffic: October 2014



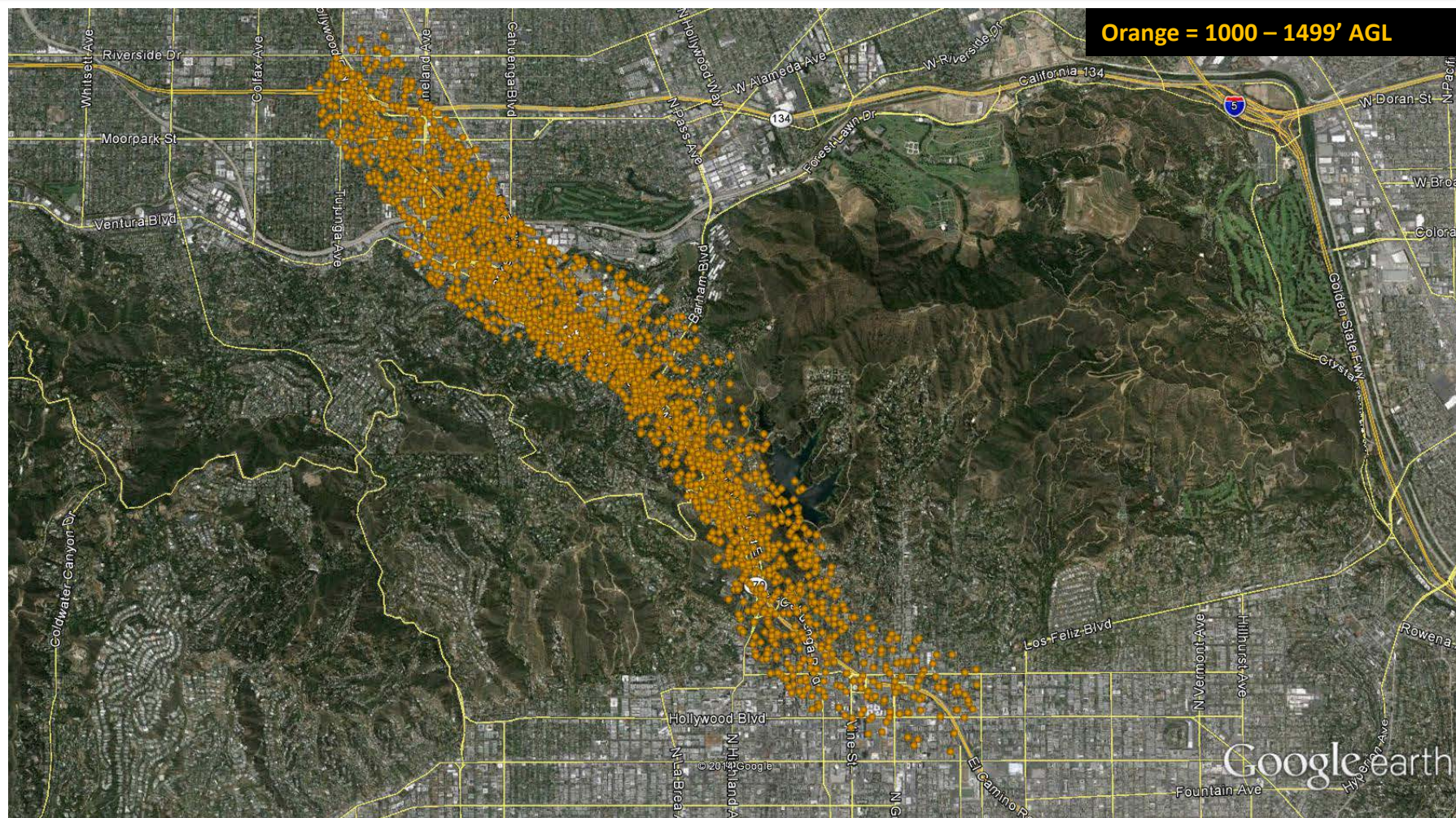
October 2014: ¼ mile on either side of the Cahuenga Pass

Cahuenga Pass Traffic: October 2014



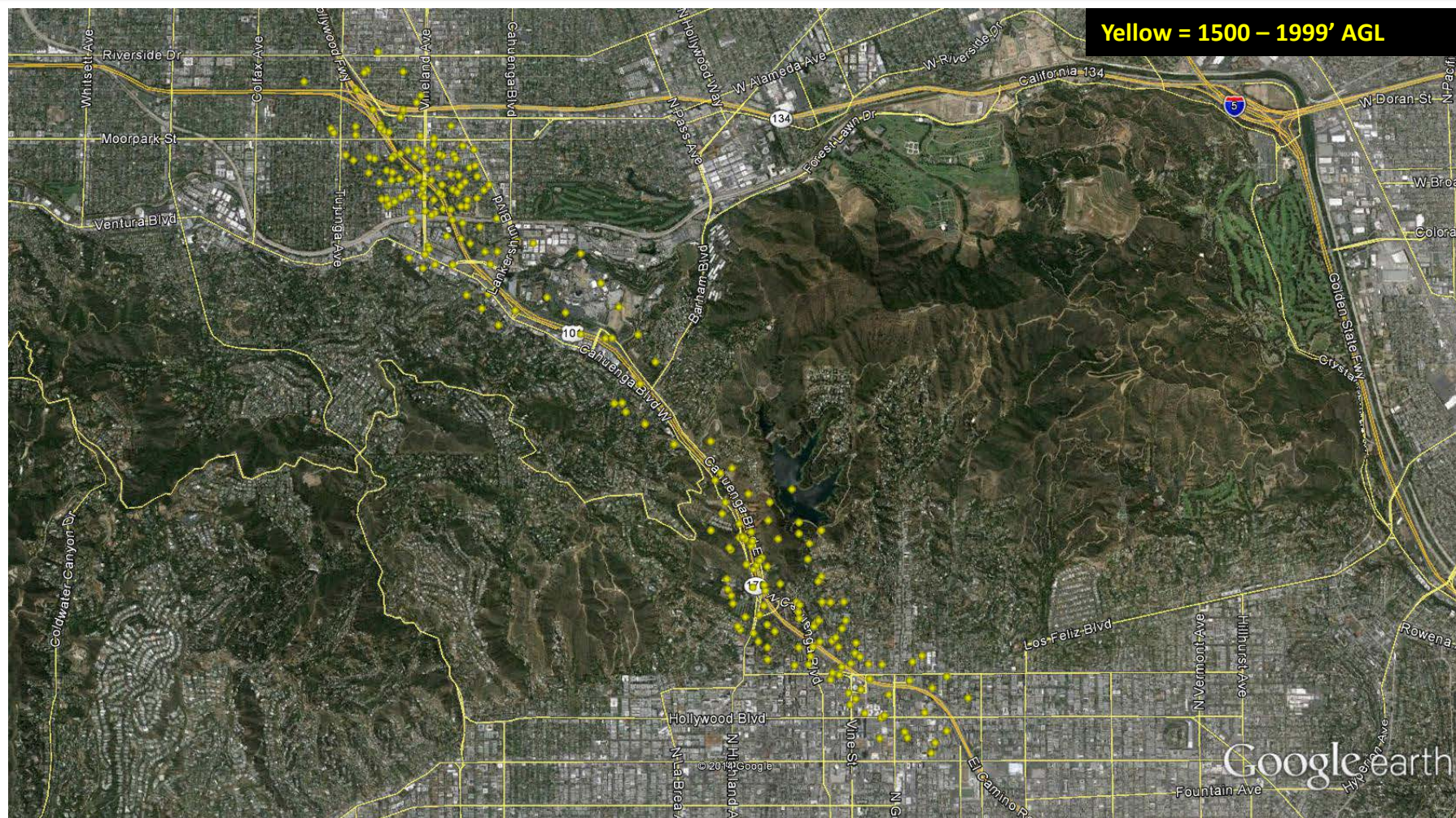
October 2014: ¼ mile on either side of the Cahuenga Pass

Cahuenga Pass Traffic: October 2014



October 2014: ¼ mile on either side of the Cahuenga Pass

Cahuenga Pass Traffic: October 2014



October 2014: ¼ mile on either side of the Cahuenga Pass

Radar Identification Codes for Helicopters

- ◆ **All aircraft not under tower control emit a coded signal when tracked by radar**
 - Airplanes and helicopters used the same 1200 beacon code
 - So, FAA radar data could not distinguish between them
- ◆ **On September 1, 2014, FAA began testing three distinct beacon codes for LA County**
 - Code 1200 – Airplanes (fixed-wing)
 - Code 1205 – General-use helicopters (tours, news, paparazzi, ...)
 - Code 1206 – Public-use helicopters (police, fire, medical, ...)
- ◆ **New codes let FAA track helicopters versus airplanes**
 - And general-use helicopters versus public use helicopters
- ◆ **Helps better understand helicopter traffic patterns**
 - And develop effective noise-reduction practices

FAA Release on Noise Complaint System

- ◆ **The Helicopter Noise Complaint System comprises a dedicated web portal (including a mobile platform), radar flight tracking, and a brokering system which can route complaints associated with a specific airport to that airport's noise office and forward helicopter noise complaints received by airports to the centralized helicopter noise portal**
- ◆ **The web portal will use B&K's WebTrak, a well-known service that offers dynamic flight tracking using integrated radar data. WebTrak allows the public the ability to investigate flight paths and can be customized to log complaint data.**
- ◆ **Complaints associated with helicopters approaching and departing airports would be handled by the airport noise office under current practices, but would also be included in the regional correlated complaint dataset. Those that are not associated with any airport would be logged and could be acknowledged by an automated response.**
- ◆ **The Helicopter Noise Complaint System will capture and allow reporting on information such as location, date, time and description of the incident, and can be customized to include specific attributes of helicopter disturbances (e.g., hovering, circling, etc.).**

Formal Written Agreement To Reduce Noise

- ◆ **LAAHNC, pilots, and FAA agreed to collaborate on a written agreement that included:**
 - **A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by LAAHNC, pilot/operator organizations, and the FAA**
 - **Voluntary noise reduction measures**
- ◆ **Voluntary Measures were initially developed in six Working Groups established in 2013**
 - **Three with countywide focus and three with local focus**
- ◆ **LAAHNC feels several overarching voluntary measures are necessary to reduce noise on the ground**
 - **Countywide minimum altitude**
 - **Hovering limits**
 - **Offshore routes**

Thank You!

*If you would like a copy of this presentation,
please contact Bob Anderson at
BobA@LAHelicopterNoise.org*