

# Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition

*Citizens seeking relief from helicopter noise – A problem for more than 40 years*

LAHelicopterNoise.org July 5, 2016

Vice President  
**Richard Root**  
*Citizens for Quiet  
Helicopters (Torrance)*  
Treasurer  
**Dave Garfinkle**  
*Tarzana Property Owners  
Association*

Glen Martin  
Regional Administrator  
Western-Pacific Region  
Federal Aviation Administration

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

**George Abrahams**  
*Beachwood Canyon  
Neighborhood Association*

**Subject: New FAA Helicopter Routes on Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura County Shorelines**

**Gerry Hans**  
*Friends of Griffith Park*

Dear Mr. Martin:

**David Rankell**  
*Van Nuys Airport  
Citizens Advisory Council*

The Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC) is extremely troubled by the FAA's actions in developing new offshore helicopter routes and implementing them on June 22, 2016 along the Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura County shorelines without any advance notice or consultation.

**Roy Meals**  
*Co-Developer of  
HeliTracker  
Holmby Westwood  
Property Owners Assoc.*

The new routes are to be flown 750 feet from the coastline as follows:

- Palisades - From Pt. Mugu to the northern end of the SMO Class D Airspace (near Palisades Park)
- South Bay - From Manhattan Beach to the Los Angeles Harbor breakwater
- Coast - From Long Beach to Camp Pendleton

**Mike Savidan**  
*Councilman, City of Lomita*

As you know, Public Law No. 113-76 (Division L, Title I, SEC. 119D), enacted in January 2014, directed the FAA to "continue to participate in collaborative engagement between community representatives and helicopter operators" in an effort to reduce helicopter noise in Los Angeles County. For the last several years we have represented the community as stakeholders in that "collaborative" process.

**Donna Sievers**  
*Bluff Heights (Long Beach)  
Neighborhood Association*

**Gerald A. Silver**  
*Homeowners of Encino*

**Rudy Whitcomb**  
*Rolling Hills Estates*

**Wayne Williams**  
*Van Nuys Airport  
Citizens Advisory Council*

Early on it looked like a good faith effort was being made to consider the views of all stakeholders. However, no agreements were reached. At our last meeting, over a year ago on June 11, 2015, the FAA was considering routes at one-quarter mile offshore and it appeared stakeholders might be nearing an agreement. However, after that meeting, apparently the FAA and helicopter pilots continued to meet without us and routes were developed at only 750 feet offshore with no minimum altitude. If pilots follow these routes, it will put many of them closer to shore than they were already flying before the change. Thus, instead of reducing overall noise on the shoreline, it is more likely to increase it.

The FAA implemented the new shoreline routes without informing us of the route descriptions or giving us any opportunity to comment on them prior to implementation. Almost a month before the routes were implemented we read in a helicopter industry publication that the FAA had completed a "safety analysis" and an "environmental review" and was about to "publish" new routes. On May 27, 2016 we e-mailed your staff to verify this story and also asked whether the routes would be made available for public comment prior to implementation. We also requested copies of the FAA's "safety analysis" and "environmental review." However, we never received a response. We do not think these actions by the FAA were consistent with the intent of Public Law No. 113-76.

More importantly, the FAA never gave Los Angeles County, or any of the eleven cities along its shoreline, or the impacted general public, any advance notice of these routes. There was no opportunity for them to consider the issue at all prior to implementation.

The FAA implemented these routes while our formal request for regulations to establish helicopter routes at one-half mile and one mile offshore in Los Angeles County is still pending. More specifically, it comes only days after we filed our formal appeal (June 17, 2016) to the FAA for reconsideration of the FAA's dismissal of our original request "based on the current priorities for the FAA" and without a satisfactory response on the merits of our request.

We believe the FAA's actions in this matter were not only inconsistent with Public Law No. 113-76, they were also contrary to the basic tenets of due process and generally accepted principles of good government, including openness and transparency. Additionally, they seem inconsistent with the spirit (if not the letter) of longstanding laws such as the National Environmental Protection Act, California Environmental Quality Act, and California Coastal Act.

Strangely, the new routes also cover the entire Orange County coastline and part of the Ventura County coastline. Public Law No. 113-76 only mentioned Los Angeles County. Neither Orange County nor Ventura County has ever been discussed at any time during our "collaborative" process.

Accordingly, we call on the FAA to immediately rescind the new routes and restore the status quo ante until the LAAHNC, the general public, and each of the impacted cities and counties have at least been provided with the FAA's rationale for the new routes; copies of the FAA's "safety analysis" and "environmental review" documents; and an opportunity to consider the issue and make comments.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Richard Root, Vice President  
Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition  
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cc:	Senator Dianne Feinstein	County of Los Angeles	Orange County
	Senator Barbara Boxer	City of Malibu	City of Seal Beach
	Congressman Ted Lieu	City of Santa Monica	City of Huntington Beach
	Congresswoman Maxine Waters	City of El Segundo	City of Newport Beach
	Congresswoman Janice Hahn	City of Manhattan Beach	City of Laguna Beach
	Congressman Alan Lowenthal	City of Hermosa Beach	City of Dana Point
	Congressman Dana Rohrabacher	City of Redondo Beach	City of San Clemente
	Congressman Darrell Issa	City of Torrance	Ventura County
	Congresswoman Julia Brownley	City of Palos Verdes Estates	
	Congressman Adam Schiff	City of Rancho Palos Verdes	
		City of Los Angeles	
		City of Long Beach	