



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

Western-Pacific Region
Office of the Regional Administrator

P.O. Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA 90009-2007

DEC 23 2014



The Honorable W. J. "Jim" Lane
Mayor of the City of Scottsdale
3939 Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Dear Mayor Lane:

Thank you for your letter dated December 9, 2014, regarding the recent changes to the flight patterns at the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (PHX).

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continues to work towards improving the National Airspace System (NAS). The new procedures implemented at PHX are part of a national Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) initiative aimed at improving our NAS. NextGen procedures are built to allow more direct flight paths that increase efficiency, lower fuel burn and carbon dioxide emissions.

It is a continuing challenge for the FAA to provide the necessary support to the NAS and ensure the consideration of noise impacts. After implementation of the new procedures, we received extensive feedback from the local communities. The FAA determined that some aircraft were not flying the new procedures as intended. We have taken steps to maximize the number of aircraft that are properly flying the procedures. Additionally, the airport staff has asked us to consider specific mitigations that representatives of the affected neighborhoods have proposed. The FAA is teaming with the airport staff and industry experts to consider these proposals and determine if they are feasible and could potentially mitigate the noise issues.

In the City of Scottsdale, the changes to the flight pattern actually reduced the number of households affected by overflights. Presently, we do not plan to make any changes which would impact the City of Scottsdale. It is important to understand that the FAA does not move flight tracks from one community to another for the sake of moving noise.

Thank you for this opportunity to answer your inquiry. If you need further help, please contact me or Tamara Swann, Acting Regional Executive Manager, at (310) 725-3550.

Sincerely,



Glen A. Martin
Regional Administrator