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January 29, 2018

The Honorable Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell:

Thank you for the FAA's efforts ensuring the world's most complex airspace remains efficient, safe, and secure. I am writing regarding community concerns of noise pollution in southern San Francisco from departure flightpaths from San Francisco International Airport (SFO), and request the FAA study the potential benefits of dispersion of the current Metroplex flightpaths.

The NextGen modernization of our nation's air transportation system is crucial to adapting to growing air traffic while increasing safety, capacity, and efficiency, while decreasing fuel consumption and harmful emissions. As many flight paths transition from traditional ground based navigation to NextGen satellite based area navigation, the FAA must prioritize the development of flight procedures that will reduce harmful noise impact on homes and businesses along with its goals of reducing fuel consumption and making air traffic control more manageable and predictable.

At SFO, the 2014/2015 implementation of the NextGen Metroplex initiative has increased community impacts in southern San Francisco neighborhoods with narrowed flight paths directing more planes to fly over homes with higher frequency, greatly harming the quality of life of many of my constituents.

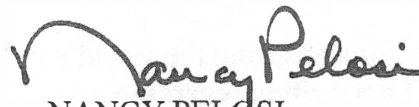
Rather than pitting one Bay Area community against another as they fight against concentrated noise pollution over their neighborhood, there could be potential benefit to dispersing the precise Metroplex waypoint turns – either by fanning aircraft or adding additional turning points. Distributing flight patterns over a larger geographic area and reducing the number of flight turns directly over southern San Francisco could more fairly distribute noise impacts so that no one community is subjected to concentrated noise impacts. I request the FAA study dispersion to see whether we can reduce noise pollution concentration without compromising NextGen benefits or safety.

As the FAA continues to modernize flight paths, the Administration must prioritize community impact expectations relative to any route changes before their implementation. At SFO I encourage close cooperation with the Community Roundtable

to utilize existing data to foresee and appropriately plan for flight path impacts. Benefits from coordination and cooperation between the FAA and the SFO Community Roundtable have already been seen in the Roundtable recommendations that were accepted by the FAA, successfully reducing aircraft noise over populated areas during nighttime.

Thank you again for your efforts to ensure the safety of our airspace, and for your consideration of my views.

best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "N".

NANCY PELOSI

Member of Congress