



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

July 31, 2012

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Secretary LaHood has asked me to respond to your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, requesting that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) begin a process to formally solicit local stakeholder views on helicopter noise in Los Angeles County, California. Additionally, you asked the FAA to note the reporting requirement in the draft language of the Fiscal Year 2013 Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

We agree that measures to address the issues related to helicopter noise in residential areas of Los Angeles County must be developed through local engagement and collaboration with community associations, the flying community, and local government.

Our Western-Pacific Regional Administrator, Mr. Bill Withycombe, is leading a collaborative effort to solicit input from local communities and stakeholders on helicopter noise and safety issues in Los Angeles County. He is forming an internal FAA working group to ensure support and accountability moving forward. As a result of the request from Congressman Berman's office to coordinate the meeting schedule, Mr. Withycombe and other FAA representatives will attend the first public meeting on August 6 in Sherman Oaks, California. The purpose of this meeting is to hear comments from the public and identify the issues of concern. A second public stakeholder meeting is in the planning process and will be held by October 2012. A final report will be developed by May 2013. It is important that the FAA avoid any potential issues under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of seeking consensus recommendations from stakeholders. The FAA's role will be to listen and consider the views of the public in its report to Congress.

We have sent a similar letter to each of the cosigners of your letter.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or Roderick D. Hall, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Huerta".

Michael P. Huerta
Acting Administrator