

The following figures (Figures 2-2 through 2-4) display radar flight tracks on January 11, 2012, (a typical day) and illustrate the complexity and congestion within the Los Angeles Basin. The first graphic presents the flight tracks of aircraft within the Los Angeles area operated under IFR and VFR. The second graphic shows only those aircraft that operated under VFR. A large number of these flights occur under or around Class B and C airspace. The final graphic shows the flight tracks for aircraft operated at 90 knots or less. These are presumed to be either helicopters or arriving/departing aircraft. It is important to note that many helicopters operate below or outside of radar coverage, which is limited to line-of-sight. Therefore, these presentations do not depict all helicopter operations.

Helicopters are used for a wide range of purposes in the Los Angeles Basin in direct support of both the public and private sectors. Public safety departments, including the California Department of Forestry, the Los Angeles City police and fire departments, Los Angeles County sheriff and fire departments, and other local municipalities utilize helicopters for law enforcement and fire protection functions. Federal, state, and local governments also conduct search and rescue operations with helicopters and use them in support of disaster assessment and relief activities. Utilities install, maintain, and inspect power lines with helicopter operations. In the health sector, helicopters are used to transport trauma patients to hospitals and life-saving organs to transplant recipients within critical timelines, landing at and taking off from helipads at hospitals such as UCLA Medical Center.

Helicopters are used to conduct air tours for tourists to see the sights of Southern California, including iconic landmarks and landscapes. The news industry relies heavily on helicopters to provide coverage of breaking news events and traffic reports; in fact, local television station KTLA launched the first news-gathering helicopter, christened the "Telecopter," in 1958. Many local news media helicopters are based out of Van Nuys and Whiteman Airports. Other industries supported by helicopter operations include real estate (surveys and aerial photography), agriculture (pesticide spraying), and entertainment (television and movie filming). Within the aviation sector, helicopters are used by flight schools for pilot training and Robinson Helicopters, headquartered at Zamperini Field, conducts required test flights of aircraft manufactured or overhauled there.

Figure 2-2 January 11, 2012: 11,676 Flight Tracks (All Flights)

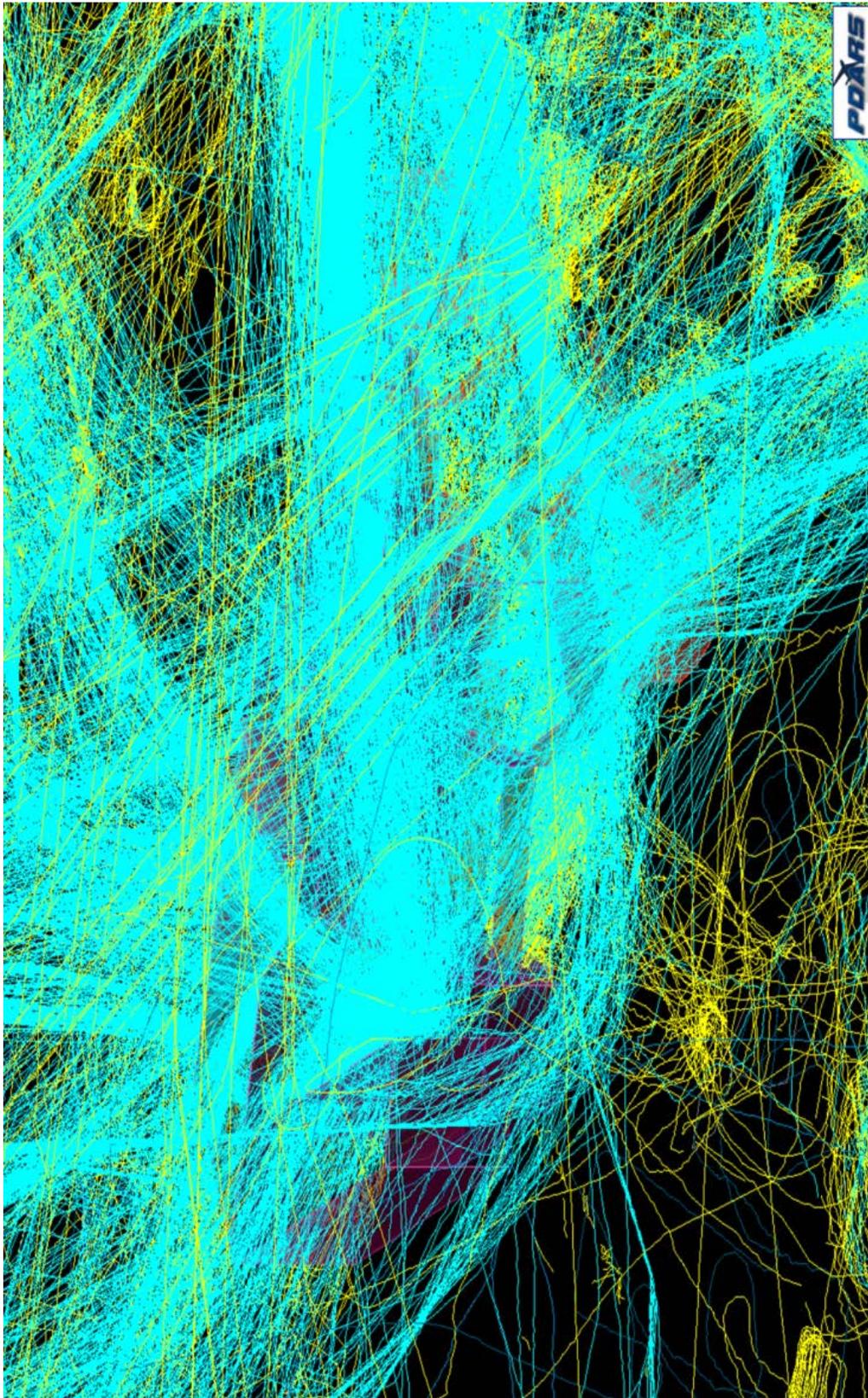


Figure 2-3 January 11, 2012: 6,948 VFR Flight Tracks

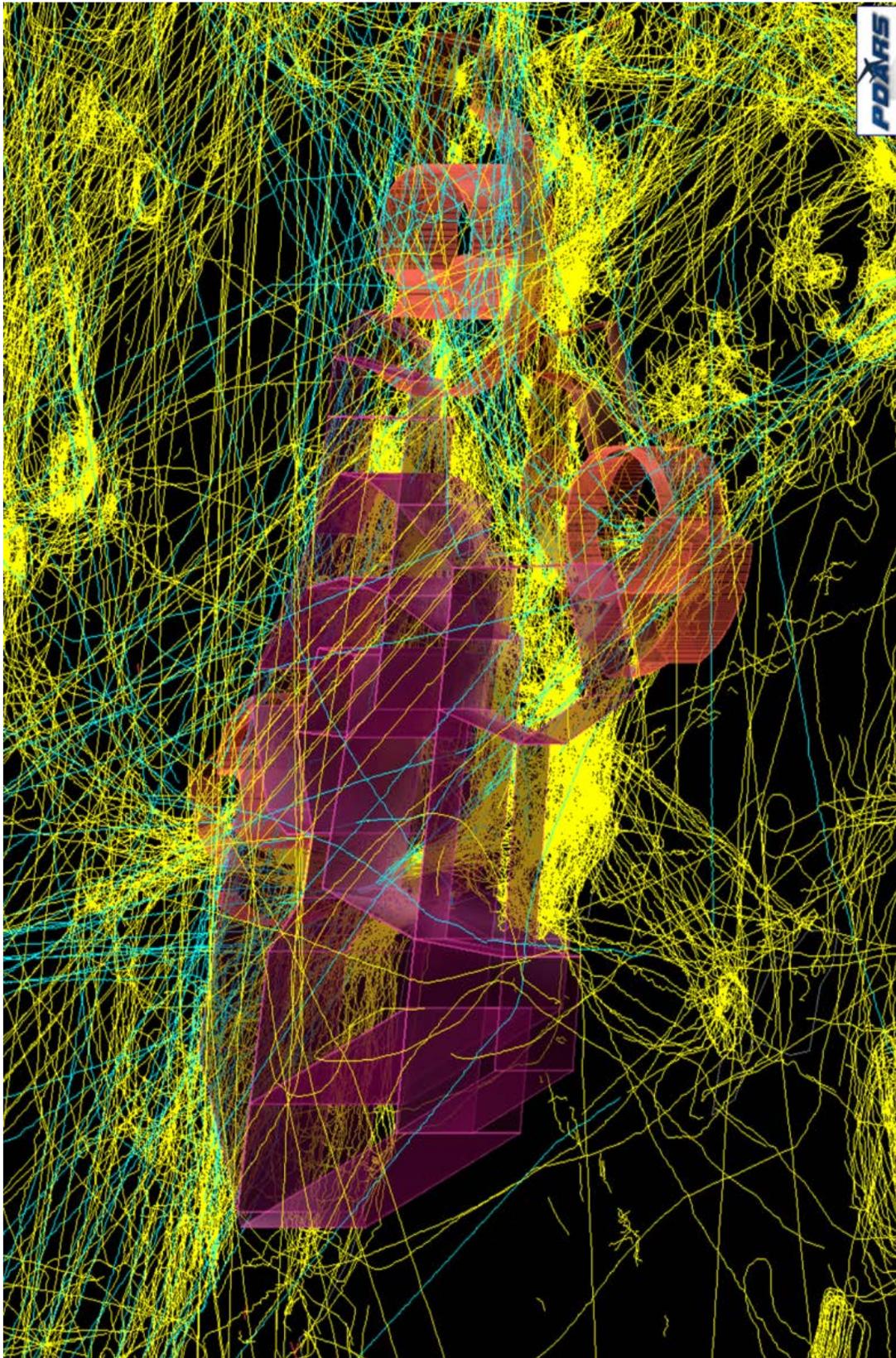


Figure 2-4 January 11, 2012: Flights with Groundspeeds of 90 Knots or Less: Presumed to be Helicopters or any Aircraft Taking Off from or Landing at an Airport

