

OVERVIEW & IMPACT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA METROPLEX

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is in the process of modernizing the air traffic control technologies and procedures to improve the efficiency and safety of flight in the United States Airspace. This is being accomplished using Next Generation satellite based navigation equipment and associated flight path procedures. The program for the Southern California Metroplex airspace covers 19 major and minor airports, including John Wayne Airport.

As part of the process, the FAA hosted a Community Outreach meeting at El Modena High School on Nov 2, 2016. The meeting was in an open house format whereby video and large scale diagram displays were distributed around the room. Visitors were able to circulate about the displays and ask questions of a number of FAA technical personnel with knowledge of the system. About 125-150 residents of areas north of the airport and of Newport Beach attended the meeting.

In discussions with the FAA airspace procedures personnel, it was confirmed that the redesigned arrival procedures into John Wayne Airport are essentially overlays of the existing ground based radar procedures. Because the satellite based procedures permit more precise navigation for the aircraft arriving under Instrument flight rules, it is likely that there will be less dispersion of flight paths relative to the theoretical paths.

The FAA performed analyses of aircraft generated noise, based on the predicted flight paths for the improved arrival procedures into all airports in the Metroplex. For arrivals into John Wayne Airport, the results of the noise studies demonstrated that some people will experience more noise, some will see no change, and some will experience less noise. However, in no case will any increase in noise have significant impact or violate the threshold for reportable increases imposed by FAA noise regulations.

As a consequence of the noise analysis results, and the analyses of other environmental conditions, the FAA environmental review resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact and Record of Decision, enabling the FAA to move forward with the implementation of the modernized procedures for all airports in the Metroplex. Please search "SoCal Metroplex" for the Environmental Assessment report for detailed information about this subject