

September- 2015 Update- All things Aviation:



If you'd like additional information, please contact Newport Beach City Manager Dave Kiff at dkiff@newportbeachca.gov.

JWA -July¹

Airline passenger traffic at John Wayne Airport increased in July 2015 when compared to July 2014. In July 2015, the Airport served 927,934 passengers, an increase of +10.8% when compared with the July 2014 passenger traffic count of 837,702. Commercial aircraft operations increased +5.9%, while commuter aircraft operations decreased -6.6% when compared to July 2014 levels. ADDs for July were 121.77 vs. 115.65 a year ago. International passengers again saw an increase of +24.7% for the month vs. a year ago. International also accounted for 5 ADDs of the total ADDs for the month of July. Year to date passenger levels overall are +5.8% ahead of last year and the airport for the first six months is at 5.72 MAP.

County Monitoring of the Monitors

The four (4) parties to the JWA Settlement Agreement, SPON, AWG, the City of Newport Beach and the County of Orange, have now all approved the necessary amendments to the JWA Settlement Agreement as well as the amendments to the County Airline Access Plan, as a result of the need to modify the measurement readings of the noise levels at the respective noise monitoring stations after the installation of the new Bridge Net Noise Monitoring System² at the airport. This matter, as you may recall was

¹ The July figures are the most current published figures to date and repeated here again.

² See Aviation Updates for July and August 2015 for further discussion of the background leading to the amendments.

discussed at the last City Aviation Committee meeting on August 6 as well as the City Council meeting on September 8, 2015.

Recent Complaints- Follow-Up

As you may recall and as announced here previously, in response to the recent complaints regarding departures being too far west over the Bay, after the renumbering of the Runways³, i.e., post September 18, 2014, the FAA had advised JWA that commencing September 17, 2015 the FAA would implement a two part fix to the problem, with the second part of the fix to occur on or about October 15, 2015. Both the City and the County have been monitoring the initial “corrections” and so far must conclude that “...no great improvements to report at this point.” The County and the City are still trying to work with the FAA regarding this issue, with hopes that it will be remedied as initially promised and understand the concern of the community and reasons for your complaints. In addition, the foregoing problem encountered after the renumbering of the runways, is separate and apart from the current MetroPlex project, which is the redesign of airspace in Southern California.

MetroPlex Redesign Update

The FAA has modified their previous schedule and now states that the proposed changes to departures at JWA in accordance with the MetroPlex⁴, the PIGGN will be published on or about November 10 2016 whereas the HAYLO and FINZZ will be published on or about March 2, 2017, again that is by no means a guaranty. As noted by these most recent changes, this information changes constantly. Again you are reminded that the above proposed changes are part of the MetroPlex and not the recent issues encountered as a result of the re-numbering of the runways as noted above.

³ On September 18, 2014 JWA’s 5,700-foot air carrier commercial service runway became 2L-20R and the 2,887-foot general aviation runway became 2R-20L. For a further discussion see the September 2014 Aviation Update.

⁴ In addition all three major commercial departures (including the STREL which will become the PIGGN) will utilize the STREL waypoint; however, none of the three major commercial departures will utilize the current TOING waypoint. Also see comments regarding MetroPlex below.

FAA Continues Comment Period- MetroPlex Environmental Assessment Update

Both the City and the County have filed extensive comments regarding the proposed redesign of airspace in Southern California.⁵ As you may recall the FAA has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the SoCal OAPM, and has extended the comment period for a second time on the EA to October 8, 2015. Once again for those of you who have not followed the MetroPlex redesign and wish to review the EA and/or make comments you are directed to the web site⁶ at:

http://www.metroplexenvironmental.com/socal_metroplex/socal_introduction.html

Because of some continuing questions in the community, the following clarifications are repeated for the second month in a row:

- Who initiated the proposed changes? The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has initiated the redesign of the Southern California airspace, which includes 21 airports in the region.
- Why has the FAA implemented the changes? There are, according to the FAA, a variety of reasons: The process is part of the NextGen, which has been mandated by Congress to update or modernize airspace in the United States (this is not just Southern California). The SoCal Project would improve the efficiency of airspace in the Southern California Metroplex by optimizing aircraft arrival and departure procedures;
- What has the FAA concluded? The Project may involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas, but would not result in any ground disturbance or increase the number of aircraft operations within the Southern California airspace.

⁵ The City's comments can be seen on the City's website at:
<http://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/advanced-components/search?q=MetroPlex>

⁶ For additional detail regarding the background of the MetroPlex see the June- August 2015 Aviation Update.

- Does the City necessarily agree with the foregoing? Not necessarily, however the City was not consulted regarding the proposed redesign prior to the release of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). It is one of the reasons that the City will be filling comments to the Draft EA as well as the reason for attempting to obtain as much information as possible and participate with the collaborative efforts of the County in the process.
- So I assume that the County, as owner of JWA was consulted regarding the changes proposed in the Draft EA? No, they were not. The FAA did not consider JWA a stakeholder at the time of the study and process of developing the Draft EA.
- So who was consulted in developing the Draft EA? The Airlines.
- If I want to make comments on the Draft EA, what should I do? Again for those of you who have not followed the MetroPlex redesign and wish to review the EA and/or make comments you are directed to the web site at:

http://www.metroplexenvironmental.com/socal_metroplex/socal_introduction.html

The site provides details of the proposed project as well as how you can make your comments to the FAA before the deadline of October 8, 2015, partially reproduced here as well; The FAA encourages interested parties to review the EA, and provide written comments during the public comment period. Written comments will be accepted by the FAA until **October 8, 2015**. The public is invited to comment by mail or email.

Comments can be emailed to:

9-ANM-SoCalOAPM@faa.gov

Comments can be submitted by regular mail to:

SoCal Metroplex EA
Federal Aviation Administration
Western Service Center - Operations Support Group
1601 Lind Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98057

The extensive comments that the City of Newport Beach submitted may be viewed on the City's website at:

<http://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/advanced-components/search?q=MetroPlex>

Airports in the Region

Long Beach

July results showed a decrease of -17.8 % for total passenger traffic over the same month last year. For the year, Long Beach shows an overall decrease of -12.8% overall in total passenger traffic versus the same 2014 time period.

Bob Hope

The monthly passenger count rose at Bob Hope Airport. Although, still below projections, the hike follows five months of similar increases. It's the first time since 2007 that the airport's passenger numbers have increased through the first half of the year, according to a statement from an airport spokesperson. Airfield officials attributed the increase to the airlines' seasonal adjustments in June for summer travel, which ramped up the number of flights from Burbank. As noted previously, other airports in the region also reported boosts in passenger tallies for July. The number of travelers at Los Angeles International Airport rose by 6%. There was also a nearly 11% gain at John Wayne Airport in Orange County and a 1.45% increase at Ontario International Airport.

Costa Mesa to Review Helipad

In 2011, a party applied for a Conditional Use Permit to put a helipad on the roof of the building at 3132 Airway Avenue, Costa Mesa, which abuts JWA. After some opposition, the applicant withdrew the proposal. It appears that in late September or early October the City of Costa Mesa may revisit the proposal. Previously the Planning Commission in Costa Mesa had opposed the project as an "expansion" of the airport.