



July 27, 2020

RE: Voluntary Quieter Nights Program (QNP) at Van Nuys Airport (VNY)

Motion:

The Encino Neighborhood Council Airport Committee supports strengthening the Voluntary Quieter Nights Program (QNP) at Van Nuys Airport (VNY), and in support of the Van Nuys Citizens Advisory Council's (VNY CAC), requests that Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) immediately implement the following:

1. Add helicopters and non-jet aircraft to the QNP
2. Modify hours for the QNP on weekdays to 10:00PM to 7AM, and on weekends and holidays to 10:00PM to 9:00AM
3. Provide detailed monthly reports to the Van Nuys Airport Citizen's Advisory Committee (VNY CAC), and general public, that document which flights were not in compliance with the voluntary QNP

WHEREAS:

1. Due to the increase in aircraft noise from the FAA NextGen Metroplex changes Encino and nearby communities of Van Nuys Airport (VNY) experience an increase in late-night and early-morning noise from low altitude aircraft, both arrivals and departures. Many residents continue to experience interrupted sleep which affects health, well-being, and quality of life. In addition to NextGen which pushed planes farther south, there has been a huge increase in the number of jet and helicopter flights occurring in the dead of night and the early mornings hours over once quiet neighborhoods, including in Encino.
2. In response to the spike in late night/early morning noise complaints from the affected communities, the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (VNY CAC) passed a motion on November 5, 2019 seeking remedies from the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Board of Airport Commissioners.
3. The VNY CAC motion called for a voluntary nighttime/early morning curfew on all aircraft operations (arrivals and departures) other than military, law enforcement, fire or air ambulance/life flights during the hours of 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM on weekdays; and between 10:00 PM and 9:00 AM on weekends and holidays.

4. To their credit LAWA acted upon the VNY CAC's recommendations and recently implemented the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Quieter Nights Program (QNP). The QNP includes outreach to tenants, companies, and pilots that use VNY and attempts through non-financial incentives to encourage adherence.
5. The voluntary QNP however did not incorporate all of the recommendations of the VNY CAC. Namely it only applies to jet aircraft and does not provide for a later start of operations on weekends and holidays. Also, the QNP does not begin until 11:00 PM rather than 10:00 PM as requested by the VNY CAC.

While it is still too early to tell how successful the voluntary QNP will be in the long run, particularly since there has been some reduction in aircraft operations at VNY due to COVID 19, there continues to be a large number of late night/early morning VNY flights including helicopters and non-jet aircraft that are interrupting sleep, particularly on weekends, to warrant adding the measures proposed by the VNY CAC. Additionally, in the absence of documentation by LAWA showing which late night/early morning flights are military, law enforcement, fire or air ambulance/life flights it is not possible to gauge the effectiveness of the voluntary program.

Motion passed: 13 (Y), 0 (N), 0 (A)

On behalf of the Encino Neighborhood Council and all the members of the ENC's Airport Committee we appreciate your immediate attention to our recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Garay

Alex Garay
Encino Neighborhood Council
President