



TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT

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July 26, 2023

Federal Aviation Administration

Docket No.: FAA-2023-0855

Subject: Response to FAA Review of Civil Aviation Noise Policy Docket No.: FAA-2023-0855

Federal Aviation Administration,

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) review of the Civil Aviation Noise Policy. As a general aviation airport situated in an area with seasonal fluctuations and significant weather and density altitude considerations, we understand the importance of addressing aviation noise impacts on our residents and the surrounding community.

Firstly, we commend the FAA's initiative in reviewing research on the effects of exposure to aviation noise, including its correlation with adverse health impacts, economic implications, and community annoyance. Recognizing the importance of these factors, we support the FAA's efforts to ensure that noise policy decisions are evidence-based and consider the well-being of our residents.

Secondly, we acknowledge the FAA's consideration of revising the standard noise metric that describes aircraft noise exposure. Given the unique aspects of our airport, including seasonal fluctuations and density altitude considerations, we believe that any potential revisions to the standard metric(s) should adequately reflect the specific challenges we face. Accurate noise metrics are crucial for developing effective noise mitigation strategies tailored to our airport's characteristics.

Thirdly, we understand the FAA's intent to review the definition of the threshold of significant noise exposure under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. As an airport with fluctuating operational demands, we appreciate the need for a comprehensive evaluation of this threshold to ensure its appropriateness for our specific circumstances. We encourage the FAA to consider the dynamic nature of our airport operations when reassessing this threshold.

Lastly, we acknowledge the FAA's examination of the level of aircraft noise exposure below which land uses are considered "normally compatible" with airport operations, as defined in the regulations implementing the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979. Given the impact of aircraft noise on our community, we believe that a nuanced approach to defining "normally compatible" areas is necessary. It is vital to consider the potential application of noise mitigation measures in areas that may be designated as "normally compatible" but still experience adverse noise exposure due to unique geographical and operational factors.

We fully support the FAA's aim to better inform agency decision-making and broaden the scope of impacts considered during the review process. As a general aviation airport with a strong focus on community engagement, we value the opportunity to participate in the virtual webinars and offer our insights and experiences. We believe that these collaborative efforts will result in a more comprehensive and effective civil aviation noise policy that balances the needs of the airport with the concerns of our residents.

While we understand that this review will not directly reduce aviation noise, we are optimistic that the outcomes of this process will lead to more informed and targeted policy changes, ultimately contributing to noise reduction efforts in the long term.

In conclusion, the Truckee Tahoe Airport District is committed to working closely with the FAA and other stakeholders to address aviation noise issues and ensure the well-being of our residents. We are eager to engage in constructive discussions during the virtual webinars and contribute to the development of a noise policy that aligns with the unique characteristics of our airport and community.

Thank you for considering our input as part of this essential review process. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Truckee Tahoe Airport District Board of Directors,

Robb Etnyre
General Manager
Truckee Tahoe Airport District