October 9, 2018

Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Tamara Swann
Acting Regional Administrator, Western-Pacific Region
Federal Aviation Administration
777 S. Aviation Blvd, Suite #150
El Segundo, CA 90245

Re: Southern California Metroplex Project

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell:

The purpose of this letter is to request that you take specific and measurable steps to address the negative impacts imposed on residents of the City of Los Angeles by the Federal Aviation Administration’s implementation of the Southern California Metroplex Project.

As leaders of a global city, we recognize the importance of efficient and safe air travel for the region. We believe, however, that the City and FAA can work cooperatively to meet those needs, while mitigating impacts on our City’s residents. To that end, we request that:

1. FAA provide a written commitment addressed to the City, agreeing to keep all aircraft on the north downwind arrivals above 6,000 feet at DAHJR waypoint between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. This expressed commitment should take the form of a formal plan, which would provide dates and an explanation of how the plan will be executed;

   FAA reinstitute charted visual flight procedures (CVFPs) for north downwind arrivals to LAX Runways 25L and 25R that would include maintaining a mandatory minimum altitude of 6,000 feet until at least the DAHJR waypoint or suitable visual landmark east
of DAHJR. In conjunction with those CVFP’s, FAA will change its Standard Operating Procedures and/or letters of agreement to prevent aircraft deviations or vectoring from the HUUll, IRNMR and RYDRR RNAV arrival routes to a visual approach or instrument approach procedure to Runways 25L or 25R, until aircraft have passed DAHJR; and

3. FAA expressly commit to a date certain for deployment at LAX of the time-based systems and technologies already contemplated by FAA, including the Terminal Sequencing and Spacing system.

While we appreciate that these actions will require some dedication of FAA staff and resources, we believe the requests are reasonable in scope and the objectives achievable. Most importantly, a positive response to these requests would demonstrate that FAA takes seriously the importance of mitigating the negative impacts of the flight paths under which our residents live.

Notably, FAA and the Department of Justice signed a 60-day tolling agreement with the City regarding a potential lawsuit over flight procedures published May 24, 2018; that tolling agreement has been extended a further 45 days and will expire on November 5, 2018. In connection with our mutual goal of addressing the community’s concerns about flight paths, FAA representatives met with City representatives in August. Another meeting is planned for later this month.

We request a response to this letter by October 18, 2018.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL N. FEUER
City Attorney

MIKE BONIN
Council Member, 11th District

HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Council President

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Council Member, 8th District

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate
The Honorable Kamala Harris, United States Senate
The Honorable Karen Bass, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Ted Lieu, United States House of Representatives