

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

June 18, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We write out of concern regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's proposed Southern California Metroplex (SoCal Metroplex) project and its impacts on communities in the Southern California region. We are specifically concerned that the 30-day comment period for the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project does not provide a sufficient time period for affected communities to consider thoroughly the possible impacts.

The purpose of the EA is to document the FAA's analysis related to the potential environmental impacts of the implementation of the proposed SoCal Metroplex project, particularly the impacts on airport noise. As you know, the FAA published the EA on June 10<sup>th</sup> and announced that there will be a 30-day comment period, which will end on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The FAA also scheduled ten public workshops in the region to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the project and submit comments.

Unfortunately, the proposed 30-day comment period is not sufficient to allow community stakeholders to read the EA carefully and analyze how the SoCal Metroplex project will affect their communities. The project could have significant impacts on noise levels in many communities in the region, especially communities located underneath the flight paths of planes landing at and departing from airports in Southern California.

The Southern California region is one of the most densely populated regions of the country, as well as an extremely busy region for air travel. The region includes Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), San Diego International Airport (SAN), and more than a dozen separate airports of various sizes. Thousands of people who live and work near these airports already experience significant levels of airport noise. They deserve to have a sufficient opportunity to give serious consideration to how the SoCal Metroplex project will impact their daily lives.

We urge the FAA to extend the comment period to at least 90 days in order to give all interested stakeholders sufficient time to read, analyze and comment on the EA. We also urge the FAA to give serious consideration to the comments and concerns raised by members of the impacted communities as the SoCal Metroplex process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters



Adam B. Schiff



Lucille Roybal-Allard



Alan Lowenthal



Ted W. Lieu



Janice Hahn



Scott Peters



Norma Torres



Juan Vargas



Karen Bass

cc: Michael P. Huerta, Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration