



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH AVIATION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

OASIS Senior Center - 801 Narcissus Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625

Monday, February 24, 2025 - 5:00 PM

**Aviation Committee Members:**

Councilmember, Noah Blom, Chair  
Councilmember Lauren Kleiman, Vice Chair

Jeffrey Cole - District 6  
Jeff Herdman - SPON Representative  
Julie Johnson - CAANP Representative  
Anthony Khoury - AWG Representative  
Stephen Livingston - General Aviation  
Hugh Logan - District 7  
Sharon Ray - District 2  
Ron Rubino - District 4  
Jack Stranberg - Member At Large  
Drew Teicheira - District 1  
Vacant - Newport Coast Representative  
Vacant - District 3  
Vacant - District 5

**Staff Members:**

Tara Finnigan, Assistant City Manager  
Jennifer Biddle, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

The Aviation Committee meeting is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Aviation Committee agenda be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of each regular meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Committee and items not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Aviation Committee. The Chair may limit public comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.

The public can submit questions and comments in writing for the Aviation Committee to consider by sending them by email to [Aviation@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:Aviation@newportbeachca.gov) by Monday, February 24 at 10 a.m. to give the Aviation Committee time to consider your comments. All emails will be made part of the record.

The City of Newport Beach's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, we will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact Jennifer Biddle, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible at (949) 644-3001 or [jbiddle@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:jbiddle@newportbeachca.gov).

**NOTICE REGARDING PRESENTATIONS REQUIRING USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT**

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Newport Beach's equipment must be submitted to the City Manager's Office 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[Draft Minutes - July 15, 2024](#)

**IV. CURRENT BUSINESS**

1. **John Wayne Airport Update** - Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley will provide an update on County airport-related matters including a proposal regarding JSX operations.
2. **Jet Charters Update** - Barbara Lichman, Shareholder, Buchalter, and attorney for the Airport Working Group of Orange County, will provide an update on regulations pertaining to charter operations that could affect John Wayne Airport.
3. **Oral Reports:**
  - a. **Chair's Report** - Chair Noah Blom will provide an update on the City's aviation-related activities, including a February 25 City Council agenda item recommending the City Council form an ad hoc committee to review the structure, membership, duties and responsibilities of the Aviation Committee.
  - b. **Vice Chair's Report** - Vice Chair Lauren Kleiman and Committee Member Jack Stranberg will provide an update on their discussions with the air carriers and provide related industry updates.
  - c. **Federal Legislative Update** - Zac Commins, Carpi & Clay, will provide an update on the federal advocacy activities the consultant is working on for the City.
  - d. **UC Davis Aviation Noise & Emissions Symposium Update** - Assistant City Manager Tara Finnigan will discuss the planning efforts for this year's symposium, scheduled for March 10-12, and the opportunity for 1-2 committee members to participate in the conference virtually.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

*Public comments are invited on non-agenda items generally considered to be within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Aviation Committee. Speakers must limit comments to three minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Aviation Committee has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on non-agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in the silent mode.*

**VI. NEXT MEETING - April 21, 2025**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**



**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH**  
MINUTES of the  
**AVIATION COMMITTEE**  
(draft until approved by the Committee)

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MEETING DATE & LOCATION: **Monday, July 15, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Civic Center Community Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councilmember Noah Blom, Chair  
Councilmember Lauren Kleiman, Vice Chair

Jeffrey Cole - District 6  
Jeff Herdman - SPON Representative  
Julie Johnson - CAANP Representative (excused)  
Anthony Khoury - AWG Representative  
Stephen Livingston - General Aviation  
Hugh Logan - District 7  
Sharon Ray - District 2  
Ron Rubino - District 4 (excused)  
Jack Stranberg - Member At Large  
Drew Teicheira - District 1  
Cameron Verdi - District 5  
Vacant - Newport Coast Representative  
Vacant - District 3

Staff: Assistant City Manager Tara Finnigan, City Attorney Aaron Harp, and Executive Assistant to the City Manager Jennifer Biddle

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Noah Blom called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Ron Rubino and Julie Johnson had excused absences. Loriann Petry attended to represent CAANP due to Julie Johnson's absence.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A **Motion** was made by Vice Chair Kleiman, and was seconded by Committee Member Herdman, to approve the Draft Minutes as amended for October 16, 2023, January 22, 2024, and May 13, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

**Ayes:** Cole, Herdman, Khoury, Livingston, Logan, Ray, Stranberg, Teicheira, Kleiman, Blom  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Johnson (excused), Rubino (excused)

#### IV. CURRENT BUSINESS

##### A. Oral Reports

1. **Report from County of Orange - Nick Anas, Chief of Staff for Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, will provide an update on County airport-related matters.**

Charlene Reynolds, John Wayne Airport Director, provided the County of Orange report. She said the airport transitioned to a new parking contractor with no complaints received. Oversight of the airport's maintenance function, which includes approximately 60 employees, is also being transitioned back to the John Wayne Airport. It was managed by OC Public Works for a couple of years. The 2025 allocations will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors on July 23. The proposed allocations reflect increased load factors which should reduce the need for mandatory withdrawals. Airport staff will have reports on advanced air mobility /EVTols at future meetings.

2. **Chair's Report – Chair Noah Blom will provide an update on the City's aviation-related activities.**

Chair Blom noted that Assistant City Manager Tara Finnigan would provide the update. Finnigan said she attended the recent FAA Western Pacific Region Airport Conference to learn about EVTols from the airport directors' perspective. She also announced that she is serving on the UC Davis Aviation Noise & Emissions Symposium planning committee again this year and that the conference will be held March 10-12, 2025, in Las Vegas.

3. **Air Carrier/Industry Update - Committee Member Jack Stranberg will provide information about air carrier fleet transition and related industry updates.**

Committee Member Stranberg reported on improvements and some challenges related to fleet modernization. American Airlines migrated its Boeing Max usage to Chicago and Dallas and that has been advantageous for Orange County. Depending on the day of the week, there are now approximately 6-8 Max aircraft departing John Wayne Airport (JWA) daily. Delta continues to fly Airbus 220s for a couple of its daily departures and Alaska continues to utilize Embraer 175's to several destinations from JWA.

The airlines are all trying to get Max 8's. Boeing as 200 in its inventory but quality control processes are slowing delivery. The FAA has not yet certified the Max 7. That is now expected to occur in 2025. Southwest has ordered 150 Max 7's.

The FAA will not allow Boeing to produce more than 38 narrow body aircraft per month until the company resolves its quality control and supply chain issues. Airbus reduced its production for 2024 from 800 to 770 aircraft to improve profitability.

With travel back to pre-pandemic levels, air carriers are focused on profitability.

The proposed Jet Blue – Spirit Airlines merger was blocked by the Department of Justice.

**4. Federal Legislative Update - Zac Commins, Carpi & Clay, will provide an update on the implementation of the 2024 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act and the Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations bill.**

Zac Commins reported that the FAA Authorization Bill was passed and signed into law. Carpi & Clay is following up on the FAA's implementation of the bill's provisions, particularly those related to community engagement, with the California delegation and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee staff.

The annual appropriations process is currently underway in the House and Senate. The House bill includes language about improved community engagement by the FAA and Advanced Air Mobility. The Senate bill should be released within the next few weeks. The City asked Senators Butler and Padilla to include bill language related to community engagement on Advanced Air Mobility.

**5. Airport Working Group (AWG) Update - Committee Member Anthony Khoury will provide an update on AWG's activities.**

Committee Member Anthony Khoury reported that JSX CEO and founder Alex Wilcox recently presented at an AWG meeting. AWG has planned the next air carrier workshop for September. The Part 13 complaint related to the County of Orange's approval of the General Aviation Improvement Program was rejected by the FAA. The FAA has not yet responded to the Part 16 complaint. A recent Supreme Court decision eliminated what was known as the Chevron Doctrine which deferred to agencies to interpret the laws they administered.

**6. Still Protecting Our Newport (SPON) Update – Committee Member Jeff Herdman will provide an update on SPON's activities.**

Committee Member Jeff Herdman reported that SPON continues to work toward renegotiation of the settlement agreement, the Housing Element and Land Use. SPON is planning for its annual meeting in September. SPON encourages the City Council to develop an AAM policy in the future.

**7. Community Forum Ad Hoc Committee Update - Committee Member Ron Rubino will share the ideas and information discussed at the Ad Hoc Committee's initial planning meeting.**

Committee Member Jeff Herdman provided the report. It was reported that they met on June 19 to discuss a proposed forum, date, timeline, location, topics, potential speakers, and further dates for the ad hoc committee meetings. Tentative dates set for the community forum will be March 1 or 22, 2025. Regarding updates from the City and County, the main topic will be to have a panel discussion on advanced air mobility.

Chair Blom opened public comments on oral reports.

Dennis Bress expressed support for the work with the FAA concerning community noise, inquired about access to the information from the County concerning the quarterly noise report, and the lack of transparency into relevant data points.

Joe August thanked the Committee and Charlene Reynolds for the great work and inquired whether the City had obtained the report from the Alaska Airlines incident. He expressed concern about the speed of arrivals and departures since NextGen's implementation.

## **B. John Wayne Airport (JWA) Altitude/Noise Correlation Analysis Presentation**

### **1. Kyle Gorny, Access/Noise Specialist II, John Wayne Airport, will present the results of JWA's study.**

Mr. Gorny provided an overview report on the results of JWA's Altitude/Noise Correlation Analysis study, including background, scope of the analysis, altitude factors, commercial aircraft, new generation commercial aircraft, commuter aircraft and cargo aircraft. Generally, there has been a growing concern over aircraft at lower altitudes. The study also took into consideration the noise in relation to altitude. A PowerPoint presentation was displayed. It was reported that higher altitudes correlate to lower noise levels. Data points for various commercial aircraft, including gross weight, altitude, and noise levels were presented, each of which plays a significant role in altitude and noise impacts. The analysis found that altitudes and noise measurements remain relatively stable, with the exception being 2020 (during the pandemic).

Vice Chair Kleiman inquired as to the respective impacts of altitude and weight on decreased noise data in 2020. Mr. Gorny responded there are a combination of factors that play a role in decreasing the overall noise.

Vice Chair Kleiman requested an overlay of the carriers who are using the same types of aircraft, for comparison.

Discussion ensued concerning methods for mitigating noise and the impacts of departure procedures.

Chair Blom opened public comments.

Dennis Bress requested that velocity data be provided in future reports. He also requested a copy of the subject study report.

Committee Member Stranberg inquired whether the City's lobbyists could report aircraft speed violations to the Federal Transportation Administration. Assistant City Manager Tara Finnigan said that the City has spoken to the FAA and FAA staff requested specific examples, including times of day.

Mel Beale, AWB, supported gathering more data and statistics and scheduling additional workshops.

Jim Mosher inquired whether the retention period for noise data had changed from five years and noted that altitude is a critical component as related to noise impacts.

**C. Appoint Aviation Committee Member to Attend John Wayne Airport's Quarterly Noise Meetings**

- 1. Approve the appointment of one Aviation Committee member to attend John Wayne Airport's Quarterly Noise Meetings and report back to the full committee at its quarterly meetings on relevant actions taken. The assignment would expire on May 1, 2025.**

Chair Blom opened public comments. Seeing none, Chair Blom closed public comments.

Committee Member Kleiman moved to appoint Drew Teicheira to attend John Wayne Airport's Quarterly Noise Meetings. Seconded by Chair Blom. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Cole, Herdman, Khoury, Livingston, Logan, Ray, Stranberg  
Teicheira, Kleiman, Blom

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Johnson (excused), Rubino (excused)

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Chair Blom opened public comments.

Dennis Bress requested clarification on the process and timeline for updating and translating JWA data to be placed on the City's dashboard. Assistant City Manager Finnigan responded the raw data was received from the airport and there was a previous program that City staff wrote to run the data and then city staff developed the dashboard. City staff is waiting for current data to be provided by the airport.

Jim Mosher requested the committee move forward with notifying the city clerk to post and recruit for vacancies, including the District 3 vacancy. Chair Blom responded he would contact the city clerk accordingly.

**VI. NEXT MEETING – October 21, 2024**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Blom adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.