

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday January 4, 2022
(REVISED)

A virtual meeting of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Jason Price. Members present: Wayne Williams, Robert Rodine, John Parker, Thomas Materna, Lisa Petrus, Eric Robinson, Ryan Sanders, Kimberly Chan, Marykate Harris, Eliot Cohen, Kathy Delle Donne and Heren Molina.

Absent: Kimberly Chan, Wendy Saunders, Araz Parseghian, Leonel Fuentes and Harold Lee.

The minutes from the November 2, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

I. STAFF REPORTS:

A. Flora Margheritis, Airport Manager:

Ms. Margheritis wished the council a happy New Year and thanked those who attended the December 7, 2021 Annual Holiday event.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on VNY staff, patrons and stakeholders. Approximately 88.8% of LAWA employees are in-compliance with the vaccine mandates. Those employees who are not vaccinated and whom have filed for an exemption are testing for COVID-19 twice weekly while their exemptions are being reviewed. All non-LAWA employees coming to any LAWA offices will need to provide proof of vaccination with their government ID and everyone must continue to wear a mask while on site. Ms. Margheritis noted that the federal government has extended the requirement for people to wear face masks in airports, on airplanes and other modes of transportation through March 18, 2022. LAWA employees were scheduled to return to the office on January 18th, but now that is not going to occur due to the emergence of the Omicron variant. For now, the return to office date will be delayed and most LAWA employees will continue to telecommute.

Ms. Margheritis noted that LAWA is doing well considering everything that is going on. What has really helped U.S. airports is that U.S. borders re-opened on November 8th and federal restrictions on foreign travelers were lifted for those who are fully vaccinated and who produce a negative COVID-19 test. The opening was huge for LAWA and for the economy. Throughout the month of November LAX passenger traffic grew and the airlines began adding flights for the holiday season. From November 18-28, LAX averaged about 75% of passenger levels versus the same time in 2019. The new LAX Economy Parking facility became full for the first time in late November since its opening in October, and valet parking also became available in Parking Structure 1 for the first time in late November. However, the COVID-19 variant Omicron, has brought on new global travel restrictions which include the requirement for all inbound international travelers to receive a negative COVID-19 test result within one day of departure instead of the previous requirement of three days. November ended with about 70% of passenger levels compared to 2019 and in the first two weeks of December we saw averages of around 75% compared to the same time period in 2019. Additionally, LAWA has seen a large number of flight cancellations due to winter storms and airline staffing challenges which will affect passenger count levels. Ms. Margheritis reminded the public that LAWA continues to offer paid rapid COVID-19 tests at three locations throughout LAX, with results available as quickly as one hour or less. Outbound passengers and others looking for a test at the airport can be referred to www.FlyLAX.com/TravelSafely to make an appointment at one of our paid testing locations.

Ms. Margheritis noted some positive news, in mid-December the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee announced each airport's share of \$2.89 billion that will be made available to commercial and general aviation airports, including VNY in fiscal year 2022 under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. LAWA is scheduled to receive \$80.04 million in the first year's allocations. This includes \$763,000 for Van Nuys. The bill provides a total of \$15 billion over five years for airport infrastructure. LAWA is working to identify how these funds will be used to support the infrastructure program going forward.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to aircraft operations: For the month of November, VNY conducted 25,428 aircraft operations. This represents a 24.63% increase in operations when compared to November 2020. VNY's YTD 2021 operations totals are currently up by 32.99% as compared to YTD 2020 totals. When looking only at Jet Operations, based on the Noise and Operations Monitoring System, and comparing the numbers to November of 2019 (the baseline year) there was an increase of 38.3%. Most general aviation airports throughout the country are seeing an increase in aircraft operations, this increase is not unique to the Van Nuys Airport.

Ms. Margheritis noted that VNY is very excited for what lies ahead in 2022. The full reconstruction of the short runway, RWY 16L, will begin in late February. This will be a 5-month project which will be followed by a major slurry seal project for RWY 16R, VNY's 8000-foot runway. The slurry seal project is scheduled to commence on August 1, 2022.

Ms. Margheritis stated that in addition to these projects the City of Los Angeles will welcome Super Bowl LVI to the region for the first time in nearly three decades. Ms. Margheritis presented the following key points to the council:

- The last Super Bowl game was played in Los Angeles in 1993 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. This is the nation's biggest sporting event, and both LAX and VNY are proud and excited to serve as a gateway to Los Angeles for visitors attending the Super Bowl.
- The Super Bowl is scheduled for Sunday, February 13, 2022 and will take place at the SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park in Inglewood.
- Both LAX and VNY are integral to the city's success in hosting the Super Bowl and the return of this event is a much-needed catalyst to the region's economic recovery.
- There will be an increase in aircraft operations at commercial and general aviation airports throughout the Southern California region, both before and after the event. This is the case with every city that hosts a Super Bowl.
- The Super Bowl will have a positive economic impact on VNY and the entire San Fernando Valley by generating revenue not just for airport tenants, but for businesses in the local community that provide support services such as catering, hospitality/hotels and ground transportation.
- According to a recent economic impact report, Super Bowl LVI will produce an economic benefit of up to \$477.5 million in the Los Angeles region, including millions of additional tax dollars for California. These economic impacts are associated with up to

4,700 new jobs. <https://lasuperbowlhc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Super-Bowl-LVI-Economic-Impact-Report.pdf>

Ms. Margheritis informed members of the council that a Super Bowl economic impact report is available and would be shared with those members who are interested in reading it. A link to the report will be shared upon request.

- VNY is committed to preserving maximum airport safety and security while minimizing noise impacts to airport neighbors to the greatest extent possible. VNY is working in close collaboration with the FAA, the NFL, airport tenants, users and operators to achieve this goal.
- VNY will implement a recommended NFL reservation system that assigns arrival and departure slots to jet operators between 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. The only exception is on game night, when slots will be assigned until 1 a.m. to shorten departure wait times, enable aircraft to leave the area as quickly as possible and reduce noise impacts on the community during early morning hours.
- These procedures are also designed to protect the integrity of the voluntary Quieter Nights Program to the fullest extent possible, which requests jet operators to avoid arrivals and departures between 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- The Air Traffic Control Tower will be staffed during regular hours from 6 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. daily, except for game night when the hours will be extended for safety and efficiency. As a public use airport, VNY will maintain its normal operating hours of remaining open 24 hours per day for arrivals and departures.
- It is anticipated that most Super Bowl operations will take place from Wednesday, Feb. 9th to Monday, Feb. 14th. The peak period for departures is expected to occur on the evening of Sunday, Feb. 13th, following the game and on Monday, Feb. 14th.

B. Christian Moreno, Chief of Operations

Mr. Moreno gave a brief 2021 fire season summary. The 2021 tanker-based operations began with the arrival of a Chinook CH-47 on June 15th, while the Super Scoopers arrived September 1st. All aircraft were released from service in mid-December due to the significant rainfall in the area. The CH-47 and the Super Scoopers were dispatched for a combined total of 230 brush fires all while dropping over 900,000 gallons of water, foam and fire retardant.

Mr. Moreno addressed the council as it relates to upcoming projects at VNY. Phase one of the Runway 16L capital improvement project is set to start on January 11, 2022 with surveyors. Construction will begin in late February on Runway 16L.

C. Diana Sanchez, Director of Public and Community Relations

Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to Aviation Career Day which will be held virtually on Friday April 29, 2022.

Ms. Sanchez announced that VNY will be participating in the Toiletry Drive for human trafficking victims. Ms. Sanchez encouraged the council to bring donations to the VNY Administration office.

D. Ryan Page, Airport Superintendent of Operations

Mr. Page provided the council with a briefing on Noise Comments and the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Jet Departure programs for October and November 2021. The briefing summarized the information contained in the monthly environmental reports (attached).

Updates and information can also be found on the LAWA website at www.iFlyVNY.com under the Noise Management Section.

E. Lt. Dennis Lau, Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police

Sgt. Beacom was unavailable to provide a briefing.

Ms. Margheritis noted that she had recently spoke with Lt. Lau who was doing well and hopes to check in soon with the council.

II. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, and due to continuing concerns over COVID-19, the BOAC has continued to meet via teleconference. Since the last CAC meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, there were three virtual BOAC meetings.

At the regular meeting held on Tuesday, Nov. 4th, there were no specific items pertaining to VNY, but under the CEO report information was shared with the BOAC on the QNP. The information shared was a statistical update showing YTD 2021 vs. 2019 baseline.

At the meeting held on Tuesday, November 18th, there were two items under consent and one item under regular items for Board action. The two items under consent were for the following: A resolution for a 37-month lease with T&N Remodeling Inc. to cover office space at Aviation Plaza at VNY Airport. A resolution for a 36-month lease with Wise and Healthy Aging also for the rental of office space at Aviation Plaza. The regular item was for a resolution for a 1-year contract with Grainger Industrial Supply to cover maintenance, repair, operational supplies, equipment, and services for the general building, facility, and security systems at LAX and VNY.

The regular BOAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 2nd was cancelled.

At the meeting of the Board held on Thursday, December 16th Samantha Bricker provided a Van Nuys Airport Sustainability update. The Board received an update on VNY Air Quality/Emissions Reductions and Renewable Energy; Samantha highlighted VNY projects that have incorporated Emission Reduction Measures; the latest Noise Management efforts, an update on the SFV Noise Task Force recommendations, and again provided a YTD update on the QNP. The Sustainability update can be found on LAWA's website.

Also, at this meeting there were two items under consent for Board action. The first item was for a resolution for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the US Customs and Border Protection, to reduce the hours of operation at the US Customs and Border Protection facility at Van Nuys Airport so that processing of international flight arrivals terminates no later than 10:00 pm daily. Ms. Margheritis noted that this has been in effect for a while, but LAWA needed to formalize the MOA and obtain the Board's approval. The second item was for a resolution for a consent to two Sub-Sublease agreements pursuant

to a lease with 7800 Woodley, LLC to cover underutilized portions of the LAWA-owned facility, located at 7800 Woodley Avenue in Van Nuys.

The next BOAC Meeting will be held via teleconference and is scheduled for Thursday January 6, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Mr. Materna addressed Ms. Margheritis as it relates to updates on the QNP.

Ms. Margheritis reminded Mr. Materna that all updates and reports can be found on the LAWA website as well as the presentation given by Ms. Bricker.

Ms. Margheritis noted that the commitment was to provide quarterly updates of the QNP at the Board meetings and all reports and presentations can be found online.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Chair opened the Public Comment Period (Item V.)

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Ms. Christine, Resident

Ms. Sue Steinberg, Resident

Ms. Doug Kreigel, Resident

Mr. David Rankell, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

IV. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990 – Presentation by Environmental Science Associates

The Chair opened the Public Comment Period (Item V.)

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Mr. David Rankell, Resident

Ms. Kathryn Pantoja introduced Mr. Steven Alverson of Environmental Science Associates.

Mr. Steven Alverson conducted a presentation titled “Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990”.

The Chair thanked Mr. Alverson for his presentation and opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Rodine commended Mr. Alverson for his detailed presentation.

Mr. Cohen addressed Mr. Alverson as it relates to VNY operations and safety.

Mr. Alverson noted that although he does not speak for the FAA, he believes that they follow the mandates of Congress.

Ms. Petrus addressed Mr. Alverson as it relates to the FAA moving noise from one community to another.

Mr. Alverson noted that when moving noise, from the FAA's standpoint they can make changes under the National Environmental Policy Act without triggering the levels of significance.

Mr. Materna asked what are the chances of the FAA to get their regulations in line with jet traffic in communities and public dissatisfaction.

Mr. Alverson stated again that he does not speak for the FAA but that the change will come from concerned communities.

The Chair commended Mr. Alverson for his presentation.

B. Determination to Continue Holding CAC Meetings via Teleconference and/or Videoconference: Under Assembly Bill 361 Section 3(e)(3). Discussion/Action

The Chair opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Rodine presented a motion "Pursuant to AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council finds that holding Council meetings in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of the members. Pursuant to AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), the Council finds that the COVID-19 State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of Council and Council members to meet safely in person. As such, the Board should continue holding Council meetings via teleconference and/or videoconference."

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. Materna addressed the council as it relates to a declaration presented by a council member to continue meeting virtually.

Ms. Sanchez stated that she spoke to the City Attorney's Office regarding the declaration and was advised that it was not a suitable approach and is not legally adequate under Assembly Bill 361. She noted that it was strongly suggested that the council continue to hold the vote within every 30 days.

Mr. Cohen stated that he would like to go back to in-person meetings.

The motion passed with a rollcall vote of ten "affirmative" votes (R. Rodine, L. Petrus, K. Delle Donne M. Harris, T. Materna, E. Robinson, J. Parker, R. Sanders, H. Molina, W. Williams); one "no" vote (E. Cohen) and one "abstention" (J. Price).

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Mr. Materna asked if there was unfinished business to discuss the Master Plan.

The Chair reminded Mr. Materna that there was no action or unfinished business at the previous meeting in regards to the Master Plan.

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

No items were discussed.

VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

A. Membership

No items were discussed

VIII. EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA

No items were discussed.

IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Parker wished everyone a happy new year and thanked Mr. Alverson for his presentation.

Mr. Rodine commended Mr. Alverson for his presentation.

Ms. Harris thanked the public for their comments.

Ms. Petrus thanked Mr. Alverson for his presentation.

Mr. Materna addressed the council as it relates to items that should be agendized including the Master Plan.

Mr. Robinson agreed with Mr. Materna in regards to the Master Plan and thanked the public for calling in.

Mr. Cohen addressed the council as it relates to aircraft fuel at VNY.

Mr. Cohen stated that VNY should be a good neighbor or someone will figure out a way to shut them down.

Mr. Sanders thanked the council for their input and the conversation.

Ms. Molina thanked Mr. Alverson for his presentation.

Mr. Williams addressed the council as it relates to the Agenda. He reminded the public that the CAC is an advisory only council and urged the community to contact their congressional representatives for support.

The Chair thanked the council and the community for their continued involvement.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

9:19 p.m.