



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon
National Park

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ
86023-0129



Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation

Western-Pacific Region
Office of the Regional
Administrator

P.O. Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA
90009-2007

January 25, 2006

Dear Interested Party,

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Park Service (NPS), as co-lead agencies, intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to overflights at Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP). The EIS will address environmental and related impacts that may result from actions to be proposed and alternatives to be developed to achieve the statutory mandate of Public Law 100-91, (commonly known as the National Parks Overflights Act), to provide for the substantial restoration of the natural quiet and experience of GCNP. The Presidential Memorandum dated April 22, 1996, Earth Day Initiative, Parks for Tomorrow, calls for substantial restoration of natural quiet in the GCNP to be achieved by 2008.

“Substantial restoration of natural quiet” has been defined by the NPS to mean that 50 percent or more of the park will achieve natural quiet (i.e., no aircraft audible) for 75 to 100 percent of the day.

In developing this EIS, the FAA and the NPS are required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), which calls on Federal agencies to consider environmental issues as part of their decision making process. NEPA encourages federal agencies to involve interested parties through a process referred to as scoping. Scoping allows interested parties an opportunity to make suggestions early in the planning process.

As part of this process, the 90-day scoping comment period began on January 20, 2006 and will end April 27, 2006. During this period the FAA and NPS are inviting the public, agencies, and other interested parties to provide comments, suggestions, and input regarding: (1) the scope, issues, and concerns related to the development of proposed and alternative actions at GCNP that provide for the substantial restoration of the natural quiet and experience of the park and the protection of public health and safety from significant adverse effects associated with all aircraft overflights, (2) past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions which, when considered with any alternatives, may result in significant cumulative impacts, and (3) potential alternatives.

The scoping process for this EIS will include three public meetings and a scoping period for interested parties to submit oral and/or written comments representing concerns and issues they believe should be addressed. The public meetings will be conducted in an open house format during February 2006. Participants are encouraged to come at any time during the 4-hour open house periods to visit informational stations, speak with FAA and NPS representatives, pick up

written information and provide comments in an informal setting. There will be no formal presentations by FAA or NPS or by other meeting participants. The meetings will be held from 4 pm to 8 pm.

Public Involvement Opportunity Locations:

Phoenix metro area, Arizona – February 21, 2006

Glendale Community College

6000 W. Olive Avenue

Glendale, AZ 85302

Flagstaff, Arizona – February 22, 2006

Museum of Northern Arizona

3101 N. Ft. Valley Rd

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Las Vegas metro area, Nevada – February 23, 2006

Henderson Convention Center

200 Water Street

Henderson, NV 89015

Comments submitted in writing or electronically to the U.S. Department of Transportation Docket Management System in response to this Notice of Intent, or based on the information gathered during the public involvement opportunities, must be submitted within ninety-days from the beginning of the scoping period or no later than April 27, 2006. Comments may be addressed to:

Docket Management System
Doc No. FAA-2005-23402
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20590-0001

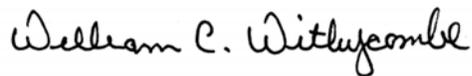
You may also submit comments and review public dockets on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Once the scoping period concludes, all substantive comments submitted will be considered and alternatives to substantially restore natural quiet will be developed. A draft EIS will be prepared that will identify the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives. The draft EIS is tentatively scheduled to be published during the summer of 2007. The public will be asked to comment on this draft document, and opportunities for public involvement will be provided. The comments will be considered in developing a final EIS; tentatively scheduled to be published in early 2008. The FAA and the NPS will use the EIS in their final decision of how to substantially restore natural quiet, to achieve the statutory mandate in the Overflights Act. A Record of Decision will be issued no sooner than 30-days after the final EIS.

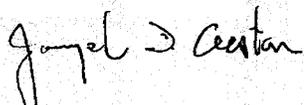
Information provided at the meetings and additional information can be found on the joint FAA/NPS website: <http://overflights.faa.gov>.

For more information, please contact either the FAA or the NPS. Mr. Barry Brayer of the FAA can be contacted in writing at Federal Aviation Administration, Manager, Executive Resource Staff (AWP-4) 15000 Aviation Blvd., PO Box 92007, Los Angeles, CA 90009-2007; or via telephone at (310) 725-3800. Ms. Mary Killeen of the NPS can be contacted at Chief, Office of Planning and Compliance, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; or via telephone at (928) 638-7885.

Sincerely,



William C. Withycombe
Regional Administrator



Joseph F. Alston
Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent