

# FAA Facts



Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C. 20591

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## **Southern California Metroplex**

The Federal Aviation Administration's Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen, is the on-going transformation of air traffic control technologies and procedures in the United States. You might think of this transition as similar to moving from paper maps to GPS when you drive your car.

In addition to improving navigation, NextGen brings other benefits:

- NextGen enhances aviation safety, reduces workload on the flight crew and air traffic controllers, provides repeatable predictable flight paths and modernizes air traffic procedures to today's standards.
  - A key NextGen goal is to safely improve the way aircraft navigate complex, metropolitan areas, which we call Metroplexes, to make flight routes and airports more safe and efficient.
- The FAA has identified multiple Metroplex areas in the United States. Each Metroplex includes one or more commercial airports that serve at least one major city:
  - A Metroplex allows the FAA to improve regional traffic movement by making the best use of airspace and procedures, using precise, satellite-based navigation.
- Use of NextGen procedures in these areas could improve on-time performance, which would benefit the region and the entire National Airspace System.

## **SoCal Metroplex**

The airspace surrounding the Southern California area has a large number of air traffic procedures which have not been changed for many years.

- While these procedures are safe, most are inefficient due to advances in technology.
  - This is one of the reasons why the airspace surrounding the Southern California airports have been identified for Metroplex development.
  - The proposed Metroplex would allow for more direct and efficient routing of aircraft into and out of Southern California and its surrounding airports, enhancing aviation safety, and reducing flight delays above these communities.

- Changes will occur for arrivals and departures from airports within the SoCal Metroplex project.
  - When the Southern California Metroplex procedures are implemented, some people might see aircraft where they did not previously fly. This is because some air route changes will occur, and because satellite-based procedures create more concentrated flight paths than conventional procedures.

The FAA’s environmental analysis for the project calculated noise at more than 330,000 locations throughout the study area. It showed the Proposed Action would not result in any significant or reportable noise increases under the National Environmental Policy Act. Some people will experience slight noise decreases, some will see no changes, and some will experience small noise increases.

**Airports that are included in the Metroplex:**

Bob Hope (Burbank) Airport (BUR)	Palm Springs International Airport (PSP)
Camarillo Airport (CMA)	San Diego International Airport (SAN)
McClellan-Palomar Airport (Carlsbad) (CRQ)	Santa Barbara Municipal Airport (SBA)
Fullerton Municipal Airport (FUL)	Brown Field Municipal Airport (SDM)
Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)	Santa Monica Municipal Airport (SMO)
Long Beach Airport (Daugherty Field) (LGB)	John Wayne-Orange County Airport (SNA)
Camp Pendleton MCAS (Munn Field) Airport (NFG)	Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport (TRM)
Point Mugu Naval Air Station (NTD)	Bermuda Dunes (UDD)
North Island Naval Air Station (NZY)	Miramar Marine Corps Air Station (NKX)
Ontario International Airport (ONT)	Van Nuys Airport (VNY)
Oxnard Airport (OXR)	

**Environmental Process:**

Before any new procedures can be implemented, Federal law and FAA policy requires the FAA to conduct environmental reviews in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This review for the Southern California Metroplex project led to an Environmental Assessment resulting in Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision.

- The FONSI and ROD, as well as the Final Environmental Assessment, are available at: [http://www.metroplexenvironmental.com/socal\\_metroplex/socal\\_introduction.html](http://www.metroplexenvironmental.com/socal_metroplex/socal_introduction.html).
- As part of the announcement of, the FAA will hold a series of community meetings. The locations are listed on our website, below.

The Public is encouraged to attend. They will be able to talk with experts to learn how these proposed air traffic changes could affect their communities.

**For up-to-date information, please review the project website:  
<http://www.faa.gov/nextgen/communityengagement>**