



Massachusetts Port Authority
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Boston West Fair Skies
PO Box 599
Belmont, MA 02478

Dear Boston West Fair Skies Members:

Secretary Pollack has requested that I respond to your letter on Boston Logan overflights and the FAA's implementation of new procedures at Boston Logan Airport.

As you may be aware, the FAA is undertaking a major modernization of the nation's airspace system called NextGen. A critical part of their modernization effort has been the rollout of more precise procedures called RNAV. Based on experiences across the country, I understand an outcome of this more precise technology is a concentration of flights when compared to the old procedures. This appears to be particularly true on departures where, under the old technology, there was more variance within the established flight corridor.

At Boston Logan, the FAA conducted a federal environmental review for the design of the R33L departure RNAV called an Environmental Assessment which resulted in the new flight procedure. We understand there was a lawsuit by some communities against the FAA regarding the R33L RNAV environmental process and a federal court found that the FAA followed the appropriate environmental regulations.

During the RNAV development process the FAA worked with the Logan Airport Community Advisory Committee (Logan CAC) for feedback\input on all of the proposed RNAVs at Boston Logan including R33L. The Logan CAC includes citizen representatives from over 30 communities around Logan Airport. Today, the Logan CAC includes representatives from Arlington, Belmont and Watertown.

Because noise from aircraft overflights is a zero-sum-game, that is any change in procedures simply shifts the noise somewhere else, Massport believes that noise from aircraft is a regional issue that must be addressed through a body like the Logan CAC. We recommend you work within the Logan CAC to offer specific changes to the current procedure that the Logan CAC communities will support. Based on Logan CAC priority, specificity and support Massport can then approach the FAA with the specific recommendations for FAA review and consideration.

Sincerely,

José C. Massó III

Director of Community Relations
Massachusetts Port Authority

Cc: Sec. Pollack (MA DOT), Thomas Glynn (Massport)

Operating

Boston Logan International Airport • Port of Boston general cargo and passenger terminals • Hanscom Field • Boston Fish Pier • Commonwealth Pier (site of the World Trade Center Boston) • Worcester Regional Airport

APPROVED BY