

SCANA MEDIA STATEMENT JANUARY 24, 2020

It was very disappointing and angering that the FAA said it is refusing to mitigate the illegal flight paths it placed over Scottsdale and the east valley. The FAA held mandated public workshop meetings last April and received over 1500 comments expressing concern over the NextGen flight paths, which it chose to ignore. It presented "concepts" at those workshops that provided some minimal relief and did not explain why it is not pursuing those concepts except to say suggested modifications to the concepts were not acceptable. It took eight months for it to summarize the concepts and refuse to acknowledge that these flight paths cause public harm. The FAA clearly used a strategy to string along the public as long it could, knowing all along it was not going to offer relief to our communities. The FAA is an arrogant bureaucracy only intent on serving the airlines and it's own self interests. It has no conscience about ruining the well being of thousands of residents and the communities they live in.

From our layman's perspective, SCANA believes the U.S. Court of Appeals struck down all the new NextGen flight departures at Sky Harbor Airport. The Courts ruling said: "For the forgoing reasons, we grant the petitions, vacate the September 18, 2014 order implementing THE new flight departure routes at Sky Harbor International Airport....". Note the ruling said "the new flight departure routes", not westerly. While the parties later settled on an agreement that only included the western departures, the Court's ruling was never revised to say western only. And it is only common sense that the entire NextGen process at Sky Harbor was done unlawfully, not just a part of it. The FAA knows the entire Sky Harbor NextGen process was illegal, our communities know it, our Cities know it, the Court said so and that fact needs to be acted upon.

We still have hope to force the FAA to rectify the illegal eastern flight paths it placed over our communities. First, it is our desire that legal action now be undertaken that would force the FAA to remand the new flight paths. That could be undertaken by the City of Scottsdale, or a coalition of public and private parties. SCANA is in contact with the City of Scottsdale and is encouraging, and hoping, it will pursue legal action. . History shows that only successful legal action can force the FAA to admit it's mistakes and correct it's egregious actions. Second, even without legal action, SCANA and our communities will continue to pursue every available avenue to force the FAA to fix the mess it created. So hope is not lost. The fight will continue with renewed vigor.