

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF DOCKET NO. FAA-2015-5041, 2015-5042,
2015-5043, and 2015-5044

To whom it may concern:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 45 resident and homeowner associations comprising more than 200,000 constituents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains in Los Angeles. The Federation's mission is to protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

The Hillside Federation understands the need for significant reduction in helicopter noise impacts through whatever methods are necessary, and supports the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition's (LAAHNC) continuing efforts, and hopes meaningful resolution to this mounting noise problem can be achieved in the near future.

LAAHNC has reported to our Board of Directors regularly. Most recently we were advised that over 60 meetings were held in order to find common ground among the FAA, pilots and stakeholders and to negotiate voluntary measures to reduce noise. However, none have been found which now necessitates the petition filings for rule-making.

The helicopter regulations being proposed by these petitions are very reasonable and exempt police, fire, medical, and other emergency helicopters on active missions.

We support the petitions:

Petition No. 01 (No. FAA-2015-5041) – Helicopter Minimum Altitudes – Require nonemergency helicopters to fly at least 2,000 feet above ground level, with exceptions.
Petition No. 02 (No. FAA-2015-5042) – Helicopter Hover/Orbit Restrictions – Require media helicopters to hover/orbit in one location for five minutes or less in any one-hour period, and tour helicopters to hover/orbit for three minutes or less, with exceptions.
Petition No. 03 (No. FAA-2015-5043) – Mandatory Media Helicopter Pooling – Require media helicopters to plan for pooling coverage during planned and unplanned incidents.
Petition No. 04 (No. FAA-2015-5044) – Shore Line Route – Require helicopters flying along the coastline to fly at least one-half mile offshore to reduce noise onshore.

Thank you,
Marian Dodge

President