

# Executive Summary: UC Davis Aviation Noise & Air Quality Symposium 2/23-2/26 2014



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LAX-Community Noise Roundtable

[WW.LAWA.org](http://WW.LAWA.org) (see Noise Management)

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# UC Davis Symposium Topics

- Provides one day of fundamentals training
- Broad Range of Participants
  - Majority USA and Canada with few from Europe and Asia
  - Airport operators, FAA, Electeds, Community Organizations
- Topics included:
  - Performance Based Navigation, Next GEN (NEPA and OAPM)
  - Recent Noise Research, Advances in fuels and emission reduction
  - Helicopter noise issues, other community noise issues, sound insulation policy and advances
  - Upcoming NEPA requirement changes
  - Health studies
  - Product implementation and demonstrations

# Lessons Learned/Observations

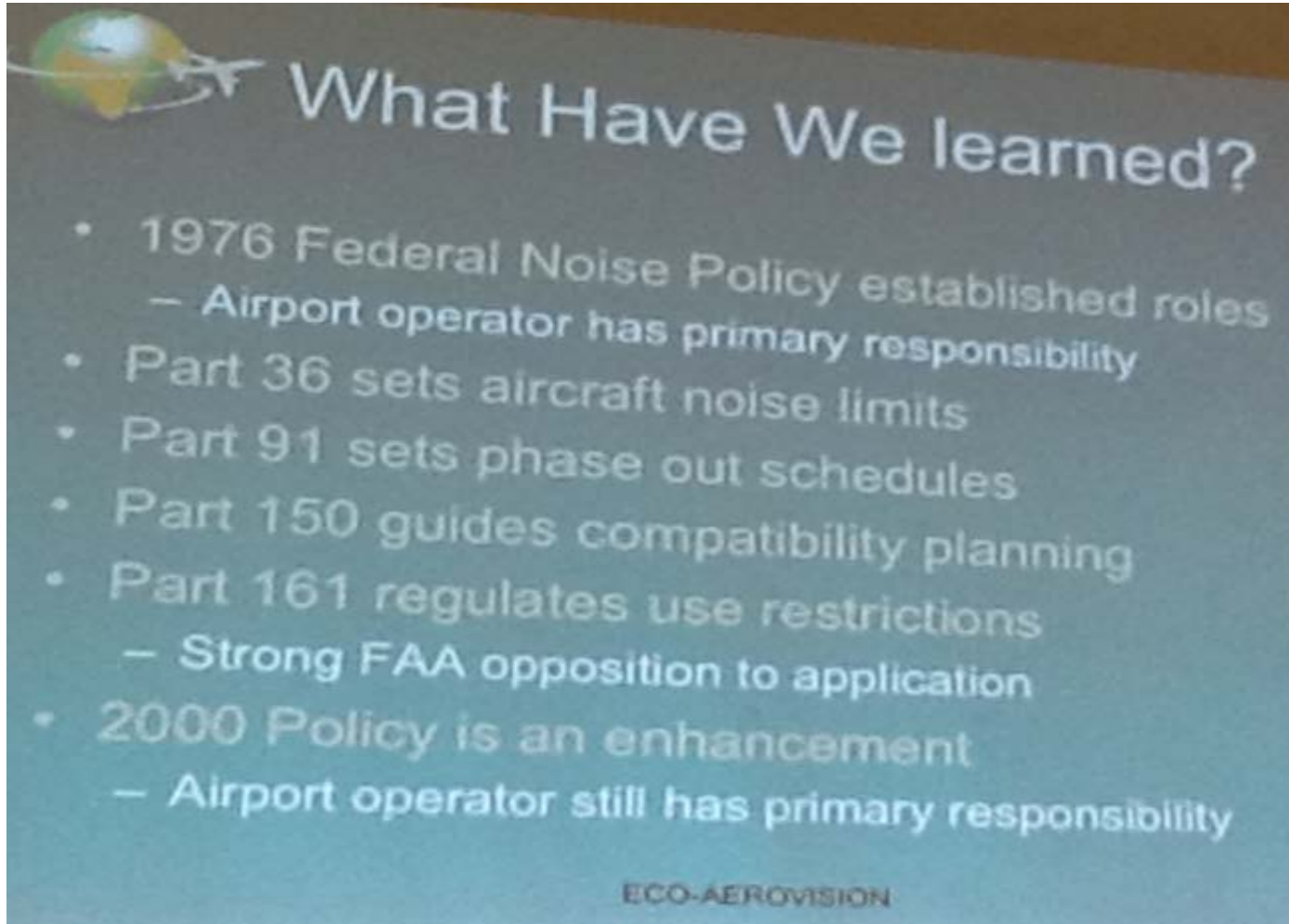
- Heard how other airport areas are addressing and resolving conflicts
- Our LAX-Community Roundtable AND LAWA Noise Management staff is a model for other areas' successes
- Symposium enabled us to raise our local issues to FAA and to others such as new Mitigations Program Guidance Letter limitations on airport communities. (Also refurbishment of mitigations)
- Learned about health impact studies; looking for ways to reduce aircraft/airport impacts.

# Lessons Learned/Observations (2)

- **Many different noise metrics, but selection change unlikely in near term.**
- **Aircraft getting quieter, but there's lots more of them and they are more frequent.**
- **Areas proximate to other airports have same concerns as we do; includes areas outside of noise contours.**
- **MN folks only ones with settlement noise mitigation to 60 DNL.**
- **Health studies all limited to date; some have statistical correlation but no causal demo.**

# Some lessons...1

**We need a training class on the regulations impacting us...**



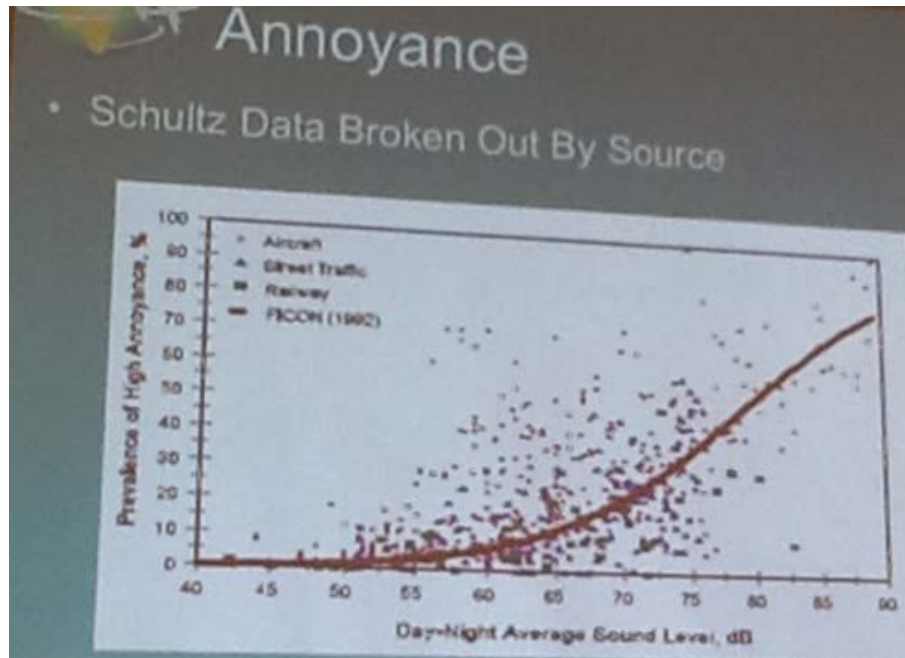
**What Have We learned?**

- 1976 Federal Noise Policy established roles
  - Airport operator has primary responsibility
- Part 36 sets aircraft noise limits
- Part 91 sets phase out schedules
- Part 150 guides compatibility planning
- Part 161 regulates use restrictions
  - Strong FAA opposition to application
- 2000 Policy is an enhancement
  - Airport operator still has primary responsibility

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# Some lessons...2

- Amounts of people impacted varies in locations
- Number of flights per hour, if similar aircraft, changes CNEL calculation very little and the loudest aircraft drives the noise level reading.
- 10dB changes are twice as loud and 5 dB changes are noticeable
- Weather inversion increases noise perception



# Some lessons...3

Lots of regulations, but how they protect us is still open in my mind...

## Regs, Policies, and Guidance

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- 40 CFR parts 1500-1508, CEQ Regulations Implementing NEPA
- CEQ Memo: 40 Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's Regulations Implementing NEPA
- DOT Order 5610.1, Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts
- FAA Order 1050.1, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures
- FAA Order 7400.2, Procedures for Handling Airspace Matters (particularly Chapter 32)
- Other various guidance memos and documents

# Some lessons...4

- **FAA told us that several unnamed airports will be chosen in the near future to participate in a noise survey...**
- **With new FAA Noise Mitigation Prog. Guide Letter in force the local airports are getting together to agree on a test method to comply.**
- **Updated FAA environmental regulations will be posted at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov)**



# Follow Up

- All presentation slides to be on UC Davis website...  
<https://sites.google.com/site/ucdavisaviation/>
- iPhone app Decibel 10<sup>th</sup> provides good instantaneous readings to add with filed complaints.
- 65 CNEL will continue to be mitigation guideline; we need to keep pressure on to change to account for massive increases in A/C
- FAA considers mitigation complete after first offer; no additional future mitigations authorized even if it wears out.
- As more features become available in tracking systems people get better understanding of noise.