

City's Letter to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Requesting Information Concerning FAA Safety Team (FAAST) Outreach

City Staff occasionally receive comments and questions from residents concerning noise generated by small planes flying over the ocean adjacent to the Trump Golf Course and Abalone Cove. Because the FAA has sole jurisdiction of the airspace, the City has been in dialogue with the FAA for years expressing citizen airspace noise concerns, requesting information, and receiving written responses from them [see enclosed FAA letter to the City Manager (CM) dated March 17, 2021]. Because of the proximity, many of the small planes originate from Torrance Airport. On January 14, 2026, the CM requested information on the FAA Long Beach FAAST outreach activities at Torrance Airport to encourage local pilots to fly neighborly (see enclosed CM letter).

Follow-Up Planning Commission Meeting Agenda

See attached Follow-Up Planning Commission meeting agenda for the meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Attachments:

Follow-Up Planning Commission Meeting Agenda – Page 51

CM letter to FAA dated January 14, 2026 – Page 53

FAA letter to the CM dated March 17, 2021 – Page 55



January 14, 2026

Raquel Girvin, Western-Pacific Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
777 S. Aviation Blvd., Suite 150
El Segundo, CA 90245

SUBJECT: Update on FAAST Outreach Activities at Torrance Airport

Dear Dr. Girvin,

I am writing you on behalf of the residents and City Council of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) located in Los Angeles County on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The City has had a long history of expressing citizen concerns to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding airspace noise impacts. The Los Angeles Terminal Area Chart (TAC) depicts an advisory note, which states flight and aerobatic training may occur in the area over the ocean adjacent to RPV. This is similar to the TAC advisory note for flight and aerobatic training over the ocean adjacent to the cities of Palos Verdes Estates, Long Beach, and Malibu. RPV is aware that the FAA places the advisory note on the chart to increase safety and to prevent midair collisions between small planes.

Many of the planes training over the ocean adjacent to RPV originate from the Torrance Airport. The March 17, 2021 FAA letter to RPV (enclosed) states that the Long Beach Flight Standards District Office FAA Safety Team (FAAST) performs regular outreach activities at Torrance Airport. In the past, the FAAST program manager encouraged local area pilots to fly neighborly during safety team briefings and through email campaigns. To help us respond to citizen airspace noise complaints generated from flight and aerobatic training occurring adjacent to RPV, please describe how the FAA defines flying neighborly and past and upcoming FAAST efforts to encourage local pilots to fly neighborly.

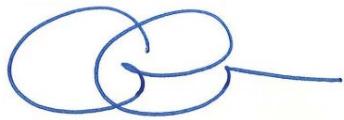
I thank you in advance for accepting this letter and respectfully reviewing the City's request. I look forward to a written response. I can be reached at 310-544-5202 or via email at aram@rpvca.gov.

Update on FAAST Outreach Activities at Torrance Airport

January 14, 2026

Page 2

Sincerely,



Ara Michael Mihranian, AICP
City Manager

Enclosure: March 17, 2021 FAA letter to RPV

CC:

Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
William Wynder, City Attorney



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Region
Office of the Regional Administrator

777 S. Aviation Blvd. Suite 150
El Segundo, CA 90245

March 17, 2021

Mr. Ara Michael Mihranian
City Manager
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
30940 Hawthorne Boulevard
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Dear Mr. Mihranian:

Thank you for your letter of January 20, 2021, about aerobatic flight adjacent to residential communities and resorts within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Western Pacific Regional Administrator's office has been assigned to respond on behalf of Administrator Steve Dickson.

The area in question on the Los Angeles Terminal Area Chart (TAC) is depicted by an advisory note, which states intensive aerobatic and flight training may occur in an area over the ocean west of Rancho Palo Verdes. Pilots regularly practice aerobatic maneuvers in this area. The advisory is on the chart to increase safety and to prevent midair collisions. It does not indicate an approved Aerobatic Practice Area (APA).

An Aerobatic Practice Area is a waivered area for pilots to practice aerobatic maneuvers that do not meet the requirements of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) 91.303. 14 CFR 91.303 describes where pilots may not operate an aircraft in aerobatic flight. These areas include the following:

- a) Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement;
- b) Over an open-air assembly of persons;
- c) Within the lateral boundaries of the surface areas of Class B, Class C, Class D, or Class E airspace designated for an airport;
- d) Within 4 nautical miles of the centerline of any Federal airway;
- e) Below an altitude of 1,500 feet above the surface; or
- f) When flight visibility is less than 3 statute miles

An APA will generally waive c, d, and e of 14 CFR 91.303. Long-term APAs are valid for more than 30 days to no more than 36 calendar months and require an Environmental Assessment. Aircraft operating in the area west of Rancho Palos Verdes are not operating in a manner that would require an APA waiver; therefore, aerobatic practice in this area is permitted as long as the pilots comply with the requirements in 14 CFR 91.303.

Removing the advisory note from the chart will not prohibit aerobatic practice flights from occurring in the area.

The Long Beach Flight Standards District Office FAA Safety Team (FAAST) performs regular outreach activities at the Torrance Airport. The FAAST Team program manager is preparing an email campaign to encourage local pilots to fly neighborly. The FAAST Team will notify the pilots during safety team briefings about your concerns to raise awareness of this issue with the local area pilots. Additionally, the Long Beach Flight Standards District Office will continue to monitor the activity in the area and initiate enforcement actions if a pilot operates contrary to the regulatory requirements.

If you have additional questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact my office at (424) 405-7000.

Sincerely,



Raquel Girvin
Regional Administrator