



## **Sky Harbor NextGen Engagement Plan**

### **Objective:**

To influence the FAA to make procedural and other changes that would lessen the impact of Sky Harbor NextGen flight patterns on the DC Ranch community-at-large. DC Ranch Community Council will communicate with the FAA along with elected officials and will also inform residents of opportunities to participate as individuals. Actions taken by the Community Council to mitigate the impact of Sky Harbor's NextGen on the DC Ranch community-at-large should not create a negative impact on another community.

### **Background:**

As part of a long-term air traffic control modernization initiative to maximize efficiencies called NextGen, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in 2014 revised flight path routes around the country, including at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The new flight paths follow precise GPS-based flight control data points, rather than landmark-based ones.

The NextGen flight patterns increased Sky Harbor air traffic over DC Ranch.

In June 2015, the City of Phoenix filed a suit against the FAA, arguing residents affected by certain flight paths were not given appropriate opportunities to comment during the public process of the flight plan revision rollout.

The City of Scottsdale did not join the suit, but city officials expressed concerns to FAA and Arizona's Congressional Delegation regarding potential impacts to Scottsdale residents who may be affected by eastbound departure flights.

In Nov. 2017, the FAA and Phoenix negotiated an agreement, dependent on the federal court's approval, which spells out that the FAA will return to the previous flight paths on western departures from Sky Harbor "to the extent practicable," and new flight paths will be developed during a public process next year. The FAA may also consider community input on flight patterns to the east.

The DC Ranch Community Council will meet with various government agencies and entities to express concern that NextGen has increased Sky Harbor flight noise in our community and try to influence procedural and other changes that lessen the impact on the community-at-large. We will also closely monitor the FAA's public process as it unfolds to update residents on any opportunities for public comment.

The DC Ranch Community Council welcomes input from any resident, Ranch Association, Covenant Commission members, and any other relevant group as it pertains to this engagement plan.

DC Ranch will adhere to our stated policy of civil dialogue, which states, “Residents and DC Ranch employees shall conduct themselves in a manner that is civil and respectful, refraining from abusive, demeaning or hostile language or behavior.”

The process below outlines the DC Ranch approach to Sky Harbor NextGen:

Approach:

The Community Council will:

- Advocate for procedural and other changes that can lessen the impact of NextGen
- Schedule and participate in various meetings and conversations with elected officials to seek their support for pursuing resolutions to DC Ranch’s concerns and to partner with them to influence the FAA to make changes
- Attend outreach opportunities hosted by the FAA to share the impact NextGen has had on the DC Ranch community-at-large
- Communicate with the FAA in any manner available and as appropriate
- Inform residents of opportunities for individual engagement
- Provide updates to the Community Council and Ranch Association boards and residents as information becomes available

Targeted audiences: FAA, Congressman Schweikert, Scottsdale City Council, Scottsdale Airport management, DC Ranch residents and other entities when identified as appropriate

Spokesperson: Chris Irish with support from Jenna Kohl, lobbying firm if appropriate, and the DC Ranch communications team

News media inquiries: To be handled by Chris Irish; attribute all quotes and comments to spokesperson

Resident questions: Direct to Chris Irish

Anticipated timeline: November 2017 – TBD

Key factors:

1. Flight path pattern and density
2. Height and speed of planes
3. Throttle-up and throttle-down locations
4. Other factors that can mitigate the increased airplane noise over DC Ranch due to Sky Harbor’s NextGen flight paths.