

## SDA Newsletter – August, 2020

**The SDA Legislative team has been monitoring the Navy's plans to conduct the Real-Time Noise Monitoring Study approved by Congress in last year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).**

**We knew it would not be easy to hold the Navy to the task of complying with a Congressional directive – but we didn't know how hard and Carona-19 has not made it easier.**

In March Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ohanessian reported to Congress regarding the Navy's noise study plans. SDA responded with a formal letter and asked to be participants in the process, provided our goals, and sent suggestions for 22 monitoring sites. **No response was received from the Navy.**

SDA provided 5 additional names of noise experts in the region via our Congressional delegation to the list of invitees to assist the Navy with process planning and location of noise monitoring sites. **The Navy declined to add any of these representatives to the process.**

The Navy created a list of invitees in three categories to participate: federal, state and local elected officials, and school superintendants. These invitees were selected primarily from Island County, Skagit County, and Jefferson County. **No non-profits, SDA, environmental groups, preservationists, health or noise experts were included.**

**The Navy's plan and briefing** regarding the NDAA Sound Monitoring study was made to the local elected, school superintendents, and federal groups in early June.

**In advance of the early June meetings** - SDA provided a letter to all of the people that the Navy invited to their meetings as a way of introduction and as an offer of help find resource materials. **Several electeds responded to get more information and individual phone meetings were set up to answer questions.**

SDA provided to all participants a long list (22 sites) and a short list (11 sites) of monitoring sites for the region and our suggestions for what needs to be in a valid real-time noise study. **Many local elected officials thanked SDA for the information we provided for them.**

The Navy's invitees were asked to respond to the Navy's plan and offer monitoring sites by June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Navy was to compile that information and get back to participants by mid July. **SDA has consulted with our Congressional delegation and local elected officials – no sites have been picked by the Navy as of August 7th.**

**The Congressional deadline in the 2020 NDAA for the Navy's study was December 2020. Since that date is now unattainable – an extension is being worked on in the 2021 NDAA.**

**Your SDA Legislative Team will be continuing our work to get meaningful real-time noise data.**

**Summarizing our goals:**

- 1. SDA wants to ensure that the Navy conducts the study and does so within statute, so we believe an amendment is necessary.**
- 2. SDA would also like the Navy to use the additional time for the real-time study to measure additional sites that are impacted by Navy jet noise.**
- 3. SDA supports an extension**

**SDA's guidance for conference committee in the 2021 NDAA:**

**The Navy is granted an extension until December 1, 2021 to conduct and report on real-time noise monitoring at Navy installations as described in Section 325 of the FY2020 NDAA.**

- Noise monitoring sites and protocols shall be decided in consultation with elected officials and residents in the impacted regions;**
- At least 20 locations shall be monitored covering the regions with low elevation flights extending 100 miles from the selected installations;**
- All raw data collected shall be publicly available on a quarterly basis at no cost;**
- A wide range of noise metrics shall be included in the report, including at a minimum, those metrics in the 2016 study conducted for the National Parks Service at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve.**