

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 19th. 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.**