Lobbying Efforts Pay Off—Sound Insulation Program to Get Millions in Added Funding

The City of Inglewood has been lobbying Los Angeles World Airports for additional funds to accelerate its highly popular and effective sound insulation program.

Due to the tireless efforts of the Mayor and City Council, on May 21, 2002 the Board of Airport Commissioners approved an additional $2.25 million in funding to Inglewood for noise mitigation activities.

And that's just the start. The new funding, collected from passenger facility fees collected on every ticket at LAX, makes the city eligible to spend millions of dollars in matching grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration.

This new funding will greatly step up the pace of sound insulation in Inglewood. The city is now making plans to invite many more homeowners to participate in the program.

Thanks to sound insulation, the quality of life for Inglewood residents living under the flight path of LAX has dramatically improved. To date more than 1,000 homes in Inglewood have been completed or are in the process of being retrofitted with soundproofing features.

Noise Complaint Form Available Online

Now you can go online at any time of the day or night to register complaints about aircraft noise from LAX.

Just go to the Los Angeles World Airports Web site: www.lawa.org/lax, click on Noise Management, then select the Noise Complaint Form.

The user-friendly form allows residents to provide their contact information, and date and time of the noise event; select the type of noise that occurred; and indicate the airline and type of aircraft, if known.

The airport’s Noise Management Section will respond either by letter or a personal phone call once an investigation is completed.
Thousands of Inglewood residents can confirm that having your home sound insulated makes a big difference—the jarring roar of jet noise becomes just a murmur.

But it’s also the added home improvements that go hand-in-hand with sound insulation that have made the program so popular with Inglewood residents.

Lorgia Ortega says that the improvements to the three-bedroom home that she lives in with her husband, Eduardo and two teenage daughters, “make it look like a different house. Now realtors come knocking on my door and want us to sell our home!”

“The old one was really ugly,” she says, proudly pointing to her brand new oak front door. All new dual-pane windows replaced old ones from the 50s. According to Ortega, the new windows look “so beautiful” that the family is adding all new window frames to go with the attractive new windows.

Shirley Young shows off the long graceful curve of the big white bow window in the front of her handsome two-story home.
Cora Rawls has allergies. The last thing she needs is living in the midst of construction dust. Yet Rawls reports that when her two-story home was recently sound insulated, living there was not nearly as bad as she expected it to be. “They worked very clean,” she says. “I’ve seen a lot of construction in my day, and I’m very impressed.”

Rawls also was pleased that the crews were so accommodating. They readily agreed to arrange their work schedule around her long-planned trip to New Orleans for her son’s May graduation from Xavier University.

The best part is that she didn’t have to wait for the workers to finish before seeing (and hearing!) the results. “The second day I noticed a difference in the noise level and it’s wonderful,” she exclaims.

For Shirley Young, whose four-bedroom home was completed just in time for Christmas,
Q: Once construction begins, how long will it take for the work to be competed?
A: On average the work on each individual home takes just two weeks or less.

Q: What precautions should I take to protect my personal property?
A: You should secure and protect any valuables near the work site. Every precaution will be taken to avoid damage to the owner’s property, but it is recommended that the owner remove any dust-sensitive equipment (computers, televisions, etc.) from the work area to prevent possible damage.

Q: Do I have to be home during construction?
A: Yes. It is important that the homeowner, the tenant or the homeowner’s representative be present during all construction.

Q: Can you accommodate vacation schedules?
A: If the work schedule conflicts with a planned vacation or other personal situation, we will make every effort to accommodate the resident’s needs and adjust the work schedule accordingly.

Track Flights on the Web

Los Angeles World Airports has launched a new LAX Internet Flight Tracking System that allows you to monitor the movement of flights and air traffic patterns within the greater Los Angeles region.

The system shows the flight tracks of aircraft arriving and departing to and from LAX, and from other airports throughout the region. It also shows planes in transit across the region.

Once you select a particular aircraft, the aircraft type, altitude and Track ID Number are displayed. Although taken from actual radar data, there is a delay of approximately ten minutes in the flight tracks.

To track flights on the Web go to www.lawa.org/lax, click on Noise Management, then select Flight Tracks.

City of Inglewood

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Residential Sound Insulation Program

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The staff of the City of Inglewood’s Residential Sound Insulation Division is here to help you. Pictured left to right, Fidel Barajas, Mona Adkins, Marisela Mansour, Paul Cura, Jerry Nealy, Diana Joe, Anthony Barbarin, Deanna Unternahrer, Nicolas Diaz, Maria Torres, Richard Torres, Susy Martin.