



# City of El Segundo

## Office of Mayor

April 9, 2015

**Elected Officials:**

*Suzanne Fuentes,*  
Mayor  
*Carl Jacobson,*  
Mayor Pro Tem  
*Dave Atkinson,*  
Council Member  
*Marie Felthauer,*  
Council Member  
*Michael Dugan,*  
Council Member  
*Tracy Weaver,*  
City Clerk  
*Crista Binder,*  
City Treasurer

**Appointed Officials:**

*Greg Carpenter,*  
City Manager  
*Mark D. Hensley,*  
City Attorney

**Department Directors:**

*Deborah Cullen,*  
Finance  
*Kevin Smith,*  
Fire Chief  
*Martha Dijkstra,*  
Human Resources  
*Debra Brighton,*  
Library Services  
*Sam Lee,*  
Planning and  
Building Safety  
*Mitch Tavera,*  
Police Chief  
*Stephanie Katsouleas,*  
Public Works  
*Meredith Petit,*  
Recreation & Parks

[www.elsegundo.org](http://www.elsegundo.org)

The Hon. Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator  
11111 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 915  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

The Hon. Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress  
5055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 310  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

**RE: El Segundo Residential Sound Insulation Program**

Dear Senator Feinstein and Congressman Lieu:

I am requesting your assistance with an issue affecting the City of El Segundo and its Residential Sound Insulation Program (RSI). Specifically, I seek your assistance to persuade the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide a time extension under the current RSI rules so the City can rebid a number of RSI construction contracts. The City was not able to approve these contracts because the original bids were excessively high. Granting this limited extension will allow the City to rebid these groups and sound insulate these homes as originally intended, but not any additional homes beyond those originally included in the bids. If this small accommodation is not granted, most of the 191 homes included in these groups will never be sound insulated.

The RSI program is available to residents of communities (like El Segundo) that are impacted by noise from nearby airports. El Segundo residents live next to one of the busiest airports in the world; some residents live 850 feet from the nearest runway. RSI work has two primary funding sources: (1) federal funds from the FAA and (2) funds provided by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). These LAWA funds are not taxpayer funds, but the FAA places restrictions on how they can be spent.

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FAA regulations determine which homes qualify for sound insulation. The City is divided into a "most-impacted" zone (in the north part of El Segundo, known as the "green zone," and defined by a line known as the 65 dB contour) and a "less-impacted" zone (in the central part of El Segundo, known as the "yellow zone," and defined by a line known as the 60 dB contour). While people living in the yellow zone are less impacted compared to those living in the green zone, the impacts are still quite real, and for many years RSI funding was available to sound insulate homes in that zone.

However, over the past few years, the FAA has made clear that no funds (FAA or LAWA) could be spent on yellow zone homes after December 31, 2015. Further, the FAA stated unless a home had been sound tested to ensure its interior was noisy enough to qualify for work, the home must be completed by September 30, 2015. Because the FAA's protocol for testing homes is not available, all work in yellow zone homes must be completed by the September 30, 2015 deadline. Similarly all work in "untested" green zone homes also must be completed by that date.

With the deadline in mind, the City accelerated its process to treat as many homes as possible by September 30. The City successfully bid and awarded contracts for 295 homes. However, when the City bid contracts for the final 191 homes to be sound insulated by the 2015 deadlines, the bids significantly exceeded the City's internal engineering estimates. After consulting with the FAA and LAWA, and reviewing both its own bidding procedures and the engineering estimates, the City reluctantly concluded it could not move forward with the bids and rejected all bids at its special Council meeting of March 31, 2015.

In the past, if this problem had occurred, the Council would have simply directed staff to rebid the contracts in anticipation of reasonable bids in the next round. However, due to the September 30, 2015 deadline and the time necessary to complete the entire process (including advertising bid documents, receiving bids, evaluating the bids, awarding the contracts, completing the actual construction, and finalizing various invoicing and reimbursement tasks), there is not sufficient time to complete the process. As a result, these final 191 homes will not be sound insulated.

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Thus, the City is requesting the FAA simply allow the City to rebid the contracts for these 191 homes, and no others. From the City's perspective, there is no harm whatsoever to anyone, including taxpayers, if the FAA grants this accommodation. All parties, including the FAA, expected the money for these homes to be expended. Granting this rebid would potentially allow this to happen.

If the FAA does not grant this extension, the residents of these 191 homes will be forced to continue to suffer from excessive LAX noise levels. Worse, through circumstances beyond the City's or its residents' control, promises made to sound insulate these homes will remain unfulfilled.

The City understands this is a one-time extension to rebid these groups of homes only. If for any reason, the City is not able to finalize one or more home contract groups, it forgoes the ability to treat these groups under the current rules. (Some green zone homes included in the 191 MAY be sound insulated in the future if they meet the interior noise standards required after the September 30, 2015 deadline.)

I appreciate your willingness to intercede on behalf of the City and its residents.

Please feel free to contact City Manager Greg Carpenter if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Suzanne Fuentes  
Mayor



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