

JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT
ORANGE COUNTY

MEMORANDUM



DATE: February 5, 2026

To: Chairman, Doug Chaffee, Supervisor, Fourth District
Members, Board of Supervisors

FROM: Charlene V. Reynolds, Airport Director Initial
CR

SUBJECT: Enforcement of General Aviation Noise Ordinance ("GANO")

For your information, I am providing a copy of the GANO Semi-Annual Report for the period July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Please contact Nikolas Gaskins, Manager of Access and Noise, at (949) 252-5188 if you have questions or would like additional information on this matter.

cc: Michelle Aguirre, County Executive Officer
Jessica Witt, Chief Operating Officer
Leon Page, County Counsel

**Enforcement of General Aviation Noise Ordinance (“GANO”)
Semi-Annual Report
July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025**

General Aviation (GA) noise levels for the period remained substantially below maximum permissible levels. Total noise violations (77) represent 0.07% of the total 111,093 General Aviation operations, and demonstrate the continued success of our educational and enforcement efforts. Average noise levels, number of general aviation violations, and related complaints are discussed below.

I. AVERAGE NOISE LEVELS

Noise energy averages (expressed as "Single Event Noise Exposure Levels" or "SENEL") at the criterion noise monitoring stations (NMS) 1S, 2S and 3S have been regulated since the ordinance enforcement date of April 1, 1986.* Table 1 illustrates average SENEL values at NMS 1S through NMS 7S produced by private jet aircraft during the second six months of the 2025 calendar year. There are approximately 3,800 to 4,100 private jet operations per month.

This report covers the six month period of July through December 2025, and most of the comments here relate to that period.

* Ordinance No. 3505; Codified Ordinance of Orange County Section 2-1-30.1 et. seq.

TABLE 1

General Aviation Jet Average Monthly Noise Levels

	NMS 1S			NMS 2S			NMS 3S			NMS 4S			NMS 5S			NMS 6S			NMS 7S		
MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE:	102.5			101.8			101.1			94.8			95.3			96.8			93.7		
MEASURED AVERAGES:																					
Month	2024	2025	Chg.	2024	2025	Chg.	2024	2025	Chg.	2024	2025	Chg.	2024	2025	Chg.	2024	2025	Chg.	2024	2025	Chg.
July	87.7	88.0	0.3	87.4	87.8	0.4	88.7	88.7	0.0	82.0	82.4	0.4	81.6	82.2	0.6	82.9	83.2	0.3	80.7	82.0	(1) 1.3
August	87.6	87.8	0.2	87.3	87.6	0.3	88.7	88.7	0.0	82.1	81.7	(0.4)	81.7	81.5	(0.2)	83.0	82.6	(0.4)	80.8	81.0	0.2
September	87.8	87.9	0.1	87.4	87.4	0.0	88.8	88.5	(0.3)	82.2	81.8	(0.4)	81.7	81.5	(0.2)	83.1	82.6	(0.5)	81.1	81.2	0.1
October	87.7	88.1	0.4	87.4	87.3	(0.1)	88.7	88.6	(0.1)	81.8	82.0	0.2	81.6	81.8	0.2	82.8	82.8	0.0	81.0	81.3	0.3
November	87.4	88.2	0.8	87.2	87.1	(0.1)	88.3	88.7	0.4	82.1	82.1	0.0	81.7	81.9	0.2	83.0	83.1	0.1	81.2	81.5	0.3
December	87.7	88.2	0.5	87.3	87.1	(0.2)	88.7	88.7	0.0	82.2	82.3	0.1	81.5	81.6	0.1	83.1	82.9	(0.2)	80.7	81.3	0.6

(1) The increase in the average monthly noise level at NMS 7S was primarily influenced by the operations of three General Aviation aircraft which produced noise levels in excess of 96.0 dB SENEL

In reviewing general aviation monthly noise levels for the second six months of the 2025 calendar year, noise levels were found to be generally equal to or slightly greater than the July to December 2024 period.

II. GANO VIOLATIONS

Strict adherence to GANO noise limits remains a priority. Aircraft identification (through Federal Aviation Administration System Wide Information Management (SWIM) data, and review of aircraft voice digital recordings of controller-pilot communication), owner notification, and follow-up communication with GA operators, continues to strengthen our educational process to achieve GANO compliance.

For the first noise limit violation by an aircraft, the aircraft's registered owner is sent a "Notice of Violation" letter by certified mail. The letter lists the measured noise levels, a comparison to the GANO noise limits, and the time and date of occurrence. The aircraft owner is asked to understand and comply with the noise limits during subsequent operations. The owner is encouraged to contact the Access and Noise Office with any questions.

For the second GANO noise limit violation by an aircraft, within a three-year time period, the owner/operator is informed of the violation by the Access & Noise Office via a telephone call prior to sending a "Second Notice of Violation" letter to the aircraft's registered owner. This certified letter also lists the measured noise levels, a comparison to the GANO limits, and documents the time and date of occurrence. The second violation letter also urges the owner to contact the Access and Noise Office if there are any questions with the violation.

For the third GANO noise limit violation within a three-year time period, the owner/operator is informed of the violation by the Access & Noise Office via a telephone call, and a letter, also sent by certified mail, informs the registered owner that he or she, the aircraft operator, and the aircraft itself are denied use of John Wayne Airport for three years. The letter also explains the GANO appeal of violation procedures. County Counsel prepares this written correspondence notifying the aircraft owner that future operations at JWA may result in civil action. The aircraft owner may meet with Counsel and Airport Administration to discuss the feasibility of the aircraft's future use of JWA. Such meetings have been very beneficial, with typical results ranging from the owner voluntarily ceasing operations at JWA, to performing a noise test (similar to that performed by commercial aircraft) to demonstrate whether the aircraft is capable of meeting the GANO noise criteria.

Table 2 illustrates the GANO noise limit monthly violations count for July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

TABLE 2

GANO Noise Limit Monthly Violation Count
 July through December 2025
 (Total General Aviation Operations = 111,093)

Month	Violation			
	First	Second	Third	Total
July	10	1	0	11
August	12	2	1	15
September	16	3	0	19
October	8	1	0	9
November	10	2	0	12
December	7	4	0	11
6-Month Total:	63	13	1	77
% of GA Operations:	0.057%	0.012%	0.001%	0.069%

III. GENERAL AVIATION OPERATION COMPLAINTS

Table 3 illustrates the number of General Aviation operation monthly complaints received by the Access and Noise Office.

TABLE 3

General Aviation Operation Monthly Complaints

Month	2024	2025	Change	% Change
July	4,661	2,647	(2,014)	(43.21%)
August	3,615	2,415	(1,200)	(33.20%)
September	3,939	2,302	(1,637)	(41.56%)
October	4,074	1,844	(2,230)	(54.74%)
November	3,062	1,192	(1,870)	(61.07%)
December	2,639	2,354	(285)	(10.80%)
6-Month Total:	21,990	12,754	(9,236)	(42.00%)

Note:

- Beginning in September 2018, an online subscription complaint service was utilized

SUMMARY

Enforcement of the General Aviation Noise Ordinance by Airport staff remains a high priority.

General Aviation compliance is evident through pilot awareness and noise mitigation actions. Staff will continue to monitor General Aviation activity closely, and I will continue to advise the Board and Airport Commission concerning GANO enforcement.