NES Update and Next Steps

Briefing to StART

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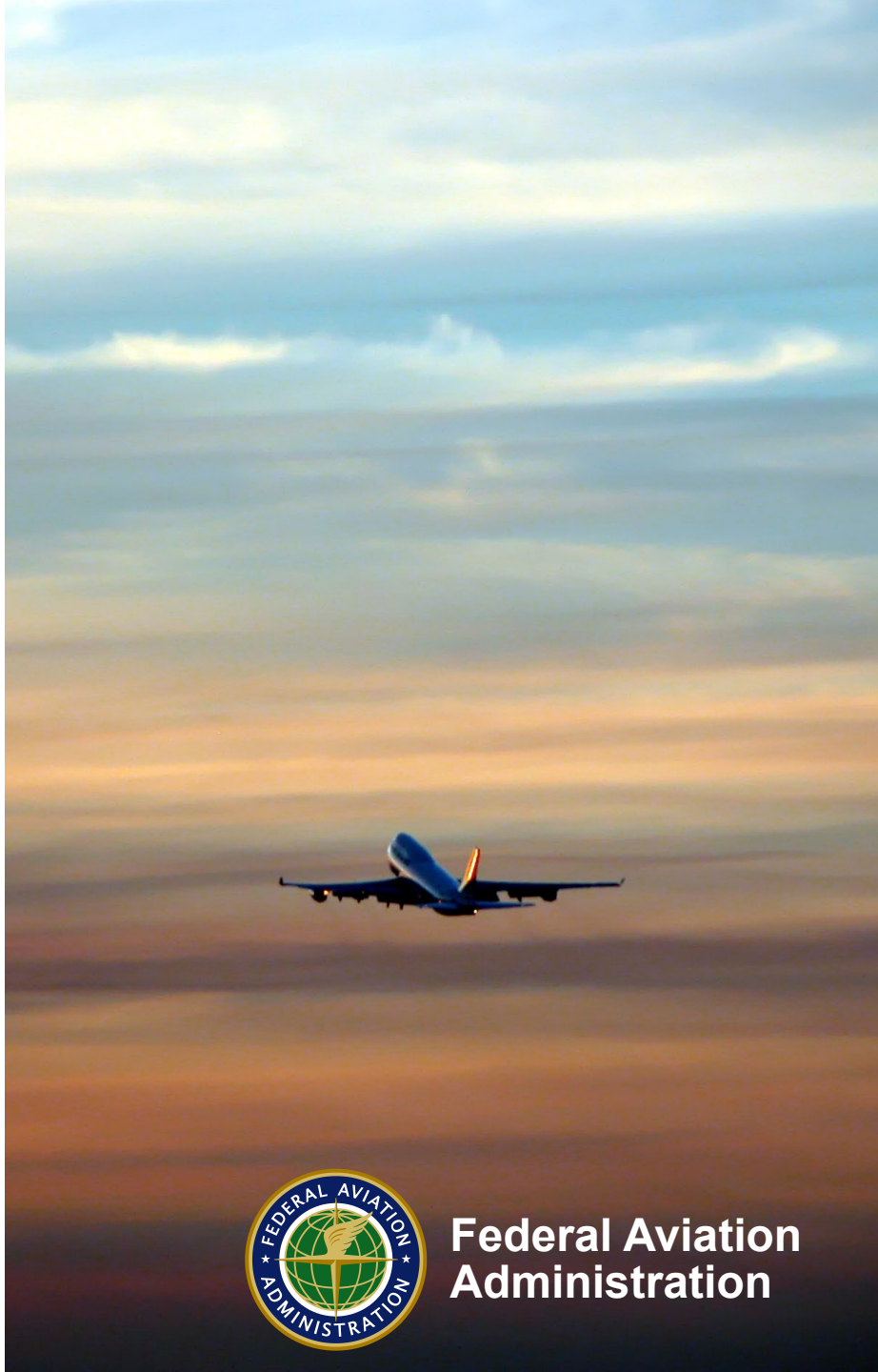


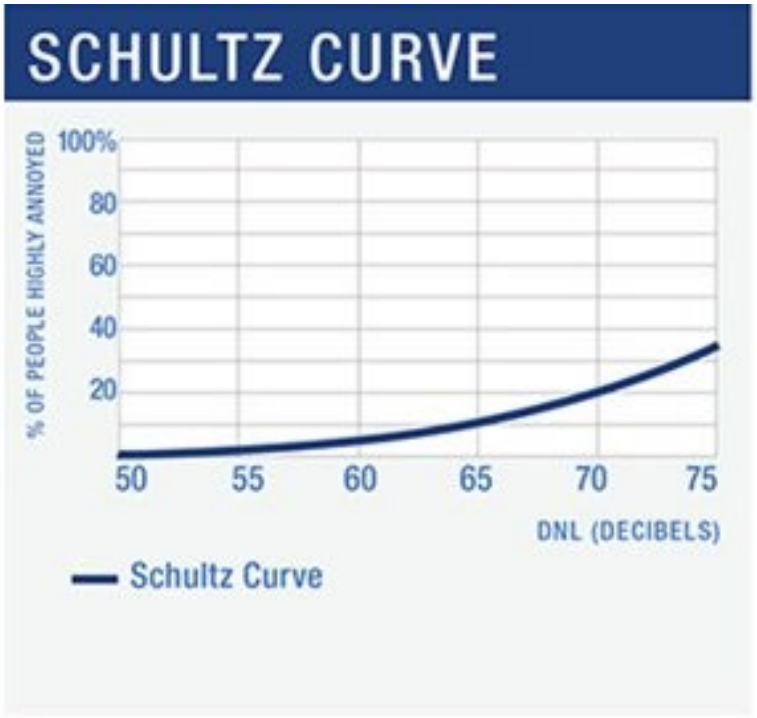
Agenda

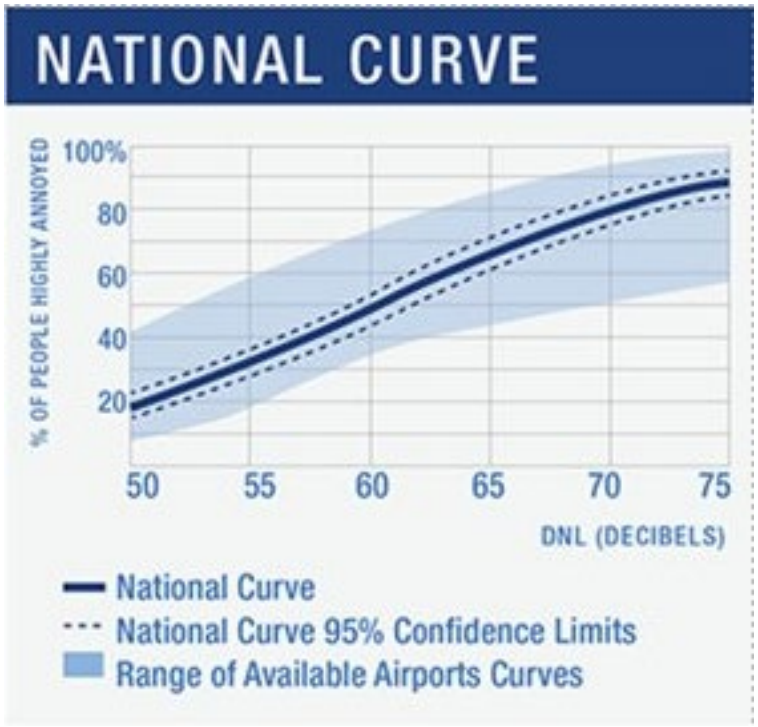
- **Reminder – NES Results**
- **Overview of January 13, 2021 FAA Noise Research Federal Register Notice**
- **Summary of Comments Received**
- **Noise Policy Review**

Reminder: NES Results

The NES results support an observed increase in Annoyance from Aircraft Noise:

- The results show a substantial increase in annoyance for the population living in the vicinity of airports
- The increase in annoyance is generally consistent across various levels of noise exposure

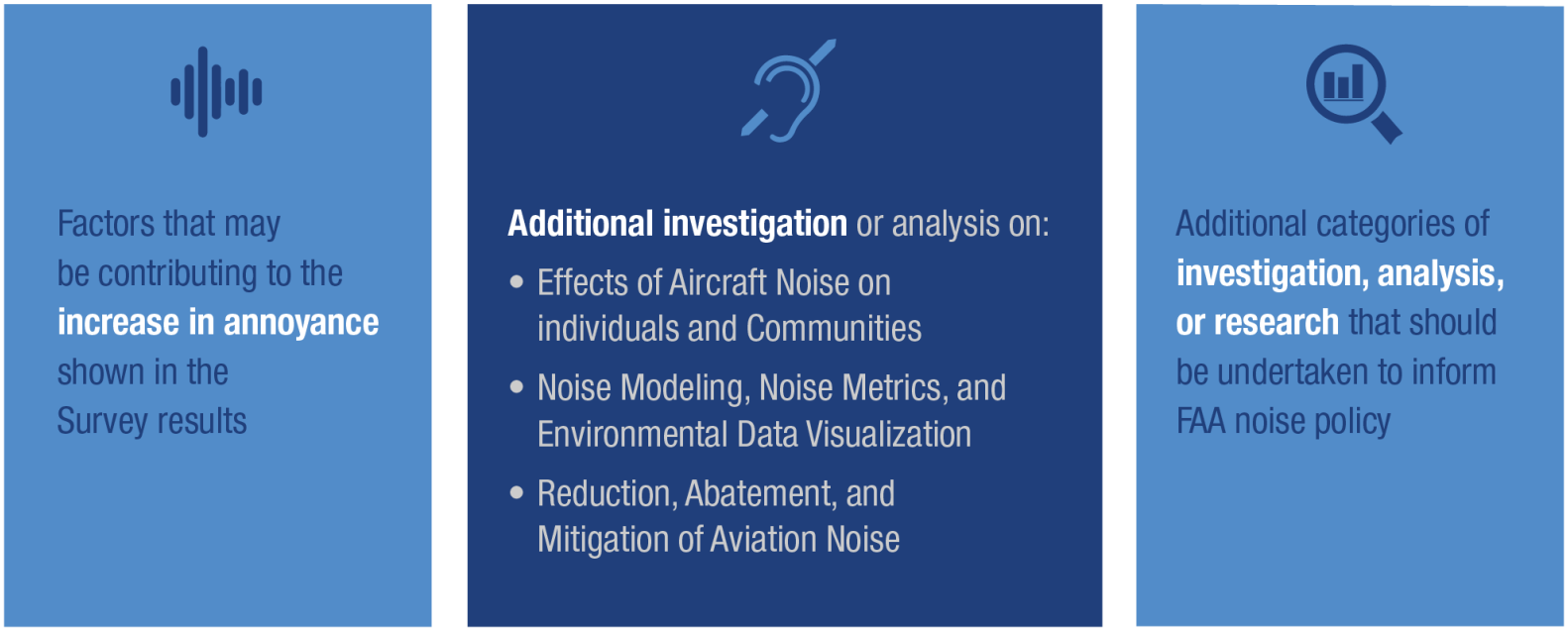




FAA Noise Research Federal Register Notice

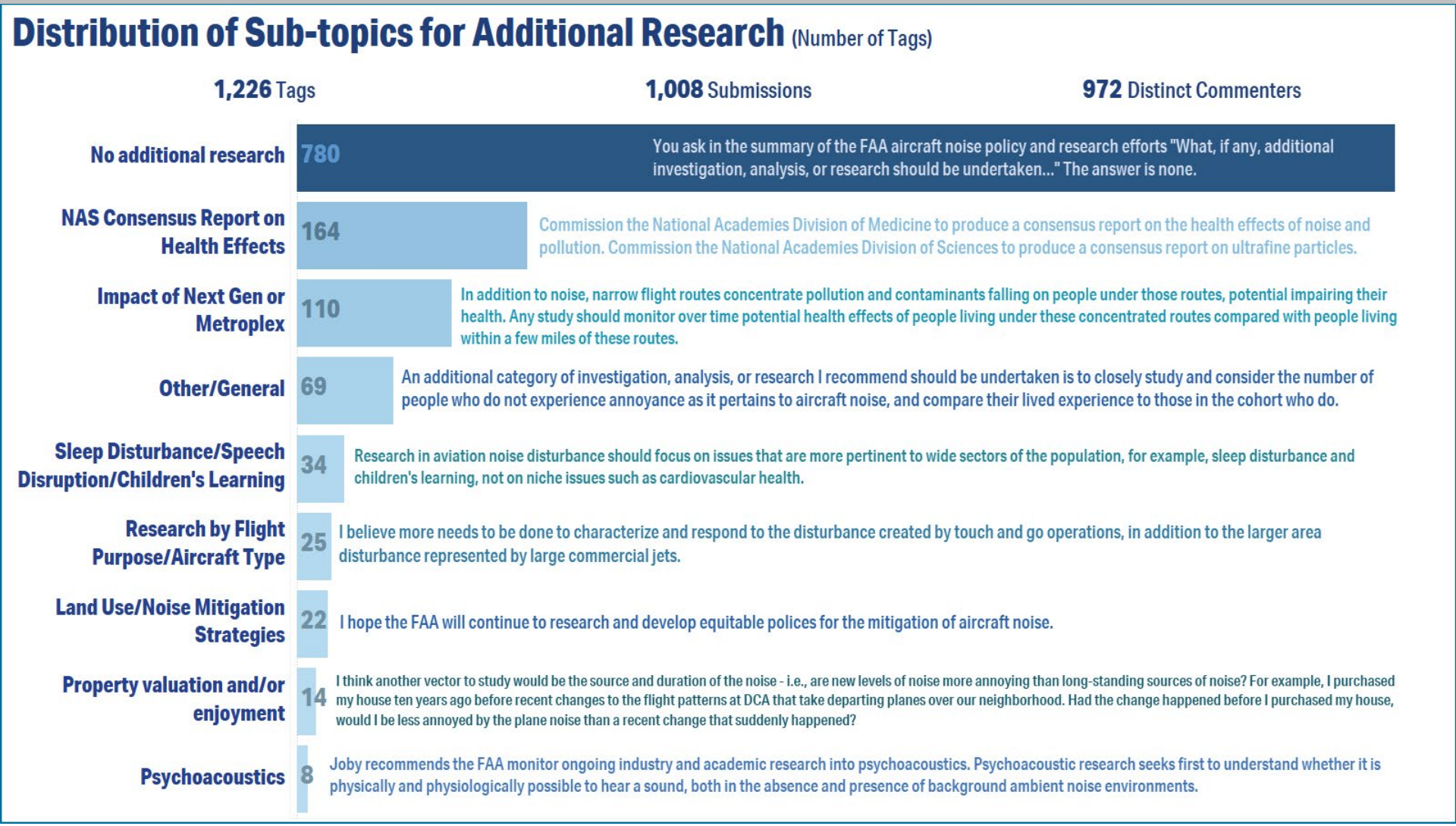
The FAA released a Federal Register Notice on January 13 2021, to provide an update on the agency's noise research programs, including the results of the Neighborhood Environmental Survey (NES) and to request public comment on

– Input on three questions was requested through a 90-day comment period

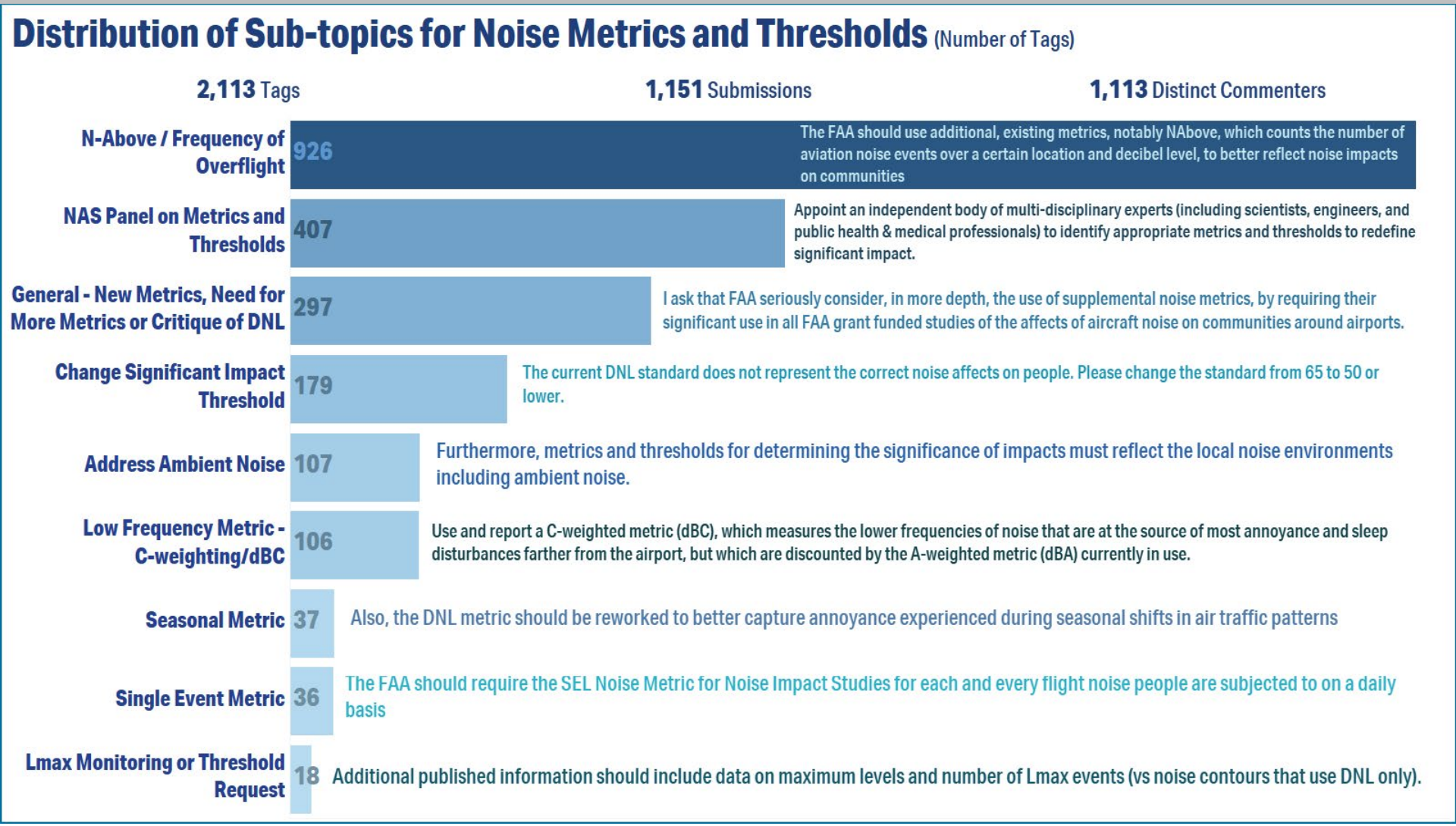


- ***Over 4,000 comments were received***
- ***Comments were then aggregated by category to look for any patterns of interest recommended for FAA's noise research program***
- ***Comment themes are being assessed as part of the Noise Policy Review***

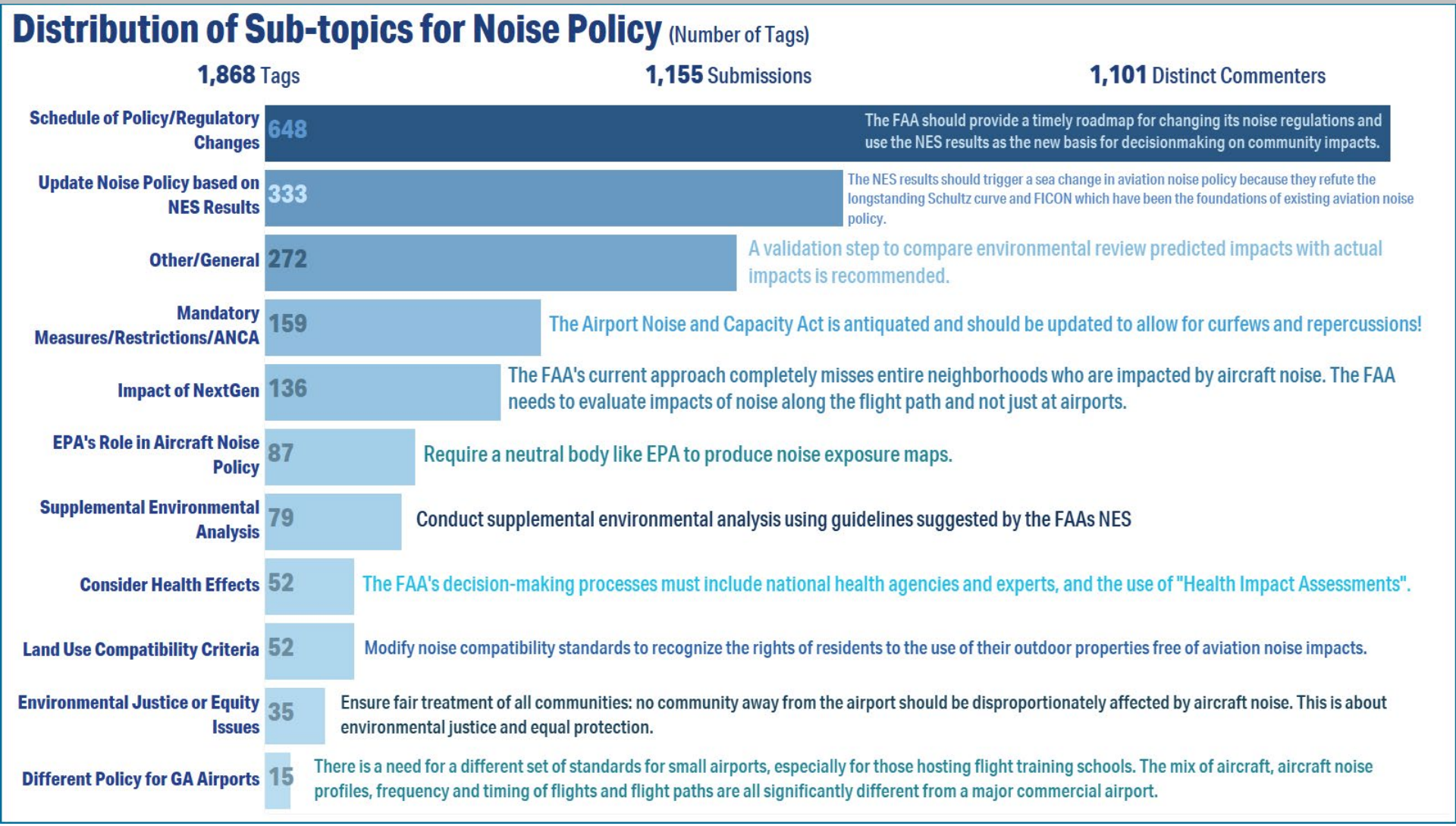
FAA Noise FRN Comment Responses Summary (1)



FAA Noise FRN Comment Responses Summary (2)



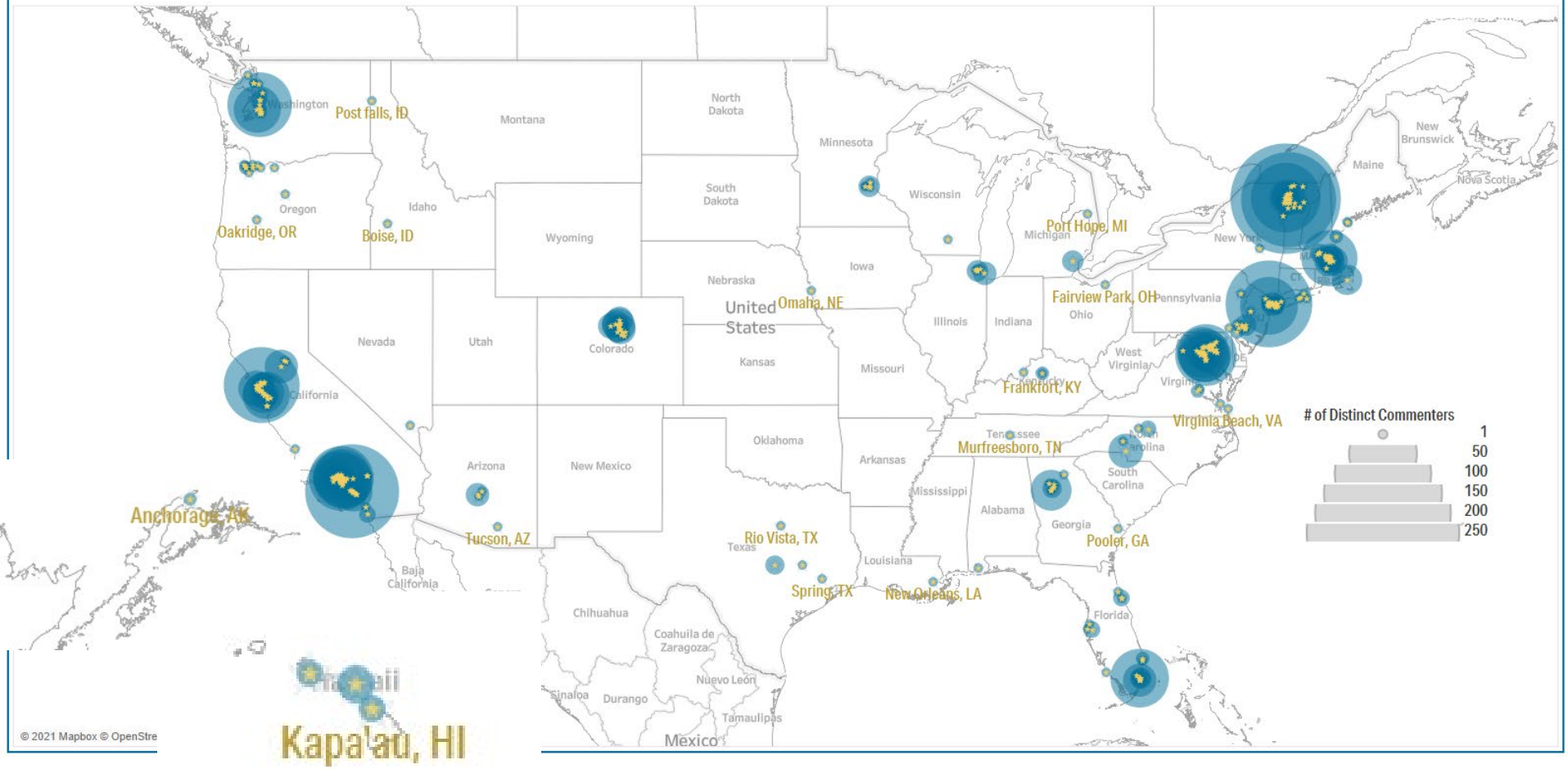
FAA Noise FRN Comment Responses Summary (3)



FAA Noise FRN Comments Distribution

Map of Distinct Commenters by City

4,023 Submissions **3,811** Distinct Commenters



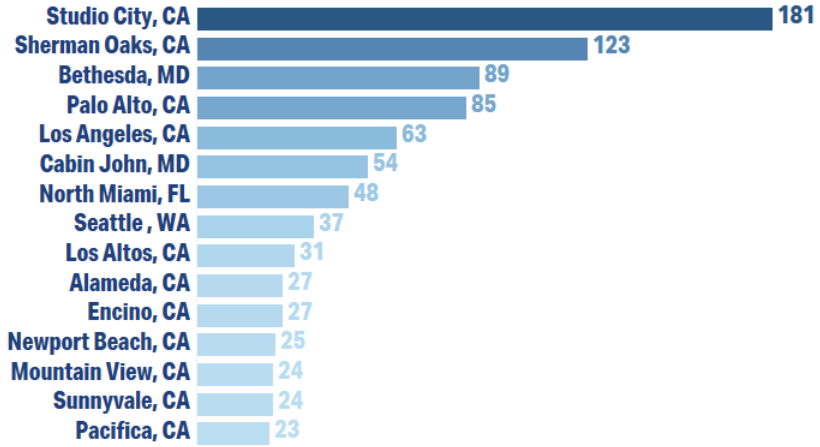
FAA Noise FRN Comments Top City Contributions

4,023 total submissions

Research/National Policy Focused	Other Considerations	Organization
1,808 submissions	**2,145** submissions	**124** submissions
44.9% of total	**53.3%** of total	**3.1%** of total

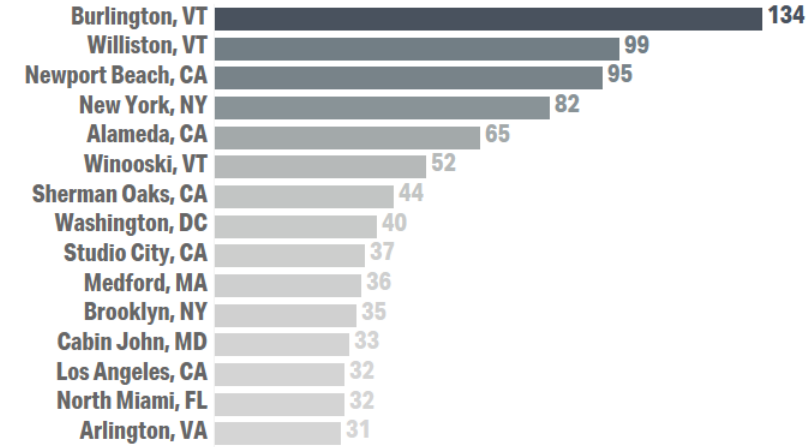
Research/National Policy Focused vs. Other Considerations by City

Top 15 Cities for Research/National Policy Focused Submissions



*Note: Residents of **201** cities had **1,702** research/national policy focused submissions. **827** or **48.6%** are shown in the top 15 cities

Top 15 Cities for Other Considerations Submissions



*Note: Residents of **309** cities had **2,198** other considerations submissions. **874** or **39.8%** are shown in the top 15 cities

FAA Noise Policy Review

- In late 2021, the FAA initiated a review of our noise policy as part of our ongoing commitment to address aircraft noise. This effort will build on our work to advance the scientific understanding of noise impacts as well as the development of analytical tools and technologies.
- It will consider new evidence from the agency's noise research program, including from the Neighborhood Environmental Survey, and the distribution of environmental risks, tradeoffs, or externalities across communities.
- Goals
  - Identify and implement well-reasoned, scientifically-grounded noise policy updates that incorporate FAA's updated understanding of aviation noise and human response and the development of analytical tools and technologies to better manage and reduce the environmental impacts of aviation
  - Conduct an inclusive, transparent, and participatory process that prioritizes input from substantially affected stakeholders, including local communities

Scope of Noise Policy Review

- **Focus on foundational elements of FAA's noise policy, including:**
  - **Metrics**: Hard look at DNL, consideration of other metrics (e.g., Number Above), and how they are calculated
  - **Thresholds**: Consider NES findings and other research, investigate lowering our significance threshold below DNL 65 dBA
  - For new metrics, consider how they may be used, whether it is appropriate to establish a threshold, and their potential value

FAA Noise Policy Review landing Page

- FAA has published an **initial landing page** for the noise policy review https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/aee/noise/noise_policy_review
- The landing page will be revised as the noise policy review progresses.
- Expanded content *may* include:
  - Project information and status;
  - Resources (education materials, videos, FAQs, primary sources, etc.);
  - Links to register for virtual webinars; and
  - Links to subscribe to FAA project updates.

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Next Steps

- **Aim to initiate stakeholder engagement this Spring (2023)**
- **Engagement will include opportunities to:**
  - Learn more about aviation noise
  - Hear from FAA
  - Provide input to FAA
- **Click link at bottom of landing page to sign up for updates**