

City of Sunnyvale Town Hall Meeting, 8/23/18

Response to Public Questions

Can the City create a citizens' advisory board on aviation noise?

The Sunnyvale City Council recently voted to join the newly established Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Community/Airport Roundtable. The public is encouraged to attend the Roundtable meetings once formed, and express their concerns and share ideas on airplane noise mitigation.

The Roundtable is the result of work led by the Cities Association, to gather together Santa Clara and Santa Cruz cities and counties, the San Jose Airport and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), in a forum for discussion of airplane noise issues. The Roundtable will serve as a public forum for residents, and as an effective advocate to the FAA. Prior to its disbandment in May, the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals - a committee made up of elected officials representing cities in Santa Clara county - identified the Roundtable as an appropriate hearing body to continue the work started by the Committee, and follow up on the airplane noise mitigating recommendation made to the FAA. For more information on the Roundtable, visit the Cities Association website:

www.Citiesassociation.org

Why can't we move the South Flow path over the freeway to reduce the noise experienced by residents?

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee made several recommendations in its report regarding the south flow procedure. The report can be found on our airplane noise website:

<https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=25662>

How will cities be assured that the Roundtable will not shift airplane noise to other cities?

The overall purpose of the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Roundtable is to continue to foster and enhance the cooperative relationship to develop, evaluate, and implement reasonable and feasible policies, procedures, and mitigation actions that will further reduce the impacts of aircraft noise in neighborhoods and communities in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties.

How can Sunnyvale officials ensure that participating cities will have equal number of votes?

The Roundtable bylaws, Article III Section 2 states that each city will have one voting Representative and an Alternate.

Will the City be hiring a consultant?

A budget has been established through the dues-paying Roundtable member contributions to hire consultants as needed.

Separately, Sunnyvale City Council directed staff to explore the possibility of installing airplane noise sound monitors. The City will be issuing a Request for Proposals in the coming months and through that

process, we anticipate using consulting services on how to properly locate and maintain noise monitoring equipment.

Can Sunnyvale add a link to the FAA Aviation Noise Ombudsman to file Complaints?

The City currently has a link to the FAA Aviation Noise Ombudsman located on the Airplane Noise web page: <https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/news/topics/noise/default.htm>

Can Sunnyvale officials request that the FAA not consider the Bayside Visual Approach procedure? Can we limit the number of flights using this approach?

The Bayside Visual Approach procedure, a six-month pilot, was proposed by the San Carlos Airport to guide flights into San Carlos airport through the bay. The proposal is subject to the FAA quality review process. Initially, the Bayside Visual Approach procedure included a waypoint over Sunnyvale, thereby navigating air traffic over the waypoint on its path to the bay. Prior to submitting the procedure for FAA review, the San Carlos Airport held several public meetings. After hearing resident concerns and complaints, San Carlos removed the waypoint over Sunnyvale, and according to San Carlos Airport officials, the Bayside Visual Approach procedure has not been used since June 17, 2018.

The City of Sunnyvale has no authority over the FAA's review process. It is our understanding that the procedure remains part of the FAA quality review process, which once completed, will be charted and published for use. The procedure is currently listed on the FAA's website with a scheduled publication date of April 25, 2019. To receive notifications on the status of the Bayside Visual Approach procedure visit:

https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/procedures/application/?event=procedure.results&tab=productionPlan&nasId=SQL#searchResultsTop

For information on the Bayside Visual Approach community involvement process, visit:

https://www.faa.gov/nextgen/nextgen_near_you/community_involvement/sql/

Separately, the San Carlos Airport will be holding a final public hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018 to finalize its Part 150 Noise Compatibility Program. Information on the meeting and the Part 150 documents can be found here:

<http://sancarlosnoise.airportstudy.com/public-involvement/>

What can be done about airplane emissions? What is FAA doing about it?

The City of Sunnyvale does not regulate or monitor aviation emissions or air quality in the city. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates air quality standards from aircraft including regulation for greenhouse gas emissions, nitrogen oxide emissions, lead emissions, and provides information on contrails from aircraft. That information can be found on the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/regulations-emissions-aircraft>

Locally, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District monitors local air pollution. File an air pollution complaint on their website:

<http://www.baaqmd.gov/online-services/air-pollution-complaints>