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July 28, 2016

The Honorable Glenn Hendricks
Mayor
City of Sunnyvale
456 West Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale, California 94086



Dear Mayor Hendricks:

Thank you for contacting the County of San Mateo regarding the new Bayside Visual Approach into the San Carlos Airport that was recently approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a six-month operational test from July 5, 2016 until January 5, 2017. This new arrival flight path is being used exclusively by Surf Air utilizing existing flight paths over Moffett Federal Airfield at a high altitude. The FAA and Surf Air were careful to overlay the Bayside Visual Approach over the existing straight-in flight routes so it would not create new impacts for residents of Sunnyvale.

The existing GPS approach into the San Carlos Airport, the route that Surf Air was using for every arrival prior to the implementation of the Bayside Visual Approach, has been in place for approximately 20 years. This approach into the San Carlos Airport overlays the cities of Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton and Redwood City. From a regional perspective, the new Bayside Visual Approach has the potential to mitigate aircraft disturbances for approximately 37,000 residents living in the cities noted above. When Surf Air flies over the City of Sunnyvale on the Bayside Visual Approach, their altitude is between 3,900 and 3,000 feet as they descend to pass over Moffett Federal Airfield enroute to the Bay. This altitude is approximately 1,800 feet higher than the altitude Surf Air was previously flying over the communities of North Fair Oaks and Redwood City on the GPS approach. Not unlike Sunnyvale, the County is extremely sensitive to aircraft noise impacts in our communities.

Surf Air currently flies an average of 15 arrivals per day into the San Carlos Airport (more on weekdays, less on weekends). During the next six months, the FAA is using the operational test to determine whether to implement the Bayside Visual Approach permanently based upon operational considerations, environmental impacts and community reaction. The County of San Mateo (County) and the FAA have discussed community outreach in the City of Sunnyvale (and Mountain View) to capture feedback and ensure that any impacts are addressed and documented. Admittedly, our outreach efforts should have been initiated prior to the implementation of the Bayside Visual Approach.



Following is a list of our immediate and longer-term remedies that the County would like to offer the residents of Sunnyvale in order to engage them as partners along with the County, FAA and Surf Air during the six-month operational test of the Bayside Visual Approach:

- The San Carlos Airport recently implemented PlaneNoise, a Noise Complaint Management System. There are two ways for residents to file aircraft noise complaints: by calling the toll-free Noise Complaint Hotline at (844) 266-6266 or by completing a Noise Complaint Form online at <http://publicworks.smcgov.org/airports>. All noise complaints along the Bayside Visual Approach are logged, reviewed, analyzed, mapped and reported to the County Board of Supervisors and the FAA.
- County staff is working to set up a dedicated website where community members can provide feedback regarding impacts from aircraft disturbances resulting from the Bayside Visual Approach.
- The County is willing to conduct Aircraft Noise Monitoring in the City of Sunnyvale using day-night average sound level (Ldn/DNL) and CNEL under the Bayside Visual Approach to determine any increased noise impact for residents.
- The County is currently working with consulting firms to study best practices to reduce noise for residents including, but not limited to, financial incentives for expanded voluntary and mandatory curfew hours, landing fees, pilot education and outreach programs, and revised airport policies and procedures. We are happy to share our consultant's findings and reports with you when we receive them.

With the healthy local economy, increased traffic congestion, expansion of Silicon Valley-based technology companies and associated housing shortages, local governments are all trying to balance the needs of the community, commerce, quality of life, and the environment. In fact, 45% of Surf Air's members work in the technology and financial industries, two industries that are driving economic growth in this region. While we struggle with this balance, the aviation industry is also growing and changing to meet the demands of the San Francisco Bay Area. Rest assured, we are partners in this issue with the City of Sunnyvale and look forward to working with you cooperatively during the FAA's operational test.

Sincerely,



Warren Slocum, President
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors



Supervisor Don Horsley, Vice President
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Supervisor David Pine
Supervisor Carole Groom
Supervisor Adrienne Tissier
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Michael Callagy, Assistant County Manager
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