Airplane Noise

Parts of Sunnyvale lie in the landing patterns of both Moffett Federal Airfield (Moffett Field) and San Jose International Airport or are near targets for aerial advertising campaigns, such as Levi’s Stadium. While the City has no direct authority over the entities that operate these properties, the City has long-standing policy that supports efforts to reduce or mitigate airport Noise (General Plan, Policy SN-10.2).

The City encourages residents to express their concerns about aviation-related noise to the appropriate agency as noted below.

IDENTIFYING AIRCRAFT

When contacting the appropriate agency, it is best to have some identifying information about the aircraft. All aircraft flying in this area are on radar and can be tracked via http://www.flysanjose.com/fl/environmental.php?page=monitor (Click on View WebTrak). This site allows you to click on a particular aircraft to see the tail number, current altitude, and speed (Image A) and includes current decibel readings at various noise monitor sites (Image B); a legend is also provided which shows the types of aircraft displayed (Image C).

All of this information will be necessary when contacting the FAA to complain about aircraft that are not following regulations.

MOFFETT FIELD

Moffett Field is currently operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Approximately 18,000 flight operations occur at Moffett Field each year. The Moffett Field Environmental Impact Statement limits flights to about 25,000 annually (the actual number limit depends on the air and noise emissions of the types of
aircraft that use the airfield). Approximately 62.5% of the flight operations are military aircraft; 12.5% is for medical and emergency purposes; and the remaining 25% is for NASA, its contractors, partners, and other users.

- Moffett Field Noise hotline: (650) 604-2940.
- San Jose FAA (408) 291-7681

Other noise sources at Moffett Field include wind tunnel facilities and the Outdoor Aerodynamic Research Facility. To report wind tunnel noise, or to get more information, call (650) 604-5054.

**SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**San Jose International Airport (SJC)** flight patterns affect residents in northeast Sunnyvale. The Aircraft Noise Monitoring Center was established to monitor the aircraft noise impacts on the surrounding communities. The center maintains a database that records both aircraft operations and noise inquiries.

This information is available in the form of a Monthly Noise Summary found at [http://www.flysanjose.com/fl/environmental/Noise_Summary.html](http://www.flysanjose.com/fl/environmental/Noise_Summary.html).


- SJC Noise hotline (408) 452-0707
- Noise Complaint web form
- San Jose FAA (408) 291-7681

**Not Sure of the Origin or Destination of Aircraft?** If you are not sure which airport is the origin or destination of the aircraft you are hearing, call the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) noise number. SFO has system capabilities that can determine the origin or destination of all air traffic.

- SFO Noise Hotline (650) 821-5100
- [www.flyquietsfo.com](http://www.flyquietsfo.com)

**HELICOPTER NOISE IMPACTS**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is in the process of implementing rulemaking on helicopter noise standards. Implementation will take place after the Agency issues the final rule which is anticipated in 2014. The FAA encourages affected parties, yourself included, to contact the helicopter operator directly for information regarding the helicopter operations you are experiencing.

Federal Aviation Administration Resources
Who To Contact If You’re Impacted By Aircraft Noise:
http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/noise_emissions/airport_aircraft_noise_issues/noise/

Noise and Emissions: http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/noise_emissions/

Local FAA Office - San Jose FSDO (Flight Standards District Office):
http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/sjc/

San Jose FAA (408) 291-7681

Printable document

AIRCRAFTS FLYING NEAR/AROUND LEVI’S STADIUM

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulates the altitude and airworthiness of aircraft; the only regulation regarding aircraft flying/towing banners is that their altitude must be at least 1000 feet above any structure they are flying over in a city (with the exception of take-off, landing, or with express consent of Air Traffic Control). The requirement while flying over farmland drops to at least 500 feet and there is no minimum altitude when flying over open water.

In addition, there are Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs), issued by the FAA for NFL games, major league baseball games, some car races and some college sports activities. For NFL games, the restriction starts one hour before the scheduled game start time and ends one hour afterwards. This type of TFR doesn't apply to scheduled commercial traffic. The TFR does restrict traffic up to 3,000 feet above the stadium and within a three nautical mile radius of the stadium.

Your options to express concern are as follows:

San Jose FAA (408) 291-7681

Levi’s Stadium Customer Service at (408) 673-2100 or by email at neighbors@levisstadium.com