

November 30, 2016

Mr. Glen Martin
Regional Administrator
Western-Pacific Region
Federal Aviation Administration
P.O. Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA 90009

Subject: Noise Impacts of South Flow Landing Approach

Dear Mr. Martin:

Over the past several months the Norman Y. Mineta International Airport (SJC) staff has received a significant increase in concerns from Sunnyvale residents over the growing use and noise impacts of the south flow landing approach.

The most common concern expressed by Sunnyvale residents is the density of aircraft passing over their community. Specifically, the ZORSA waypoint on the RNAV Z approach is located directly over a residential neighborhood. Our analysis shows that, historically, when aircraft over the waypoint downwind of SJC runway 12R/L were dispersed over a wide area, there were few complaints from Sunnyvale residents. With the majority of aircraft now consistently passing within a narrow corridor over the waypoint, Sunnyvale residents are experiencing increased noise disturbance from the passing aircraft. Consequently, the number of complaints we are receiving from Sunnyvale is rapidly growing.

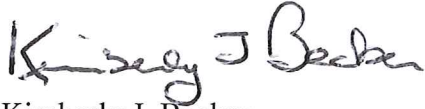
We have heard the complaints from multiple channels – directly from Sunnyvale officials, at a well-attended Sunnyvale town hall meeting, at our Airport Commission meeting and from numerous complaints received by the Airport's Noise Office.

Since air traffic procedures are within the sole jurisdiction the FAA, I am writing to ask if your staff could review south flow flight procedures with the goal of identifying possible solutions to reduce the noise impacts on Sunnyvale residents. We realize that safety cannot be compromised and that retaining operational efficiencies is critical. We also understand and support the FAA's policy of not simply shifting noise from one part of the region to another. However, within these parameters we would ask that the FAA identify possible solutions that work for all concerned parties and could bring some degree of noise relief to Sunnyvale residents.

As an airport that operates in a densely urban environment, we believe it is important to minimize the Airport's environmental impacts on surrounding communities to the extent allowed by safety and efficiency considerations. We are therefore encouraging the FAA to work with Sunnyvale officials, and other key stakeholders, to identify possible solutions. Towards that end, SJC stands ready to appropriately participate in any FAA review of this issue.

We appreciate your efforts to work with the region's cities on aircraft noise through the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals. We hope you will be willing to undertake a similar approach on the south flow issue.

Sincerely,



Kimberly J. Becker
Director of Aviation

cc: Mayor and City Council – City of San José
Mayor Glen Hendricks – City of Sunnyvale