

# CITY OF SUNNYVALE

*The Heart of Silicon Valley*<sup>SM</sup>

456 WEST OLIVE AVENUE    SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086    (408) 730-7473

May 25, 2017

Glenn Hendricks  
Mayor

Gustav Larsson  
Vice Mayor

Jim Griffith  
Councilmember

Larry Klein  
Councilmember

Nancy Smith  
Councilmember

Russ Melton  
Councilmember

Michael S. Goldman  
Councilmember

Mr. Dennis Roberts  
Western-Pacific Regional Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
15000 Aviation Blvd.  
Lawndale, CA 90261

**RE:    Surf Air, Inc. Request to Make Permanent Bayside Visual Approach (BVA)**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On behalf of the Sunnyvale City Council and our community, thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on Surf Air, Inc.'s request to make permanent the Bayside Visual Approach ("BVA"). I believe that it comes as no surprise, that the City of Sunnyvale strongly opposes the BVA because of the extraordinary adverse noise impacts over North Sunnyvale and that the City strongly supports Surf Air studying alternate flight paths and/or other ideas to mitigate the impact on our residents. I will also note that even non-BVA flights impact Southern Sunnyvale and we would look forward to a solution that addresses the entire Sunnyvale Surf Air flight issue – not just the BVA.

The City has a long-standing policy to preserve and enhance the quality of neighborhoods by maintaining or reducing the levels of noise generated by transportation activities, including airports. The City is committed to advocating a regional, balanced solution that would help mitigate the disproportionate noise over communities that don't have airports, such as Sunnyvale.

In January of 2017, the FAA ended the pilot procedure program for the BVA. It is our understanding from former FAA Western Region Administrator Glen Martin that the Mayor would be invited to meet with the FAA to share our concerns directly with those who decide air traffic flow. Several attempts to schedule this meeting have been futile and as of today, we are still awaiting a meeting date.

The City of Sunnyvale has been informed that Surf Air has officially requested to make the BVA permanent. On behalf of the Sunnyvale City Council and our community, we do not support the BVA procedure for either Instrument or Visual flight rules for the following reasons:

1. Based on the pilot procedure for the BVA that was flown in 2016, it has been clearly demonstrated that the BVA imposes an undue negative noise impact to Sunnyvale residents.
2. This shifting of airplane noise from one neighborhood to another negatively and disproportionately impacts our communities. The fact that this crosses County borders is even more inappropriate.

I would like to address the "success criteria" for approving the BVA and confirm that the noise impact to Sunnyvale residents is a success criteria in this decision. The fact that Surf Air is flying the BVA during Visual Flight rules should not be used as rationale for implementing this procedure.

Additionally, I am interested in the following information:

- a. Contact information for our residents to provide early input on the BVA procedure request.
- b. Timeframe for when public hearings will be held on the BVA procedure.
- c. Status and high-level project plan for reviewing the BVA, including decision-making timeframe and criteria.
- d. List of organizations (including cities, airports, or counties) that are on record as supporting the BVA and have requested it become permanent.
- e. Links to documentation related to the BVA proposal, as well as any publicly accessible documents that have been created as part of reviewing this procedure (including any current drafts).

The City of Sunnyvale is concerned that there are organizations that will deny the many resident complaints of the BVA and its effects on our neighborhoods. Surf Air BVA flights are not random events, they are very regular occurrences, and each flight brings with it the same negative noise impact. Once a resident has complained about a Surf Air flight three times, it should be considered that every future Surf Air BVA flight impacts that resident.

We request the FAA implement a regional aircraft noise reporting system which will ease the process in which a person files a complaint regarding air noise in their neighborhood. The current process is currently ineffective and places an inappropriate burden on the person filing the complaint. While it is widely known that complaint rates drop off since residents are discouraged when they do not see any action taken to address their concerns, the reduction in complaints filed should not be a factor for total Noise Complaints for the BVA procedure.

I would also like to address a non-technical issue regarding Surf Air and their business practices: Surf Air management understands Sunnyvale residents have a concern with the BVA used by Surf Air. While I have made several efforts to contact their representatives, they have refused to meet with myself and other City officials. This proves that Surf Air does not have any regard for the impact their flight operations have on our residents. They are only concerned about using a flight path that benefits the operation of their business and have turned a deaf ear to the impact that they are having on residents. I have written documentation from Surf Air instructing me to contact the FAA or the San Carlos Airport, which implies that they are trying to focus the responsibility of the BVA on the FAA and the San Carlos Airport, and not where it rightfully belongs; Surf Air and its flight operations. Surf Air does not appear to have any interest in collaborating with other stakeholders to work through these challenges or provide information for communication to impacted residents.

Once again, the City of Sunnyvale strongly opposes the BVA procedure and we are deeply concerned with the negative effects of Surf Air flight operations over Northern and Southern Sunnyvale, regardless of the BVA. We believe that Surf Air is capable of studying and implementing alternate flight paths and/or other mitigations that will reduce the noise impact on our residents. I look forward to working with you and FAA staff towards a mutually beneficial solution and in receiving the information requested above.

Sincerely,



Glenn Hendricks  
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Ro Khanna, U.S. Congress  
The Honorable Anna Eshoo, U.S. Congress  
The Honorable Dave Cortese, President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Joe Simitian, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
Jeff Potter, CEO- Surf Air, Inc.  
Sunnyvale City Council  
Deanna J. Santana, City Manager