

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0517

October 16, 2017

Dennis E. Roberts
Regional Administrator, Western-Pacific Region
Federal Aviation Administration
15000 Aviation Boulevard
Lawndale, CA 90261

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Given the FAA's longstanding policy that aircraft noise abatement shall not be accomplished by moving air traffic from one neighborhood to another, a policy that I support, it is clear that the proposed Bayside Visual Approach (BVA) for SurfAir flights into San Carlos Airport should not be approved.

The BVA approach was created in order to reduce aircraft noise above Atherton, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto and has the effect of increasing noise over Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Cupertino. Furthermore, SurfAir flights started following the BVA route without any of the communities in my district having been consulted. This is a violation of the policy you described in the meeting we organized on March 22 that each possibly affected community must be consulted before a new procedure is submitted through the Instrument Flight Procedures (IFP) Gateway. SurfAir chief pilot Charles Cavaris openly acknowledged this policy was violated and expressed sympathy with our constituents at FAA's September 27 outreach meeting in San Jose as reported in the *San Jose Mercury News*.

I received many constituent complaints that this outreach meeting was held in unaffected San Jose, despite multiple prior requests to hold it in Sunnyvale. FAA's refusal to hold this public meeting in an area affected by aircraft noise followed your letter of May 30 which did not acknowledge the request in my letter to you of April 18 for the workshop-style public informational meeting that you verbally committed to during the March 22 meeting. Rather than moving forward with our requested public meeting, where citizens would have been able to ask questions directly to FAA representatives, you recommended the formation of a roundtable group, which could only submit requests remotely to FAA without direct conversation.

In my letter of April 18, I asked you a question first posed by Sunnyvale Mayor Glenn Hendricks: Will FAA assist in developing modified procedures within the existing SJC south flow corridor to help reduce noise impacts? In our March 22 meeting, you told the assembled group that if I sent you an official letter specifying the "purpose and need" of such help, that

FAA would provide it. I did so, but the answer was that SJC uses south flow as little as possible, which is already known but did not respond to my question.

San Mateo County's request for the BVA procedure to be approved was developed without input from all affected communities and therefore should be rejected by your agency. I appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to continuing our work together to ensure safe and secure air travel as well as a fair measure of consideration to the communities affected by noise resulting from air traffic. I ask that you give this letter your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Khanna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress