

Legislative Advocacy Position

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REGARDING AIRPLANE NOISE

The City continues to monitor air noise concerns that could impact our residents. In Santa Clara, the source of air noise comes from various activities from regional international airports, general aviation airports, and Moffett Federal Airfield. Ultimately, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is primarily responsible for air traffic control, and our region continues to advocate for air noise mitigation.

In June 2017, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County (CASCC) received a Congressional request from Representatives Eshoo, Khanna and Panetta asking the CASCC to take a leadership role in forming a regional aircraft noise roundtable. The CASCC formed an Ad Hoc Committee to build the framework of forming a roundtable that works for the region. The roundtable, conceived to include the 21 local jurisdictions of Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, will work together with San Francisco Airport, Minéta San José Airport, and the FAA, and address the growing concern of aircraft noise.

At the CASCC Board of Directors meeting on June 14, 2018, the Ad Hoc Committee presented their recommendations to form a Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Airport Roundtable. The Committee recommended a number of items, including a resolution for Board approval, proposed by-laws, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Roundtable, and draft resolutions for participating jurisdictions.

At the July 17, 2018 meeting, Council adopted a resolution for Santa Clara to participate in the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Airport Community Roundtable and approved the appropriation of funds for the City's participation. While the City does not have direct authority over air space, City staff will continue to work with regional agencies and federal representatives and authorities to mitigate the effect on our residents.