



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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July 8, 2019

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Palo Alto, CA 94301

Congressmember Jimmy Panetta
100 Est Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901

Congressmember Jackie Speier
155 Bovet Road, Suite 780
San Mateo, CA 94402

Congressmember Ro Khanna
3150 Del La Cruz Blvd., Suite 240
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Dear Honorable Members of Congress:

We are writing to acknowledge and fully support the June 18, 2019 letter from the Congressional Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (Committee) to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). As you are aware, the letter asks for a study regarding how the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has considered community noise impacts while implementing the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen).

The questions posed by the Committee articulate the core challenges that have arisen since NextGen has been deployed in major metropolitan areas across the US, including San Francisco International Airport (SFO). Since March 2015 when the south bay arrival flight procedure shifted over Santa Cruz County to SFO, a public outcry has been

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heard and continues today regarding what is still viewed as an abrupt change lacking public transparency and accountability on the part of the FAA.

We have significant concerns regarding how the FAA measures noise, the comprehensiveness of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review the FAA conducts and the absence of transparency and public discussion prior to the implementation of new procedures. Further, we strongly disagree with the current regulations that do not require the FAA to mitigate serious noise impacts affecting those living under NextGen. This situation has created a perfect storm for public outcry and has divided communities across the US where NextGen procedures have been deployed.

We look forward to learning the results of the GAO's study and hope that the information leads to regulatory reform. Affected communities should be fully informed regarding noise and environmental impacts and have an opportunity to weigh in prior to deployment of new procedures.

Thank you in advance for your efforts regarding this matter.



BRUCE MCPHERSON, Supervisor
Fifth District

Sincerely,



RYAN COONERTY, Supervisor
Third District

RC/BAM: jr

Enclosure

cc: FAA Acting Administrator Daniel K. Elwell
FAA Western Regional Director Raquel Girvin
Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable
Santa Cruz City Council
Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors