



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
(831) 454-2200 • FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD/TTY - Call 711

JOHN LEOPOLD
FIRST DISTRICT

ZACH FRIEND
SECOND DISTRICT

RYAN COONERTY
THIRD DISTRICT

GREG CAPUT
FOURTH DISTRICT

BRUCE MCPHERSON
FIFTH DISTRICT

July 8, 2019

The Honorable Mary-Lynne Bernald, Chair
Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable
c/o Cities Association of Santa Clara County
P.O. Box 3144
Los Altos, CA 94024

Dear Chair Bernald and Members of the Roundtable:

We are writing in response to the comments and testimony given at the June 26, 2019 meeting of the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable (SCSCRT) by Members of the Roundtable, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) representatives and members of the public. The purpose of our letter is to give the new SCSCRT additional historical context to your current discussion relative to moving the SERFR STAR path back to BSR. As you are aware, only two members of the SCSCRT served on the Congressional Select Committee on SFO South Bay Arrivals. Beyond the various detailed reports provided to the SCSCRT in preparation for your work, there is information of which you may not be aware that is essential to the proceedings.

Since the BSR procedure was moved over SERFR under NextGen, we have been aligned with our members of Congress that immediate relief for those suffering from jet noise was just and fair, but "moving the noise" was not acceptable. We have been and will continue to be advocates for both immediate relief and not moving the noise. When our Board joined the SCSCRT and appointed our CAO to represent us, he was given these same directives.

The Santa Cruz community is tremendously divided over the Select Committee's recommendation to move the path back to BSR. The division is reflected in the 8-4

Page 2
July 8, 2019

Congressional Select Committee vote to move the path back to BSR. Of the four appointees on the Select Committee that represented Santa Cruz County, two voted to move the path and two voted against it. Our community was then, and remains, deeply divided.

For additional context, the Select Committee was able to reach true regional consensus on 46 out of the 47 recommendations made in their final report to Members of Congress. All but three of those votes were unanimous. The vote to move the path back was the only one to barely cross the threshold for approval by one vote. Subsequent to the Select Committee finalizing its recommendations, one of the members stated he would not have voted to move the path if he had known the FAA would not incorporate the 9 criteria that were unanimously approved, of which 3 cannot be met according to the FAA.

In a recent letter we sent to the FAA, with a copy to the SCSCRT, we advocated for the agency to conduct a comprehensive National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review, gather field noise measurements on the impacts to moving the path and coordinate public workshops so those currently affected by noise, and those to be affected by moving the path, will understand the impacts in advance of permanent implementation. We encourage the SCSCRT to embrace these same expectations of the FAA in the hope that a transparent public process will prevent moving the noise.

The majority of residents who lived under the historic BSR flight path as well as those suffering under the current SERFR STAR, more than 120,000 residents, live in our two supervisorial districts. We can assure you that if the current SERFR noise moves back to BSR, a new generation of community protests will emerge. Conducting a public transparent process prior to even considering moving the path back would be a major step in the right direction. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.



BRUCE MCPHERSON, Supervisor
Fifth District

Sincerely,



RYAN COONERTY, Supervisor
Third District

RC/BAM: jr

cc: The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
The Honorable Anna Eshoo
The Honorable Jackie Speier
The Honorable Ro Khanna

FAA Western Regional Director Raquel Girvin
Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable
Santa Cruz City Council
Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors