



Memorandum

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco
Councilmember Chappie Jones
Councilmember Johnny Khamis
Councilmember Raul Peralez

Subject: SEE BELOW

Date: August 10, 2018

Approved:  

SUBJECT: CITIES ASSOCIATION OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY – SANTA CLARA / SANTA CRUZ AIRPORT ROUNDTABLE

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct staff to continue exploring utilization of the Regional Airport Planning Committee, or RAPC, within MTC rather than the creation of a new entity.
2. Defer consideration of joining the Santa Clara / Santa Cruz Airport Roundtable being formed by the Cities Association of Santa Clara County until the City receives a response from the FAA to the recommendations of the Airport Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals.
3. Adopt the position that future participation in the Santa Clara / Santa Cruz Airport Roundtable be conditioned on the following changes to the governance and structure of the body:
 - a) Proportional representation based on population for member jurisdictions.
 - b) Recommendations from the Roundtable require a 2/3 majority to ensure consensus.
 - c) Amending the bylaws of the Roundtable so that no recommendations will be made that would only result in shifting noise to another community.
 - d) Recommendations from the Roundtable that require a significant change in operations at the San José Airport, as determined by City staff, require approval by the San José City Council.

BACKGROUND

We appreciate the efforts of the Cities Association to respond to the request from our Congressional delegation to create a forum for aircraft noise concerns. As operator of the Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport (SJC), we want to be responsive and proactive to the concerns of our residents and neighbors. We know that recently there have been concerns raised with regard to noise when SJC is in its south flow operation. It was with these concerns in mind that the City

Council created the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals in October of 2017. Recommendations from this committee were only recently forwarded to the FAA for its review. We believe it is important to wait for these recommendations to be reviewed and responded to first so that we are not duplicating efforts. Additionally, we should continue to explore the utilization of existing forums and bodies, such as RAPC, rather than creating a new entity.

Beyond receiving feedback from the FAA on the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on South Flow Arrivals, we are also concerned with the governance and structure of the proposed Santa Clara / Santa Cruz Airport Roundtable. Unless changes are made, we cannot recommend participation by San José or our airport staff. San José represents a majority of the population of Santa Clara County, but would only be allowed one representative and one vote at the roundtable. This is also while we are being asked to contribute financially based on population. San José should be given equal representation and votes in line with its population. Additionally, recommendations from the Roundtable can be adopted by a simple majority vote. This model would not result in consensus-based decision-making that will be key in working towards regional and mutually acceptable solutions.

Most importantly, we want there to be a clear understanding that under no circumstances will noise problems simply be moved to another community. San José has a clear policy directive to oppose changes in legislation, policies, regulations, guidelines, or procedures that would result in an increase of aircraft noise impacts on San José residents without an increased benefit to the community. During the Ad Hoc Committee process there were attempts to move noise to an Eastern Approach over communities in East San José. Moving a problem is not a solution. The Roundtable should have a core principle in place to prevent the body from making recommendations that go down this path.

Lastly, we are concerned about the participation of our SJC Airport staff in the Roundtable process. It is unclear how much time is needed and how many resources are required to support an effort such as this Roundtable. This is an added cost for which member jurisdictions are not being asked to contribute. Should San José and its staff participate in the Roundtable, we would seek to carefully monitor the time and level of effort required by staff – particularly, since no end date to the Roundtable is envisioned currently.

In the interest of regional cooperation, we would like to be able to say yes to the Santa Clara / Santa Cruz Roundtable. However, we cannot agree to the Roundtable as it is currently proposed.