



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

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Goleta City Council
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RE: Santa Barbara Airport – Aircraft Noise Action Plan

Dear Mayor Perotte,

Thank you for your letter expressing the City of Goleta's commitment to finding ways to lessen the impact of noise resulting from Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) operations. On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara City Council, we appreciate your collaboration and commend your efforts to work cooperatively on addressing noise concerns and building trust with surrounding communities.

We appreciate the acknowledgment of SBA Director Chris Hastert and the positive approach he has taken as a Goleta resident himself to engage with the Goleta City Council and residents. His leadership and the support of the professional airport staff has been instrumental in fostering a productive dialogue between our jurisdictions.

Regarding the City of Goleta Council public workshop held on December 7, 2022, we recognize the thoughtful and detailed comments that were shared by the Goleta City Council and the public on aircraft noise concerns. We value the strategies proposed during the workshop to address these concerns and believe that they form a solid foundation for further action which will be referred to as the Aircraft Noise Action Plan as referenced in your letter dated January 17, 2023 (attached).

We are pleased to inform you that the SBA staff and Airport Commission have carefully reviewed the proposed strategies within your letter. After thorough consideration, the City of Santa Barbara City Council fully supports the implementation of an Aircraft Noise Action Plan, and recommends categorization of the proposed strategies into three distinct areas:

1. Strategies Addressed Through an Airport Noise Compatibility Planning Study (14 CFR Part 150): (Strategies 1, 7, 9, 10, 13)

Several of the recommendations reference specific flight paths and affected communities. Due to changes in the current aircraft fleet mix utilizing the airport and development of additional housing near the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) campus and other areas, we recognize the need to update recommended procedures in and around SBA through an update to the previous 2004 FAA Part 150 noise study. The process of updating the noise study demonstrates a commitment to understanding and mitigating the concerns of affected communities. This effort will foster better communication and engagement between SBA, residents, and stakeholders, lending the Airport to make well informed decisions factoring in public comment and concerns through a comprehensive process encouraging input from all stakeholders.



Please consider the environment before printing this letter.

The Santa Barbara City Council wholeheartedly supports this effort and directs staff to begin coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to secure funding and plan for a comprehensive update of the Part 150 noise study. We believe that this updated study will provide valuable insights into the current noise landscape and help SBA formulate more effective strategies within the proposed Aircraft Noise Action Plan.

2. Strategies Addressed Through an Airport Noise Working Group: (Strategies 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8,)

The Part 150 Noise Study Process is not likely to start for at least 2 years due to the planning, funding, and coordination. Once started the process itself is also very time-consuming requiring time needed to gather data, conduct public outreach, and allow for FAA review.

While SBA awaits the completion of the updated FAA Part 150 noise study, Council recognizes that there is still important work that can be done to address the issue of aircraft noise in the interim. To assist staff in overseeing this effort, we endorse the establishment of a Noise Working Group. Bringing together key stakeholders including: airlines; corporate aircraft operator; flight training institutions; air traffic control representatives; neighborhood advocates; City of Goleta; County; and SBA, this collaborative platform will allow us to develop practical and effective noise mitigation strategies.

The Airport Noise Working Group could proactively address several of the recommendations that would not require as much public input, such as: encouraging all airlines serving our market to develop or use existing “proprietary” instrument approaches; addressing noise issues with new airlines or new routes with incumbent carriers; coordinating with the FAA to develop charted visual approaches; conducting outreach efforts; researching existing local conditions and other industry efforts that could be adopted locally; and evaluating other options to incentivize compliance with recommended noise abatement procedures.

3. Other: (Strategies 11, 12)

As staff continues to explore and refine a Noise Action Plan, additional strategies may emerge that do not fall directly under the purview of the Part 150 noise study or the Noise Working Group. We will remain flexible and open to considering other innovative solutions that align with our shared goals of minimizing noise impacts and fostering a harmonious environment for our communities. Other concerns including aircraft emissions may be beyond the purview of our City Council's powers and responsibilities, however we encourage staff to research and implement appropriate environmentally friendly practices within the aviation industry, which aligns perfectly with our shared goals of reducing the overall environmental impact of the Airport.

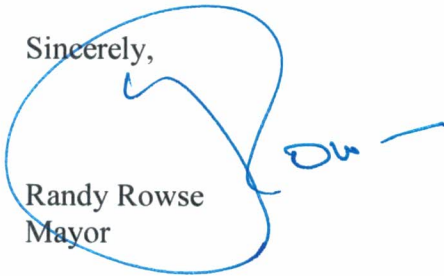
We recognize that our decisions can have far-reaching consequences, and we are committed to finding a balance that considers the negative impacts of airport operations with the benefits and economic impact to our local businesses, tourism markets, and general traveling public. As these decisions are being made, we seek information and recommendations from staff, and the Airport Commission as they remain focused exclusively on the operation of the Airport and industry updates, as well as input from the public and other interested parties.

When selecting Airport Commission members, the Council weighs several factors to ensure their success including demeanor, knowledge, experience, community interest, and diversity within those areas. As part of our commitment to transparency and inclusivity, we encourage Goleta and unincorporated county residents to submit applications to serve on the Santa Barbara Airport Commission. We understand the importance of geographical diversity in these appointments, and we will certainly consider this factor while making our Commission member appointments.

It is essential to acknowledge that there are certain limitations to the power of our City Council when it comes to making changes regarding noise or timing of aircraft flights. Many of these decisions fall under the jurisdiction of federal regulations and the FAA. Despite these limitations, we will continue to work diligently to find practical and effective solutions that alleviate noise concerns.

We look forward to initiating the Noise Action Plan and working together on addressing noise concerns through the strategies discussed above. We value the partnership between our cities and remain optimistic about the positive impact we can achieve through collaborative efforts.

Sincerely,



Randy Rowse
Mayor

cc: City of Goleta City Council Members
Joan Hartmann, Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor, Chair
Laura Capps, Santa Barbara County Second District Supervisor
Cecilia Fabulich, Clean and Quiet SBA
Robert Nisbet, Goleta City Manager
Peter Imhof, Goleta Planning and Environmental Review Department Director