



January 17, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL

CITY COUNCIL

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Mayor

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District 1

CITY MANAGER
Robert Nisbet

Santa Barbara City Council
City of Santa Barbara, City Hall
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

RE: Santa Barbara Airport – Aircraft Noise Action Plan

Dear Mayor Rowse and Councilmembers:

The Goleta City Council wishes to express appreciation for your willingness to work proactively and cooperatively with us to address noise concerns resulting from Santa Barbara Airport (Airport) operations. We also commend Airport staff for their collaborative approach under Airport Director Chris Hastert's leadership in working with Goleta staff and residents on these issues. In this regard, we would also like to request certain follow-up actions to the recent City of Goleta Council public workshop at which Airport staff presented information and responded to questions.

As you know, the Airport, which serves as an important commercial air travel hub for the region, is located within the City of Santa Barbara's jurisdiction adjacent to the City of Goleta. Airport operations, existing and planned, are of great interest and concern to the City of Goleta and its residents. The effects of flight noise, traffic, and other Airport-related impacts are felt broadly in the City of Goleta, as the City is almost entirely located within the Airport Influence Area. In particular, aircraft noise continues to be a concern for Goleta residents.

On December 7, 2022, the City of Goleta hosted a public workshop regarding Airport projects and aircraft noise. The presentation and response to Goleta City Council and public comment was led by City of Santa Barbara Airport Director Chris Hastert and his staff. During the workshop, detailed and extensive comments were expressed by the Council and public regarding aircraft noise concerns. Airport staff,

together with the Goleta City Council and public, explored a number of possible strategies to address noise concerns. Some of the strategies included:

- 1) Reinstate the Runways 7 and 25 voluntary flight procedure for visual and instrument flights over the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space and More Mesa area. The community desire is to include all operations within these corridors to the maximum extent possible.
- 2) Prepare charted visual approach procedures to align aircraft on flight paths that mitigate noise exposure over residential communities. These procedures can also improve communications between pilots and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic control tower (ATCT) to further encourage flight path compliance.
- 3) Incentivize airline compliance with noise abatement flight paths.
- 4) Encourage all four airlines serving the Airport to use a “proprietary” instrument approach procedure currently used by three of the four airlines.
- 5) Address noise issues and noise abatement compliance at the time the Airport negotiates with new airlines and new routes by existing airlines.
- 6) Address business jet operations and chartered aircraft separately from commercial airlines through outreach to Fixed Base Operators (FBO) supporting these owners and operators. Create noise mitigation procedures specifically for charter aircraft and business and private jets by aligning with National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA) Noise Abatement Program. Apply these procedures to east and west noise abatement corridors used for airline and general aviation operations.
- 7) Analyze and report on departure procedure use, which departure and arrival procedures are “quietest” and whether those are being used most often (if not, why). Explore solutions for reducing noise impacts especially during early morning and late evening hours.
- 8) Explore new outreach efforts to pilots to get them information on preferred approach and departure procedures and noise-mitigating measures.
- 9) Explore the potential benefits and costs of a voluntary aircraft noise curfew, understanding the trade-off that airlines and passengers would likely lose some flight connections.
- 10) Analyze and report on the fleet mix at the Airport, the number of older, louder aircraft still landing and departing, and hours of operation. Develop strategies to discourage older, louder aircraft use, especially during early morning and late evening hours.
- 11) Gather and report data on aircraft particulate emissions.
- 12) Advise on an amendment to Santa Barbara Airport Commission Charter to give the City of Goleta a permanent seat and voice in Airport decisions directly impacting the City. Include informal consideration of City of Goleta nominations for Commission representatives from the City of Goleta or County of Santa Barbara.

- 13) Develop “fly quiet” flight procedures for takeoff and arrival for all operations to mitigate noise impacts to residential areas around the Airport.

As a follow-up to the workshop, we are seeking your support and direction to Airport staff to develop an Airport Aircraft Noise Action Plan (Action Plan) as soon as possible. The Action Plan would build upon the strategies discussed during the workshop and include an implementation schedule. The Action Plan and implementation schedule would help address many noise complaints.

Thank you again for this opportunity to collaboratively address important Airport aircraft noise impacts that directly affect the Goleta community. We are open to ways that our elected officials and staff might further assist you and your staff in this regard. Together, we will find the necessary solutions that will support Airport operations while protecting the Goleta community from excessive and disruptive noise.

We appreciate the City Council’s consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at pperotte@cityofgoleta.org or Peter Imhof, Goleta Planning and Environmental Review Director, at pimhof@cityofgoleta.org or 805-961-7541, if you would like to discuss our request in more detail.

Sincerely,



Paula Perotte
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
Chris Hastert, Santa Barbara Airport Director
Cecilia Fabulich, Clean and Quiet SBA
Robert Nisbet, Goleta City Manager
Peter Imhof, Goleta Planning and Environmental Review Department Director