



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Board of Supervisors

DATE: October 15, 2002

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 29, 2002

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Airport Subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Resolution Recognizing and Congratulating the Management of San Francisco International Airport for Over 20 Years of Cooperative and Aggressive Aircraft Noise Abatement Efforts

Recommendation

Adopt a resolution recognizing and congratulating the management of San Francisco International Airport ("SFIA") for over twenty years of cooperative and aggressive aircraft noise abatement efforts.

Background

In 1972, the County of San Mateo designated SFIA a "noise problem airport" pursuant to the California Public Utilities Code and regulations promulgated thereunder (the "State Noise Standards"). The State Noise Standards provide that "the acceptable level of aircraft noise for persons living in the vicinity of airports is . . . a community noise equivalent level ['CNEL'] of 65 decibels," and that "[n]o airport proprietor of a noise problem airport shall operate with a *noise impact area*¹ based on the standard of 65 dB CNEL unless the operator has applied for or received a variance" Cal. Code Regs. tit. 21, § 5012 (emphasis added).

¹ The "noise impact area" is the area within the noise impact boundary that is composed of incompatible land uses. Applicable regulations define "noise impact boundary as "the locus of points around an airport for which the annual CNEL is equal to the airport noise standard established" in the State Noise Standards. "Incompatible land uses," in turn, are most types of residences within the noise impact boundary, unless an aviation easement for aircraft noise has been acquired by the airport, or the airport has made a "genuine effort" to acoustically treat the residence or acquire such an aviation easement, or both; and, unless an aviation easement for aircraft noise has been acquired for the property in question, public and private schools of standard construction, hospitals and convalescent homes, and places of worship.

Because SFIA had a noise impact area at the time it was designated as a noise problem airport, SFIA has been required to operate pursuant to variances issued by the California Department of Transportation (“CalTrans”). Under the terms of these variances, SFIA has engaged in a number of activities in conjunction with the County and other local jurisdictions to abate the effects of aircraft noise within the County. SFIA has also voluntarily undertaken noise abatement efforts not specifically mandated by the terms of the CalTrans variances.

Discussion

Subsequent to being designated a noise problem airport, SFIA established an Aircraft Noise Abatement Office, which has, among other things, developed a comprehensive noise abatement program, in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (the “FAA”), the County of San Mateo, other government entities located in San Mateo County, and airlines operating out of SFIA. This noise abatement program has substantially improved the quality of life for those San Mateo County residents most affected by the airport-related noise.

Among the key noise mitigation measures implemented by the Aircraft Noise Abatement Office are the following:

- **Noise Insulation Program:** Since 1983, SFIA has provided over \$131 million to assist several local jurisdictions (Daly City, Millbrae, Pacifica, San Bruno, South San Francisco, and the County) to insulate nearly 13,000 residences and several schools and churches.
- **Noise Monitoring System:** SFIA has established a comprehensive noise monitoring system consisting of numerous noise monitoring sites located in communities surrounding the airport.
- **Liaison With Airport/Community Roundtable:** SFIA participated in the creation of, and supports, the Airport/Community Roundtable (the “Roundtable”), whose membership is drawn from representatives from communities around the airport, the FAA, SFIA, and the airlines. The Aircraft Noise Abatement Office provides the Roundtable with noise-related studies and reports.
- **Reports:** The Aircraft Noise Abatement Office produces several periodic noise-related reports, including a monthly report to the Roundtable covering noise trends, as well as a quarterly noise report for the State of California.
- **Noise Abatement Flight Procedures:** The Aircraft Noise Abatement Office has worked closely with the FAA to ensure that flight procedures that minimize noise impacts, such as use of water facing runways, are employed to the maximum extent possible.

Due to SFIA’s many noise abatement efforts, taken in collaboration with San Mateo County and other local government entities, the County’s environment has been dramatically improved. Among SFIA’s most significant accomplishments is that the airport has reduced the noise impact area to zero. It is therefore appropriate for this Board to recognize and congratulate SFIA for its cooperative and aggressive noise abatement measures.

Vision Alignment

The proposed action furthers the goal of ensuring that leaders throughout the County provide the impetus for broader regional solutions in land use, housing, and transportation

Fiscal Impact

The proposed action will not have any fiscal impact.

MARK CHURCH, SUPERVISOR



MICHAEL NEVIN, SUPERVISOR


