



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: December 6, 2016

Subject

Aircraft Noise Study Session

Recommended Action

Conduct study session and provide direction to staff.

Background

The Mayor and City Councilmembers requested a study session to discuss aircraft noise issues after hearing complaints from Cupertino residents. Representatives from Anna Eshoo's and Mike Honda's offices have been invited to attend the meeting.

The aircraft noise stems from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) NextGen program, which has shifted some flight patterns south and over more populated areas in the South Bay. The FAA states that the changes were made to enhance safety and improve efficiency.

In April, U.S. Representatives Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18), Sam Farr (CA-20) and Jackie Speier (CA-14) formed the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals, which has been working with local stakeholders to develop regional solutions to address aircraft noise. The Select Committee is also comprised of 12 local elected officials.

On November 17, 2016 the Select Committee released a 27-page report with recommendations to Congress (Attachment A). The recommendations include:

- Flying at higher altitudes
- Flying over locations with fewer people
- Avoiding noisy flight maneuvers
- Implementing noise reduction retrofits where possible.

The report also identifies other potential solutions, long-term issues, and process issues.

Numerous resident-base community groups have been created across the Bay Area, including the Peninsula and South Bay. Some examples include:

- Quiet Skies NorCal: <http://quietskiesnorcal.org/>
- Quiet Skies Los Altos Hills: <http://www.quietskieslosaltoshills.org/>

- Quiet Skies Woodside: <http://quietskieswoodside.org/>
- Save Our Skies Santa Cruz: <http://www.sossantacruz.org/>

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Attachments:
A – Select Committee Report