



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

CITY HALL

10300 TORRE AVENUE • CUPERTINO, CA 95014-3255

TELEPHONE: (408) 777-3212 [www.cupertino.org](http://www.cupertino.org)

**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: October 17, 2017

Subject

Designation of a primary representative and alternate for the City of San Jose's Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals.

Recommended Action

Designate a primary representative and one alternate for the City of San Jose's Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals.

Discussion

Since the summer of 2016, the San Jose International Airport (SJC) has received many complaints from residents of surrounding communities related to noise impacts when the airport operates in south flow configuration. Normally, aircraft at SJC land descending from the south (over parts of downtown San Jose) and take off heading north. However, under certain weather conditions (mostly increased wind speed from the south), for the sake of operational safety, the FAA requires pilots of arriving aircraft to follow a "south flow" arrival procedure that can take descending aircraft over parts of Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Mountain View and other communities as they prepare to land at SJC.

The City has responded to resident complaints by advocating on behalf our residents and creating an aircraft noise webpage with information and resources for residents ([www.cupertino.org/aircraftnoise](http://www.cupertino.org/aircraftnoise)). In January, Mayor Vaidhyanathan and Cupertino staff met with Congressman Ro Khanna to discuss the community's aircraft noise concerns. Congressman Khanna agreed to support efforts to address the noise issue and convened a meeting with Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, and San Jose in March. Soon after, Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, and Congressman Ro Khanna sent a letter to the Cities Association of Santa Clara County requesting their assistance with establishing a long term forum for aircraft noise concerns in the South Bay. In response, the Cities Association formed an Ad Hoc Committee where Mayor Vaidhyanathan serves as the City of Cupertino's representative.

In September, San Jose Airport staff proposed the formation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals at the San Jose City Council's Transportation and Environment Committee meeting. Cupertino staff attended and expressed the City's support for the formation of the ad hoc advisory committee with the expectation of collaboration between this committee and the Cities Association's Ad Hoc Committee regarding aircraft noise. The San Jose City Council authorized the formation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee at their October 3, 2017 meeting.

The charge of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee will be to:

- Gather input, concerns, and comments from the general public on the south flow issue.
- Identify and discuss possible options to address this procedure's noise impacts.
- Recommend potential "feasible" options for FAA consideration.

The operating parameters are as follows:

- The focus is on the south flow issue only.
- The Committee will sunset after 120 days.
- The Committee will not adopt any recommendations that will impact a community not represented on the Committee.
- Every city in Santa Clara County, as well as the County of Santa Clara, will be invited to participate on the Committee. Each jurisdiction is welcome to appoint one elected official and one elected alternate, except the City of San José, which will have two representatives.
- Each participating jurisdiction will have one vote on the Committee, except the City of San Jose, which will have two votes.
- At least 2/3rds of participating members will be needed to adopt a recommendation.
- The FAA will have the sole authority to determine the "feasibility" of any proposed recommendations.
- A final report with preliminarily feasible recommendations would be shared with FAA and Congressional offices for their information and review.

The City of Cupertino has been invited to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee and must designate one primary representative and one alternate by November 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to join. Mayor Vaidhyathan currently represents Cupertino on the Cities Association Ad Hoc Committee regarding aircraft noise and has expressed interest in serving as the primary representative for San Jose's Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. She also suggested Councilmember Steven Scharf as the alternate representative.

Sustainability Impact

None anticipated.

Fiscal Impact

None anticipated at this time.

---

Prepared by: Katy Nomura, Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Jacqueline Guzman, Deputy City Manager

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Email Invitation from the City of San Jose

B – City of San Jose Memorandum

C – City of San Jose Presentation