

**From:** Adams, Janelle [<mailto:JAdams@sjc.org>] **On Behalf Of** Aitken, John  
**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2017 8:55 AM  
**To:** Aitken, John <[JAitken@sjc.org](mailto:JAitken@sjc.org)>  
**Subject:** South Flow Arrivals - Gov't Stakeholders

On behalf of Mayor Sam Liccardo and the San José City Council, we are inviting all Santa Clara County cities and the County of Santa Clara to participate on the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals.

Since the summer of 2016, the San José International Airport has received many complaints from residents of surrounding communities related to noise impacts when the Airport operates in south flow configuration (when planes take off and land in the reverse direction of the typical north flow operations). In response to resident concerns, and to a recommendation from the San José Airport Commission, on October 3, 2017, the San José City Council authorized the formation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on South Flow Arrivals.

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

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

The operating parameters of the Committee adopted by the City Council 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 José, which will have two votes.
- ✓ At least 2/3<sup>rds</sup> 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.

FAA representatives can participate in Committee meetings, when invited, to provide technical information, but the FAA is not a member and does not vote on Committee recommendations. Therefore, appropriate FAA staff has agreed to participate in the Committee's meetings. Their role will be to provide information on the south flow procedure and provide feedback on the feasibility of any Committee recommendations to address the noise impacts. The FAA Air Traffic Organization can provide technical expertise on operational issues and airspace procedure design when requested by the Committee.

The FAA will look for the Committee to make “well-established” recommendations that involve potential airspace operational changes through the airport sponsor. A “well-established” recommendation would have some recognition of the impacts (e.g., to the airspace and all potentially affected communities) and thorough discussion/vetting takes place during the Committee’s meetings before adoption for FAA for consideration – especially if it involves amending or creating a new procedure. After the FAA determines a recommendation to be initially feasible and flyable, from a safety and efficiency perspective, the FAA has to conduct mandated environmental and safety reviews. It is important for the Committee to understand that its recommendations will be new actions whose associated reviews have many steps, are dependent on available resources and may take a period of months to accomplish. With the above understanding, the FAA is willing to subsequently take a more detailed look at any adopted recommendation it initially determines may have the potential to reduce the noise impact on residents while allowing the agency to accomplish its mandate to ensure the safe and efficient use of the National Airspace System. Mineta San José International Airport staff will provide non-technical support. To reiterate, neither the FAA nor Airport staff will vote on Committee recommendations (although the City of San José will be voting members of the Committee).

If your jurisdiction would like to participate on the Ad Hoc Committee, we ask that you designate one primary representative and one alternate representative that will participate when the primary representative is unable to attend a meeting. Both representatives must be elected officials. **We ask that you provide us the name, email address and a daytime phone number for each appointed representative by no later than close of business Friday, November 3, 2017.** We also ask that each primary appointee also identify days of the week and parts of day (morning or afternoon) that work best for them for regular meetings (e.g., Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons). Please provide at least three days and times that would work for you. We anticipate that meetings will occur during daytime business hours and would last a maximum of three hours. Based on the information we receive, we will look to schedule meetings to encourage maximum attendance. Please send the name of your primary and alternate appointees to Assistant to the Director James Webb, Jr. Mr. Webb’s email address is [jwebb@sjc.org](mailto:jwebb@sjc.org).

We are planning an organizational meeting in San José sometime in the mid-November timeframe. We hope to confirm the date, time as well as the location as quickly as we can in the near future. In the meantime, please provide us with the requested information about your designated representative and alternate. The purpose of the organizational meeting will be to review the parameters of the Committee’s operation, elect a chair and vice chair and discuss a draft work plan to guide the overall effort. FAA staff will also be present at the meeting and will offer comment. This meeting will *not* get into the substance of the south flow issue and while the meeting will be open to the public, no public comment will be taken at this specific meeting. We anticipate the organizational meeting will be relatively short.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee is the region’s opportunity to talk with the FAA about possible remedies to reduce the noise impacts of the south flow procedure. If your jurisdiction is interested in participating on this committee, please provide us with the information requested above by Friday, November 3. Any questions about this committee can be directed to Mr. Webb. Mr. Webb can be reached via email at [jwebb@sjc.org](mailto:jwebb@sjc.org) or at (408) 392-3609.

Sincerely,

John Aitken, A.A.E.  
Director of Aviation