

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2017

Ms. Joanne Benjamin, Interim Executive Director
 Cities Association of Santa Clara County
 Post Office Box 1079
 Los Gatos, California 95031

Dear Ms. Benjamin,

We write to request your assistance with the establishment of a long term forum for aircraft noise concerns in the South Bay. There is a critical need in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties for a permanent venue to address aircraft noise concerns and we think it is essential that this body include all currently unrepresented cities in our Congressional Districts. Because you represent each of the 15 cities within Santa Clara County, we respectfully request your assistance with developing an intergovernmental partnership between the cities in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport (SJC), and San Francisco International Airport (SFO) that will serve as a permanent aircraft noise mitigation entity representing all affected communities in the South Bay and Santa Cruz County.

Between May and November, 2016, the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals, a temporary committee of 12 local elected officials appointed by Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, Congressman Sam Farr, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier, convened meetings to receive public input and develop regional consensus on recommendations to reduce aircraft noise caused by SFO flights and airspace, and procedural changes related to the Federal Aviation Administration's Next Generation Air Transportation System. Among the many recommendations that received unanimous approval by the former Committee was the need for a permanent venue to represent currently disenfranchised communities in addressing aircraft noise concerns including, but not limited to SFO. This recommendation stems from the fact that our mutual constituents in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, do not currently belong to a permanent aircraft noise mitigation entity such as the SFO Airport/Community Roundtable.

Recently, the SJC Airport Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the San José City Council approve the establishment of a roundtable forum at SJC to address the noise impacts of the Airport's South Flow operations. While we agree with the Commission that there is a significant demand for an aircraft noise mitigation entity to represent constituents in the South Bay, it is imperative that any potential body not be confined to SJC or SFO related issues and also include representation of all affected and currently unrepresented communities in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. Although the participation by elected officials in each affected city is essential, it is critical that the establishment of such a body should not be unilaterally implemented by one city, but instead be led collectively by the entire affected region.


We've enclosed a copy of the SFO Airport/Community Roundtable's Purpose and Bylaws which can serve as a model in the South Bay. We would like the Cities Association to collect input from your membership, provide suggestions from each of the cities within your jurisdiction, and to work with the County of Santa Cruz and the Directors of SJC and SFO to develop an intergovernmental partnership modeled after the SFO Airport/Community Roundtable and referred to as the South Bay Airport Roundtable. This body should serve as the permanent

aircraft noise mitigation entity representing each city within each county, and with jurisdiction spanning aircraft noise issues including but not limited to those related to either SJC or SFO. We recommend that the FAA agree to provide technical assistance as needed, and that like the SFO Airport/Community Roundtable, SJC would be responsible for hosting and staffing meetings. To ensure equitable regional representation, each city and county should have the opportunity to appoint one Member and one Alternate who are local elected officials to serve on the body, elect their own leadership, and participate in helping to fund the effort just as the SFO Airport/Community Roundtable does. Once it is conceived, the newly formed South Bay Airport Roundtable could also work with the SFO Airport/Community Roundtable to establish a joint subcommittee to address complex overlapping issues related to the Midpeninsula.

We understand that developing solutions to aircraft noise issues is a complicated and sensitive endeavor that requires extensive engagement with constituents living in affected communities facing sometimes separate but ultimately interrelated issues. Because of this, any proposed changes to our complex airspace should not be the burden of one single city and can only be achieved fairly and effectively with a foundation of regional consensus. The establishment of a permanent South Bay entity is the fundamental prerequisite to ensuring that there is a platform to develop regional consensus upon and thereby ensure any current and future aircraft noise concerns of our mutual constituents can be adequately addressed.

We hope you will accept our request to adopt a leadership role in helping to meet this important regional need. Thank you in advance for your attention to our request and we look forward to your timely response and assistance.

Sincerely, *and gratefully,*



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

cc: Members, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Members, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Liz Gibbons, Mayor, City of Campbell
The Honorable Savita Vaidhyanathan, Mayor, City of Cupertino
The Honorable Roland Velasco, Mayor, City of Gilroy
The Honorable Mary Prochnow, Mayor, City of Los Altos
The Honorable Gary Waldeck, Mayor, Town of Los Altos Hills
The Honorable Marico Sayoc, Mayor, Town of Los Gatos
The Honorable Rich Tran, Mayor, City of Milpitas
The Honorable Marshall Anstandig, Mayor, City of Monte Sereno
The Honorable Steve Tate, Mayor, City of Morgan Hill
The Honorable Ken Rosenberg, Mayor, City of Mountain View
The Honorable Gregory Scharff, Mayor, City of Palo Alto
The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor, City of San José
The Honorable Lisa Gillmor, Mayor, City of Santa Clara
The Honorable Emily Lo, Mayor, City of Saratoga
The Honorable Glenn Hendricks, Mayor, City of Sunnyvale
The Honorable Stephanie Harlan, Mayor, City of Capitola
The Honorable Cynthia Chase, Mayor, City of Santa Cruz

The Honorable Randy Johnson, Mayor, City of Scotts Valley
The Honorable Oscar Rios, Mayor, City of Watsonville
The Honorable Elizabeth Lewis, Chair, San Francisco International Airport/Community
Roundtable
Mr. John Aitken, Interim Director of Aviation, Norman Y. Mineta San José International
Airport
Ms. Julie Riera Matsushima, Chair, Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport
Commission
Mr. Ivar C. Satero, Director, San Francisco International Airport
Mr. Dennis Roberts, Western Pacific Regional Administrator, Federal Aviation
Administration
Members and Alternates, Former Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals
The Honorable Jackie Speier, Member of Congress
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Member of Congress

Enclosure