



DATE: September 14, 2021

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: City Manager's Office

TITLE: **Letter to the San Francisco Airport Community Roundtable Supporting the Expansion of Roundtable Membership to Include the City of Mountain View**

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to submit a letter to the San Francisco Airport Community Roundtable supporting the expansion of Roundtable membership to include the City of Mountain View.

BACKGROUND

The San Francisco Airport/Community Roundtable (SFO Community Roundtable) was established in 1981 as a voluntary committee to address community noise impacts from aircraft operations at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The SFO Community Roundtable monitors a performance-based noise mitigation program implemented by airport staff, interprets community concerns, and attempts to achieve noise mitigation through a cooperative sharing of authority among the aviation industry, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), SFO management, and local government. Membership on the SFO Community Roundtable includes the City and County of San Francisco, San Mateo County, the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG), and 18 cities and towns near SFO airport in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

At their June 2, 2021 meeting, the SFO Community Roundtable discussed options for Roundtable membership expansion. It provided direction to establish a Membership Expansion Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to explore criteria for admitting members. Nonmember cities who support the expansion of the Roundtable membership have been encouraged to submit a letter addressing the following: (1) reason for requesting membership on the SFO Community Roundtable given the existing representation on the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable; (2) what the nonmember city hopes to gain from its membership; and (3) whether the SFO Community Roundtable Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-24 and the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Work Plan includes the issues of focus for their community. The Membership

Expansion Ad-Hoc Subcommittee will deliberate on this issue at their next meeting on September 29, 2021.

ANALYSIS

The City of Mountain View has consistently heard from residents that aircraft noise due to the arrival and departure procedures at SFO since the implementation of the FAA Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen)¹ in the northern California metroplex has had a significant negative impact on their quality of life.

Mountain View has been actively engaged in addressing residents' concerns about aircraft noise, identifying airplane noise as one of the City Council's top Federal legislative priorities since 2018. The City engaged with our Congressional delegation and the FAA from 2016 to 2021. The City participated in the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals, including the Ad-Hoc Committee on South Flow Arrivals. Starting in 2018, the City participated in the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable for Regional Aircraft Noise to develop, evaluate, and implement feasible mitigations to reduce the impact of aircraft noise throughout the region. These efforts, while significant, have not meaningfully addressed aircraft noise in our community as had been hoped.

The SFO Community Roundtable has received requests to expand the membership to include cities not immediately adjacent to the airport six times since 1997. Each of these requests has come from the City of Palo Alto. Each time, the SFO Community Roundtable declined the proposals due to the concern that expanded membership could dilute the SFO Community Roundtable's strategic focus and scope to address noise impacts to cities and towns adjacent to the airport.

However, as mentioned earlier in this report, the implementation of NextGen and the increase of overflight traffic and vectoring from arrivals and departures at SFO has resulted in Mountain View residents experiencing significant negative impacts of aircraft noise despite the City not being immediately adjacent to SFO.

¹ An encompassing term for ongoing, wide-ranging transformation of the United States' national airspace system. It has sometimes been described as an evolution from a ground-based system of air traffic control to a satellite-based system of air traffic management. Source: Report of the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals, November 17, 2016.

The expansion of the SFO Community Roundtable membership would benefit Mountain View in several ways. It would:

- Increase the City's access to the SFO Community Roundtable's extensive knowledge and experience in developing new ideas, technologies, and programs to mitigate the impacts of aircraft noise.
- Enable cross-roundtable collaboration between the SFO Community Roundtable and the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable member cities.
- Provide an additional opportunity for cities to advocate for and represent communities along the Peninsula impacted by aircraft noise from the BDEGA², SERFR³, and OCEANIC⁴ procedures, among others, to and from SFO.

The SFO Community Roundtable's guiding principles, as outlined in their Strategic Work Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-24 (Attachment 1), to: (1) participate in forums for addressing and resolving community concerns related to noise from aircraft operating to and from SFO; (2) foster cooperation amongst cities impacted by aircraft noise; and (3) not "shift" aircraft noise from one community to another are consistent with Mountain View's philosophy for addressing aircraft noise.

Finally, the following issues of focus for the SFO Community Roundtable Annual Work Plan for 2020-21 (review and comment on aircraft procedures, address airport operation noise, and lobby for aircraft noise reduction) are aligned with the City's concerns and focus for addressing and mitigating aircraft noise in our community (the SFO Community Roundtable Annual Work Plan is included as Attachment 2).

Staff has shared the SFO Community Roundtable Strategic Work Plan and the Annual Work Plan with the City's representatives on the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties

² A published, standardized set of instructions that an aircraft can fly with minimal input from the Air Traffic Control (ATC), which approaches SFO from the north over Daly City and then continues south flying past SFO, using either the Peninsula (West leg) or San Francisco Bay (East leg), to make a U-turn and land on Runways 28L and 28R at SFO. Source: Report of the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals, November 17, 2016.

³ A published, standardized set of instructions that an aircraft can fly with minimal input from the Air Traffic Control (ATC), which approaches SFO from the south over the Santa Cruz Mountains. Source: Report of the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals, November 17, 2016.

⁴ A published, standardized set of instructions that an aircraft can fly with minimal input from the Air Traffic Control (ATC), which approaches SFO from the west for overseas arrivals. Source: Report of the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals, November 17, 2016.

Airport/Community Roundtable and has received their input on the alignment with the City's concerns and focus as noted in this report.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impacts of membership in the SFO Community Roundtable are unknown at this time. The SFO Community Roundtable enters into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with member cities that establishes annual dues to support the work and staff of the SFO Community Roundtable. If the SFO Community Roundtable approves expanding its membership to include Mountain View, staff will return to the City Council with an MOU for City Council approval.

NEXT STEPS

If Council approves this action, staff will prepare a letter for the Mayor's signature based on the information in this report.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not authorize the City Manager or designee to draft a letter to the San Francisco (SFO) Airport Community Roundtable supporting the expansion of Roundtable membership to include the City of Mountain View.
2. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Christina Gilmore
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved by:

Audrey Seymour Ramberg
Assistant City Manager/
Chief Operating Officer

CG/1/CAM/608-09-14-21CR
201415

- Attachments:
1. SFO Community Roundtable Strategic Work Plan—July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024
 2. SFO Community Roundtable Annual Work Plan—July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021