

76

Response

76-01

Please see **Topical Response 05 – Existing Noise.**

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James Keene, City of Palo Alto



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

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April 24, 2014

NorCal OAPM EA, Federal Aviation Administration
Western Service Center-Operations Support Group
1601 Lind Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98057

City of Palo Alto Public Comment: FAA Northern California Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex (NorCal OAPM) Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Document Release.

These comments are in reference to the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) released on March 25, 2014. We have reviewed the draft EA, and provide the following written comments as part of the public comment period.

77-01

1. While the Design & Implementation Team Technical Report shows the anticipated procedure waypoints, it does not show altitudes of the new waypoints or the latitude/longitude of these new locations, which limits the City's ability to effectively comment. It is the City of Palo Alto's understanding that the FAA has this information and has not made it available to the public. This information is critical as there is no way to evaluate the aircraft position/elevations over the City of Palo Alto (i.e. possibility of lower altitudes and increased noise impact).

77-02

2. The City of Palo Alto requested that the FAA extend the public comment period on the Nor Cal OAPM environmental assessment by at least 60 days to allow the City of Palo Alto and other entities to make comments based upon complete information. The outcome of the environmental assessment cannot be accurately represented if critical information is absent from the published document or only available at the very last minute. At this time the altitudes have not been released to the public.

77-03

3. The City of Palo Alto is concerned that this project will result in the shifting of noise from one community to another related to aircraft operations over the city of Palo Alto.

77-04

4. And lastly, the project directly involves airspace over the City of Palo Alto and yet the City was not notified by the FAA of the proposed project. The City gained knowledge of this project third hand well after the March 25, 2014 released date.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this public process.

Sincerely,

James Keene
City Manager

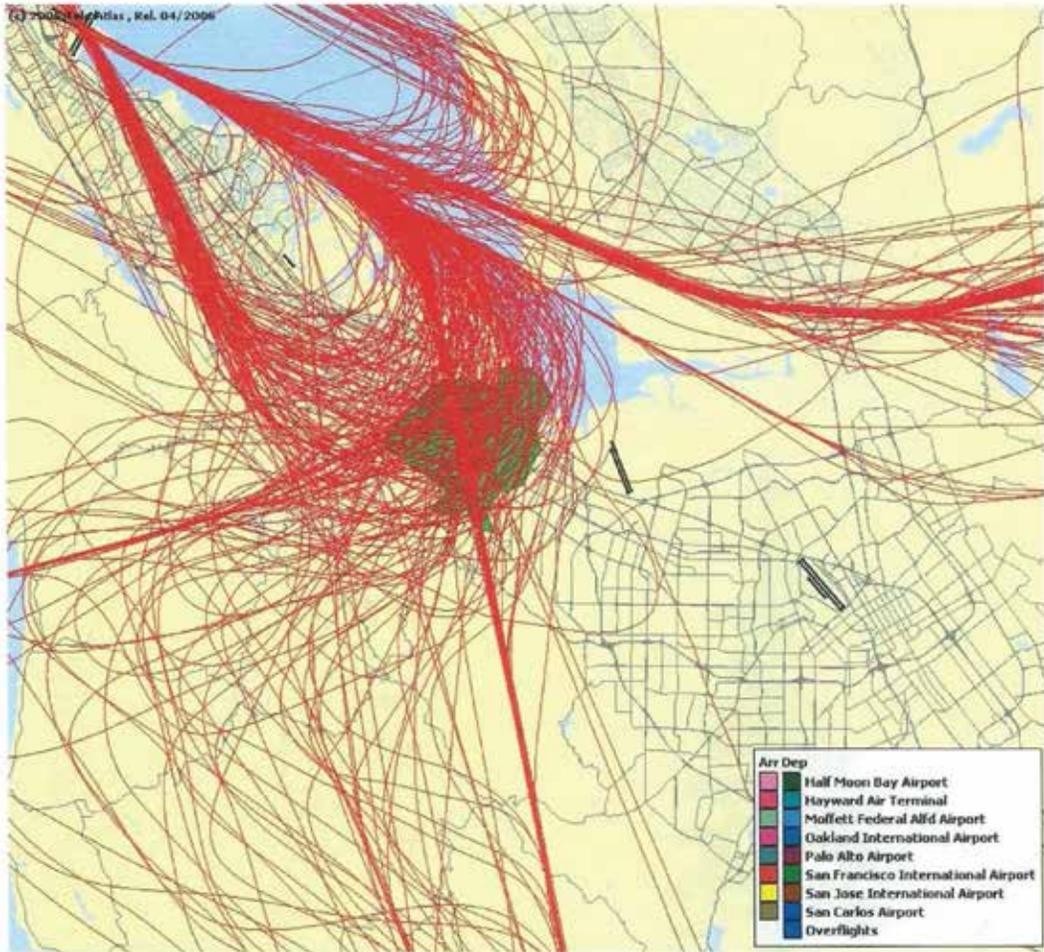
Cc: Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Congresswoman Jackie Speier
Mayor and Council Members
San Francisco International Airport/Community Roundtable
Molly Stump, City Attorney
Mike Sartor, Public Works Director
Andy Swanson, Airport Manager



CityOfPaloAlto.org

77 James Keene, City of Palo Alto (continued)

San Francisco International flight tracks for a 24 hour period on April 18, 2014 the City of Palo Alto is highlight in green:



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Response

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Please see **Topical Response 03 – Additional Data Request**.

77-02

Please see **Topical Response 01 – Comment Period Extension**.

77-03

It is contrary to FAA policy to shift aircraft noise from over one community to another. As discussed in the Draft and Final EA (Chapter 5, *Environmental Consequences*) analysis indicates that the Proposed Action would not result in significant noise impacts or reportable noise increases. Please see Section 5.1 of the Draft and Final EA for more detail.

77-04

As discussed in FAA's May 23, 2014 letter to Mayor Nancy Shepard, the FAA recognizes the importance and value of public input in the NEPA process. Substantial public outreach has been conducted in support of the NorCal OAPM Project Draft EA. Efforts included issuance of notification of both the preparation and availability of the Draft EA to local, state, and federal officials and elected representatives via both U.S. Mail and email as well as publication of the notice of availability of the Draft EA, including invitations to the five public workshops, in all the major newspapers in the General Study Area (San Francisco Chronicle, Oakland Tribune, San Jose Mercury News, and Sacramento Bee). Numerous community blogs were also provided information on the Draft EA and public workshops. All notices provided a link to the NorCal OAPM Project website where more information on the OAPM initiative and the NextGen program is available for perusal (<http://www.oapmenvironmental.com>).

To encourage public participation, in April 2014, the FAA hosted multiple public information workshops in several locations throughout the General Study Area. During these information sessions, FAA representatives were available to answer questions about the Project and written comments from the public were accepted. The FAA extended the public comment period an additional ten days until May 4 in order to provide the public with sufficient time to provide input on the Project.