

RESOLUTION 58-15

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS URGING THE
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO
ADDRESS AIRCRAFT NOISE IN LOS ALTOS
HILLS**

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is implementing a transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) to standardize arrival and departure routes through the use of GPS-based technologies in 21 identified metroplexes, which are regions with multiple airports serving major metropolitan areas.

WHEREAS, the Northern California Metroplex includes four commercial airports, San Francisco International Airport (SFO), Oakland International Airport (OAK), Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) and Sacramento International Airport (SMF).

WHEREAS, as part of the transition to NextGen, the FAA recently changed the flight paths followed by commercial aircraft flying into and out of SFO, OAK, and SJC, as well as other airports in the Northern California Metroplex under a project the FAA calls the Northern California Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex (NorCal OAPM).

WHEREAS, according to the FAA, the NorCal OAPM consists of new procedures and technologies to establish more direct flight routes intended to significantly improve safety, efficiency, and reduce fuel burn and carbon emissions.

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2014, the FAA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact that NorCal OAPM would not have any significant noise impact on communities and surrounding areas based on inadequate sound metrics which do not reflect disturbance on the ground.

WHEREAS, the noise generated by flights in the Northern California Metroplex is impacting residents in certain areas of the Town of Los Altos Hills. The considerable increase in the number of flights overhead each day and the lower flight altitudes result in a significant increase in the amount of aircraft noise experienced on the ground.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Town of Los Altos Hills the following:

1. The City Council requests the FAA immediately mitigate the increased aircraft noise at ground level in Los Altos Hills caused by the NorCal OAPM project by identifying all short- and long-term solutions and the expected timetable for their implementation.

2. The City Council of the Town of Los Altos Hills requests the FAA, as part of the above analysis of aircraft noise mitigation measures, raise immediately the altitude of all flight paths over our city, reduce the number of night time flights into SFO, and, as part of the longer-term solutions, reconfigure the final approach paths so that descent over the bay is maximized.

3. The Town requests that the FAA urge Congress to amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act to eliminate the availability of a categorical exclusion and bar the presumption of no significant effect on the quality of the human environment that currently apply to navigation performance and area navigation procedures.

4. The City Council of the Town of Los Altos Hills requests that the Congress of the United States implement statutory changes to the FAA that require more robust community engagement before flight paths are changed, more accurate measures of noise experienced on the ground, and independent research on the impacts of aviation noise on health and learning.

5. The City Council of the Town of Los Altos Hills requests that the FAA continue to meet with community representatives and impacted residents from Palo Alto to discuss further and address these matters.

6. The Council finds that the adoption of this resolution does not meet the definition of a project under Section 21065 of the California Environmental Quality Act and, therefore, no environmental review is necessary.


The above and foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the Town of Los Altos Hills at a special meeting held on the 14th day of October, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: Corrigan, Harpootlian, Radford, Spreen, Waldeck
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

BY:


Courtenay C. Corrigan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Deborah Padovan, City Clerk