



AIRPORT/COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

San Francisco International Airport and
Local Governments in San Mateo County

Item 10

June 3, 2009

TO: Roundtable Representatives, Alternates, and Interested Persons
FROM: Mark Church, Roundtable Chairperson
SUBJECT: Review of Roundtable Statement of Purpose and Objectives and Some Accomplishments

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Roundtable is a unique organization. There is no local, state, or federal mandate for it to exist. It exists simply because it has proven itself to be a highly effective forum for addressing airport noise issues, since it was established in 1981. But, as we all know, organizations change and grow over time. Such is the case with the Roundtable. A little over 10 years ago, the membership nearly doubled in size, as many southern San Mateo County cities and towns joined the original group. Now, after nearly 21 years of staff support to the Roundtable (1988-2009), David F. Carbone, our Roundtable Coordinator, is taking on a new role with the Roundtable, as Roundtable Program Manager. In his new duties, he will be responsible for and oversee all Roundtable activities/operations, direct the work of the new Roundtable Coordinator (Consultant), and attend all Roundtable meetings. He will remain a resource for the Roundtable and continue to be part of the Roundtable "family". As the Roundtable is about to begin a new chapter with new staff support, I thought it would be appropriate to review the Roundtable's Statement of Purpose and Objectives and some of the Roundtable's accomplishments before and during Dave Carbone's tenure as Roundtable Coordinator.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Purpose

As a result of more than twenty-eight years of cooperation between the San Francisco Airport Commission, noise-impacted communities, the federal government, and the airlines operating at San Francisco International Airport, the Roundtable has facilitated numerous aircraft noise mitigation achievements to improve the quality of life in communities near the Airport. The overall purpose of the Roundtable is to continue to foster and enhance this cooperative relationship to develop, evaluate, and implement reasonable and feasible policies, procedures, and mitigation actions that will further reduce the impacts of aircraft noise in neighborhoods and communities in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

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Objectives

- Objective 1: Continue to organize, administer, and operate the San Francisco International Airport/Community Roundtable as a public forum for discussion, study, analysis, and evaluation of policies, procedures and mitigation actions that will minimize aircraft noise impacts to help improve the quality of life of residents in San Mateo and San Francisco Counties.
- Objective 2: Provide a framework of understanding as to the history and operation of the San Francisco International Airport/Community Roundtable.
- Objective 3: Maintain the San Francisco International Airport/Community Roundtable as a focal point of information and discussion between local, state, and federal legislators and policy makers, as it applies to noise impacts from airport/aircraft operations in local communities.
- Objective 4: Develop and implement an annual Roundtable Work Program to analyze and evaluate the impacts of aircraft noise in affected communities and to make recommendations to appropriate agencies, regarding implementation of effective noise mitigation actions.
- Objective 5: Maintain communication and cooperation between Airport management and local governments, regarding: (1) local agency land use and zoning decisions within noise-sensitive and/or over flight areas, while recognizing local government autonomy to make those decisions and (2) decisions/actions that affect current and future on-airport development, while recognizing the Airport Commission's autonomy to make those decisions.

Source: Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding; Effective date: October 5, 2005

SOME ROUNDTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1981- 2009

The Roundtable has researched numerous concepts over the years to reduce community noise impacts from aircraft operations at San Francisco International Airport, whether the noise was generated on or close to the airport or miles away. The following is a list of some Roundtable accomplishments from 1981 – 2009.

Airport /Aircraft Operational Changes

Worked with FAA Staff, San Francisco International Airport (SFO) Staff, and the airlines serving the Airport to establish the following operational procedures to help minimize community noise impacts from aircraft operations at SFO operations:

- Shoreline Departure route; Quiet Bridge Visual Approach; Tipp Toe Approach
- 1,000 foot increase in the altitude at the MENLO intersection (navigational fix) for aircraft arrivals
- 2,000 foot increase in the altitude at the Woodside VOR (navigational aid) for specific SFO arrivals
- Nighttime preferential runway use program
- Nighttime noise clearance center to monitor engine-runups

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Community Outreach

Maintain a strong community outreach program that includes the following:

- 11 meetings per year (1981-2007); 6 meetings per year (2007-present); Workshops and Special Meetings are held, as needed
- "Noise 101" for Roundtable members and the public
- Adopted a "No Noise Shift" policy (1993) (the Roundtable will not knowingly take any action that will result in the shifting of aircraft noise from one community to another related to SFO operations)
- Established a Roundtable media program, including a quarterly newsletter, website, and press releases
- Provide public tours and presentations at the Airport Noise Abatement Office, the SFO FAA Air Traffic Control Tower, and in the community

Airline Outreach

- Produced a Roundtable Noise Abatement Training Video for airline pilots (1997)
- Established the Fly Quiet Program to grade the airlines on their ability to fly quietly and be a good neighbor to the communities. Currently producing a video about the Fly Quiet Program to reinforce the elements of the Program
- Honor eligible airlines with the annual Jon C. Long Fly Quiet Program Awards to recognize their commitment to help reduce aircraft noise impacts in the environs of SFO
- Supported acquisition/installment of Precision Runway Monitor/Simultaneous Offset Instrument Approach (PRM/SOIA) equipment to minimize delays and help reduce aircraft noise impacts

Miscellaneous

- Aircraft noise metric studies
- Backblast noise (low frequency noise) mitigation research/feasibility
- Modular school classroom building sound insulation research/feasibility
- Locational analysis/feasibility of sighting a Ground Run-up enclosure (GRE) at SFO for aircraft maintenance activities
- Forum for discussing/developing feasible conditions for several airport requested variances from the State Noise Standards (Title 21)
- Continue to provide timely input to the State of California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration, regarding airport noise-related legislation and regulations
- Hosted/participated in two local annual conferences of the National Organization to Insure a Sound-controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E.) (an affiliate of the National League of Cities that focuses on aircraft noise abatement)
- Continue to participate on the Advisory Board of the FAA Center of Excellence – Partnership for Air Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction (PARTNER)
- Recognized at the state and national levels as a model of intergovernmental cooperation, regarding aircraft noise mitigation efforts.

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