

Sunnyvale, CA - December 2016 Update

The SJC Noise Office continues to receive a significant number of complaints from communities both in and around the City of Sunnyvale. Below is a brief update on actions the Noise Office has taken in response to the increase in complaints.

The Noise Office was first made aware of increased noise disruption over Sunnyvale this summer when unseasonable winds caused an increase in the volume of aircraft approaching SJC southbound from the north bay after passing over Sunnyvale and Mountain View (an approach called [south flow](#)).

Since the above PDF was published in the Fall, the Noise Office determined that in addition to an increase in the volume of aircraft operating in South Flow, the density of aircraft passing along an existing flight corridor over Sunnyvale into SJC had also increased. Noise Office analysis has shown that historically aircraft over Sunnyvale have been dispersed over a wide area with few complaints from residents. While not applicable to all aircraft operating in South Flow, the majority of aircraft now consistently pass within a narrow corridor over residential neighborhoods in Sunnyvale, resulting in continued disturbance from those aircraft.

The Noise Office and Airport Staff has continued to engage with local elected officials in response to the increase in resident complaints. In addition to hosting the mayor of Sunnyvale and staff from Congressman Mike Honda's office at SJC to review South Flow noise patterns, SJC staff attended a Sunnyvale public forum hosted by the Mayor of Sunnyvale, where members of the public voiced their concerns to local elected officials.

During the November SJC Airport Commission meeting, Sunnyvale community members voiced their concerns to the Commission during a public comment session. As air traffic procedures are within the sole jurisdiction of the FAA, airport staff were directed by the Commission to send a letter directly to the FAA informing them of the Noise Office's findings and requested they review south flow flight procedures with the goal of reducing noise impacts on Sunnyvale residents. The letter was signed by the SJC Director of Aviation and sent to the FAA on November 30, 2016.

As an airport that operates in a densely urban environment, we believe it is important to minimize the Airport's environmental impacts on surrounding communities to the extent allowed by safety and efficiency considerations. To this end, the Noise Office encourages residents to continue to submit complaints via the [Airport's noise website](#) to submit a complaint, or by utilizing the [SJC Webtrak application](#) to submit complaints.

Complaints submitted through these channels become part of the official record shared with the Airport Commission and the City of San Jose City Council.