



101219

DATE: December 1, 2020
TO: Airports Commission
FROM: Harry Freitas, Director, Roads and Airports
SUBJECT: County Airports Quarterly Noise Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive First Quarter 2020 Quarterly Noise Report from the Roads and Airports Department, Airports Division.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund or the Airport Enterprise Fund.

CONTRACT HISTORY

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Airports Commission has requested that the County Airports Quarterly Noise Report be agendized for the Commission's review on a quarterly basis.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on children and youth.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

Staff documents all complaints, and where possible establishes communications with the complainant to secure additional information or to answer specific questions regarding aircraft operations. When sufficient information is available, staff will contact an aircraft operator to determine if the aircraft was operated outside of normal flight procedures or if corrective action is warranted.

During the first quarter of 2020, which covers the months of January, February and March, there were thirteen noise referrals for Reid-Hillview Airport, and no referral for San Martin Airport. Three referrals were for operations not associated with either Reid-Hillview or San Martin Airports (attachment). One complainant accounted for all but three of the referrals related to activity at Reid-Hillview airport with eighteen individual phone calls¹.

There were 37,624 operations (takeoffs and landings) during the quarter at Reid-Hillview, which equates to one referral for every 2,894 operations. There were 7,324 operations at San Martin Airport.

	RHV		E16 ²	
	Ops.	Daily Avg.	Ops.	Daily Avg.
Jan	14,455	466	2,948	95
Feb	16,459	568	3,250	112
Mar	6,710	216	1,126	36
Total	37,624	417	7,324	81

ATTACHMENTS:

- Q1 Referrals(PDF)
- Q1 Anonymous Referrals(PDF)

¹ Multiple calls in one day from one caller are counted as one referral.

² Estimated using recorded E16 Unicom radio calls.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	1/7/2020 6:09:00 AM	Mr. F from East San Jose sent an email to the County Airports noise referral email. Mr. F stated that a small aircraft flew over his residence at 6:09 am and was very loud. Mr. F added that there had been other loud aircraft flying over his residence the previous day as well.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the morning of Tuesday, January 7. An unknown high-performance experimental aircraft conducted a right-downwind departure at the time specified by the caller. The aircraft passed over the caller's residence at approximately 4,000-feet. Airport staff responded to Mr. F's email with a description of the aircraft's departure route and altitudes, as well as the general traffic patterns at RHV Airport and the hours of operation.
RHV	1/7/2020 6:10:00 AM	Ms. N from the Evergreen area left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Ms. N stated that a loud aircraft flew over her residence at 6:10 in the morning.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the morning of Tuesday, January 7. A high-performance experimental aircraft conducted a right-downwind departure at the time specified by the caller. The aircraft flew over the Evergreen area at approximately 4,500-feet. Airport staff spoke with Ms. N on Tuesday morning and described the aircraft operation in question, as well as general aircraft operations around the vicinity of RHV Airport.
Other	1/22/2020 9:39:00 AM	Mr. B from San Martin left a message on the County Airport noise office voicemail. Mr. B stated that a red and yellow helicopter was operating at low altitude near the County's open space preserve near Morgan Hill.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the morning of Wednesday, January 22. A Hughes 500 helicopter was performing support operations for utility companies at the time & location specified by the caller. Airport staff spoke with Mr. B an hour after his phone call and discussed the nature of the helicopter operation.
RHV	1/22/2020 10:35:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left four (4) messages on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there were departures from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the evening of Wednesday, January 22. A single Cessna 172 aircraft operated by an RHV flight school conducted four takeoffs and landings at the times specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	1/23/2020 11:02:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left three (3) messages on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there were departures from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the evening of Thursday, January 23. There were two departures by a Piper and Grumman aircraft during the time period specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	1/29/2020 10:10:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there was a departure from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the evening of Wednesday, January 29. A single Piper aircraft conducted a departure at the time specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	2/3/2020 10:26:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there was a departure from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the evening of Monday, February 3. A Piper aircraft conducted a departure at the time specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM	Mr. D. advised that an aircraft was doing pattern work between 2200 and 0100 hours. Mr. D. said the aircraft reportedly flew over his house during the incident.	Airport staff spoke with Mr. D on the date in question regarding the aircraft overflights. Mr. D was informed of the RHV traffic patterns and altitudes, as well as the location of his residence in relation to RHV Airport.
Other	2/15/2020 2:00:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a small aircraft flew over his residence at an altitude of 1,600 feet and was very loud. Mr. M added that the aircraft landed at E16, had an I.D. of 1200, and was flying at 130 kts.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the early afternoon of Saturday, February 15. A Cessna 182 aircraft flew over the caller's residence at 1,600-ft and 126 kts. Airport staff left a message for Mr. M on Monday morning, February 17.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	2/29/2020 2:18:00 AM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there was a departure from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the early morning of Saturday, February 29. A Cessna 172 aircraft conducted a right-downwind departure at the time specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	3/5/2020 11:32:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there was a departure from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the evening of Thursday, March 5. A single Cessna aircraft conducted a straight-out departure at the time specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	3/7/2020 12:35:00 AM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there was a departure from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the early morning of Saturday, March 7. A Citabria aircraft conducted a right-downwind departure at the time specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	3/9/2020 11:20:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left three (3) messages on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there were departures from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the evening of Monday, March 9. A single Cessna aircraft conducted three takeoffs at the times specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	3/19/2020 10:10:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there was a departure from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the evening of Thursday, March 19. A Cessna 172 aircraft conducted a right-downwind arrival at the time specified by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.

Quarterly Noise Referrals Anonymous and Unknown Callers

Airport	Date Time	Number of Calls	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Other	2/12/2020 12:15:00 AM	1	An anonymous caller left a message for the County Airports. The caller stated "Airplanes are waking me up at 12:15 in the f***ing morning. I'm so glad their going to close that that Reid-Hillview Airport. I cant' wait." The caller did not leave a name or contact information.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the early morning of Wednesday, February 12. A Cessna 402 aircraft enroute from Hayward Airport to Van Nuys Airport passed over the RHV Airport area at approximately 5,000-feet. There were no other GA aircraft operations in the area during that time period. No further action was taken.
