



102577

DATE: October 6, 2020
TO: Airports Commission
FROM: Harry Freitas, Director, Roads and Airports
SUBJECT: County Airports Quarterly Noise Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report from Director of County Airports relating to Airports Quarterly Noise Report. (Peterson)

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 second quarter of 2020, which covers the months of April, May and June, there were twenty-three noise referrals for Reid-Hillview Airport, and one referral for San Martin Airport. Twelve referrals were for operations not associated with either Reid-Hillview or San Martin Airports. One complainant accounted for all but four of the referrals related to activity at Reid-Hillview airport with fifty-one individual phone calls¹.

There were 24,464 operations (takeoffs and landings) during the quarter at Reid-Hillview, which equates to one referral for every 1,064 operations. There were 3,192 operations at San Martin Airport.

	RHV		E16 ²	
	Ops.	Daily Avg.	Ops.	Daily Avg.
Apr	4,760	159	716	24
May	7,222	233	992	32
Jun	12,482	416	1,484	49
Total	24,464	417	3,192	35

ATTACHMENTS:

- Q2 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
Other	4/2/2020 7:22:00 PM	Mr. M sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a Cessna aircraft flew over his residence, and that it was "unacceptable to fly over residential communities at 2K' in altitude". Mr. M added that there was "no need for a reply".	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the afternoon of Thursday, April 2. A Cessna aircraft flew approximately 1/2-mile to the south of the caller's residence at 2,500-feet. No further action was taken.
RHV	4/2/2020 10:07:00 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 Thursday, April 2. A single Cessna 172 aircraft conducted four 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	4/8/2020 9:20:00 AM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that an aircraft was flying practice takeoffs and landings over his residence, and that he believed that these activities should be restricted due to the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data and ATC radio calls for the morning of Wednesday, April 8. A Cessna 172 aircraft operated by a RHV flight school conducted at least ten (10) full-stop takeoffs and landings at the time of Mr. B's phone call. Airport staff spoke with Mr. B moments after his phone referral. Mr. B was informed of the nature of the operations, as well as the current FAA stance on airport restrictions published on April 4th. Airport staff has also spoken with two of the flight schools regarding the sensitive nature of flight training activities during the shelter-in-place restrictions.
RHV	4/8/2020 9:20:00 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 morning of Wednesday, April 8. A Cessna 172 conducted several takeoffs and landings 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	4/12/2020 10:02:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there were multiple departures for 1/2-hour from RHV Airport.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the evening of Sunday, April 12. A Cessna 172 aircraft operated by a local flight school conducted multiple practice takeoffs and landings 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	4/13/2020 5:32:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. B stated that there as aircraft flying practice takeoffs and landings over his residence.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the afternoon of Monday, April 13. A Cessna 172 aircraft operated by a local flight school was conducting practice takeoffs and landings 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.
E16	4/15/2020 4:39:00 PM	At approximately 1640 hours Ms. P notified airport staff that two Cessna aircraft were flying at an altitude of about 200 ft over her residential area for about two minutes. She was unable to verify the N-numbers on the aircraft but stated that they landed at the San Martin Airport.	Airport staff spoke with Ms. P regarding the aircraft over flights that she observed. Ms. P residence is approximately 1.5 miles south-southwest of the San Martin Airport.
Other	4/21/2020 5:00:00 PM	Mr. P from San Martin left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Mr. P stated that a red & white aircraft was circling over his residence near the local golf course, and that it was low and loud.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the afternoon of Tuesday, April 21 but were unable to observe any aircraft in the San Martin golf course area during the time period specified by the caller. Airport staff spoke with Mr. P on Wednesday morning and discussed the caller's observations.
Other	4/23/2020 3:22:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a Cessna 172 aircraft passed over his residence and create a noise impact.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and available radar data for the afternoon of Thursday, April 23. A Cessna 172 aircraft flew north-to-south 1/2-mile from the caller's residence at 4,000-feet. No other GA aircraft were observed at the time and location specified by the caller. Airport staff left a phone message for Mr. M on Friday morning.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	4/27/2020 4:30:00 AM	Called because a red plane flew very low over his house. He was sitting in his back yard and it startled him so he looked up. While we were talking he saw a drone flying overhead at what he thought was a higher altitude than the airplane. He would like a call back.	Airport staff followed-up with Mr. V on Tuesday morning and discussed the aircraft overflight in question, as well as RHV traffic patterns and altitudes. The caller's residence is located directly under the Runway-31 approaches to RHV at a distance of one mile. Staff also discussed at length the caller's observation of a quad-rotor drone which was operating over his residence immediately after the aircraft overflight. Mr. V provided very useful information regarding the drone, and was instructed to call 911 on any future drone incident. Staff also briefed RHV ATCT staff of the caller's drone observations.
RHV	4/27/2020 4:30:00 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 evening of Friday, November 22. A Cessna aircraft conducted a right-crosswind 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.
Other	5/3/2020 3:45:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a Bellanca aircraft flew over his residence at 1,600-ft.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for Sunday, May 3. An aircraft flew over the caller's residence at the time specified. No further action was taken.
Other	5/9/2020 10:46:00 AM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email at 1:28 am to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M listed five GA aircraft that flew from 1/4 to 1/2 mile from his residence, at altitudes ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 feet. Mr. M listed the FAA N-numbers, registered aircraft owners names, and other details regarding the aircraft. Mr. M requested that the County contact the aircraft owners and advise them to not fly over his residence.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the times specified by the caller and confirmed the over flights. Airport staff spoke at length with Mr. M on the week of June 1st regarding GA aircraft operations in the South Bay, the County Airport's jurisdictional limitations regarding GA aircraft operations outside of the airport environment, and the FAA's oversight role regarding GA operations in controlled airspace.
Other	5/11/2020 5:46:00 PM	Mr. P from San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Mr. P stated that a white & blue aircraft circled over his residence an was "loud as hell".	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the afternoon of Monday, May 11. A circling flight track consistant with law enforcement helicopter activity was observed operating in the vicinity of the caller's location. A message was left for Mr. P regarding the operation in question.
RHV	5/11/2020 5:55:00 PM	An anonymous caller stated that an airplane was flying very low and loud over his residence. The airplane was described as having a white belly and blue stripes.	Airport staff spoke with the caller and informed him that the difference in noise and height may be due to reverse flow of aircraft operations at RHV during the time given by the caller.
Other	5/18/2020 10:52:00 PM	Ms. M from Willow Glen left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Ms. M stated that a helicopter was circling for over 1/2-hour over her residence, and that this has been a recurring event during the past few weeks.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the late evening of Monday, May 18. The SJPd helicopter was observed operating in the Willow Glen area the time specified by the caller. No further action was taken. The caller did not leave any contact information.
Other	5/21/2020 12:14:00 AM	Ms. C from East San Jose sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Ms. C stated that a helicopter was circling continuously over her residence late at night. Ms. C added that a crime mapping site did not support this type of flight activity.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the late evening of Thursday, May 21. An SJPd helicopter was circling in the vicinity of James Lick High School for an extended period of time. Airport staff replied to Ms. C's email regarding the nature of the law enforcement activity in question.
Other	5/21/2020 3:48:00 PM	Mr. M, from Los Gatos send an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that two GA aircraft passed over the area of his residence at 1,500 and 2,750 feet.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the time periods specified by Mr. M. Two separate aircraft flew approximately 1/2-mile away from Mr. M's house at the approximate altitudes noted in the email. No further action was taken.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Other	5/24/2020 10:24:00 PM	Mr. J from San Jose sent an email to the County Airports noise office email. Mr. J stated that the San Jose Police Department helicopter was circling his residence for an extended period of time.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the evening of Sunday, May 24. A flight track consistent with SJPD law enforcement activity was observed circling in multiple locations during the time period specified by Mr. J. No specific location was referenced in the email. Airport staff responded to Mr. J's email regarding the nature of SJPD flight operations in the south San Jose area.
RHV	5/25/2020 7:00:00 AM	Mr. B from East San Jose left thirteen (13) 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 radar data for the morning of Monday, May 25. A single Cessna aircraft conducted multiple takeoffs and landings 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	5/26/2020 6:21:00 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 prior to 8:00 am.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the morning of Tuesday, May 26. A Cessna 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	5/28/2020 10:36:00 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 radar data for the evening of Thursday, May 28. A single FBO-operated Cessna 172 aircraft conducted multiple takeoffs and landings 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	6/7/2020 10:19:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left two (2) 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 radar data for the evening of Sunday, June 7. A single Cessna aircraft conducted two 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.
Other	6/8/2020 8:37:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M listed twelve (12) single-pass over flights of his residence by GA aircraft varying in altitude from 2,000 to 6,000 feet.	Airport staff have spoken to Mr. M on previous occasions regarding GA air traffic and the FAA's role in providing oversight for operations not directly associated with the County Airports. No further action was taken.
RHV	6/8/2020 10:41:00 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 radar data for the evening of Monday, June 8. A single Cessna 152 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	6/10/2020 10:12:00 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 radar data for the evening of Wednesday, June 10. Two separate Cessna aircraft conducted three departures 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	6/11/2020 11:04:00 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 radar data for the evening of Thursday, June 11. A Cessna 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.
Other	6/14/2020 10:30:00 AM	The manager of the County's Harvey-Bear Park left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. At least two paragliders were being operated at or below tree-top level within the park. The manager also stated that the operators of the paragliders were scaring livestock & horses.	Airport staff reviewed E16 radio calls to try to determine if the paragliders were operated out of that airport. No calls matching this type of aircraft were noted. Airport management spoke with Ms. M the following morning regarding the paraglider operations at the park.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	6/19/2020 11:38:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left two (2) 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 radar data for the evening of Friday, June 19. A single Cessna aircraft conducted a right-downwind arrival, missed approach, and a second arrival 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	6/21/2020 10:15:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left eight (8) 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 radar data for the evening of Sunday, June 21. Two separate aircraft conducted multiple takeoffs and landings 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	6/22/2020 10:30:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left two (2) 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 radar data for the evening of Monday, June 22. A Cessna 172 aircraft operated by a local flight school conducted two 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	6/24/2020 11:00:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left two (2) 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 radar data for the evening of Wednesday, June 24. A Cessna 172 aircraft operated by a local flight school conducted two 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	6/26/2020 7:00:00 PM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Mr. W stated that a white & red high-wing aircraft was flying over his residence at low altitude while in the RHV traffic pattern.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the evening of Friday, June 26. There was no radar imagery matching the caller's description, although ATC radio recorded a Citabria aircraft conducting left-downwind practice takeoffs and landings at the time specified. No altitude data was available. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	6/28/2020 10:57:00 AM	Mr. J from San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Mr. J stated that numerous aircraft were flying over his residence every day and every five minutes.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the time periods specified by the caller. Mr. J lives approximately 3/4-mile from the south end of Runway 31-Right. There were multiple approaches to landing by various aircraft during this time period. Airport staff spoke at length with Mr. J regarding RHV traffic patterns and the location of his residence in relation to RHV airport.
RHV	6/28/2020 10:55:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left two (2) 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 radar data for the evening of Sunday, June 28. A Cessna 172 aircraft conducted two 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	6/28/2020 10:55:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left two (2) 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 radar data for the evening of Sunday, June 28. A Cessna 172 aircraft conducted two 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.