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DATE: April 6, 2021
TO: Airports Commission
FROM: Harry Freitas, Director, Roads and Airports
SUBJECT: County Airports Quarterly Noise Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive Fourth 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 Commissions 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 fourth quarter of 2020, which covers the months of October, November, and December there were eight referrals for Reid-Hillview Airport, and no referral for San Martin Airport. Four referrals were for operations not associated with either Reid-Hillview or San Martin Airports. One complainant accounted for four of the referrals related to activity at Reid-Hillview airport with seven individual phone calls¹.

There were 37,473 operations (takeoffs and landings) during the quarter at Reid-Hillview, which equates to one referral for every 4,684 operations. There were 8,940 operations at San Martin Airport.

	RHV		E16 ²	
	Ops.	Daily Avg.	Ops.	Daily Avg.
Oct	13,098	423	2,484	80
Nov	11,984	398	2,976	99
Dec	12,427	401	3,480	112
Total	37,473	407	8,940	97

ATTACHMENTS:

- Q4 2020 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	10/4/2020 10:12:00 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, October 4. A single Cessna 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	10/9/2020 12:40:00 PM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. W stated that a white high-wing aircraft flew over his residence at low altitude (100' to 200') while in the RHV traffic pattern.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the early afternoon of Friday, October 9. There were multiple aircraft in the RHV left-hand traffic pattern during the time period specified by the caller. None of the aircraft observed appeared to be below normal traffic pattern altitude in the vicinity of the caller's address. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	10/18/2020 9:39:00 AM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. W stated that a cream colored mid-wind aircraft flew over his residence at low altitude.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the morning of Sunday, October 18. There were several aircraft conducting traffic pattern work during the time period specified by the caller. All aircraft appeared on radar to be at or above normal traffic pattern altitude in the vicinity of the caller's residence. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	10/20/2020 11:27:00 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 radar data for the evening of Tuesday, October 20. A single Rans aircraft conducted a missed approach 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	10/21/2020 10:25:00 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, October 21. A single Cessna 172 aircraft conducted multiple departures 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	10/27/2020 9:55:00 AM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. W stated that a white and blue aircraft flew over his residence at low altitude.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the morning of Tuesday, October 27. There were several aircraft operating in the left-hand traffic pattern at the time specified by the caller. The radar data did not indicate that any of the aircraft were being operated below normal traffic pattern altitudes. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	10/28/2020 1:17:00 AM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. W stated that a white and blue high-wing aircraft was flying over his residence at low altitude.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the early afternoon of Wednesday, October 28. A Cessna 172 aircraft was observed flying a left-hand traffic pattern in the vicinity of the caller's residence. The aircraft appeared to be at an altitude of approximately 400-ft, which is typical for that location (approximately 1/2-mile south of the end of the RHV 31-Left runway). The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	12/9/2020 11:08:00 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 Wednesday, December 9. A 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.
Other	12/10/2020 6:27:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a Cessna aircraft flew over his residence at 1,800-feet and was "too low and too frustrating at dinnertime".	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the afternoon of Thursday, December 10. A Cessna aircraft over flew the caller's residence at 2,100-feet. No further action was taken.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Other	12/16/2020 2:50:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a Beech Baron aircraft flew over his residence and was very loud.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the afternoon of Wednesday, December 16. A Beech aircraft flew over the caller's residence at 1,200-feet at the time specified. Airport staff responded to Mr. M's email.
Other	12/18/2020 6:01:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a Piper aircraft flew over his residence at or below 1,000-feet and that it was loud.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. No aircraft were observed flying in the vicinity of the caller's residence at that time (Dec-18th at 18:01 hours). The only aircraft in the Los Gatos area was flying southward 1-mile to the west at an altitude of 4,900-feet. No further action was taken.
Other	12/30/2020 8:36:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a Beechcraft flew over Highway-85 and was very loud.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data the evening of Wednesday, December 30. An A36 aircraft was observed flying eastward over Highway-85 at the time specified by the caller. The caller's residence is 0.6 miles to the south of the highway. No further action was taken.