

County of Santa Clara
Roads and Airports Department



106004

DATE: June 1, 2021
TO: Airports Commission
FROM: Harry Freitas, Director, Roads and Airports
SUBJECT: County Airports Quarterly Noise Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive 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 2021, which covers the months of January, February and March there were five referrals for Reid-Hillview Airport, and five referrals for San Martin Airport.

There were seventeen referrals for operations not associated with either Reid-Hillview or San Martin Airports, with eleven of those coming from one individual that lives in Los Gatos.

There were 34,167 operations (takeoffs and landings) during the quarter at Reid-Hillview, which equates to one referral for every 6,833 operations. There were 7,138 operations at San Martin Airport, which equates to one referral for every 1,428 operations.

	RHV		E16 ¹	
	Ops.	Daily Avg.	Ops.	Daily Avg.
Jan	11,208	362	2,286	74
Feb	10,932	390	2,460	88
Mar	12,027	388	2,392	77
Total	34,167	380	7,138	80

ATTACHMENTS:

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

¹ Estimated using recorded E16 Unicom radio calls.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Other	1/7/2021 5:03:00 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 1,000-ft.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. A flight track consistent with the description was noted. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
E16	1/8/2021 3:00:00 PM	Mr. K from San Martin sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. K stated that a loud aircraft was circling over his residence at slow speed while climbing out of San Martin Airport, and that the aircraft was very loud. Mr. K also provided the N-number N750SN.	Airport staff reviewed radar data, Unicom radio calls and the registration of the aircraft. The aircraft is a Pacific 750 turboprop and is being operated by Hollister Skydiving. At the time specified by the caller the aircraft climbed steeply to 12,500-ft in the vicinity of E16 at approximately 130-kts. After releasing skydivers the aircraft descended rapidly and landed at the airport. Airport staff spoke with Mr. K regarding the nature of skydiving operations at the airport. Mr. K will continue to monitor the activities of the aircraft and will follow-up with airport staff. Staff had previously spoken with Mr. K regarding aircraft operations in the vicinity of E16.
Other	1/8/2021 5:34:00 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 2,600-ft.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. A flight track consistent with the description was noted. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
Other	1/10/2021 11:45:00 AM	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-ft.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. A flight track consistent with the description was noted. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
Other	1/14/2021 12:03:00 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 residential neighborhood.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. A flight track consistent with the description was noted. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
Other	1/16/2021 5:22:00 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 residential neighborhood.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. A flight track consistent with the description was noted. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
Other	1/17/2021 12:16:00 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 residential neighborhood.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. A flight track consistent with the description was noted. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	1/20/2021 3:55:00 PM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airport noise office voicemail. Mr. W stated that a white high-wing aircraft flew low over his residence and that the aircraft was also loud.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the afternoon of Wednesday, January 20. There were multiple aircraft in the RHV traffic pattern at the time specified by the caller. All aircraft appeared to be flying at appropriate altitudes in the vicinity of the caller's residence, which is located 1/2-mile south of the Runway-31. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	1/23/2021 10:43:00 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 Saturday, January 23. A single Cessna 172 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.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
E16	1/30/2021 2:41:00 PM	Mr. K sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. K stated that the skydiving aircraft noted on previous referrals was continuing the traffic patterns as noted on prior occasions and the noise levels from the aircraft were very pronounced. Airport staff also received a referral from the County Supervisor's office regarding Mr. K's noise concerns about skydiving operations at E16.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the time and location specified by Mr. K. The climb-out pattern was similar to patterns noted on prior occasions as performed by this skydiving aircraft. Airport staff spoke with Mr. K on the phone regarding the continuing operations of the skydiving aircraft in question. Staff will research any available options regarding the climb-out pattern currently being flown by that aircraft.
Other	2/10/2021 12:30:00 PM	Mr. F from Redwood City sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. F stated that an aircraft departed San Martin Airport and flew at least fourteen circles over his residence in the early afternoon.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the time and location specified by Mr. F. A circling flight track that matched the emailer's description was seen on radar, and the aircraft circled three separate locations during its flight to the North Bay Area. The aircraft is privately-owned and was not conducting survey or photography work. Airport staff exchanged emails with Mr. F in the early afternoon regarding the flight in question.
Other	2/14/2021 3:27:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that a small aircraft passed over his residence.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. A flight track consistent with the description was noted. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
Other	2/18/2021 9:35:00 AM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M stated that two aircraft flew over his neighborhood at two different dates & times. Mr. M added a note on the second flight regarding "acrobatics and draw pretzels".	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. Two flight tracks from two different aircraft consistent with the times and dates noted. The second aircraft was flying from West to East at 2,600-feet, and the aircraft flew straight and performed no turns or maneuvers. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
E16	2/20/2021 10:00:00 AM	Mr. G from Gilroy sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. G stated that a loud aircraft has been circling in the vicinity of his residence for the past few weekends, and that the aircraft was very loud.	Airport staff reviewed available radar data for the time periods specified by Mr. G. The flight tracks were consistent with the operations of the E16 Pac-750 skydiving aircraft. Airport staff spoke with Mr. G on Monday morning regarding the nature of the skydiving aircraft operating out of E16 Airport. Mr. G replayed a musical audio recording he had made during the weekend and the noise of the aircraft could be heard in the background.
E16	2/22/2021 12:00:00 PM	Ms. J from San Martin sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Ms. J stated that a loud aircraft was circling over her residence in the east San Martin area during the weekends and that the aircraft was very loud. Ms. J also stated that the aircraft was being used to drop off skydivers.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the time and location specified by Ms. J. The flight tracks observed were consistent with the operation of the Pac-750 skydiving aircraft. Airport staff replied to Ms. J's email regarding the operations in question.
Other	2/22/2021 10:28:00 PM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M noted three different flights that flew over the area near his residence on three separate days.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. Flight tracks consistent with the description were noted. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
Other	2/23/2021 6:00:00 PM	Ms. H from east of Morgan Hill left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Ms. H stated that a white & red aircraft flew very low and very fast over Lake Anderson, and that the aircraft was at or below the level of her residence.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the late afternoon of Tuesday, February 23. A flight track matching the caller's description was observed departing the Lake Anderson area and subsequently landing at RHV Airport. ATCT radio transmissions confirmed the registration number of an aircraft that closely matched the caller's description. Airport staff spoke at length with Ms. H regarding the nature of aircraft operations and the aircraft that she observed operating near her home. An email was sent to the owner of the aircraft in question informing them of the caller's observations and concerns.

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	2/26/2021 1:25:00 PM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Mr. W stated that a white & blue high-wing aircraft flew over his residence while in the RHV traffic pattern.	Airport staff reviewed radar data and ATCT radio calls for the early afternoon of Friday, February 26. A Cessna 172 aircraft was flying left-hand traffic patterns during the time specified by the caller. The aircraft appeared to be operating at appropriate altitudes in the vicinity of the caller's residence. No further action was taken.
Other	3/1/2021 11:06:00 AM	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 and that it was "a little too attention grabbing".	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the date and time specified by Mr. M. A Cessna aircraft flew from south-west to north-east at 4,500-feet 1/2 mile to the south of Mr. M's residence. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
Other	3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM	County Airports received a letter from the mayor of the City of Escalon, CA. The mayor requested that airplanes operating out of the County Airports refrain from flying over the town of Escalon to "preserve the quality of life".	Escalon (pop.7,500) is located 55 miles north-west of RHV Airport. The Director of County Airports contacted the mayor of Escalon and discussed general aviation activities in the Bay Area.
Other	3/5/2021 5:30:00 AM	Ms. S from San Jose sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Ms. S stated that a small general aviation aircraft flew over her residence at 5:30 am.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the morning of Friday, March 5. A Bell 407 helicopter flew over the emailer's residence at 1,700-feet after departing SJC Airport. Airport staff replied to Ms. S's email with information regarding the morning helicopter over-flight.
Other	3/8/2021 2:32:00 PM	Mr. H from San Jose sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. H stated that there are small aircraft continuously flying over his residence, and the aircraft are flying more frequently and at higher speeds than on previous occasions.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the times and location specified by Mr. H. A review of past flight tracks indicates that no substantial changes to flight paths have recently occurred, and that the flight tracks appear to be evenly dispersed in the vicinity of Mr. H's location. Approximately 2-6 aircraft per day operated in the general area, and the altitudes range from 2,000-8,000 feet. Airport staff spoke at length with Mr. H on two occasions regarding flight tracks in his residential area. Mr. H has also contacted SJC and PAO airports regarding aircraft operations near his residence.
E16	3/26/2021 12:16:00 PM	Mr. K from San Martin sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. K stated that the E16 skydiving aircraft was continuing to generate loud noise levels in the local neighborhoods during climb-out.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the days and times specified by Mr. K. The flight tracks observed matched the descriptions given and were generated by the E16 skydiving operations. Airport staff responded to Mr. K's email on Friday afternoon.
Other	3/27/2021 9:22:00 AM	Mr. M from Los Gatos sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. M listed five GA aircraft flights in the vicinity of his residence that had flown at various altitudes and directions. Mr. M stated that several of the flights near his residence were "Spite flights", including one conducted by a Civil Air Patrol Aircraft.	Airport staff reviewed the information provided by Mr. M. No further action was taken.
RHV	3/29/2021 10:30:00 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 Monday, March 29. A Cessna 172 aircraft operated by a local flight school conducted at least five 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	3/30/2021 10:51:00 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 Tuesday, March 30. A single Cessna 172 aircraft operated by a local flight school conducted at least three 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.

Quarterly Noise Referrals Anonymous and Unknown Callers

Airport	Date Time	Number of Calls	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Other	3/27/2021 8:43:00 PM	1	The County Airports noise office received an email from a resident in Livermore. The individual forwarded a radar image of a Cessna 172 aircraft that had departed RHV Airport and had flown over her residence at an altitude of 4,200-feet on a northbound course. The resident requested that the pilot avoid her residential area.	Airport staff reviewed the information provided. Staff responded to the email on Monday, March 30.
