County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department



108602

DATE: December 7, 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. (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 third quarter of 2021, which covers the months of July, August and September there were 36 referrals for Reid-Hillview Airport (RHV) and 1 referral for San Martin Airport (E16). 31 of the RHV referrals were from a single caller. There were 8 referrals for operations not associated with either Reid-Hillview or San Martin Airports.

The aircraft flown by the San Martin based skydiving business (Operator) has been the source of many referrals in the San Martin area. The area in which the Operator flies is specified by an agreement between the Operator and the FAA. The Operator recently requested and was granted a larger area in which to fly which should allow a distribution of the Operators flights over a larger area, lessening the impact on any one location.

There were 41,857 operations (takeoffs and landings) during the quarter at Reid-Hillview, which equates to one referral for every 1,102 operations.

	RHV		E16 ¹	
	Ops.	Daily Avg.	Ops.	Daily Avg.
Jul	13,827	446	4,647	150
Aug	14,541	469	4,353	140
Sep	13,489	450	4,381	146
Total	41,857	455	13,381	145

ATTACHMENTS:

• Q3 Referrals(PDF)

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Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	7/3/2021 10:45:00 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 radar data for the evening of Saturday, July 3. Two separate aircraft conducted 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	7/4/2021 11:00:00 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 radar data for the evening of Sunday, July 4. A Cessna 172 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	7/5/2021 10:01:00 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 radar data for the evening of Monday, July 5. Two separate aircraft conducted 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	7/6/2021 10:07:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left five (5) 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 radar data for the evening of Tuesday, July 6. Two separate Cessna aircraft conducted five 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	7/6/2021 10:10:00 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 radar data for the evening of Friday, July 16. A Cessna 172 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	7/7/2021 10:03:00 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 radar data for the evening of Wednesday, July 7. 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	7/10/2021 10:05:00 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 radar data for the evening of Saturday, July 10. There were seven departures by three separate Cessna 172 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	7/11/2021 10:55:00 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 radar data for the evening of Sunday, July 11. A Beech 76 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	7/12/2021 10:05:00 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 radar data for the evening of Monday, July 12. There were four takeoffs at the times specified by the caller. One Cessna 172 aircraft accounted for three of the departures, and a Grumman aircaft the fourth. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	7/14/2021 10:20:00 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 radar data for the evening of Wednesday, July 14. A 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.
RHV	7/15/2021 12:10:00 AM	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 radar data for the early morning of Thursday, July 15. A Beechaft B36 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.

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Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Other	7/16/2021 11:20:00 AM	Mr. C from Sunnyvale sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. C stated that a Beech V35B aircraft flew over his residence and was noisy.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the morning of Friday, July 16. A Beechcraft Bonanza flew over Mr. C's residence at 2,000-feet while flying north-west. Airport staff responded to Mr. C's email within 10-minutes with details of the aircraft over-flight.
E16	7/18/2021 9:00:00 AM	Mr. N from Gilroy sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. N stated that the E16 skydiving aircraft was circling over his neighborhood on Sunday the 18th from the morning until 7:00 pm. Mr. N stated that the noise from this aircraft had been less disruptive in the past few weeks as it had appeared that the operator had shifted his flight patterns to the east and away from the higher population density areas, but that the aircraft had once again shifted to the Gilroy area.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for Sunday, July 18th. Numerous flight tracks consistant with the operation of the E16 PAC-750 skydiving aircraft were observed throughout the day in the vicinity of E16 Airport. Airport staff responded to Mr. N's email fifteen minutes after it was sent with information regarding the skydiving aircraft operations.
Other	7/19/2021 11:30:00 PM	Ms. H from San Jose sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Ms. H stated that a dark helicopter was circling in the vicintiy of her residence late at night and was very noisy.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the late evening of Monday, July 19. No flight tracks were observed at the time and location provided by the caller. However the description matches flight activities of the SJPD helicopter. Airport staff respnded to Ms. H's email on Tuesday morning with information on typical SJPD helicopter operations.
RHV	7/21/2021 5:51:00 PM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. W stated that a red & white high-wing aircraft passed low over his residence while in the RHV Airport traffic pattern.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the afternoon of Wednesday, July 21. A Citabria aircraft was operating in a left-hand traffic pattern at the time specified by the caller. The aircraft was at approximately 800-feet in the vicinity of the caller's residence, which is a typical altitude for the base-leg of the approach to the airport. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	7/26/2021 10:04:00 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 radar data for the evening of Monday, July 28. A Cessna 152 aircraft departed RHV Airport 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	7/28/2021 8:25:00 PM	Mr. K from San Martin sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Ms. K stated that a white high-wing aircraft with a red stripe flew extreamly low (200-feet) over an open-air concert at the Clos La Chance Winery in San Martin. Mr. K added that the aircraft was so low that people started to panic and the concert was momentarily stopped. The aircraft was described as having flown from the northwest to the south-east.	Airport staff reviewed radar data, audio calls, and FAA aircraft registration for the date, time and location specified by Mr. K. A Cessna 172 aircraft matching the description was observed dropping off radar a few miles north-west of the winery at an altitude of 1,200-feet. At the speed the aircraft was flying it would have crossed over the winery at the time provided by Mr. K. The aircraft's registration was obtained and photos of the aircraft confirmed that the aircraft on radar was a white and red Cessna 172. Airport staff spoke at length with Mr. K on Friday afternoon regarding the incident. A phone message was left for the registered owner of the aircraft regarding the nature of the complaint.
RHV	8/1/2021 10:33:00 AM	Mr. G from East San Jose sent an email to the County Airports. Mr. G forwarded a calandar update to a previous submittal extending a daily noise referral from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and which included the statement "Noisy airplanes are flying over my house".	Airport staff have previously spoken with Mr. G regarding RHV aircraft operations in the vicinity of his residence. A referral will be added to the Airport's database on Mr. G's behalf.
RHV	8/2/2021 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 was a departure from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the evening of Monday, August 2. A Cessna 172 aircraft conducted a straight-out departure at the time given by the caller. The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.

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Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Other	8/2/2021 11:58:00 PM	Mr. M from South San Jose left a message on the County Airport noise office voicemail. Mr. M staterd that a loud helicopter flew over his residence late at night and was cricling for over 1-hour.	Airport staff reviewed ATC radio transmissions and radar data for the evening of Monday, August 2. No flight tracks matching the caller's desciption were observed. Airport staff left a message for Mr. M the following morning.
RHV	8/5/2021 10:03:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left twelve (12) 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 radar data for the evening of Thursday, August 5. At least four separate aircraft conducted no fewer than eight takeoffs 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	8/8/2021 10:06:00 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 radar data for the evening of Sunday, August 8. A Cessna aircraft conducted a left-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	8/9/2021 10:13:00 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 radar data for the evening of Monday, August 9. Two separate aircraft conducted right-downwind 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	8/12/2021 10:02:00 PM	Mr. B from East San Jose left nine (9) 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 radar data for the evening of Thursday, August 12. Two separate aircraft conducted at least nine 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	8/16/2021 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 was a departure from RHV Airport post 10:00 pm.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the evening of Monday, August 16. A Cessna aircraft conducted a left-turn 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	8/17/2021 12:01:00 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 radar data for the early morning of Tuesday, August 17. A Cessna aircraft conducted a left-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.
Other	8/17/2021 11:30:00 PM	Ms. L from San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Ms. L stated that a small aircraft (N858AL) was circling over her residence for nearly one hour and that the aircraft was very loud.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the late evening of Tuesday, August 17. A circling flight track flown by a Beachcraft Bonanza was observed at an altitude of 2,500-feet in the vicinity of the caller's residence. Airport staff spoke with Ms. L on the 23rd regarding the operation in question.
RHV	8/20/2021 10:06:00 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 radar data for the evening of Friday, August 20. There were seven departures by three separate 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	8/22/2021 10:03:00 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 radar data for the evening of Sunday, August 22. There were three takeoffs by two separate 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	8/24/2021 12:01:00 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 radar data for the early morning of Tuesday, August 24. A Piper 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.

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Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	8/24/2021 4:14:00 PM	Mr. G from East San Jose sent an email to the County Airports. Mr. G stated that a fast moving aircraft was observed heading north out of RHV Airport at low altitude, and that the aircraft made a hard-left turn to the west. The caller added that the wings of the aircraft during the turn were nearly vertical to the horizon. A second individual also commented via email that they and another individual were present at Hillview Park and observed the overflight and that it "was VERY scary".	The Airports Director and Assistant Director also observed the low-altitude high-speed pass of the aircraft at the time specified by Mr. G. A review of radar data confirmed that the aircraft flew down the RHV runways in excess of 200 knots, and the flight track indicated that a very tight, high-G left turn to enter a left-downwind was performed by the pilot of the aircraft. The radar data also indicated the aircraft was operated at over 250-knots south of RHV while approaching the airport. ATC recordings indicated that the pilot requested a high-speed pass and "tight turn" to enter a left-downwind to landing. Airport staff sent an email and left a phone message for the owner/pilot of the aircraft regarding the nature of the arrival and manuevers that were performed. As of 3:30 pm on the 26th there has been no response from the pilot. On Wednesday staff spoke with the San Jose FSDO office regarding the incident. A report was subsequently filed with the FAA requesting an investigation.
RHV	8/26/2021 10:28:00 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 radar data for the evening of Thursday, August 26. Two separate 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.
Other	8/29/2021 12:20:00 PM	Mr. N from Los Gatos left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Mr. N stated that a helicopter flew in circles at low altitudes in the vicinity of his residence west of Lexington Reservoir.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the early afternoon of Sunday, August 29. A Eurocopter AS-350 was observed flying in the vicinity of the Lexington Reservoir and the caller's location. The reason for the operation could not be determined. Airport staff spoke with Mr. N on Monday morning regarding the helicopter flight in the Los Gatos area.
RHV	8/31/2021 12:05:00 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 radar data for the early morning of Tuesday, August 31. A 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.
RHV	9/1/2021 10:19:00 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 radar data for the evening of Wednesday, September 1. 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	9/2/2021 10:08:00 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 radar data for the evening of Thursday, September 2. 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	9/6/2021 5:54:00 PM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise referral voicemail. Mr. W stated that awhite and red high-wing aircraft flew low over his residence while in the RHV traffic pattern.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the afternoon of Monday, September 6. A Cessna 152 aircraft was flying practice takeoffs and landings at the time specified by the caller. The aircraft's altitude was normal for the location of the caller's residence (750-feet AGL). The caller did not reference an aircraft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No further action was taken.
RHV	9/6/2021 10:06:00 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 radar data for the evening of Monday, September 6. 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.

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Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	9/8/2021 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 radar data for the evening of Wednesday, September 8. 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	9/9/2021 6:48:00 AM	Mr. G from East San Jose sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Mr. G stated that a twin-engined aircraft flew over his residence very low and that it was very loud. Mr. G included a link to a YouTube video taken of the aircraft from his front door.	Airport staff reviewed the video and local radar data for the date and time specified by the caller. A locally-based Cessna 310 aircraft conducted a departure during this time. Airport staff responded to Mr. G's email regarding the operation in question.
Other	9/10/2021 3:00:00 PM	Ms. G from Morgan Hill sent an email to the County Airports noise office. Ms. G stated that there were numerous helicopters that were flying over her residence. Ms. G stated that at least one flies over her house every day, and that she believed this was "something new". Ms. G followed-up her original email with four more emails the following Sunday with additional helicopter over-flights.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the dates and times provided by Ms. G. Two separate helicopters were observed at the times provided, and these were local Life-Flight operations and a Bell Jet Ranger that has been conducting power line inspections for PG&E. Airport staff replied to Ms. G's email with descriptions of the helicopter operations that were being conducted in her area.
RHV	9/11/2021 1:05:00 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 radar data for the early morning of Saturday, September 11. 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.
Other	9/11/2021 4:30:00 PM	Mr. S from San Martin left a message on the County Airport noise office voicemail. Mr. S stated that a white and red low-wing aircraft flew very low along Lake Anderson Reservoir (now empty), and that the aircraft was actually below the level of his residence. Mr. S added that he believed the aircraft was being operated in a very reckless manner.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the afternoon of Saturday, September 11. No flight tracks could be found matching the caller's description, and no flight tracks were observed going into or out of the area before or after the low pass. However, Airport staff observed the same aircraft make a very low (twenty-feet AGL) high-speed pass down the runway during the closing moments of the E16 Fly-In that occurred on the same day. This same aircraft, which is flown by an RHV tentant, has been reported making low-altitude passes along Anderson Lake on previous occassions, and the pilot of the aircraft has been contacted by the San Jose FSDO for low-altitude, high-speed passes at RHV Airport as well. Airport staff left a message for Mr. S on the following Monday morning regarding the operation in question.
RHV	9/13/2021 12:13:00 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 radar data for the early morning of Monday, September 13. 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	9/20/2021 11:31:00 PM	Mr. Beachum called the airport noise line to notify of a/c departure post 10:00pm. No other details was given	Airport staff reveiwed data on noise complain on 09/21/2021. Caller did not state any an aircarft operation contrary to County or Federal rules and regulations. No other actions was taken.

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