

Oakland Airport-Community Noise Management Forum Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2023

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1. INTRODUCTIONS

The January 18, 2023 meeting of the Oakland Airport-Community Noise Management Forum (Noise Forum) was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by the Noise Forum’s facilitator, Rhea Hanrahan. Hanrahan noted that this meeting was a regular meeting and that there was a quorum. Roll was taken.

Noise Forum Members/Alternates Present

Co-Chair Trish Herrera Spencer, Councilmember, Alameda
Matt Pourfarzaneh, Alternate Community Representative, Alameda

Craig Simon, Assistant Director of Aviation, Port of Oakland
James Nelson, Community Representative, Berkeley
Edward Bogue, Community Representative, Hayward
Bart Lounsbury, Community Representative, Oakland
Davis Drisdale, Community Representative, Richmond
Benny Lee, Community Representative, San Leandro

Staff Members/Advisors/Officials Present

Matt P. Davis, Airport Operations Manager, Port of Oakland
Jesse Richardson, Airport Noise and Environmental Affairs Supervisor, Port of Oakland
Joan Zatopek, Aviation Planning and Development Manager, Port of Oakland
Anjana Mepani, Associate Environmental Planner, Port of Oakland
Diego Gonzalez, Government Affairs, Port of Oakland
Rhea Hanrahan, Noise Forum Facilitator, HMMH
Tim Middleton, Technical Consultant to the Port, HMMH
Paul Hannah, Airspace Consultant, LEAN Technology Corporation
Christian Valdes, Technical Consultant to the Noise Forum, Landrum & Brown
Brian McGuire, Planner, Alameda

FAA Representatives Present

Erik Amend, Acting Western-Pacific Regional Administrator, FAA
Alana Jaress, Wester-Pacific Region Community Engagement Office, FAA

Ms. Hanrahan reminded everyone that the meeting is being transcribed by a court report. She asked that everyone speak clearly into their microphones and speak one at a time.

A. Walt Jacobs – In Memory

The facilitator announced that shortly after the last Noise Forum meeting in October, longtime member of the Forum, Walt Jacobs, passed away. The following statements were made:

- Ms. Hanrahan: “Throughout his time with the Forum, he insisted on bringing the community and the airport together to become allies rather than adversaries. His tireless service to the Forum and his countless activities helped form the relationship between these two entities that it is today. I know everyone on the Noise Forum, including myself, would like to thank Walt for his many years of service and his unending support as being a member.”
- Benny Lee: “When I heard the news, I was speechless. I’ve been on the Noise Forum for a few years, and so, I consider Walt a mentor. We talked about a lot of things that needed improvements. I think we worked on a lot of things that have improved. When we take a look at our quarterly reports, when I first attended, we weren’t at a hundred percent on a number of the items. And now half the items are now at a hundred percent. There is a lot more work for us to do, you know, obviously, both panels. Walt was very instrumental, i.e., he’s a mentor for me, as well as Tony Santos, the late Tony, the late Mayor Santos who was a mentor, and who also was a co-founder of this Forum. And such a loss. I don’t think there are words that can express all of our thoughts. But his contributions is where we are today, and where we

will be going in terms of making it better for people's lives, trying to solve some of the big challenges. You know, when I first joined, the FAA never attended any of our meetings. Now they are at every single one of our meetings. That speaks to a lot of accomplishments and work that has been done. We wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for the guidance that we got from Walt, and the inspiration to do better for our communities. And at the end of the meeting, I ask that we hold a moment of silence for Walt.

- Trish Herrera-Spencer: "I also wanted to speak on behalf of Walt. Many of you knew him from coming to these meetings, but you might not have known that he was 84 years old. It was amazing to me when I found out his age, because he would always tend to give so much. And he was a lifelong Alamedan, and so, we would see him in town. And it was so important for him to come to our meetings and to continue to serve and do his life's work on behalf of our extended community. So, I really want to thank you for putting this on the agenda. I think it's wonderful for us to speak on his behalf and share a few words. Thank you."
- Matt Pourfarzaneh: "I just want to expand a little bit on what Trish said, that he was a generation Alamedan, and he and his family have really been a cornerstone of the city contributing to various areas, not only the Noise Forum, but other aspects of the community. He was member of the Board of Harbor Bay Master Board and also president of the synagogue that his father founded, actually. He was married for 57 years, survived by four children and his wife, and brother, and other family members. And he was my personal friend for over 30 years. When I moved from London here, he was one of the people that I bonded with. We had frequent lunches together talking about family, religion, politics. So, I will miss him with those luncheons. And he was a fighter. He survived five cancers. And he was really a medical marvel that he survived all those, with always a smile and good express. And one outstanding thing about him, he was very open and expressed his view and his life, he was very, very open and very friendly person. So, he will be greatly missed. Thank you."
- Tony Daysog: "I just wanted to take a moment to join everyone here in commemorating the contributions of Walt Jacobs; not just to the Oakland Alameda Airport Noise Forum, but to the Eastbay and to the City of Alameda at large. I got to know Walt for so many years. I first met him when I was on the Noise Forum back in the early 2000s. And I remember when I joined the Noise Forum, the late Councilmember Al DeWitt said, "you know, Tony, just listen to Walt and listen to Redd, and everything will be fine." Indeed, Walt was the type of person who just, you know, you just respected him, I think. You know, it's that voice, Walt's voice, you know, that voice of authority. And he was so knowledgeable on so many matters. And so, I just wanted to take a moment to join everyone here to, you know, pay homage to the work that Walt had done for everyone. Well, thank you very much for this opportunity. I appreciate it."
- Craig Simon: "On behalf of the Port, Walt was certainly a cornerstone for this Noise Forum, and you've all heard about it here tonight. He certainly put in a lot of effort, worked very, very well with our staff, really kind of made improvements that we couldn't have done without his input to make sure we were on right path and really tried to support the community. He was looking out for the community. We really appreciate that. We want that interaction. We wanted that frank discussion with him. So, we appreciate it, and we will certainly miss having Walt as part of this process."

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. New Councilmembers –Berkeley and San Leandro

The facilitator announced that there are new elected representatives to the Noise Forum from the cities of Berkeley (Sophie Hahn) and San Leandro (Celina Reynes). Both had conflicts for the January meeting, but we are hopeful that they will be able to attend the April meeting and introduce themselves.

B. Annual Noise Forum Membership Dues

The facilitator announced that all annual Noise Forum membership dues have been paid.

C. Third Quarter 2022 Noise Abatement Report

Mr. Lee commented that there is a decrease in compliance with Runway 28L/R departures. Jesse Richardson said that since coming out of the pandemic, there are more flights. He said that staff has posters and rack cards that point to the Whispertrak website at the FBOs. Staff also held a pilot outreach meeting on January 10.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 19, 2022

The facilitator noted that Noise Forum members have received copies of the draft Minutes from the October 19, 2022 Noise Forum meeting. She asked if there were any questions or comments. If there were no questions, comments, errors, or omissions, the facilitator said she would entertain a motion to approve. Moved: Jim Nelson, second: Edward Bogue. Motion passed.

B. Request to amend minutes from April 20, 2022

The facilitator noted that there is a request to amend the Minutes from the April 20, 2022 Noise Forum meeting to reflect the full transcript of the statement shared by Ernest Delli Gatti. Members moved to update the April 20, 2022 Minutes with the full transcript, and it was further moved to include his statement in the January meeting minutes. Mr. Delli Gatti stated, “For the past 21 years, I've been the Oakland Roundtable Citizen Representative for Alameda County. During this period of time, I've tried to balance competing interests between the airlines, air freight companies and private aircraft that fly in and out of Oakland International Airport and the basic rights of citizens that are currently impacted by jet noise. Because of my previous experience in the Air Force and United Airlines, I was able to see both sides of competing interests and peoples' concerns while attempting to resolve jet noise issues not only at the Oakland International Airport but also at the Hayward Executive Airport as well. The Port and the Oakland International Airport need to do more to represent the interests of the residents of Alameda County. They also need to do more for the residents that live in other parts of the Bay Area and find concrete solutions that are fair and balanced when it comes to resolving jet noise issues as opposed to pointing the finger at the FAA. The FAA also plays a big part in this equation and needs to do a better job when it comes to resolving issues with jet noise as well. The FAA has told us that they will listen to and consider any recommendations that are submitted through the Oakland Roundtable. Unfortunately, most of these recommendations that we have submitted for the past 21 years back to the FAA have

been dismissed out of hand with very little or no feedback on our recommendations. We have many aviation experts, retired military, retired FAA, various airline pilots and retired airline employees that currently serve on the Oakland Roundtable Forum. A lot of hard work and research goes into our recommendations and proposals that are submitted to the FAA. The FAA needs to seriously consider these recommendations locally that are submitted through the Oakland Roundtable as opposed to dismissing them out of hand by some unknown bureaucrat up in Seattle, Washington using safety as a re-occurring theme through jet proposals. Jet noise isn't just the Bay Area issue. This is a national issue that currently impacts everyone in the United States. For the past 21 years, I've tried my best when it came to dealing with jet noise. Hopefully, I was able to make a small difference and left things just a little bit better than when I first joined the Noise Forum. I would also like to thank Mike McClintock, Walt Jacobs, Benny Lee, Jim Nelson, Peter Marcuzzo, Ed Bogue, Valerie Jensen, and especially Jesse Richardson, for their friendship as well as their perspective that each of them have brought to the Oakland Roundtable Forum. I will truly miss our gatherings and those back-and-forth discussions. It has been an honor to represent not only the residents of San Lorenzo but also those of Alameda County. I wish all of you blue skies, clear weather and, of course, happy trails.”

4. ACTION ITEM –PARTIAL TERM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE CO-CHAIR

A. Nominations – New Community Representative Co-Chair

The facilitator stated that with the passing of Mr. Jacobs, there is a vacancy for the Community Representative Co-Chair position. She said that the member voted into this position will serve a partial term until the annual elections are held at the July meeting. Ms. Hanrahan asked for nominees. Trish Herrera-Spencer nominated Matt Pourfarzaneh. Ed Bogue nominated Benny Lee stating that having Mr. Lee serve as the Co-Chair allows for more than just Alameda being represented at the Chair level. Brian McGuire reported that the City of Alameda is in the process of appointing a replacement for Mr. Jacobs, which would put Dr. Pourfarzaneh back to the alternate Community presentative and felt that should be taken into consideration. With no additional comments, the facilitator closed nominations.

B. Vote – New Community Representative Co-Chair

The facilitator took a vote. Mr. Lee and Dr. Pourfarzaneh chose to abstain, as they were the nominees. Mr. Drisdale also chose to abstain as being a new member, he did not know either of them well enough to make an informed decision. Dr. Pourfarzaneh was voted in as the Community Representative Co-Chair.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

The facilitator opened the public comment period with the announcement that this is an opportunity for the public to speak on issues not on the agenda but relevant to airport noise at the Oakland International Airport. Public comment was heard from the following:

- Mrs. Harrison stated that last week, there were some days where planes were flying over day and night. She said it looks like the planes had been rerouted, so she just wanted to say thank you.
- Bob Jarman asked if it is possible for all participants on Zoom to be seen. Mr. Richardson explained how he could see the participants.

6. FAA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Erik Amend, Acting Regional Administrator for the Western Pacific Region, introduced himself to the Noise Forum. He said that he would be holding this position until at least April 2023. He said noise is a very important aspect of what the FAA is focused on, especially at the Regional Administrator level, and the FAA has been working on the Noise Policy Review (NPR) initiative. He explained that this activity started back in 2021. The NPR provides the agency an opportunity to review and consider updates to long-standing Civil Aviation Noise Policy. This is in response to recent research, research findings, and helps to position the FAA to make additional updates as ongoing research matures. Mr. Amend stated the FAA is going to be reevaluating the FAA's primary noise metric, the average day/night average sound level (DNL), and the significant threshold (the DNL of 65 decibels), as these are foundational to the FAA's Aircraft Noise Policy as it is today. Mr. Amend said that the FAA is also evaluating unique considerations associated with commercial space flights, and new-entrant aircraft and operations. These areas are being researched and may be addressed in this reevaluation.

Mr. Amend continued that the FAA is preparing to engage with the public and other stakeholders through meaningful opportunities to learn more about aviation noise. The public can hear from the FAA and can provide input for the agency's consideration. He added that stakeholder engagement will be initiated in the spring of 2023. The FAA has published a webpage that will be used to keep the public up to date as this project progresses. On the website (www.faa.gov/noise), click the "Noise Policy Review" link under Research and Programs. He said that it's very easy to navigate to.

Mr. Amend reported that the FAA is also doing several other activities throughout the region later this month. He said that a group is being formed that includes airlines, FAA organizations, airport sponsors, and noise forum/roundtable members. They will be talking about some of these key issues, determining how to manage community engagement, and discussing some of the issues that are important to the participants. The FAA (either Alana, one of the CEOs, or Mr. Amend) will bring back any key findings or key learnings to the Noise Forum at a future meeting.

Bart Lounsbury asked about the NextGen program and where the FAA is as far as helping all of those who are impacted by the updated routes. He said it feels like any efforts have been stagnated. He asked for insight from Mr. Amend on how to reinvigorate those efforts and hopefully make some progress. Mr. Amend said that he is happy to take the conversation offline and listen to what suggestions the Noise Forum members have. He said that he cannot make any promises, but he is happy to discuss it further with the group.

Dr. Pourfarzaneh asked why there have been so many people that have held his position over the past six years. Mr. Amend said that the FAA has a lot of opportunities for professional growth

and development. This results in people moving on to positions of greater authority, significance, or responsibility. He said the FAA will continue to have people professionally developed and moved into these roles, and they will continue to engage with the Noise Forum and many other groups moving forward.

Mr. Lee said that the Noise Forum member jurisdictions have challenges dealing with aircraft noise. He said that the Noise Forum presented materials to the FAA, and they were rejected. He said that he can understand that it must not be easy to hear everyone's complaint about issues with aircraft noise, but he wants to make sure that the FAA understands that these are real issues that impact lives. Mr. Lee hopes that Mr. Amend will work to build a relationship with the Noise Forum and help them move the needle on bidirectional collaboration so that the Forum can move forward with what they are trying to do.

Mr. Amend said that he understands that there are a lot of issues, concerns, and questions that have been raised over the years. He said that even though the Noise Forum may have gotten responses from his colleagues in the FAA, doesn't mean that they can't listen and hear some of those concerns again. He said that that's what he is here for. He continued that the FAA will review and discuss any questions and concerns, regardless if they have previously been submitted to the FAA.

7. NOISE OFFICE REPORT

A. Update on Action Items from North Field/South Field Working Group

Matt P. Davis and Mr. Richardson gave reports on the action items from the North Field/South Field Research Group meeting on December 21, 2022. Items discussed were as follows:

- Raw data was provided to CLASS for the Ballena Bay portable noise monitoring.
- There were no updates for the HUSSH and the WNSDR.
- A pilot meeting was held in early January with a good turnout.
- The research group was provided with a multi-year look-ahead for construction projects.
- There was a discussion on how to incorporate noise abatement procedures into current contracts/leases.
 - Current lessees are very accommodating to staff's requests for placement of posters, brochures, and rack cards to get information to pilots.
- An airport tour will be set up for the NF/SF Working group and CLASS members.

Mr. Davis said that staff will work with the NextGen subcommittee to revisit the report and find ways to reinvigorate the list of requests to the FAA.

B. Update on Action Items from October 19, 2022 Noise Forum Meeting.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Richardson gave reports on the action items from the second quarter Noise Forum meeting on October 19, 2022. Items discussed were:

- Virtual Noise 101 held in November 2022.
- January 2023 Pilot Meeting.
- Updates to the Fly Quiet OAK website.

8. NOISE NEWS UPDATE

Christian Valdez reported on the current news of the aviation and noise industries. Items covered included the following:

- FAA would not share the names of the airports that applied for the Airport Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program.
- FAA Center of Excellence ASCENT Projects for 2022
 - Project 82: Integrated noise and CO2 standard settings will develop tools to assess the impacts of technologies and design changes to control aircraft noise and emissions.
 - Project 84: Advanced Air Mobility Flight Vehicles will develop noise models for urban air mobility and improve community noise calculations of these aircraft as they fly through various operating stages.
 - Project 86: Use of broadband and sounds to mitigate sleep disruption due to aircraft noise will investigate the effects of different kinds of aviation noise on sleep under uncontrolled conditions and investigate whether some of the sleep disturbing effects can be mitigated by introducing broadband noise or white noise into the bedroom or by wearing earplugs.
 - Project 94: Probabilistic Unmanned Aircraft System Trajectory and Noise-Estimation Tool will produce a methodology or tool that can evaluate the noise exposure and associated uncertainty in the noise exposure resulting from operations of UAMs. Given the random nature of estimated UAM operations, these methodologies or tools will help identify concentrations of noise exposure.
- Project 3: Cardiovascular disease and aircraft-noise exposure were brought up at the last Noise Forum Meeting. The FAA is yet to receive a final report.
- Project 17: The effects of aircraft noise on sleep is ongoing. Thus far, the project team has enrolled approximately one quarter of the total study participants that are anticipated to be required for the completion of this study.
- In October 2022, the FAA issued more than \$16 million in grants to 14 universities across the country in research to reduce aviation emissions and noise. The FAA awarded a total of 43 grants to university research teams. Project focus includes sustainable aviation fuel, electrification of aircraft, noise reduction supersonic operations, and environmental measurements.
- In September 2022, Eviation Aircraft, a manufacturer of all-electric aircraft based in Washington State, successfully completed a first flight of its nine passenger, zero emissions regional aircraft called "Alice," which flew for about 8 minutes at an altitude to 3,500 feet. Alice is targeted at commuter and cargo markets, and it will typically operate flights ranging between 150 to 250 miles.
- Beta Technologies out of Vermont has developed two electric prototype aircraft, which currently are in testing phases: an electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, and a conventional takeoff and landing aircraft. These aircraft have a range of about 290 miles and can carry up to 1,400 pounds of cargo or six passengers. The intent of these aircraft are to replace the short-haul trucks that run on fossil fuels that currently dominate the cargo sector.

- Two Bay Area companies are working on autonomous flight.

9. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2023.

10. NEW BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lee asked for an update on returning to in-person meetings. Mr. Simon said that staff is following the direction of the Board of Port Commissioners who continue to meet virtually. He said that staff is keeping an eye on the Board and will reach out to the Noise Forum if anything changes.

A moment of silence was held in the memory of Walt Jacobs.

Facilitator Hanrahan adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.