



# Oakland Airport-Community Noise Management Forum Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2023

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## 1. INTRODUCTIONS

The July 19, 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. Ms. 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  
Jay Seaton, Community Representative, Alameda  
Sophie Hahn, Councilmember, Berkeley  
James Nelson, Community Representative, Berkeley  
Edward Bogue, Community Representative, Hayward  
Janani Ramachandran, Councilmember, Oakland  
Bart Lounsbury, Community Representative, Oakland  
Davis Drisdale, Community Representative, Richmond  
Benny Lee, Community Representative, San Leandro  
Craig Simon, Acting Director of Aviation, Port of Oakland

### **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  
Matthew Davis, Director of Government Affairs, Port of Oakland  
Diego Gonzalez, Government Affairs, Port of Oakland  
Rhea Hanrahan, Noise Forum Facilitator, HMMH  
Tim Middleton, Technical Consultant to the Port, HMMH  
Sarah Yenson, 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**

Carlette Young, Supervisory Senior Advisor Office of the Western-Pacific Regional Administrator, FAA  
Moifair Chin, Community Engagement Officer, FAA  
Tommy Singleton, OAK ATCT Air Traffic Manager, FAA  
Ben Kingston, OAK ATCT Operations Supervisor, FAA

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

## **2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. FY23/24 Noise Forum Membership Dues**

Facilitator Hanrahan announced that the Port of Oakland (Port) Finance Department sent invoices for the annual Noise Forum membership dues for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. She reminded members that payments are due by the end of September.

### **B. New FAA Community Engagement Officer**

Moifair Chin introduced herself as the new Community Engagement Officer for the Western-Pacific Region.

### C. New Planning Services Manager, City of Alameda

Steven Buckley introduced himself as the new City of Alameda Planning Services Manager. He said that he is happy to be involved with the Noise Forum along with many others within the surrounding cities and agencies. He continued that he is familiar with the East Bay immediately around Alameda.

### D. Draft Environmental Impact Report, OAK Terminal Modernization and Development Project

Facilitator Hanrahan announced that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) document for the Oakland Terminal Modernization and Development Project is available for public review and comment. She reminded the group that on the bottom of the meeting agenda is a website where the public can find all the project-related materials, including dates and times for public meetings.<sup>1</sup> She added that the public comment period for the EIR closes on September 15, 2023. Benny Lee asked if the project would have an impact on the noise contours at the Airport. Ms. Hanrahan said that noise is one of the environmental elements addressed in the EIR.

### E. FAA Noise Policy Review

Facilitator Hanrahan announced that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has extended the comment period for the Noise Policy Review an additional 60 days, which now ends on September 29, 2023. She said that information about the Noise Policy Review, as well as other information, can be found at <https://www.faa.gov/noise>.

### F. First Quarter 2023 Noise Abatement Report

Mr. Lee asked what is being done to improve compliance with jet departures from Runways 28L/R and jet landings on Runways 10L/R, as well as the jet departures from Runway 12. Jesse Richardson commented on Runway 12 departures, stating that before the FAA institutes southeast flow, he will email Northern California TRACON and remind them to have aircraft turn out over the bay instead of departing over San Leandro. He added that he will continue to send additional reminders as needed. Mr. Richardson explained that Port staff have approached North Field jet departure issues in many ways. The latest effort included having fixed-based operators (FBOs) attach noise abatement information to the fuel receipts in hopes that the pilots will comply with the voluntary procedures. He continued that additional efforts have included holding a Pilot Outreach meeting in January 2023 and directing pilots to Whispertrack. Mr. Richardson explained that with the recent noise abatement website update, there is a Whispertrack banner that directs website visitors to the noise abatement procedures.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, he said Port staff send a letter to noncompliant operators. Mr. Lee suggested to make contact with noncompliant operators early on, so the operators understand the impact they have on the residents.

### G. Taxiway Whiskey Rehabilitation

Matt Davis reported that some preliminary work has occurred for the Taxiway Whiskey rehabilitation, and information about the project can be found at [www.flyquietoak.com](http://www.flyquietoak.com). He explained that Taxiway Whiskey, which is the main parallel taxiway that serves Runway 30, needs to be repaired. He said the bulk of the construction will begin on August 7, 2023, and it will continue through October 2023 with a series of project phases intended to minimize the noise

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oaklandairport.com/terminaldevelopment/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://flyquietoak.com/>

impacts to the community. He said that when some portions of that taxiway are closed, aircraft may have to operate from the North Field. He explained that the phasing is designed to minimize the amount of time aircraft have to utilize the North Field for departures. Mr. Davis said that there will be weekly community advisories that will give the community a granular report of exactly what to expect with each phase. He reminded the group that if they are not receiving the community advisory, they can reach out to Airport staff.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. April 19, 2023

Facilitator Hanrahan noted that Noise Forum members have received copies of the draft minutes from the April 18, 2023 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: James Nelson, second: Sophie Hahn.

### 4. ACTION ITEM – ANNUAL CO-CHAIR ELECTIONS

#### A. Elected Representative Co-Chair

Facilitator Hanrahan stated that the annual elections for the co-chairs are held at the July meeting each year for a one-year term. Ms. Hanrahan asked for nominees for the Elected Representative Co-Chair.

##### 1. Nominations

Mr. Lee nominated Trish Herrera Spencer. Mr. Seaton seconded the nomination. Ms. Herrera Spencer accepted the nomination.

##### 2. Vote

Ms. Hanrahan took a vote. Ms. Herrera Spencer was elected unanimously.

#### B. Community Representative Co-Chair

Facilitator Hanrahan asked for nominees for the Community Representative Co-Chair.

##### 1. Nominations

Mr. Seaton nominated Mr. Lee. Ms. Herrera Spencer seconded the nomination. Mr. Lee accepted the nomination.

##### 2. Vote

Ms. Hanrahan took a vote. Mr. Lee was elected unanimously.

### 5. NEXTGEN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Herrera Spencer reported that the NextGen subcommittee sent a letter to the Port's Acting Director of Aviation Craig Simon with a request to meet with Paul Hannah with Lean Corporation. She said the Port has agreed to have Mr. Hannah attend the subcommittee meeting and said that the subcommittee looks forward to seeing if he could provide assistance and insight reevaluating WNDNR, HUSSH and TRUKN. Bart Lounsbury asked if this means that the subcommittee can now reach out to Mr. Hannah and schedule a meeting. Ms. Hanrahan affirmed that Mr. Hannah can be invited to the next meeting of the NextGen subcommittee. Mr. Simon said that Mr. Hannah

is very busy with many projects, and the subcommittee should be very succinct with what the group is asking him to review. Mr. Lounsbury agreed.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Facilitator Hanrahan opened the public comment period with an announcement that it was an opportunity for the public to speak on issues not on the agenda but relevant to airport noise at the Oakland International Airport (OAK). No public comments were provided.

## 7. FAA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Carlette Young reiterated that the public comment period for the Noise Policy Review has been extended. She said that the webinars, with questions and answers, that were held earlier this year are posted on the FAA's website.<sup>3</sup> She also reported that the Department of Transportation published a request for information seeking public input on the development of a national strategy for Advanced Air Mobility. The public comment period is open until August 16, 2023.

## 8. NOISE OFFICE REPORT

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

Mr. Davis and Mr. Richardson gave reports on the action items from the North Field/South Field Research Group meeting held on June 21, 2023. The following action items were discussed:

- Ask FBOs how many fuel tags have been distributed.
- Provide CLASS with a newer airport layout plan.
- Work with CLASS, City of Alameda, and OAK staff to create a welcome letter for FBOs.
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO) Ground-Based Augmentation System (GBAS) Team to plan on at least one, if not more, follow-up meetings with the OAK North Field/South Field Research Group, OAK Noise Forum, and/or City of Alameda/San Leandro.

### B. Update on Action Items from April 19, 2023, Noise Forum Meeting.

Mr. Davis gave reports on the action items from the previous Noise Forum meeting. The following action items were discussed:

- Provide airfield tour with CLASS and the City of Alameda
  - Completed on February 22, 2023
- Provide Noise 101
  - Last one was given on May 31, 2023
- Provide airfield tour with San Leandro
  - Completed on June 7, 2023
- Add a list of action items to the Agenda Packet
  - Included in the July meeting packet and will be included moving forward

Mr. Lee said he would like to see the creation of a regional noise roundtable re-added as an item on the Action Item list. Mr. Seaton said that he would like to see all action items on the list, even if they are not completed. Mr. Davis said that will be included in the next packet.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.faa.gov/noisepolicyreview>

## 9. NOISE NEWS UPDATE

Christian Valdez reported on the current news of the aviation and noise industries. The following items were discussed:

- The 2018 FAA Reauthorization will expire later this year; therefore, Congress is working on a new reauthorization bill for fiscal years 2024 through 2028. Items that will be potentially included in the reauthorization bill include the following:
  - The FAA should review and update Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Standards. They should clarify existing and future noise policies and standards and seek feedback from airports, airport users, and individuals living in the vicinity of airports before implementing any changes to any noise policies and standards.
  - In implementing or revising in-flight procedures, the FAA shall seek to reduce undesirable air traffic noise.
  - The FAA shall work with airport sponsors that potentially impact the neighboring communities in establishing or modifying aircraft arrival and departure routes.
  - The FAA shall discourage local encroachment of residential and other buildings near airports that could create future aircraft noise complaints or impact on airport operations, or aviation safety.
  - The FAA shall perform a study to examine airport ultrafine particles and the effect of such particles on human health.
  - The FAA shall establish an Airport Community Task Force to evaluate improvement mechanisms to engage communities impacted by airport operations.
  - The FAA shall coordinate a third-party study with aviation noise metrics, the efficiency of the DNL metrics compared to other metrics, and the benefits of DNL and potential changes to the DNL metric.
  - A noise provision states that the FAA shall establish an Aircraft Noise Advisory Committee to advise the FAA Administrator on issues facing the aviation community that are related to aircraft noise exposure and existing FAA policies and regulations. This committee shall evaluate existing research under practical syntax and annoyance, assess alternative metrics, evaluate the 65 DNL threshold, and evaluate current noise mitigation strategies and community engagements by the FAA.
  - The FAA shall provide a report to Congress on the agency's efforts relative to supersonic aircraft.
- The FAA released updated blueprints for airspace and procedure changes to accommodate future advanced air mobility air-taxi operations. This blueprint explains that air-taxi operations will begin at a low rate, flying much like helicopters do today and using existing infrastructures like helipads and early vertiports.
- Archer Aviation announced that it has completed the final assembly of its Midnight Aircraft in Salinas, California. Archer has received an FAA certificate for testing. The first set of tests will be on the ground. The first unmanned flight is scheduled for summer 2023. The first highlighted flight is scheduled for early 2024 and will be in operational service in 2025. The announcement also described Archer's goal is to

deploy 6,000 of these aircraft by 2030. United Airlines has already preordered 100 Midnights, and it intends to buy more.

- United Airlines announced that they have started to use a blend of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) on departing flights from SFO and are using a SAF blend at London Heathrow. This would put the airline on track to use approximately 10 million gallons of SAF in 2023, which is three times more than they used in 2020, and 10 times more than they used in 2019. United Airlines beats all airlines on the investment of a future production of over 5 billion gallons of SAF. The SAF used by United Airlines is produced by a company called Neste and is made of 100 percent renewable waste and residue raw materials, including used cooking oil and animal fat waste. Using this fuel reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent over the fuel's life cycle compared to conventional jet fuel. Locally at OAK, Southwest Airlines incorporated SAF into daily operations beginning in August 2022.
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and UC Berkeley announced that their researchers have engineered bacteria to produce new-to-nature carbon products that could provide a powerful route to sustainable biochemicals, which could reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing of fuels, drugs, and chemicals. The incredible energy potential of these fuel candidates called polycyclopropanated fatty acid methyl esters, or "POP fuels" for short, is that they have the energy density values of over 50 mega-joules per liter compared to Jet A. The common jet fuel or rocket fuel has energy densities of 32 and 35 mega-joules per liter respectively. Eventually scientists hope to engineer the process into a workhorse bacteria strain that could produce large quantities of POP fuels from plant-based food sources like inedible agricultural residue or brush cleared for wildfire prevention potentially making the ultimate carbon fuel.
- As part of NASA's Sustainable Flight Demonstrator Project, the agency named the X-66A as the newest X-Plane to inform a potential new generation of more sustainable single-aisle aircraft, which is the workhorse aircraft type for passenger airlines around the world. The X-66A is the first X-Plane specifically focused on how the U.S. can achieve that goal of net-zero aviation greenhouse emissions.
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University received a 1.4-million-dollar grant from NASA to perform research that will be focused specifically on how air taxis can take off and land at vertiports located in dense urban environments where wind gusts tend to be unpredictable. Researchers will also develop response-prediction tools and flight-authorization strategies, as well as provide guidance and suitable locations at city-based rooftops, vertiports, and flight corridors that could minimize noise during take-offs and landings.
- Solo Urban Air Mobility aircraft have yet to reach their production and deployment stages. Innovators are already thinking of ways to improve on current designs. Boston based MagLev Aero has developed a breakthrough propulsion technology that will enable the next generation of ultra-quiet electronic vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. The platform called MagLev HyperDrive leverages on the magnetic-levitation suspension principle that is found in high-speed rails, high-speed trains using a magnetic bearing to support a many-bladed rim.

- MIT's Lincoln Laboratory developed a toroidal propeller that reduces noise in the frequencies that are most noticeable to humans, between 1 and 5 kilohertz. The propeller's noise is reduced by its angular or circular shape that distributes the wing-tip vortices across the whole shape of the propeller instead of just at the tips like conventional propellers.
- Scandinavian Airlines already sold out of tickets for the first ever commercial electric flight in 2028. Scandinavian Airlines sustainability targets include reducing their fleet noise and emissions by 50 percent by 2023 compared to 2010, using sustainable aviation fuel by 2030, and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

## 10. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled virtually for October 18, 2023.

## 11. NEW BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lee shared that there is the National League of Cities (NLC) event, City Summit, in November 2023. He said he encourages all elected representatives to register and attend. He added that the NLC works toward getting more elected congress officials to support the Quiet Communities Act and said the NLC is a great forum for many local electives.

Facilitator Hanrahan adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.