



County of San Diego

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December 29, 2021

Mark McClardy, Director
Office of Airports, Western-Pacific Region
Federal Aviation Administration
777 S. Aviation Blvd, Ste. 150
El Segundo, CA 90245

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MCCLELLAN-PALOMAR AIRPORT NOISE CONCERNS

Dear Mr. McClardy,

Earlier this month the San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved the McClellan-Palomar Airport Masterplan, including lengthening of the runway and safety enhancements. I am reaching out to you on behalf of the County of San Diego (County) with a request that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) work with us to address ongoing aircraft noise concerns at McClellan-Palomar (Palomar) Airport.

Palomar is owned and operated by the County and located in the city of Carlsbad. It is a transportation hub, an emergency services facility, an economic driver that supports local jobs and generates millions of dollars in tax revenues annually.

While recognizing the contributions of Palomar, it is also important for our agencies to consider community concerns and work together to resolve these issues to the extent possible as good neighbors. The most frequent and persistent concern at Palomar is aircraft noise, especially during the night. Members of the community have shared how nighttime aircraft noise has affected their quality of life, including how chronic sleep disruptions have had negative effects on childhood learning, job performance, health, and wellbeing.

Based on recent studies completed by the County, aircraft noise does not exceed the technical threshold the FAA considers significant. However, from a practical standpoint, aircraft noise at night remains a community concern, one that impacts quality of life. In response, the County Board of Supervisors has asked if mandatory quiet hours can be established at Palomar or if additional fees can be imposed on aircraft operating during voluntary quiet hours. Since answers to these questions are within the purview of the FAA, we are seeking your response to these requests and any additional guidance you may have on solutions to the noise concerns.

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If you would like details on the noise studies and/or the measures the County is currently employing to address these concerns, please contact Cameron Humphres, Director of Airports, with the Department of Public Works at (619) 318-7091.

The County thanks you for your continued commitment to providing a safe and efficient aerospace system across the country, and we look forward to your response on how we can work in partnership to better address community concerns related to aircraft noise.

Sincerely,



SARAH E. AGHASSI
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, Chair
Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice Chair
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Jim Desmond
Cameron Humphres, Director of Airports
Caroline Smith, Director, Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs