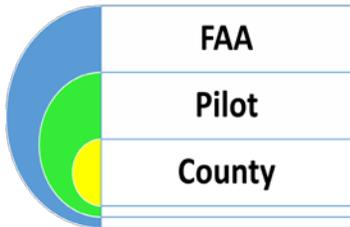


# McClellan-Palomar Airport Noise Fact Sheet



## General Roles and Responsibilities

**FAA** – Oversees civil aviation regulation standards for operating aircraft and provides oversight and enforcement of aircraft in flight (low-flying planes, unsafe maneuvering, etc.). They also license pilots, certify commercial airports and are responsible for air traffic control, which includes flight paths, controlling airplanes while they’re flying and while they’re moving on the ground on the taxiway and runway. Only the FAA can determine whether or not any restrictions to aviation activities can be made at the airport – including whether or a not an aircraft uses the airport at night, limit the size of the airplanes landing at the airport or how many planes use the airport.



**County** - Operates and maintains the airport to ensure safety for the users of the airport. The County manages the facilities, including constructing airport improvements and planning for the airport’s future; provides airport security and firefighting response services and manages leases for the businesses who operate at the airport.

**Pilot** – Private airplane pilots are responsible for determining whether or not they can safely land their plane at an airport. For commercial pilots, the FAA, as part of their certification for commercial airlines, indicates the airports where the commercial plane can land.

## How is the County Addressing Airport Noise?

While the County does not have control over when or how many aircraft are utilizing the airport, the County recognizes that noise coming from aircraft taking off and landing can be burdensome to area residents. To help address noise impacts, the County implements a Fly Friendly Program and a Voluntary Noise Abatement Program (VNAP) that includes:

- Voluntary nighttime quiet hours for arrivals and departures
- Arrival and departure patterns and suggested altitudes
- Identification of residential areas for pilot awareness
- Techniques and procedures for quieter operation of aircraft
- A full-time dedicated Noise Officer to work with pilots and address community complaints and inquiries
- Education and outreach for pilots and flight schools on noise abatement procedures
- Monitoring and analyzing noise data and working with pilots to address issues as they arise



The County is taking measures to further address airport noise in the following ways:

- Enhance noise monitoring program
  - Two additional noise monitoring locations will be added to the existing two monitors to cover all four sides of the airport. The information from these noise monitors will be used for County staff to review noise concerns and share details with the public about specific noise events. Staff are currently identifying locations and contacting property owners.
- Recently completed refreshing airport signage

- Expanding VNAP outreach efforts
  - Currently contacting offsite airports to educate flight schools and area pilots on VNAP
  - Aviation Business Operators – attending ongoing meetings to highlight VNAP
  - Refreshed displays and distributed educational materials to pilots and airport businesses
  - Palomar Airport Advisory Committee (PAAC) Sub-committee
- Enhancements to the airport noise website are currently being developed

### How Does the County Address Pilots Operating During VNAP Quiet Hours?

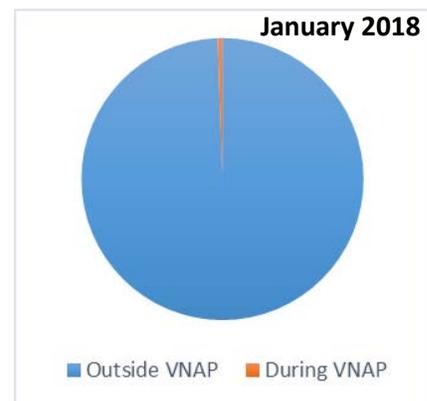
The VNAP quiet hours are voluntary therefore it is up to the pilot to decide whether or not he or she will comply. If a pilot does not adhere to the VNAP quiet hours, the County follows-up with a letter informing the pilot of the quiet hours and flight procedures and requests they comply with the VNAP voluntary quiet hours in the future.

### How Many Airplanes on Average Fly Outside of the Voluntary Quiet Hours?

Palomar Airport currently operates under VNAP voluntary quiet hours for both take-off and landing; quiet hours are 10 p.m. – 7 a.m. for jet aircraft, and 12 a.m. – 6 a.m. other aircraft (emergency, lifeguard, and law enforcement allowed). Pilots are asked to refrain from taking off and landing during these times.

The majority of pilots using the airport adhere to the quiet hours. For example, during the month of January 2018:

- There were 13,724 total operations (arrivals or departures for jet and propeller or other aircraft)
- 99.5% of total operations were in voluntary compliance and occurred outside of VNAP quiet hours
- 0.5% (73 flights) of total operations were not in voluntary compliance and occurred during VNAP quiet hours
- There were 15 nights without any arrivals and eight nights without any departures during VNAP quiet hours
- The majority of flights occurring during VNAP quiet hours occurred before 12 a.m. or after 5 a.m.
- Between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m., there were a total of four departures and nine arrivals
- All commercial flight departures and arrivals occurred outside of the VNAP quiet hours



### For More information?

- Visit the McClellan-Palomar Airport Noise Abatement [website](#)
- Contact the local Noise Abatement Officer at (760) 431-4646