

County of Santa Clara

Roads & Airports Department

Airports Division
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To: Airports Commission

Submitted by: Ken Betts
Assistant Director, County Airports

Date: November 1, 2022

Subject: Third Quarter 2022 (July, August, September) Noise Report

There were eight (8) noise referrals for the third quarter of 2022 (attachment 1).

There were five (5) referrals received during the quarter that were related to operations at Reid-Hillview Airport (RHV), and one (1) referral for an operation at San Martin Airport (E16). There were also two (2) referrals pertaining to operations not directly associated with operations at the two County Airports.

In summary, there were 55,406 total aircraft operations (takeoffs and landings) during the first quarter at the two County airports, with an average of one referral for every 8,286 operations at Reid-Hillview Airport.

	RHV		E16	
	Ops.	(Daily Avg.)	Ops.	(Daily Avg.)
Jul	13,392	(432)	4,801	(155)
Aug	14,234	(459)	5,103	(165)
Sep	13,803	(460)	4,073	(136)
Total	41,429	(450)	13,977	(152)

Quarterly Noise Referrals

Airport	Date Time	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
RHV	7/5/2022 10:51:00 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 Tuesday, July 5. 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	7/6/2022 10:07:00 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 6. A Cirrus 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.
Other	7/12/2022 11:00:00 AM	Ms. T from the Alamden Valley area sent an email to the County Airport noise office. Ms. T stated that a green and white helicopter was circling at very low altitude in the vicinity of her residence. Ms. T added that the aircraft registration was N707AH.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the late morning of Tuesday, July 12. A circling flight track consistent with recent PG&E power line maintenance work was observed at the time and location specified by the caller. The aircraft's N-number was also verified. Airport staff spoke with Ms. T at 2:30 pm regarding the nature of the PG&E powerline work that she observed.
E16	7/29/2022 12:15:00 PM	Ms. S from San Martin left a message with the County Airports. Ms. S stated that aircraft were turning left after departing E16 Airport, and that they were flying over a local school. The caller added that one particular aircraft flew over the school at 12:15 am on Friday, July 29.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for early afternoon of Friday, July 29. There were no recorded flight tracks matching the caller's description at the time specified by the caller. Airport staff spoke with Ms. S on Tuesday morning regarding the flight paths and traffic patterns at E16 Airport.
Other	8/5/2022 10:08:00 AM	Ms. A from Scotts Valley left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. The caller stated that a helicopter was flying very low in the vicinity of her residence. She added that the helicopter was operating out of E16 Airport, and she provided an N-number of the helicopter.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the time and location specified by the caller. A PG&E contractor has been performing high-tension powerline maintenance in the South Bay Area for a number of weeks, and the operator has been basing their aircraft out of E16 Airport. Airport staff left a message for Ms. A regarding the nature of the PG&E maintenance work.
RHV	8/20/2022 7:26:00 AM	Mr. W from East San Jose left a message on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Mr. W stated that a low-wing aircraft flew over his residence at low altitude while landing at RHV Airport.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the morning of Saturday, August 20. A Bellanca aircraft flew over the caller's residence while on a left-downwind approach to the Airport. The altitude flown by the aircraft was slightly higher than average for that location in the traffic pattern. No further action was taken.
RHV	9/12/2022 9:11:00 PM	Ms. M from East San Jose left a voicemail on the County Airports noise office voicemail. Ms. M stated that multiple aircraft were flying over her residence at low altitude during the evening, and that the aircraft were violating the RHV curfew.	Airport staff reviewed radar data for the evening of Monday, September 12. There were at least nine (9) departures during the evening by several aircraft. Airport staff spoke with Ms. M on Tuesday afternoon regarding the RHV traffic patterns, RHV's 24-hour per day operating hours, as well as the County's current FAA grant obligations as pertains to aircraft operating restrictions.
RHV	9/30/2022 10:30:00 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 Friday, September 30. A Cessna 172 aircraft 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.