



City of Santa Barbara
Airport Department

Meeting: 11/26/18
Agenda Item No. 10

DATE: November 26, 2018
TO: Airport Commission
FROM: Aaron Keller, Interim Airport Director *AK*
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Airport Noise Abatement Program Overview

RECOMMENDATION:

That Commission receive a presentation including an overview and update of the Noise Abatement Program at the Santa Barbara Airport.

DISCUSSION:

The Santa Barbara Airport maintains a Noise Abatement Program which serves the community and Airport users by striving for the following goals:

- Achieve airport operations that are compatible with the surrounding communities
- Provide the region with facilities for access to the National Air Transportation System
- Maintain a continuing dialogue between the Airport, Airport users, and the surrounding community through the Noise Abatement Program

There is no restricted airspace in the Santa Barbara or Goleta area and the Airport has no direct control over how or where any aircraft is flown. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and aircraft Pilots have authority over aircraft in flight. The Airport maintains voluntary noise abatement approaches that minimize noise over noise sensitive residential areas. Pilots are encouraged, but not required, to follow these flight tracks.

SBA Noise Abatement Outreach

Pilot education is a major component of our Noise Abatement Program. Noise complaints received assist the Airport in this effort. Noise complaints are individually addressed and researched. Noise complaint data is compiled into monthly reports which allow the Airport to see trends that may assist staff in enhancing the education program.

The program includes aircraft operator education via mailings (email and letter) and frequent individual contact with pilots, airlines, and other aircraft operators.

Noise complaint activity traditionally follows a trend of higher complaint volumes in the summer and lower volumes of complaints in the winter. However, 2018 noise complaint

activity at SBA remained higher than the trend experienced over the past several years. Airport Operations staff have spent a significant amount of time researching the noise complaints received, determining the nature of the aircraft activity at the time and location of the noise complaint, and providing education to aircraft operators whose aircraft did not fly a voluntary noise abatement approach to Santa Barbara Airport.

Airport Operations staff proactively contacted each new airline operating at Santa Barbara Airport to provide noise abatement program and voluntary noise abatement approach information to their pilots prior to service beginning at SBA. Staff have also conducted extensive outreach, including discussions with all airlines operating at SBA on noise abatement procedures and airline specific flight data from flights that resulted in complaints.

As a result of this outreach and education to aircraft operators and pilots, we have seen an immediate reduction in the number of noise complaints received in specific noise sensitive communities.

Airport Operations staff continue to address and research each aircraft noise complaint received and provide education to airlines, aircraft operators, and Airport stakeholders involved in noise abatement at Santa Barbara Airport.

PREPARED BY: Airport Certification & Operations