

SANTA CLARA/SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE FAQ

WHAT IS A ROUNDTABLE?

Roundtables function as a clearinghouse of sorts where varying interests, local through national, can be heard with the decision maker, the FAA, at the table. Per the FAA, Roundtables or advisory committees may be established by the FAA or formed by a local or state government, airport authority, or other body. Advisory committees and roundtables can bring structure to discussions of specific challenges or issues and provide a more neutral forum that can enhance the credibility and transparency of FAA's activities.

WHY IS THE CITIES ASSOCIATION OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY INVOLVED?

In July 2017, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County (CASCC) received a Congressional request by Representatives Eshoo, Khanna, Panetta to take a leadership role in forming a South Bay/South Peninsula Roundtable for Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties which was a recommendation from the Select Committee's work on SFO arrivals. The Board of the CASCC created an Ad Hoc Committee to consider how a new, permanent roundtable may function and operate by considering bylaws, memorandum of understandings, resolutions, and budget. CASCC Board of Directors will act on any recommendations before other jurisdictions are invited to attend.

WHY NOT JOIN THE SFO ROUNDTABLE?

SFO Roundtable is unwilling to expand their Roundtable to include members of Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. Additionally, not all of the aircraft noise issues for Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties are related to SFO.

WHY IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ROUNDTABLE IMPORTANT?

While the Select Committee and the South Flow Ad Hoc Committee have disbanded, the South Bay Roundtable envisioned by the Cities Association would likely be viewed as an appropriate surrogate for this function in partnership with the SFO Roundtable and Minéta San José Airport.

EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION IS NEEDED TO WORK WITH THE FAA

Each jurisdiction in Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County is just one of over 100 municipalities in the Bay Area. The ability of any single community, to influence the complex operations of a federal agency serving a region of 8 million people is limited. In addition, the impacts of airplane noise must be considered amid the competing interests of the flying public, airline industry priorities, airport operational requirements, broader economic and environmental impacts and, above all else, safety. The successful navigation of these public interest challenges requires effective collaboration.

CITIES ASSOCIATION AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The CASCC Ad Hoc Committee is seeking each jurisdiction of Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County to collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions through the formation of a community roundtable to most effectively address the community impacts of aircraft operations.

WHAT DOES THE FAA SAY ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FORMING A ROUNDTABLE?

The FAA welcomes community groups initiated by local communities or governments. And believe they may serve different functions, for example, they can provide views and advice on alternatives/issues; build consensus on controversial issues; coordinate with technical groups; review/monitor agency activities; provide independent, credible feedback; and/or build a constituency around a specific need or requirement.

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WILL THE FAA PARTICIPATE?

The FAA has stated they will participate if the region forms a roundtable.

WHAT IS THE CITIES ASSOCIATION'S AD HOC COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL?

- Mission Statement: To Address Community noise concerns and make recommendations to the Regional Airports and FAA on noise related issues.
- MOU to form organization
- Organization is similar to SFO Roundtable
- Self-fund from member jurisdictions
- Work with both SFO & San Jose Airports
- SFO Airport and Roundtable willing to collaborate
- Hire consultant or to run the organization
- Initial staff support to be supported by Cities Association of Santa Clara County
- Each member jurisdiction receives 1 vote
- Changes to bylaws require majority of members
- Non-voting members include airport, FAA, pilots' organization
- Any member may withdraw at any time with notice of intent, but forfeit their dues
- Serves as a forum for public

WHY IS THE RECOMMENDATION TO SELF-FUND THE ROUNDTABLE?

The CASCC believes there is a critical need for the formation of the Roundtable and the complexity of the metro-plex further complicates bringing all of the players to the table. By evidence, none of the airports are willingly coming forward to help with the formation. CASCC believes that formation and self-funding is just a step in the process of bringing the players to the table. The budget will be reviewed annually, and the roundtable will be able to reevaluate revenue. It is also necessary to fund the Roundtable to hire staff to professionally support the group.

WHAT IS THE BUDGET?

The Roundtable Budget is based on SFO Roundtable budget with a part-time planner/manager of the roundtable, and various consultants. After year 1, the Roundtable will re-evaluate and establish its own annual budget.

HOW WAS THE FUNDING FORMULA CREATED?

The funding formula that was originally created was similar to the Cities Association dues structure, dues in categories of city size. An elected official in Santa Cruz County proposed a dues structure based on per capita formula which is the basis for the current formula. Note: current funding allocation is a best estimate if all 21 jurisdictions participate. The table will be adjusted accordingly if not all of the jurisdictions choose to participate.