



Council File Number: 23-1339 Van Nuys Airport Specific Plan / Citizens Advisory Committee / Forensic Audit / Economic Study / Noise Mitigation / Community Benefit Program. Padilla, Raman.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-1339>

Agenda Item Number: 10

NHWNC has consistently expressed concern over non-essential VNY jet charter traffic over the Valley airspace. Areas of NHWNC are subjected to the arrival patterns for air traffic into VNY, including the Valley Charter (Elementary) School, where its teachers, students, and Executive Director are on record expressing concern over the noise and pollution exposure that is impacting student's use of outdoor recess space and during class when lessons are paused due to aircraft noise. In June 2023, UCLA Pediatric Residents and Faculty released a [VNY Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\)](#) that highlights significant harm being done to children under exposure areas and that of our collective region. The HIA also recommends mitigation measures that are echoed in CF 23-1339, including (3): *Look at mitigating noise and other impacts from the airport on the surrounding area, including **jet blast** and **sound barrier installations** between the airport and adjacent homes and businesses, **green space** to mitigate climate change and pollution factors on both the east and west side of the property and other opportunities such as tree planting.* According to [CF 23-1339](#), the environmental consequences born from the influx of private aircraft over the region have not been studied, nor has the extent of its need or benefit to the City substantiated.

NHWNC joins a number of Valley neighborhood councils that share the concern that the private air traffic over our region is disproportionately impacting the health and quality of life of its dwellers, employees, and our natural spaces. For these reasons and more, the NHWNC wholeheartedly supports CF23-1339 and encourages the City Council to approve and adopt this motion without procrastination or modification. In connection, NHWNC also encourages the City Council to **reject** the Bonseph Helinet LLC proposal that is void of crucial mitigation measures such as appropriate height tree canopy barriers on the perimeter to combat pollution and climate change concerns and power capacity upgrades to significantly reduce toxic ground emissions from the proposed introduction of Jets for Charter to the property that will only exasperate the cumulative crisis the Valley environment is facing. City Council should reject any and all development deals that do not include the above-mentioned mitigation criteria in the original proposal itself, and the City Council should place a moratorium on aviation development permits until CF 23-1339 has been adopted and realized.

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council at its January 18, 2024, General Board Meeting, as duly posted in accordance with the Brown Act, voted in support CF 23-1339 and submit a community impact statement by a vote of:

Yeas:

Nays:

Abstain:

Ineligible:

Recusals:

MOTION TRADE, TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The Van Nuys Airport (VNY) is one of the busiest general aviation airports in the nation. Despite densely populated residential areas existing prior to VNY's redevelopments over the past twenty years, no mitigation policy measures were created by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to mandate such considerations were implemented.

Over the years, the City has not been provided with a study dictating VNY's general aviation needs, or a study comparing aviation interests with those of community and environmental interests to demonstrate a responsible land use balance for VNY.

The VNY Vision Study was initiated to help inform the Planning Department in their update of the City's Southwest Valley Community Plans: (1) Canoga Park – Winnetka – Woodland Hills – West Hills; (2) Encino – Tarzana; and (3) Reseda – West Van Nuys – Lake Balboa, where the Van Nuys Airport is located, to inform the creation of a Van Nuys Airport Specific Plan to replace the existing Airport Plan and zoning ordinance (Ordinance No. 177327), adopted nearly 18 years ago (CF 05-2286).

Neither the VNY Vision Study or any other planning tool shall replace the need for a new Specific Airport Plan. Community participation and targeted research, study findings and recommendations are essential steps in making any aviation land use decision, including issuing future Request for Proposals (RFPs) related to VNY development. As such, on March 3, 2023 (CF 22-1127), the Council instructed the Planning Department, in consultation with the Los Angeles World Airports, to prepare a Specific Plan for the Van Nuys airport.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department, with the assistance of the Los Angeles World Airports, and in consultation with Council District 6 as Committee Chair responsible for the formation and/or operation of the Van Nuys Airport Specific Plan Citizens Advisory Committee, to convene the necessary Citizens Advisory Committee meetings that will serve to provide input during all phases of the development process of the Van Nuys Airport Specific Plan and its relevant studies; and which will include at least one local resident/stakeholder from, but not limited to, Council Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; and provide an option for Council District office staff participation.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department, with the assistance of the Los Angeles World Airports, as initially instructed by the Council on March 3, 2023 (CF 22-1127), to prepare a Specific Plan for the Van Nuys Airport (VNY), and thereby replace the Van Nuys Airport Plan and zoning ordinance (CF 05-2286), which was adopted nearly 18 years ago. The Van Nuys Airport Specific Plan should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Use the results of a forensic audit of VNY per criteria to be set by the Council to better understand the needs for VNY to remain self-sustaining, determine need or independence from future Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant use, and for assessment and possible reconsideration of the existing Plan's airport land use map, and in consideration of policy needs.
2. Outline criteria for economic studies related to VNY, including cumulative impact on the regional environment and surrounding communities, consideration of percentage of suppliers and workers that are located within Los Angeles County, and defining income designated solely for airport infrastructure versus income benefitting the region directly.
3. Look at mitigating noise and other impacts from the airport on the surrounding area including jet blast and sound barrier installations between the airport and adjacent homes and businesses, green space to mitigate climate change and pollution factors on both the east and west side of the property, and other opportunities such as tree planting.

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4. Define Request for Proposal criteria that contains modernization to meet the City's long term carbon reduction goals, including grey water systems and power capacity upgrades to allow electrified hangars and ramps to reduce emissions from ground operations.
5. Establish a community benefit program for the surrounding area.
6. Explore how land covered by the Specific Airport Plan can continue to be an economic generator by luring new commercial activity, including possible necessity of filing a formal release with the FAA to change key land use classifications to non-aeronautical where environmental justice and health issues or critical pollution mitigation needs dictate as such.
7. Have extensive engagement with airport stakeholders and local residents with defined protocol moving forward.

PRESENTED BY:

Imelda Padilla

IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:

W. J. P. Panner

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