



March 9, 2023

TO: Honorable Chair Mattucci and Transportation Committee members Lewis and Kaji

RE: INPUT ON TORRANCE AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

FROM: Riviera Homeowners Association and concerned residents

Please consider this input regarding environmental issues at your next meeting of the Transportation Committee.

On October 12, 2022 our Homeowners Association submitted a petition asking the Mayor and City Council to take action to reduce environmental impacts from Torrance Airport. At that time, the petition had 790 supporters. It now has 920.

The petition urged the City to hold public meetings and consider all options *in a comprehensive manner*. We identified 12 potential options to consider. Since then, we have refined and expanded the potential solutions to 15, as shown in Attachment 1, TOA Environmental Issues Matrix.

As far as we know, the City is considering only two options:

1. Landing fees, and
2. A Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the FAA and Torrance-based flight training schools. This letter is a voluntary agreement, and the City would not be involved in enforcing it. This is not a strong enough option to guarantee the enforcement of the restrictions listed, especially without the involvement of the City. Voluntary rules are unenforceable and have proven to be ineffective in the past (for example, "fly friendly letters").

These two options alone will not resolve all the airport problems that are impacting residents. We have not seen an analysis of any of the other options. It is necessary to consider ALL the options to mitigate the negative impacts on the entire community. Moving the training flights to the North Pattern is simply shifting the problem from one area of impacted residents to another.

One of the most significant concerns is the continuing use of leaded fuel, for which we have proposed options. Attached below is a recently published news article from “Politico” on the effects of leaded fuel in aircraft. It is unacceptable that the use of this hazardous substance has been allowed to continue for so long and jeopardize public health, especially that of children.

Although the City is somewhat limited by the limitations imposed by federal law in the Airport Noise and Capacity Act, there are still many steps the City can take. As stated in the letter dated September 20, 2022 from the City’s outside counsel:

“The court reasoned that, because an airport proprietor controls the location of the facility, acquires the property and easements and [can] assure compatible land use, it might be liable to other property owners for noise damage and, thus, has a right to limit [its] liability by restricting the use of [its] airport.”

Moreover, if the airport has become a public nuisance, as many have suggested, the City is at risk of being held liable for allowing this to happen and not using its power to mitigate the nuisance.

We urge you again to thoroughly consider all options. If additional analysis is needed, please ask staff and the City Attorney to provide it as soon as possible so you can consider the options together and make recommendations to the full Council on the best combination to pursue.

Finally, that there has been no further progress on airport problems to date is unacceptable. We ask you to treat this with urgency. Torrance residents’ health, quality of life, and property values are being severely impacted every day that this goes on.

Respectfully, Judy Brunetti, Co-President
Riviera Homeowners Association

Attachments:

- 1) TOA Environmental Issues Matrix (3/8/23)
- 2) “Politico Special Report” Leaded Aviation Fuel (2/20/23)

cc: Mayor Chen
Councilman Griffiths
Councilmember Kalani
Councilman Sheikh
A Chaparyan, City Manager
D Santana, Assistant City Manager
M Ramirez, Director of Community Development
S Megerdichian, General Services Director
R Poirier, City Clerk
Torrance HOA Presidents