



West Hills Neighborhood Council

"It's our neighborhood.
Let's build a community."

January 10, 2024

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To Honorable Councilman Lee, et al.

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In recent years, West Hills Has become subject to an influx of air traffic from Los Angeles' two airports. (LAX and Burbank's Hob Hope¹) One exposure was the result of an FAA flight path change and the other was exposure due to controversial land use development at the landlocked, general aviation at Van Nuys airport (VNY). The latter afforded an increase of accommodations for private and commercial jet charter activity, which *were void of any responsible mitigation measures...and void of studies to guide a growth balance between the airport and existing communities as well as the region's environmental limitations* as indicated in Council File 23-1339 (Attachment A).

2. Motion 23-1339 is not the first motion in recent years to point out the need concerning development and its process at VNY airport. In 2022, three Valley City Councilmembers (Raman, Krekorian, Blumenfield) jointly locked arms and filed Council File 22-1489 which stated "*Throughout this period of growth and modernization at VNY. <vital operative> groups that help advise the airport on modernization like the Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) have not consistently been included or <even> briefed on Requests for Proposals and contract awards for major airport projects. <including VNY>*" (Attachment B)

3. WHNC stands in unity with its Valley neighbors and shares concern over past and future land use decisions at VNY that will (A) adversely impact this Valley and the health of its people, (B) fail to explore VNY's revenue boosting potential which includes the commercial lure noted in 23-1339, and (C) ignore the dangerous toxic fume exposures to adjacent valley residents and businesses that are now and will continue to suffer due to the City's failure to ensure capital investment projects critically needed to modernize and reduce VNY's carbon footprint, including power capacity upgrades to afford electrified hangars and ramps for the non-essential private transient jet traffic which will also allow for significant reduction of possible toxic significant power unit emissions (APU) from ground operations. Our concern is the health and well-being of the hundreds of people that this will certainly impact.

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¹Also known as Hollywood Burbank Airport that already provides noise pollution for San Fernando Valley Residents. Through emissions they also contribute to air pollution across the valley affecting resident health. Although there are economic benefits for this airport the question still exists: "does it mitigate the health issues?"



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For the above reasons and more, including the fact that the Bob Hope Airport is 8 miles from VNY, WHNC strongly urges the City Council to:

1. Swiftly adopt CF23-1339 without amendment and use a variety of independent studies to guide a new Airport Plan and not the "VNY Vision Study" which has excluded WHNC from its public outreach to date; and
2. Consider the rights, health and quality of life of all the existing communities that make up San Fernando Valley and our peaceful tourist attractions by rejecting any aviation development proposals for VNY that do not directly reduce ground operation emissions and until a new Specific Airport Plan has been studied, developed and implemented per the criteria set forth in 23-1339, and take into account the health and well-being of the people.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene Rothstein

Charlene Rothstein, President
West Hills Neighborhood Council