

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-35

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
REQUESTING THAT THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
ADDRESS INCREASED AIRCRAFT NOISE IN THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is implementing a planned transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) to standardize arrival and departure routes through the use of GPS-based technologies in 21 identified metroplexes, including the Northern California Metroplex of San Francisco International Airport (SFO), Oakland International Airport (OAK), Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC), and Sacramento International Airport (SMF); and

WHEREAS, as part of the transition to NextGen, the FAA recently changed the flight paths followed by commercial aircraft flying into and out of SFO, OAK, and SJC, as well as other airports in the Northern California Metroplex under a project the FAA calls the Northern California Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex (NorCal OAPM); and

WHEREAS, according to the FAA, the NorCal OAPM consists of new procedures and technologies to establish more direct flight routes intended to significantly improve safety and efficiency, and reduce fuel burn and carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2014, the FAA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact that NorCal OAPM would not have any significant noise impact on communities and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, due to the considerable increase in the number of flights overhead every day and lower flight altitudes, there is a significant increase in the amount of aircraft noise experienced on the ground and is impacting the residents of Los Altos, as well as Saratoga, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by the number of complaints received by the City of Los Altos, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, and the SFO Noise Abatement Office, the new routes have created noise impacts that appear to be far more adverse than those of the former routes for Los Altos residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos requests the FAA to immediately mitigate the increased aircraft noise at ground level in Los Altos and Santa Clara County caused by the NorCal OAPM project by identifying all short-and long-term solutions and the expected timetable for the implementation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Los Altos requests the FAA, as part of the above analysis of aircraft noise mitigation measures, immediately raise the altitude of all flight paths over the city, reduce the number of night time flights into

SFO, and as part of the longer-term solutions, redesign the flight paths within the Northern California Metroplex so that the noise burden is borne equitably by all communities that benefit from air travel, and reconfigure the final approach paths so that descent over the bay waters is maximized;

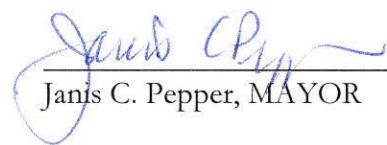
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Los Altos requests that Congress amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act to eliminate the availability of a categorical exclusion and bar the presumption of no significant effect on the quality of the human environment that currently apply to navigation performance and area navigation procedures;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Los Altos requests that the Congress of the United States implement statutory changes to the FAA that require more robust community engagement before flight paths are changed, more accurate measures of noise experienced on the ground, and independent research on the health impacts of aviation noise;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Los Altos requests that the FAA continue to meet with community representatives and impacted residents from Los Altos to discuss further and address these matters.

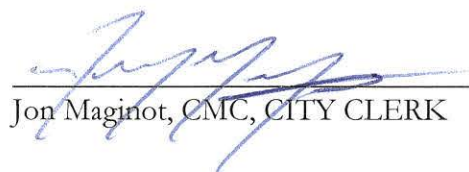
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the 13th day of October, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: BRUINS, MORDO, PEPPER, PROCHNOW, SATTERLEE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE



Janis C. Pepper, MAYOR

Attest:



Jon Maginot, CMC, CITY CLERK