

**C.R.A.A.P. Report April, 2004
(Santa Monica Airport-Update)**

Issue#3

By Martin Rubin

(Founder of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution)

My summary of the March 22nd SM Airport Commission meeting:

Included in the discussion at the previous two or three meetings was an item regarding changing the format of the meeting's agenda. ["After thoughtful consideration and discussion, the Commission decided to continue with the existing agenda format."(from Feb.23rd minutes)] It is ironic that the March 22nd Annual Noise Report Workshop would have a new format that would be presented to the public without notice (I have not seen anything like it in the seven years that I have attended Airport Commission Meetings). Though, in my opinion, the change was positive and much needed, it did not allow for the Public to adapt.

Despite requests for a good turnout, the chambers were at best ¾'s filled (still much better than average). Airport staff gave **three lengthy** Power Point slide presentations that had several members of the public complaining that "they are trying to wear us down" and some even left before speaking. The meeting lasted from 7:30 to 11:00pm.

As one member of the public put it, "One would believe, after listening to the draining lectures, that there was NO NOISE PROBLEM-things are pretty good at S.M. Airport UNLESS you are a neighbor working at home during the day, UNLESS you like to sleep uninterrupted during the night, UNLESS you have a quality of life issue like experiencing a 60,000 pound jet fly directly over your house on a missed approach to the airport in a THICK FOG COVERING."

In the years past, Noise Workshop public comment was limited to three minutes, all public comment was taken one after another, and there was no guarantee that your comments or questions would be addressed at all, after all the comments were taken (after their standard rather tiresome lecture). Now we finally have a chance to ask questions and make comments with immediate replies from staff. That is unless you are Marty Rubin.

I (Marty Rubin) had a printed copy of ten questions that I gave to each of the Commissioners and to some members of staff who were available (There was no Santa Monica City Councilmember present, which I find disturbing). I gave the Commissioners a copy in anticipation of previous years Workshop formats, hoping that they would follow up (see next paragraph). While I was making a point, I was asked by the Airport Director,

Jeff Mathieu, what my question was. He continued to do this off and on, addressing me as Marty in a push your button fashion, until a first time member of the public shouted out, “Point of Order” and mentioned the Brown Act and that the agenda clearly allowed for comments as well as questions. Clearly upset, I finished as best I could. I will have more questions at next month’s Environmental Workshop.

For the past three Workshops I asked the question, “How is the reading at the noise monitors affected if a plane avoids flying directly over the monitor?” Last year, one of the Commissioners re-asked the question and Vince Mestre, Airport’s Noise Specialist, said that one monitor could not give exact results. The Commissioner asked how the measurement would vary. I’ll have to get back to you was the answer.

Jump ahead one year to this year’s Noise Workshop. Finally some appearance of an answer placed in the middle of the lecture. If you blinked you may have missed it. If the plane flies about 200 feet from the monitor it could represent a difference of 1 to 1 ½ decibels (I think this was his response. You can be sure I’ll check that). Basically this shows that they have been using a flawed system. It also shows that they are reluctant to address questions that show the flaws. After all, shouldn’t an expert be able to answer a simple question in a matter of days?

I won’t go into the other questions except to say that they all point to flaws in how they record data about noise, and that I was not satisfied with their on the spot answers. I also felt rushed by the Airport Director, and rather than argue a point said that my question was not answered and went on. I will have these questions and more on a, soon to be, new webpage at **jetairpollution.com**. Feel free to send in your questions, and we hope to see you at the next meeting (check website for Calendar).

To join Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution:

Visit: **jetairpollution.com** (310) 479-2529

To make a complaint directly to the Airport call: Matthew Majoli (310) 458-8759

File an e-complaint with the City of Santa Monica at:

<http://pen.ci.santa-monica.ca.us/communication/cityforms/noisecom.htm>

We are still looking into what becomes of our complaints.