

Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

C.R.A.A.P. Report September, 2004

Issue #7

by Martin Rubin

(Founder/Director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution)

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1. SM Task Force on the Environment meeting – August 16th.

I was unable to attend the August meeting as I was at the Los Angeles County Land Use Commission meeting. However I did talk to Task Force and Airport Ad Hoc Committee Member Susan Mearns as to what took place. She told me that the SM Airport subject did not come up, but the Task Force approved a motion to go before the SM City Council regarding communications between the two bodies (see August CRAAP report, item #2). I understand that this item is scheduled for the September 28th, 2004 SM City Council meeting.

Next Environmental Task Force Meeting: September 20th, 2004

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2. Los Angeles County Land Use Commission finds LAX expansion plans inconsistent with the county's regulations on airport noise and safety.

Testimony was taken (my testimony below) on August 16th, 2004 downtown Los Angeles at the Kenneth Hahn County Building in regards to whether the LAX expansion plans were consistent with the County's land use requirements. Almost all testimony that I heard was not favorable toward the expansion plans. Testimony was continued on August 25th and a vote taken.

In a unanimous vote, the county's Airport Land Use Commission determined that the proposed LAX modernization violates limits set in a 1991 county land-use plan and it would create more noise and safety risks in nearby communities.

This means that the Los Angeles City Council will need 10 votes instead of a simple eight-vote majority of the 15-member council to approve the proposed expansion plans. If the 10 votes are obtained, airport-adjacent communities, or the county itself, could appeal a council override to the commission. If the commission approves the appeal, state law requires a four-fifths council vote to override. That would be 12 votes of 15.

Martin Rubin's Testimony to LA County Land Use Commission **August 16th, 2004**

LAX is a major contributor to air pollution in the Los Angeles area. It is not something that the City of Los Angeles, having the *worst* air in the nation, should overlook. To many thousands of residents living around Los Angeles airports, jet emissions have become a serious health concern. Alternative D EIS/EIR, including the Consensus plan, fails to consider emissions from taxiing/idling jets, the stage generating the largest amount of air pollution. Make no mistake about it, the air quality addressed in the EIR inadequately addresses all emission impacts generated by LAX aircraft operations and attendant ground traffic on surrounding communities. Indeed, it would be reprehensible if City Council members were to ignore the essential air quality needs of their constituents. To place financial concerns over environmental concerns will prove now, as well as in the future, to be a very costly mistake. Overlooked in the cost of the project are the resultant health costs. What good would it do to have an airport-related job, if the result is poor health? It is time for Los Angeles City Government to recognize that environmental concerns must be placed first. Our future and future generations depend on the decisions that are to be made now. To proceed with the present LAX expansion plans would be the simple but not the right decision. It would be far better to incorporate a regional airport system with a modernized LAX that would roll back impacts on its neighbors. Take the time to do it right. Over 10,000 people have signed the petition that Mike Gordon and Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion (ARSAC) are circulating, addressing their disapproval for the current plans. Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution would add to the petition that a very serious, thorough health risk study on emissions from aircraft be completed before making any decision about plans for LAX. After all, what can be more important than having healthful air to breathe? You, who are in a position to do so, can help redirect the future of Los Angeles by just saying no to Alternative D.

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3. SM Airport Commission Meeting –Summer Recess- next meeting Sept. 27th.

The Santa Monica Airport Commission did not have an August meeting as the Commission voted at the July meeting not to have it (summer recess). Unfortunately, we do not get the luxury of a summer recess from jet emissions and noise.

Next Meeting: September 27th, 2004

4. Federal/State Summit on Air Quality in Southern California.

Held at Los Angeles Pierce College on August 6th, 2004, this gathering proved valuable because I was able to meet a number of our government representatives, including California State Congressman Henry Waxman (30th District), State Assemblymember Fran Pavley (41st District), State Attorney General Bill Lockyer, and State Senator Sheila James Kuehl. Of course I briefly informed them of our Santa Monica Airport concerns.

5. SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District) Town Hall.

A plan for SCAQMD air quality testing via mobile units is moving forward. Former Mayor of the City of El Segundo, and now Democratic candidate for California State Assembly (53rd district), Mike Gordon, along with Jan Perry, Los Angeles City Councilwoman, 9th District, held an Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Roundtable on August 9th, attended by representatives from business and community interests (I was invited by Mike to represent Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution). Mike had already expressed the concerns of our group to Councilwoman Perry who is the Chair of the SCAQMD Governing Board about the air quality decline at Santa Monica Airport. She was in agreement on sending mobile units to study the air quality by the Santa Monica Airport, particularly on the east side of the airport which resides in the City of Los Angeles' jurisdiction.

Our groups concerns that the mobile units should be able to get the most accurate measurement of the emissions from idling jets were also expressed. Wind and weather conditions as well as day, time, and jet activity are all factors to be considered. I offered assistance in recommending where the mobile units might be stationed and Mike agreed that I should give my input.

Mike Gordon will participate in our Candidates Forum on September 13th.

I want to extend my personal thanks to Mike Gordon for his efforts on our behalf.

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6. Los Angeles City Council Districts 8 and 9 host a community meeting on airport issues.

Los Angeles City Council Members Bernard Parks (8th District) and Jan Perry (9th District), hosted a community meeting on LAX airport issues at the Crenshaw Christian Center. The complaints and concerns of residents were voiced and questions asked. Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) representatives gave a presentation and answered questions. Several members of the public were quite emotional at the microphone. Time ran out before I could speak about air quality, but others brought up pollution and black soot problems, as well as noise and safety issues. Some complained of cracks in their homes from the heavy jets landing at LAX flying over their homes.

7. Coming Events.

Save the Date!

Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

Cordially invites the public to attend a

CANDIDATES FORUM

THAT WILL FOCUS ON

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ISSUES

**Environmental Issues - Jet Noise Issues - Safety Issues Health Issues -
Other Quality-of-Life Issues**

Date: Monday, September 13th, 2004

Time: 6:00 pm (until 9:00 pm)

Location: Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street (between Broadway and Colorado),
Room 100 - Santa Monica, CA

Purpose: To provide a forum for candidates to give their views and to be questioned regarding Santa Monica Airport issues, and to educate the public on the candidates' positions.

All SM City Council candidates have been invited to participate in this important and timely Candidates Forum.

Also invited to participate are Santa Monica and Los Angeles area local candidates for the California State Assembly, the California State Senate, and the United States Congress.

The forum will be moderated by noted educator / journalist, Bill Rosendahl.

The Ken Edwards Center has free on site parking and is wheelchair accessible.

The Candidates Forum is free and open to the public.

For further information:

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