

**Concerned
Residents
Against
Airport
Pollution**

C.R.A.A.P. REPORT

*By Martin Rubin (Founder/Director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution)
And Joan Winters, contributing writer.*

In This Issue

1. Rosendahl moves forward with plans to address Santa Monica Airport health impacts.
2. SCAQMD - Airports Air Quality Study Advisory Committee meeting - July 14
3. July 18 - S.M. Task Force On The Environment Meeting.
4. Six new nominees for Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners.
5. July 25 - S.M. Airport Commission Meeting.
6. Rosendahl introduction at Santa Monica City Council July 26 meeting.
7. Santa Monica College Bundy Campus update.
8. New Bundy Noise monitor installation problem.
9. Update on the election to fill Mike Gordon's 53rd District Assembly Seat.

And:

**EDITORS'
COMMENTARIES**

**“Aviation interests move forward at jet speed.
Residential concerns are addressed at glacial speed.
Is it any wonder we are in the situation that now exists?”**

Martin Rubin – Director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

Val Velasco is applauded as she is named by Mayor Villaraigosa as one of six nominees to the Board of Airport Commission (BOAC). More about this in item 4.



Photo by Marty Rubin

From left:: Councilman Bill Rosendahl, Alan Rothenberg, Sylvia Patsouras, Mayor Villaraigosa, Michael Lawson, Val Velasco, Joseph Aredas, reappointed current airport commissioner Walter Zifkin (seated), and Fernando Torres-Gil.

1. Rosendahl moves forward with plans to address Santa Monica Airport health impacts.

New 11th District Los Angeles City Councilman, Bill Rosendahl, has already started to fulfill his campaign pledge about Santa Monica Airport (SMO). He is outreaching to gather experts together who will serve on a panel regarding a human health study relative to air and noise pollution and other health risks potentially impacting communities in close proximity to the Santa Monica Airport. There will also be a time for community testimony to give input on this topic. I am very involved in the process. Joan and I are grateful and wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Bill Rosendahl. I will continue to keep you informed about this ground-breaking project.

2. SCAQMD - Airports Air Quality Study

Advisory Committee meeting – July 14:

This was the 5th Advisory Committee (I am a member of this committee) meeting, but the first time that there was representation from Los Angeles City Council – District 11. Not only was there a representative, Field Deputy Len Nguyen, but Councilman Bill Rosendahl attended and I was pleased to introduce him to those present. He spoke of his concerns and intentions to address air quality issues from SMO operations, and he was able to have his questions answered by AQMD staff.

As of now, sampling will begin around the Santa Monica Airport in February, 2006 for a three-month period, and again in October for another-three month period. Though the heaviest pollution from the idling jets into the West Los Angeles/Mar Vista area is in the summer months, AQMD was not able to adjust the schedule between Santa Monica and Van Nuys airports to sample around SMO during that time period. It is not clear as to whether this study will be able to address the problem of the idling jet emissions into our residential neighborhoods. That is not the purpose of this study. However, the data that is collected from this study may very well prove to be valuable.

3. July 18th, Santa Monica Task Force on the Environment meeting:

Regarding the Task Force priorities for 2005-06:

I addressed the Task Force as to why I felt it important that the Santa Monica Airport air quality issue be a priority. After discussion, the Task Force added it and another item to the existing six items on their priority list.

The next Task Force meeting: August 15th, 7:00 p.m. -Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street, Santa Monica. It is open to the public with on-site underground parking and refreshments.

4. Six new nominees for Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners.

At a news conference on July 25th near LAX, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced his nominations for the Board of Airport Commissioners. Six of the nominees are new and one is carried over from the former Board that served under Mayor Hahn. The nominees expressed their desire to work with our new Mayor to develop a regional airport system. The crowd, gathered at the news conference to hear the nominee announcements, cheered the loudest when Val Velasco's name was announced. Val has been very active in the effort to implement a regional airport system approach to air travel in the Los Angeles basin for the last ten years. She is an attorney and president of the Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion (ARSAC). Joan and I know Val and are thrilled with her nomination. Her nomination, along with the other six nominations, sends a clear message that Mayor Villaraigosa intends to implement a regional airport system. All seven nominees will need approval by the City Council.

5. July 25 – S.M. Airport Commission Meeting.

Rushing from a Santa Monica College Board of Trustees Special Meeting dealing with the Bundy Campus Issue, I arrived to the Airport Commission meeting a bit late as they were already on item six dealing with the Santa Monica College Bundy Campus update. When I arrived, there were just two other members of the public in the audience. Later, there would be two more for a total of five.

A new Commissioner, Yoram Tal, was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting. He is replacing Jean Gebman who has served on the Commission for eight years, missing only one meeting. Yoram Tal, a Sunset Park resident, has been a member of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution for over a year and he has been an outspoken advocate for the need to address the pollution impacts to the adjacent neighborhoods. We wish Yoram Tal well as an airport commissioner, and wish Jean Gebman well and thank him for his efforts on our behalf.

Airport Commissioner Chair Grossman was absent from the meeting and Vice-Chair Young took over chairing the meeting. I noticed a marked difference in the attentiveness between the two Commissioners. While I was addressing the commission from the podium during public comment, Commissioner Young began a conversation with a fellow commissioner. I do appreciate being listened to when I speak, as Chair Grossman

regularly does. After all, the chair very much sets the tone for the other commissioners to follow.

This was a very short meeting. It adjourned around 9:00 p.m.

6. Rosendahl introduction at Santa Monica City Council July 26 meeting.

Councilman Rosendahl addressed the city of Santa Monica's City Council and was spectacular!

The City Council chambers had an overflow crowd of his constituents from many neighborhoods in his district, including West Los Angeles, Mar Vista, Venice and Westchester. A highlight was when he asked those in the audience (some had to watch downstairs on a television monitor, as the chambers were too crowded to please the fire marshal) to stand up if they were from his district—and most stood up, showing impressive support for Bill. He emphasized working together to solve the regional problems that affect both cities, including the Santa Monica Airport and the Santa Monica College Bundy Campus.

7. Santa Monica College Bundy Campus update: Reported by an airport neighbor who stayed past midnight to hear this item at the July 26th SM City Council meeting.

The City of Santa Monica has previously denied SMC access from the Airport to the Bundy Campus because of lack of a defined and approved Master Plan showing the ultimate build-out and maximum potential use of the site and other serious uncertainties on the use and development of the Site.

In June of 2005 The City of SM and SMC entered into an agreement that provided for temporary pedestrian access to the Bundy Campus from the Santa Monica Airport for the summer session ending August 11. SMC has requested vehicular and pedestrian access from Airport Avenue from August 20, 2005 to August 19, 2006.

The City Council authorized a short-term extension of the temporary pedestrian access agreement. The City Council directed its staff to re-engage with SMC and the City of Los Angeles on options to resolve outstanding issues related to pedestrian and vehicle access to the Bundy Campus including neighborhood concerns, Airport staff concerns and Airport Park construction impacts and developing options for the City Council at its next meeting on August 9, 2005. The City Council also directed that ample time be given for the community to weigh-in on any short and long term options to be considered.

Again, this will be on the agenda at the August 9th Santa Monica City Council Meeting.

8. New Bundy Noise monitor installation problem.

LA Bureau of Street Lighting denies requested location.

It looks like the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting wants the City of Santa Monica to put the new noise monitor about 150-300 feet south of the runway centerline because "the new noise monitor to be installed on Bundy would conflict with the street lighting conduit and facilities."

It does not seem possible for the monitor to conflict with existing sub-stations, however, as the selected site location is in an old tree planter/box where the tree has died and there's nothing there now. The root system would have been much deeper than the proposed work. **This item requires much closer investigation.**

This installation of this project has been hindered long enough. I urge the City of Los Angeles to re-consider approving this very special project for the residents of West Los Angeles to approve installation of the Sound Level Meter to be installed, monitoring aircraft noise exactly at the centerline of the airport's runway, not 150-300 feet South.

Matthew Majoli, Operations & Noise Manager
Santa Monica Municipal Airport

It would be advantageous to have the monitor located, as Matt Majoli points out above, at the centerline of the airport's runway. Let's hope this can be resolved in a timely manner.

9. Update on the election to fill Mike Gordon's 53rd District Assembly Seat.

To see who has filled papers to run for this seat, click the link below.

[53rd State Assembly District](#)
[Special Primary Election](#)
[September 13, 2005](#)
[Candidate Filing Status](#)

EDITORS' COMMENTARIES

Having been involved with Santa Monica Airport issues for about ten years, I have learned a lot about how the many facets intertwine to play a part in how the airport operates, and how community concerns are handled. I have learned how important it is to participate and persevere in order to have ones voice heard. I have been able to push and push the issue of airport-air-pollution into the agenda. Persistence was essential! As I persisted, I gained allies. All the while the pollution from the airport, both air and noise, grew. More residents became aware of the smell coming from the idling jets as well as the increase in the number of the larger jets flying into SMO. With the exception of Santa Monica's Friends of Sunset Park, there were no organized efforts to address airport concerns. Los Angeles was basically voiceless. For eight years our former Los Angeles City Council representative had SMO issues on the backburner with no flame at all. Our former Los Angeles Mayor ignored his promise to help us. We were on our own. A few years ago, I decided it was time to see about getting a computer. Figuring out what type of computer to get etc. was quite an experience and a story in of itself. Little did I know at the time, how useful a tool it would become in addressing airport concerns. I started a website. It was received well. As I sat by the computer working on the website, I felt it was time to try and organize an umbrella group to address our concerns. It was difficult for me to think of a name for the group so I summoned my support team, my wife Joan, and assigned her the task of coming up with a name for the group with a good acronym. Within ten minutes we had our acronym CRAAP. We now have members from around the country and one from France; our jetairpollution.com website averages 2,000 visits a month. Our new tools helped us in many ways including pursuing political inroads. Today we have a Los Angeles City Councilman, Bill Rosendahl, who has taken SMO issues from under the rug and placed them square on one of the front burners with a good-sized flame (not too hot – we don't want to burn anything). We have a new Los Angeles Mayor, Antonio Villaraigoso, who is committed to the environment and with whom Councilman Rosendahl, also an environmentalist, has a very good working relationship. Yes, we are making progress, and now we would like to strengthen our outreach. You can help with outreach. Please, let your neighbors know about our group and the good work that we are doing. As we grow and become stronger, I can only imagine what we can possibly accomplish. Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Martin Rubin – Director of C.R.A.A.P.

It isn't always easy being an activist. We have to remain focused on our issues and stay with them. Nothing comes easily. Abandoning a social life to go to never-ending meetings and events becomes our social life. We get the great satisfaction, however, in knowing that we have "right" on our side. There is a tremendous injustice when we can't enjoy this beautiful climate four miles east of the Pacific Ocean because of these sickening emissions from idling jets. Frankly, I become concerned when I see new young neighbors playing with their infants in their front yards with the thick-smell of jet fuel filling the air. I have mentioned this to young mothers—they seem to care about their child developing cancer or asthma, but it ends right there. That is where community involvement becomes so important. Yes, I have heard some residents say they don't smell the fumes. Maybe they are working and not home very much, or they might have some impairment due to smoking that affects their sense of smell. But just because one living within earshot of jet operations at an airport doesn't smell the horrendous odors, doesn't mean that those emissions don't harm them. Our new Los Angeles City Councilman in our 11th District is joining us to have this problem recognized and acted upon. I have heard a few pessimists say that you can't fight city hall, and it's all in the hands of the FAA. Well, isn't that great? We might as well go out to a movie and forget everything. No, that's too easy, and Marty and I are really optimists, after all.

Joan Winters – Co-founder of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution



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Donations sent to the above address are not tax deductible, but very much appreciated to help offset some of our costs.

Make checks payable to: Martin Rubin

Thank you.

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