

## Letter sent to L.A. Times 3-17-04

### The Changing Face of Santa Monica Airport

After SM airport began to allow jets to use the airport, jet operations have increased about 150% since 1997. This increase, along with a 43% decrease in propeller aircraft operations at the airport since 1999, changes the atmosphere surrounding the airport, literally, with fumes from idling jets permeating deep into residential areas that begin just a few hundred yards from the airport. My estimation is that one jet coming into the airport is equal, in community impacts, to many small planes. I have heard from some small plane pilots that they feel like they are being squeezed out. When I observe aircraft arriving from the east, I notice a number of disturbing things. At times small planes have to move out of the way and turn south to allow for a jet to land. The spacing between landings is getting less as more jets come in at the same time. With inclement weather jets often miss the runway and have to turn around to try again. You can imagine how those of us on the ground feel when two or three of these missed landings happen back to back like they did a few days before this small plane went down on Tuesday. Do we have to wait for a jet to crash into a residential area to get attention about the growing safety concerns?

According to the Santa Monica City government, only the FAA can address our concerns. That may be so, but **at the very least** Santa Monica has to be willing to hold a serious workshop to weigh any possible options.

The areas around the airport have been joining together under a new umbrella group, Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution, to try to strengthen our voice and have our concerns addressed. We have a website: [jetairpollution.com](http://jetairpollution.com) that anyone can visit for more information.

For any government agency to place the interests of the growth of commuter jets over the health, the safety, and the quality of life of the public, is reprehensible.

Martin Rubin – WLA (1/2 mile east of SM Airport)

Coordinator and Founder of:

Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution