

Letter sent to LA Times 3-17-04

I have lived just east of Santa Monica Airport since 1958. Jets were not allowed there at that time, then years later they were. The reason we were given was that you could not discriminate by type of aircraft.

At what point are we residents going to be given, from the City of Santa Monica and the FAA, the respect for our health, safety and quality of life?

Tuesday's unfortunate small plane crash in Mar Vista was just blocks away from us. Another accident a few year's ago was one block away.

Santa Monica Airport is unique as it is situated in a densely populated area on all sides. What happens if one of these commuter jets has mechanical problems and loses control?

We residents are heavily impacted by the ever-increasing number and size of jets using the single runway airport. The noise they generate is astounding. There are no night curfews on arrivals. The emissions from idling jets on the runway waiting to take off are downright unhealthful. Residents living within two miles of the airport have been complaining, apparently to deaf ears, about the noxious fuel emissions.

The fumes have made me nauseous, on occasion, and given me headaches, sore throats, and irritated eyes. What about the children in our area? There are several schools. How is this affecting their health, and why aren't parents marching on the streets in protest?

Why doesn't the City of Santa Monica, since they pride themselves as the "Green City", take some steps to get this jet emission problem corrected? Are they afraid of the FAA? What's the problem here? Come on Santa Monica City Government! We residents in WLA, Mar Vista, and Santa Monica are apparently not being listened to. And we are choking. But let's not discriminate against those polluting jets.

Joan Winters – West L.A.