

Good evening, honorable members of the SFO Roundtable.

My name is Greer Stone. I am the Palo Alto City Council member liaison assigned to the SFO Roundtable.

I appreciate the SFO Roundtable taking the time to discuss Palo Alto's desire to formally join the Roundtable. I wish I could attend this evening's meeting, but our City Council has a scheduling conflict.

Palo Alto, like all of your communities, is highly impacted by SFO and the 24-hour nuisance caused by SFO's air traffic. Due to the aggravated noise impacts NextGen will bring to our community, it is imperative that Palo Alto has a seat at the table to discuss these critical issues with our neighboring cities. SFO Roundtable's membership should be based on the aggregated impacts on communities caused by SFO, rather than the mere geographical boundaries of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties.

I understand there is concern that Palo Alto has not formally requested membership to the SFO Roundtable, but to infer from the lack of a recent formal request that Palo Alto is not interested is misguided and erroneous. The totality of Palo Alto's actions in the last several years has shown our strong and continued desire to formally join the SFO Roundtable. First, Palo Alto previously sent a letter to the SFO Roundtable in May 2014, formally requesting to become a voting member. I have attached that letter to this email. Second, Palo Alto has continued to show sustained interest in becoming members of the Roundtable as we have assigned a city council liaison every year since 2017. Both Council Member Kou and I have frequently addressed this body and expressed Palo Alto's desire to formally join the Roundtable. Third, Palo Alto residents are frequent advocates at SFO Roundtable meetings. Finally, thanks to the hard work of Palo Alto City Council Member Kou, Palo Alto has organized an SFO GBAS Community Meeting to be held on June 9th for the benefit of our residents and other concerned South Bay communities. Certainly, there is no lack of interest from Palo Alto to become voting members of the SFO Roundtable.

I understand that changing your membership can be a difficult issue but allowing Palo Alto to becoming voting members will not alter the strategic focus of the Roundtable as the goals and activities delineated in the Strategic Plan and Work Plan are aligned with Palo Alto's interests. In addition to our strategic alignment, you will also be gaining a regional ally with a passionate and knowledgeable citizenry and committed elected officials who are eager to work together in order to further the Roundtable's goals. I ask for your vote to include Palo Alto as a voting member of the Roundtable. We would be honored to join.

Thank you,

Greer Stone, Council Member
City of Palo Alto