

**From:** [RNewman@Rochex.com](mailto:RNewman@Rochex.com)  
**To:** "To: "ahsha.safai@sfgov.org"; "alexandra.c.sweet@sfgov.org"; "Ivar\_Satero (AIR)"; Dave Pine; "Carol Ford (carol\_ford@sbcglobal.net)"; Bill Widmer; "tmccune@belmont.gov"; "Terry O'Connell"; "COUNCIL-Ricardo Ortiz"; "pameladigiovanni.dalycity@gmail.com"; "Sam Hindi"; "Debbie Ruddock"; "aroyse@hillsborough.net"; "Cecilia Taylor"; "aschneider@ci.millbrae.ca.us"; "o'neilm@ci.pacifica.ca.us"; "Jeff Aalfs"; "jgee@redwoodcity.org"; "thamilton@sanbruno.ca.gov"; "jdugan@cityofsancarlos.org"; Amourence Lee; "mark.addiego@ssf.net"; "j.carvell@woodsidetown.org"; "Cc: Kathleen Wentworth"; Michele Rodriguez; Angela Montes; "greindel@hmmh.com"; "Bert Ganoung"; "Stone, Greer"; "Lydia Kou"; "Marie-Jo Fremont"  
**Subject:** Consideration of SFO RT expansion  
**Date:** Thursday, November 11, 2021 4:36:55 PM

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Gentlemen and Ladies,

As the retired Chair of the SFO Roundtable, I wanted to comment on the RT expansion proposals I understand are under consideration, once again. I completely agree with Congresswoman Speier's letter to the Roundtable Chair and Vice-Chair, dated September 28, 2021 on the subject. The Congresswoman makes the best arguments in support of keeping the Roundtable roster as it has been for many years.

The Roundtable has been effective in pressing concerns and arriving at cooperative noise mitigations with SFO and regional government partners, because it can move with a certain speed and focus. An expansion to many other areas will no doubt eliminate this effectiveness and diminish the multi-decade impact the body has achieved.

During my 13 years as a voting member of the Roundtable, I believe the matter of Palo Alto joining was considered several times, with the same result. I understand that considerable time and effort has been expended in the current effort. I submit that such resources would be better used in continuing to work on mitigations for the residents of San Mateo County alone with emphasis on those communities which are nearby the airport, as the most impacted, by many orders of magnitude.

I urge that you put an end to this proposal and return to your pressing issues at hand. I don't believe expansion is one of them.

Regards,

Rich Newman

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Richard M. Newman

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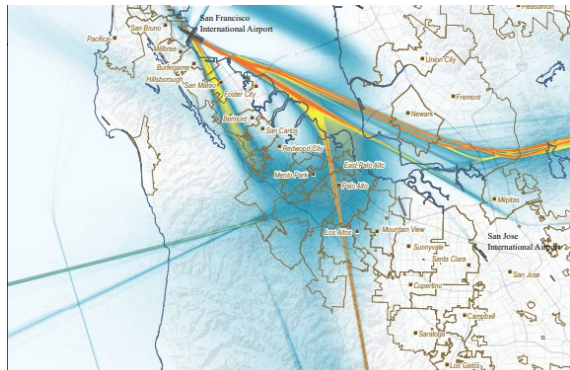
November 15, 2021

Honorable Chair Ricardo Ortiz  
 Honorable Vice-Chair Sam Hindi  
 San Francisco International Airport (SFO) Roundtable  
 Via email to [rtortiz@burlingame.org](mailto:rtortiz@burlingame.org) and [shindi@fostercity.org](mailto:shindi@fostercity.org)

## Subject: Request to include the City of Palo Alto as a Voting Member of the SFO Roundtable

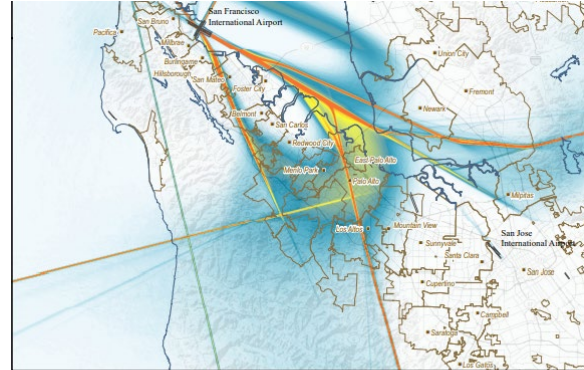
Dear Messrs. Ortiz and Hindi,

This letter is to formally reiterate the City of Palo Alto's past requests to become a voting member of the SFO Roundtable. Palo Alto is highly impacted by SFO operations since NextGen was implemented starting in 2015. Figures 5 and 7 of the 2013 vs 2019 flight [density maps prepared by HMMH](#) show that SFO arrivals density increased drastically over Palo Alto.



Flight Track Density - 154,435 Flight Tracks  
 Low Medium High  
 Source: Flight Track Data: EnviroSuite (SFO monitoring system)

San Francisco Bay Area Flight Paths  
 SFO Aircraft Operations  
 Figure 5  
 2013 Arrival Track Density



Flight Track Density - 226,338 Flight Tracks  
 Low Medium High  
 Source: Flight Track Data: EnviroSuite (OAK monitoring system)

San Francisco Bay Area Flight Paths  
 SFO Aircraft Operations  
 Figure 7  
 2019 Arrival Track Density

As explained by the FAA during the Select Committee, Palo Alto is now the merge point of three SFO arrival procedures, which represent about 60 percent of SFO arrivals.

The City of Palo seeks to become a voting member of the SFO Roundtable, not a regional body, because Palo Alto wants to collaborate with the Roundtable's existing community members to find solutions that will provide relief to residents similarly impacted by SFO operations. The SFO Roundtable is the official entity to address SFO impacts. Roundtables around the country are organized around one airport, not one

# City of Palo Alto

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region or one metroplex. Palo Alto wants to be part of the SFO Roundtable because its residents are highly impacted by SFO operations. Palo Alto does not want to pursue the reduction of SFO noise impacts by itself given that finding viable solutions to the noise caused by SFO operations requires a collaborative approach with similarly and highly impacted cities on the SFO Roundtable. In recent years and on an occasional basis only, Palo Alto has resorted to hiring consultants or hosting community meetings because it had no representation on the SFO Roundtable, or because the SCSC Roundtable did not exist until early 2019 and then stopped meeting in 2020, or decided not to work on topics such as GBAS. The dissolution of the SCSC Roundtable, effective 12/31/2021, means that Palo Alto does not have representation at any Roundtable.

The City of Palo Alto does not believe that the SFO Roundtable will need to allow many other cities to join if the Roundtable allows a few cities like Palo Alto to join. The Roundtable can control the membership expansion if membership criteria include that new members must be highly impacted and in geographical proximity to existing members. It is important to note that flight density does not always equate to highly impacted: NextGen corridors at 20,000 ft or higher are high-density corridors that do not create noise impacts on the ground. Being overflown is not the same as being highly impacted. Multiple factors such as flight density, altitude, speed, aircraft configuration, and thrust level determine whether an area is highly impacted. Flight density maps are not sufficient to determine impacts. SFO can provide the data to determine areas that are highly impacted.

Palo Alto requests that the SFO Roundtable adapt its membership criteria to reflect the drastic negative impacts caused by NextGen in the same way the SFO Roundtable is asking the FAA to change its processes and rules based on the Neighborhood Environmental Survey (NES) results and Congress to create new legislation. The SFO Roundtable, established 40 years ago to address community concerns due to SFO operations, has already shown its ability to adapt in response to impact changes. In 1997, the Roundtable expanded its membership from 11 to 19 cities by adding 8 cities that are not adjacent (defined as adjoining) to the airport. Of the 23 current members, which include San Francisco County and San Mateo County, only 4 cities are adjacent to SFO (Burlingame, Millbrae, San Bruno, South San Francisco). Palo Alto is familiar with the need to evolve due to changing conditions: for example, the City recently opened Foothills Park to the public at large and transferred water rights to the City of East Palo Alto free of charge.

Including Palo Alto in the SFO Roundtable would benefit the Roundtable. Because Palo Alto's needs are similar to the needs of many SFO Roundtable members, the

# City of Palo Alto

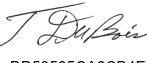
*Office of the Mayor and City Council*

Roundtable's ability to solve the noise problems of current members will be strengthened because Palo Alto will bring additional resources and knowledge (technical and legislative), and continue its demonstrated commitment to solving aircraft noise problems in a collaborative manner. Palo Alto's membership in the SFO Roundtable will not dilute resources or change the Roundtable's priorities, Strategic Plan and Work Plan given that cities in San Mateo County or San Francisco County are interested in making progress on topics that also affect Palo Alto including:

- Improved noise monitoring and reporting, which will benefit every SFO Roundtable member regardless of the source of the noise (arrival, departure, or ground-based noise).
- Departures going south over the Peninsula, especially at night.
- Arrivals over the Peninsula (SERFR, BDEGA-west affects cities south of the airport, and PIRAT; GBAS innovative approaches)
- Legislation (new metrics, nighttime curfews, significant impact definition, etc.), which will benefit every SFO RT member.

The City of Palo Alto has demonstrated commitment and dedication to the SFO Roundtable. It is the only city outside San Francisco County and San Mateo County which assigned a City Council member to attend SFO Roundtable meetings (general meetings as well as subcommittee meetings) for over three years as a member of the public. For the benefit of Palo Alto residents and the potential positive contributions to the SFO Roundtable's mission, the City requests membership on the Roundtable as a voting member.

Best regards,

DocuSigned by:  
  
DD53585CA6CB4E9...  
Tom DuBois

Mayor, City of Palo Alto

cc: Michele Rodriguez, SFO Roundtable Coordinator

Attachment: August 19, 2021 letter from Congresswoman Anna Eshoo





*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo  
Eighteenth District  
California*

August 19, 2021

The Honorable Ricardo Ortiz, SFO RT Chair  
The Honorable Sam Hindi, SFO RT Vice Chair  
SFO RT Membership Expansion Ad-Hoc Subcommittee  
Via Email to [rortiz@burlingame.org](mailto:rortiz@burlingame.org) and [shindi@fostercity.org](mailto:shindi@fostercity.org)

Dear Chair Ortiz and Vice Chair Hindi,

My thanks to you and your colleagues for your important work to review the membership of the SFO Roundtable.

I represent the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District which includes parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. I'm writing in support of expanding the SFO RT membership beyond the counties of San Mateo and San Francisco to include cities and communities that are highly impacted by SFO operations within my District.

I'm proud of the Santa Clara Cities Association for standing up a Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Roundtable and hope it will continue to be a venue for South Bay constituents, many of whom have problems unrelated to San Francisco Airport. I recognize there is some overlap between the two bodies but I support each city having the opportunity to have local representation on each Roundtable depending on the issues they are confronting as a community.

Thank you for your consideration of taking this next inclusive step. I think your influence as a body will grow as you represent more communities because you will have more opportunities to build consensus across county lines.

Most gratefully,

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

cc: Chairwoman Mary-Lynne Bernald, Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Roundtable  
President Cindy Chavez, Santa Clara Board of Supervisors  
President Marico Sayoc, Santa Clara Cities Association  
Chairman Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

## Comments on agenda item 1, Round Table Membership expansion

My name is Peter Grace. I live in Brisbane.

I support Palo Alto to join the SFO Round Table.

At the February meeting, Liz Lopez of San Francisco commented that the Communities of Palo Alto and Santa Cruz are impacted by San Francisco and she finds it confusing that they are not part of the Round Table. I spoke afterwards and agreed with Liz Lopez and that while Palo Alto citizens are almost the only Public Speakers at the Round Table, I appreciated their energy, Commitment and Institutional Memory.

At the June 2 meeting that were included in the August 4, 2021 meeting package, I understood that 7 Round Table Members spoke in favor of exploring expanding membership of the RT. I was very impressed by Sam Hindi saying and I quote from the minutes:

He said that by looking into this through the **lens of fairness, equity and justice**, Palo Alto should have a voice. He said that before he commits, he would like to see an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to look at the impact and evaluate the impact on staff time and bring back to the board for discussion.

I am sure the objections of SFO workload and budget can be addressed as can the worry that Palo Alto's representative would dominate the meeting. I am sure each of you have addressed the same issue at your government meetings.

From the lens of fairness, Round Table membership should be based on impacts from SFO Operations and not limited to County Boundaries and especially as NextGen has fundamentally changed noise impacts

I hope that all the cities impacted by SFO can see that it is in their self-interest to work together and the City of Palo Alto is included.

**From:** [Elizabeth Lopez](#)  
**To:** [Angela Montes](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Agenda Item #1 - Membership Expansion Ad-hoc Subcommittee  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:25:41 PM

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Dear SFO Roundtable Membership,

I am a member of SCREAM, a San Francisco Residents aviation noise group and wanted to say that cities who are heavily impacted by SFO should absolutely be allowed membership on the Roundtable. There is a way to develop criteria that allows membership by a few heavily impacted cities, versus membership by anyone that has SFO impacts. The request for such criteria was mentioned by several RT members at the June meeting but I did not see it in the meeting packet.

I'm impressed that the City of Palo Alto has assigned a council member for three plus years to attend the SFO Roundtable. We should all hope that our own cities or towns would show the same determination and commitment to represent their residents for negative aviation impacts. SFO Roundtable has a focus on ground-based noise, arrivals, departures, and legislation. The new membership criteria should and could ensure that there are not changes in the RT focus and workload.

I have attended SFO Roundtable meetings for way too many years and have collaborated with the Palo Alto advocates. I do not see a dilution or change in the focus of SFO Roundtable if Palo Alto was allowed to join. If anything, I see further strengthening of SFO's Roundtable efforts on noise mitigation.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Lopez

San Francisco resident