

Public Comments: Agenda Item #12 - Fly Quiet Comparison of Peer Review Reports
Roundtable Meeting 10/1/25
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Context

SFO RT Workplan Strategic Goal 4: Provide comprehensive review of SFO's Fly Quiet Program, with recommendations and implementation support, to ensure efficacy and strengthen compliance tracking and accountability

“Next Steps” as stated in the meeting packet: “the TWG will advance the Fly Quiet Program review by **building upon the comparative analysis prepared by HMMH** [emphasis added]. The TWG will evaluate which elements from peer airport programs may be adapted to strengthen SFO's framework, including the potential for new scoring categories, more detailed compliance metrics, and incentive or enforcement mechanisms.”

We commend SFO and the Roundtable for their **national leadership in advancing innovative approaches to noise management**. From the use of ANEEM and N-Above metrics in noise reports, to developing NIITE HUSSCH, and operating the most extensive noise monitoring networks in the country, these efforts set an important standard for airports and roundtables nationwide.

Recommendation

The Fly Quiet Program (FQP) review should draw **not only from the HMMH's analysis but also from additional publicly available resources**, including conference presentations and materials from other FQPs. These perspectives will help SFO and the Roundtable **strengthen the program to reduce noise as much as possible and continue serving as a model for airports and roundtables nationwide**.

Key Points

- **Balanced Evaluation:** Use a balanced metrics across departure, arrival, and ground-based noise (GBN), to better reflect communities both near and farther from the airport. Current metrics include **1 arrival, 4 departure, and 1 combined arrival-departure measure (preferred runway utilization)**. Except for Foster City, the current Fly Quiet evaluation does not take into account Peninsula communities affected by arrivals (such as **San Mateo, Woodside, Portola Valley, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Redwood City, Pacifica**) or by GBN such as **Millbrae**.
- **Distinct Metrics and Awards:** Create separate metrics for **Departures, Arrivals, and Ground-Based Noise** (e.g., engine run-ups) to reflect unique community impacts and create separate awards for each.
- **Minimum Standards:** Set clear baseline requirements so all carriers meet a minimum **“SFO Fly Quiet” standard (as done at Heathrow)** to set expectations and identify substandard performers as well as superior performers that may qualify for awards.
- **Publicly Available Resources:** Draw on **publicly available materials**, e.g., *Fly Quiet Programs – A Community Perspective* ([ANE Symposium presentation](#)), as part of the TWG review.
- **Support Public Engagement:** Allow **discussion** beyond two-minute comments at TWG for this topic.