

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 30, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 16, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 10, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 41

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieu
(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)

April 20, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 41—Relative to Santa Monica Airport.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 41, as amended, Lieu. Santa Monica Airport.

This measure would memorialize the Federal Aviation Administration, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the federal Department of Transportation, and the members of the California congressional delegation to work collaboratively to review noise levels and the safety of flight operations at Santa Monica Airport, to carefully examine the air pollution impact on the communities that surround the airport, and to enlist the help of expert scientists to study the effects of emissions from the airport and apply that science into remediation efforts, among other things.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Municipal Airport was
2 established in 1917 and is one of the oldest and largest general
3 aviation airports in the South Coast Air Quality Management
4 District today and located in the heart of a residential community;
5 and

1 WHEREAS, Since the 1980s, a number of changes have taken
2 place with respect to aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport,
3 including the changing of Federal Aviation Administration flight
4 rules to require jet aircraft to receive permission from air traffic
5 controllers at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) before
6 taking off, which has created significant departure delays at Santa
7 Monica Airport and forced jet aircraft to idle with their engines
8 running for longer times while awaiting permission from LAX to
9 take off; and

10 WHEREAS, More large, high-polluting jet aircraft use Santa
11 Monica Airport than ever before and, in recent years, the number
12 of jet aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport has increased
13 exponentially, from an annual total of 1,000 in 1984 to tens of
14 thousands today; and

15 WHEREAS, The ocean breezes can carry the jet emissions into
16 the residential neighborhoods to the east of Santa Monica Airport,
17 replacing the fresh ocean breezes with the strong odor of jet fuel
18 that very often enters into homes; and

19 WHEREAS, Residents surrounding Santa Monica Airport
20 experience negative effects on their health and quality of life from
21 noise and air pollution, effects that are exacerbated by jet aircraft
22 that idle for long periods of time; and

23 WHEREAS, Numerous studies on, or including, Santa Monica
24 Airport have indicated the possibility of significant long-term
25 health risk impacts of toxic and associated pollutants generated
26 from the Santa Monica Airport, but a lack of data on general
27 aviation emissions has inhibited more comprehensive studies on
28 the local and short-term impacts of the airport's pollution on
29 surrounding communities; and

30 WHEREAS, Studies also recognize a need to establish at least
31 a minimum distance between homes and aircraft operations; and

32 WHEREAS, The existing situation is problematic and the federal
33 government in general, and the Federal Aviation Administration
34 in particular, must do more to eradicate air and noise pollution
35 relative to the Santa Monica Airport because the federal
36 government claims that the City of Santa Monica is preempted
37 from doing more to address these concerns pursuant to the federal
38 Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 7401 et seq.) and other federal laws;
39 now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
2 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes
3 the Federal Aviation Administration, the federal Environmental
4 Protection Agency, the federal Department of Transportation, and
5 the members of our congressional delegation to work
6 collaboratively to review noise levels, the safety of flight operations
7 at Santa Monica Airport, and to carefully examine the air pollution
8 impact on the surrounding communities; and be it further

9 *Resolved,* That the entities memorialized above enlist the help
10 of expert scientists to study the effects of emissions from Santa
11 Monica Airport and apply that science into remediation efforts;
12 and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the entities memorialized above work together
14 to establish and implement a reasonable minimum distance between
15 aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport and the neighboring
16 communities; and be it further

17 ~~*Resolved,* That the entities memorialized above work together~~
18 ~~to develop and offer federally funded relocation assistance to~~
19 ~~affected homeowners who desire it; and be it further~~

20 *Resolved,* That the Legislature strongly urges the Federal
21 Aviation Administration to honor the decision of the City of Santa
22 Monica to increase safety precautions at Santa Monica Airport,
23 and restrict the use of Category C and D aircraft at Santa Monica
24 Airport; and be it further

25 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
26 of this resolution to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
27 Administration, to the United States Secretary of Transportation,
28 to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and to each
29 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
30 United States.