

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 41

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 115

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

[Filed with Secretary of State August 30, 2010.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 41, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Numerous studies on, or including, Santa Monica Airport have indicated the possibility of significant long-term health risk impacts

of toxic and associated pollutants generated from the Santa Monica Airport, but a lack of data on general aviation emissions has inhibited more comprehensive studies on the local and short-term impacts of the airport's pollution on surrounding communities; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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