

Santa Monica Airport - Air Quality Study

Posted by [David Graham-Caso](#) 715.80sc on October 30, 2017

Santa Monica Airport (SMO) has long disproportionately impacted Los Angeles residents through efforts to shift noise and air pollution away from the City of Santa Monica and onto the people Mike represents. Mike and his staff have walked the neighborhood streets abutting SMO many times, frequently seeing, hearing, and smelling the impacts of environmental degradation and pollution that planes taking off, landing, and idling have on Mike's constituents.

With runway shortenings at SMO commencing, yet full closure of the airport still at least 10 years away, Mike recently asked the Santa Monica City Council to move forward with air quality studies in and around the airport, and that the studies include the communities of Mar Vista and Venice.

Read Mike's full letter to the Santa Monica City Council below.

October 30, 2017

The Honorable City Council
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main St #102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Re: SMO Air Quality Study

Dear Mayor Pro Tempore Gleam Davis and Honorable Members of City Council:

I'm writing to urge you to support the work of Dr. Suzanne Paulson to study the air quality in and around Santa Monica Airport, and to allow her critical academic project to proceed.

My constituents in Mar Vista, West L.A., and Venice have long suffered the disproportionate impacts of SMO in large part due to your airport's decision to configure its departure path to fly over the City of Los Angeles. I have walked local streets with neighbors abutting SMO many times, hearing and smelling the choking pollution and environmental degradation caused by the planes taking off, landing, and idling on SMO's runway. I have seen families being forced to shut their windows on an otherwise beautiful summer day, and mothers ask their children to stay inside to avoid breathing the toxic fumes.

The forthcoming construction of the shortening of the runway, however, provides a unique opportunity to study this insidious problem. Measurements taken during temporary closure of the airstrip, and immediately after, could help establish an important control that will allow for full and more accurate study of the true impacts of jet pollution at SMO over an extended period of time. With full closure of the airport still more than 10 years away, this information is vital to maintaining the safety and health of those that live near SMO.

Dr. Suzanne Paulson's work on this subject, as an academic product, would be unbiased and neutral. I echo the sentiments of your own Airport Commissioner, Joseph Schmitz in his letter to you in which he responds to your questions thoughtfully, point-by-point, and also recommends

that these air quality studies be done. I would further ask that the communities of Mar Vista and Venice be included.

As public servants one of our most sacred duties is to protect the health and safety of the people we represent. Formally studying the air quality impacts during the runway closure period and after resumption of operations will allow us the opportunity to understand the impacts of SMO operations on our constituents, and begin to answer some of the questions that have long surrounded the controversial airport. I respectfully ask that you allow Dr Paulson to help us get to some of those answers.

Regards,

MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District