



ENCINO
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

March 2023

Re: CF 22-1127

The Encino Neighborhood Council supports CF-22-1127 as approved by the Los Angeles City Council on March 3, 2023, along with the following go-forward implementation suggestions:

Go-Forward Qualifications/Modifications/Additions:

- I. Given the unchecked growth in airport jet operations that has gone well beyond healthy and safe community compatibility, there should be no additional hangar space approved, only in-kind modernization and/or replacement of outdated facilities should be allowed.
- II. The “luring” of new commercial activity must be focused upon businesses that will diversify the economic footprint of the airport property (retail, recreation, dining, film production, entertainment, etc.) as opposed to additional Fixed Based Jet Operators (FBO), Aircraft Maintenance Hubs, Flight Schools, or any other similar functions that would contribute to increased flight operations, noise, and air pollution.
- III. Any noise barriers to be constructed should be thoughtfully designed and aesthetically pleasing so as to improve, not detract from, the appearance of the surrounding neighborhoods.
- IV. As part of the planning process, the need for a Customs Office at VNY should also be reevaluated given that its presence attracts air traffic and associated risk factors better suited for the more robust port-of-entry facilities at LAX.
- V. As an adjunct to the Plan itself, an updated economic impact study should be sourced to a credible organization, such as an academic institution, so the City and its residents have a non-biased analysis of the airport’s economic/social value, as well as a view of comparative valuations of potential land use alternatives. (The existing economic impact study previously commissioned by LAWA is out of date (2015) and reads like a public relations document written on behalf of the Van Nuys Airport Association).
- VI. An air quality testing program that periodically assesses lead levels and the presence of particulates in neighborhoods surrounding the airport should be made a mandatory part of all future airport plans, even if the funding needs to come from the City of LA itself due to FAA-imposed constraints on LAWA spending on programs of this type. The health and well-being of residents need to be given a much higher priority by city government than has been done in the past.
- VII. There should be a moratorium on any new RFPs being issued or those previously issued, but not yet approved by City Council, that would allow growth at VNY until an updated Airport Plan has been vetted by the community and approved by the LA City Council. This includes the Bonseph Helinet lease currently being considered, as it would allow for an increase in jet operations at VNY.

In conclusion, Encino residents deserve mitigation and protection from the adverse impacts of VNY Airport operations on their health, their homes, and their quality of life. We ask that action be taken now to course correct and reign-in the explosive growth in VNY operations over the past 10+ years to restore and ensure a safe and and secure future for our families.