

ENCINO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

MOTION FOR CIS FILING

Whereas,

The presentation by Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA) staff to the Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) regarding the Bonseph-Helinet lease failed to disclose that the Bonseph-Helinet proposal includes accommodating private jets and jets for charter. Additionally, the Bonseph-Helinet project is yet another example of the piecemeal approach to redevelopment that LAWA has been doing at Van Nuys Airport (VNY) for the past decade or more without a comprehensive, detailed plan that quantified the cumulative impact of these projects before they were allowed to proceed as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Considering the City and LAWA have not yet taken steps to dedicate time and resources into a critically needed and updated Airport Plan/Specific Plan and CEQA required program level Environmental Impact Report (EIR), it seems premature - if not irresponsible - for the City of Los Angeles to approve any more redevelopment projects at VNY until proper research has gone into:

- how the airport has transformed to date
- the best use of remaining parcels and/or the airport's redevelopment opportunities
- LAWA's current policies, protocols and practices
- a thorough environmental review, including the health and quality of life for existing communities both adjacent to the airport and in the low-altitude flight paths of the airport

The Encino Neighborhood Council (ENC) therefore respectfully requests that you reject the Bonseph-Helinet lease proposal for the following reasons:

1. The Los Angeles City Council is on record citing the disproportionate detriment felt by the major influx of private jets and jet charters at VNY airport. To approve any development that would exacerbate private jets and charter jet activity would be a contradiction to council members' expressed concerns and efforts to date to explore how to reduce said detriment on their constituents and our shared natural environments.
2. The gradual reduction in the diversity of aircraft, namely prop planes, on VNY parcels is what is facilitating the increase in private jet activity. The Bonseph-Helinet proposal suggests that the helicopter usage and operations would remain the same however, the proposal would continue the on-going removal of occasional use prop plane activity from a property in order to replace them with private jets and jets for charter. Communities impacted by the non-essential activity are opposed to introducing more private jets and jets for charter to a premises that does not currently house them.
3. Bonseph-Helinet stated to the BOAC that in 2022 they reduced their fleet of helicopters by 30 percent. That suggests that status quo is more than sufficient for the societal benefitting medical flights, news reporting and filming activities they serve. The need for a modernized hangar/maintenance facility for helicopters is not in question. However, the major expansion of hangar space being proposed in the Bonseph-Helinet proposal goes well beyond that needed for helicopters and as indicated in the proposal would allow for an increase in private jet and charter jet hangar space.

4. It is within the City of Los Angeles's authority and responsibility to reject proposals that do not fit the City's long-term goals, or that are not in the best interest of the city and its citizens. Rejecting the Bonseph-Helinet lease proposal would allow the City to consider more options that are better suited for the subject lease parcel, and more compatible with existing communities and our local environment.
5. In addition to the reasons stated above, LAWA has only begun a "VNY Vision Study" touted as a guide for VNY development, so we feel it is premature for LAWA to push any new development or redevelopment proposals, let alone one that would increase the capacity for private jets and charter jets under any name or guise.

Therefore,

The Encino Neighborhood Council (ENC) formally and respectfully asks the Los Angeles City Council to reject the Bonseph-Helinet lease proposal in the best interests of tens of thousands of residents, schools, and businesses impacted by Van Nuys Airport (VNY), as well as the City's long-term environmental and environmental justice goals.