



Coastside Airport Noise Abatement Alliance

El Granada ♦ Princeton ♦ Moss Beach ♦ Montara

Presentation to Midcoast Community Council

April 13, 2022



Who Are We?

An association of coastside neighbors of Half Moon Bay Airport (HAF) whose right to quiet enjoyment is disrupted by repetitive low flights over our homes, mainly due to pilot training activity.

We support appropriate and reasonable airport use and appreciate the benefits of having a local airport.

What Do We Want?

Modifications to the HAF voluntary noise abatement guidelines to reduce the number of takeoffs per pilot training session / visit.

Background

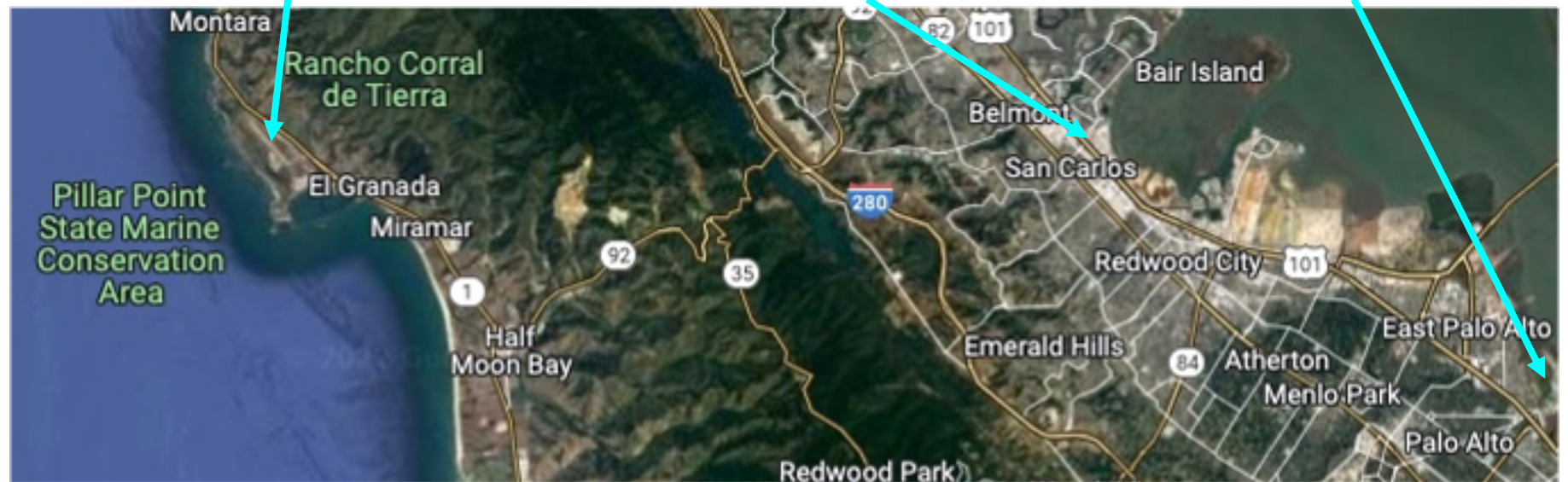
There are three nearby “general aviation” regional airports: Palo Alto (PAO), San Carlos (SQL) and Half Moon Bay (HAF). PAO and SQL have traffic control towers and host several flight schools/clubs. HAF has no tower or active flight schools/clubs.

Approximately 12,000 residents live under the HAF flight pattern.

Half Moon Bay Airport

San Carlos Airport

Palo Alto Airport

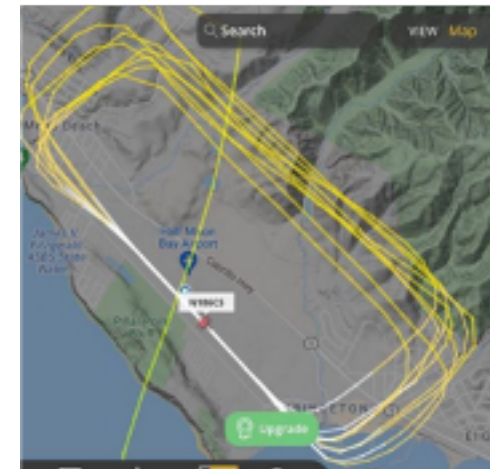
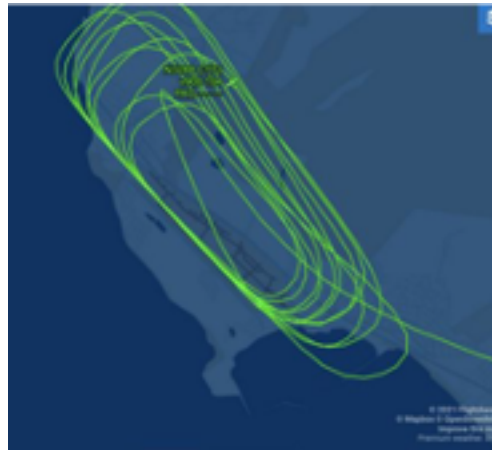


The Problem

Flight instructors and student pilots from other regional airports concentrate their training activities at HAF due to the larger runway and absence of monitoring (air traffic control). It takes 5-10 minutes for planes to fly from SQL or PAO to HAF.

Lessons often include landings immediately followed by take offs, known as “touch and gos”. It is common for a single aircraft to perform 10 or more touch and gos spaced only minutes apart.

A large percentage of these lessons originate with a small number of flight schools and flying clubs based at PAO and SQL.





Analysis

Flight tracking data shows that on a sample sunny weekend (Feb 5-6), nearly 80% of the landings and takeoffs were touch and gos (123/157).

Just 11 of 72 planes (15%) were responsible for 51% of the takeoffs (80/157)!

A Moss Beach resident recorded 51 flyovers in just 2 hours (Dec 18).

Incessant circling and excessive noise over the communities surrounding HAF at low altitudes disturbs residents, impacts their health, stresses wildlife, and increases pollution (i.e. lead contamination), mainly on sunny weekends and holidays when residents and visitors seek to enjoy our beautiful outdoors.



Remedy

We are working with Airport Management and the various flight schools/clubs to adopt a voluntary limit of three to five takeoffs per visit to, or flight from HAF.

Additional maneuvers can be performed at other nearby airports.

Airport Management has been very responsive and cooperative in responsibly balancing the rights of the flying community with the needs of local residents.

Several Bay Area flight schools have already voluntarily agreed to such limits. We support expanding this limit to all HAF traffic.

Airport Management is considering updating their voluntary HAF Noise Abatement Brochure and NOTAMs to encourage all flight traffic to abide by these recommendations and distribute their impact more equitably throughout the Bay Area.



What Can You Do?

1. Join your neighbors at the Coastside Airport Noise Abatement Alliance to receive news and information about our advocacy on your behalf.

Send an email to **jerry@jerrykaplan.com**
(Please include your first and last name)

2. Use Flightradar24.com (or another free service) to track flights. It's fun and easy - click on planes to see their call signs and flight paths!
3. Use the county form to file complaints about offenders.
<https://www.smcgov.org/publicworks/half-moon-bay-airport>
.... or simply Google *HAF noise complaint*
Airport Management replies to all submissions!
4. Support candidates for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors who favor reasonable actions to reduce local noise and pollution from HAF.