

City of San Jose Rules Committee Testimony
October 12, 2022

Members of the City of San Jose Rules Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Consent Calendar Item B(1) - Public Record. My name is Douglas Rice. I am a Vice President for the California Pilots Association, a former Santa Clara County Airports Commissioner, and have been a pilot at Mineta San Jose International Airport for 51 years.

I have brought this item forward due to concerns over safety and environmental issues at the airport. Many of these items have been brought up to both staff and the Airport Commission without any follow-up action. Some may have FAA Grant Assurance implications as well. More recently, the obstacle of a required amendment to the commission workplan in order to address these issues was presented as an excuse for the lack of action. This is in spite of the fact that SJMC 2.08.420(b) allows the public to request the commission to "investigate, study, or review any matter pertaining to the airport or aviation".

The Airport Rules and Regulations Sections 25.12 and 25.14 are the primary focus of my request for action, having remained unchanged since Ord. 25529 was passed in 1998. Current operational procedures contradict many of the rules stated in 25.12. For example, the Air Traffic Control tower no longer operates 24 hours a day rendering numerous portions of the SJMC, at least in part, moot. Changes in runway capacity and the makeup of the based general aviation fleet and fixed-based operator service facilities suggest a review of the airport rules and regulations to promote safe and efficient operations is long overdue.

Our airport also lacks facilities for small and mid-sized aircraft that cannot safely operate at other area airports. Our county lists over 1400 aircraft registered yet only about 750 on the tax rolls as high airport costs among other factors discourage locating them at SJC. The current facilities at the airport are at capacity, which limits revenue to the airport through rents and fees and inhibits inflows to the general fund and schools from personal personal property and possessory interest taxes. These "off budget" monies also need to be accounted for as an economic impact and credited to the aviation community in the future.

Other issues listed on the submission also deserve attention. Has the airport quantified the revenue loss associated with the opening of Moffett Field to corporate aviation? How can the city affect the high costs that discourage purchases and doing business at the airport?

I ask that the committee consider the issues presented and provide direction to the Airport Commission and staff to provide recommendations and resolutions to address these long standing aviation community and public concerns.

Thank you for your time.

Douglas Rice