

MVCC's Santa Monica Airport Survey Comments

What follows this introduction is the Comments section of the Mar Vista Community Council Survey on the impact on the community from the Air traffic at Santa Monica Airport. The section of the survey which had answers that could be checked off and easily tabulated has already been done separately. Emailed responses are not included with the hard copy responses that are represented here. Also, survey's that had several boxes checked instead the the one box limit were not included in the survey count and therefore not included in the comments section. If you feel that your comments were not included for this reason, please take the survey again and limit the boxes checked to one per question.

Of the 700 or so hard copies that were turned in at the Mar Vista Farmers' Market and gathered from the inserts in neighborhood newsletters and the MVCC newsletter, over 500 had comments written in. The Comments section has variable material which cannot be easily categorized. The comments could be grouped in many different ways, such as by area, by season, by pro or con attitudes toward airport traffic, etc. However, the random order in which the comments are presented reflects the unique, individual voices of our community and makes for interesting reading. Taken all together these comments reflect the diverse Voice of Mar Vista stakeholders.

Some who took the survey asked if their comments would really be heard by anyone, or just stored away or thrown out. If you took the time to write your ideas and feelings in response to the survey questions, and checked only one box for each question, you will find your comments here amongst your neighbors' comments. No matter how you feel about the airport activities or about this survey you will most likely find you are not alone in your perceptions, thoughts and feelings. This Comments section of the survey reads like a dialogue between many people who hold both similar and divergent ideas. It is like a big town hall meeting with all the intense feelings and diverse ideas, but without the interrupting, foul language or fisticuffs. It is exciting reading once you get into it.

The grammatical idiosyncrasies and the marks that indicate strong feelings (i.e. exclamation points, underlining, bold and capital lettering) were kept intact so that individual voices could come through. Some people thanked us for taking this survey and were enthusiastic in expressing their feelings about impact on their lives from the airport traffic. Some were angry that the survey was being offered and felt strongly that it was biased and unfair. The Comments section of the survey gave everyone an opportunity to express these feelings and ideas and one can find good arguments on both sides. Some people used the survey to air grievances that had nothing to do with the airport. These are also included as these comments, too, represent the concerns of our area, and apparently the survey was another way to make these concerns heard. No one has been edited out because of content. You will hear, if you choose to have an ear for it, the anger, frustration, fear, hope, indifference, irony, sarcasm, humor, empathy, intolerance, and even some joy that all reside in our community, together. And some responses are really quite funny. So enjoy this community dialogue. Draw your own conclusions. Even in this narrative portion of the survey, there appears to be a general correlation between where people live in relation to the airport and their experiences and perceptions of the air traffic. If you prefer tallies and numerical counts, which can give a more factual look to data, the tabulated, numerical part of the survey is for you. Both parts of the survey together give a fuller picture.

The numbered sentences refer to the question numbers on the survey.

Propeller aircraft noise.

How many times a day.

Jet aircraft noise.

How many times a day.

Aircraft fumes.

How often.

Residue or soot

Other concern health, safety, quality of life concerns.

Not everyone kept their comments restricted to the correspondingly numbered sections.

Brackets [] indicate words added for the sake of clarity.

Transcriber,

Gwen Rinehart