

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF EL DORADO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES August 3, 1977

The Board convened in a continued adjourned meeting. Present: Supervisors Arliene Todd, William V. D. Johnson, Lloyd R. Kutter, and Thomas L. Stewart. Absent: Supervisor W. P. Walker. Also present: John J. Fitzpatrick, Assistant to the Board; Noble Sprunger, County Counsel; Kenneth L. Milam, Planning Director; Douglas J. Noble, Senior Planner; and Sally A. Traub, Deputy Clerk.

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Hearing was held as duly advertised on jet noise at the Lake Tahoe Airport.

On letter was received and read into the record from Mrs. L. A. Shearson in opposition to the jet noise.

Mr. Douglas Noble, Senior Planner, made a presentation on the Noise Element of the El Dorado County General Plan, and informed the Board that this Noise Element was adopted in December 1976, as required by the State of California.

Chairman Johnson requested presentation of arguments in opposition to jets flying into the Lake Tahoe Airport.

Mrs. Mary Lou Mosbacher stressed the fact that she objects to the present day jets because of the noise, and stated that when, and if they are able to abate the noise, it should, at that time, be decided whether or not they will be allowed to fly into that airport. She also presented graphs illustrating the noise and sound levels of jets in comparison to other everyday noises.

Mr. Art Griffis speculated that when more casinos are built, the casino business will be spread so thin that the casinos will resort to importing people from other areas which will in turn require more air traffic in the Basin, which he was opposed to.

Dr. Phil Middleton, Psychologist, stated he was against the noise from the jets at the airport, and said that there is documented evidence that noise adversely affects work performance. He also pointed out that there have been successful lawsuits regarding mental health problems caused by jet noise.

Mrs. Laurie Ames stated that she was opposed to the jets not only for noise, but because of air quality.

Mr. Jim Morris, Real Estate Broker, stated that lawsuits were also won for property damages resulting from jet aircraft noise, due to a decrease in property values, and expressed that he would have a difficult time selling property within the flight pattern.

Mrs. Jeffrey Minor, Businessman, stated he had previously circulated a petition for presentation at the Public Utilities Commission hearings on jets at South Lake Tahoe stating that businesses in the area were opposed to jet aircraft. He also expressed that the local businesses do not want additional business to the detriment of the whole community.

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Mr. Jan Whitemeyer, teacher, stated that he must stop his class for 30 to 60 seconds while the jets are going over, and was opposed to the jet noise.

Mr. Jim Hildinger, owner, Angora Lakes Resort, felt that the airport should never have been built at all, and stated that the guests at his resort do not like the aircraft in any form. He presented a petition containing 27 signatures stating that guests at Angora Lakes Resort were opposed to the low-flying aircraft. In conclusion, he expressed his desire to see all aircraft banned in the Basin, except for emergency purposes.

Ms. Kathy Sharp, Lake Tahoe Humane Society, stated that the noise very adversely affects the wildlife of the area, and that studies prove that the wildlife will vacate the area if the noise continues.

Mrs. Mary Lou Mosbacher then made the statement that they felt that there were only three viable solutions to the problem, as follows:

1. Immediate and total ban of all jet aircraft; stricter controls on aircraft now using the airport; and closing of the airport at night between the hours of 10:00 p.m., and 8:00 a.m.;
2. Close the airport; or,
3. If neither of the other solutions are acceptable, then the County may buy all of the affected property to do with as they please.

Mrs. Angela McNair, lodgeowner, stated that her guests very much object to the noise from the jets.

The following persons were present and expressed their opposition to the jet noise at Lake Tahoe Airport: Messrs. Wayne Bartholemew, Ron Yost, Mel Morford, Richard Rhoades, and Andy Lochran; and Mesdames Jeanette Kelly, Karen Bartley, Ann Warren and Shirley Irving.

Mrs. Ann Rasmussen stated that she was requested to represent eight families in her neighborhood to express their opposition to the jet noise.

Mr. Nat Sinclair objected to the jets, but wanted to see both the private and commercial jets restricted, and in conclusion, stated that he is in favor of "controlled" jet traffic.

Chairman Johnson then called for arguments in favor of the jet aircraft.

Mr. Bill Dody, Manager, South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, submitted a petition containing 710 signatures, 675 of which either resided, or owned businesses in El Dorado County, stated that they were in favor of allowing jet aircraft performing landings at the South Lake Tahoe Airport at anytime during the twenty-four hour day; and allowing jet aircraft to take-off from the South Lake Tahoe Airport between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

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Mr. Terry Trupp, Executive Director of the Council for Logic, did not endorse or condemn the use of jets, he objected to the ban of jets from a safety standpoint, as he felt the older prop planes were unsafe, and because of this the jets should be allowed, but restricted to daytime hours.

Ms. Jo Ann Welton, Executive Director of the South Lake Tahoe Visitors' Bureau, stated that she personally circulated the previously-mentioned petition and said the residents felt there were more annoying noises than that of the jet aircraft.

Dr. Ian Griggs, Psychologist, stated that research done shows that noise has little or no affect on work, providing it does not require auditory communication, he also cited the 1977 summary by the Department of Transportation (F.A.A.) which states that no proof could be found that noise has a measurable impact on people living in airport areas.

Mr. Tom Davis, Chairman, South Lake Tahoe Aviation Committee, voiced his objection to the petition included in the June 28, 1977, Board of Supervisors' minutes, as it was prepared in 1976 and submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for their hearings.

Mr. Hugh Kilibrew, President, Heavenly Valley Ski Area, stated that he believed the jets to be an essential part of the tourist community.

Mr. Ray Haley, owner of the Waystation Hotel, expressed his desire to see the jet travel continue.

Mr. George Zents, Lake Tahoe Aviation, stated that they have no objection to the night restriction, only the hours imposed.


No further arguments were presented, the hearing was closed, and the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, August 9, 1977, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED

  
WILLIAM V.D. JOHNSON, Chairman

ATTEST: Carl A. Kelly,  
County Clerk and  
ex officio Clerk  
of the Board

BY

  
Deputy Clerk