

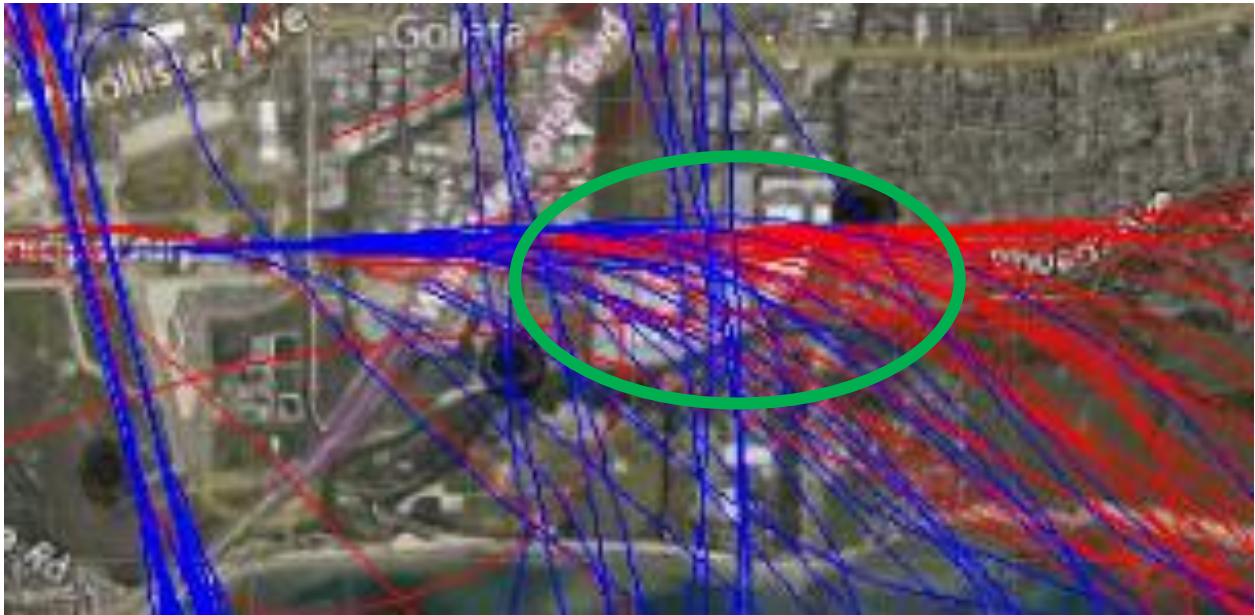
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May 1, 2024

**Re: Rezoning agricultural land in the Santa Barbara Approach Zone.**

To the Board of Supervisors:

**The staff recommendation before you on May 3, 2024 proposes to locate approximately 1,300 mostly lower and moderate-income housing units directly under the airport flight path, mere feet from the end of the runway. Those residents will be subject to more than twenty flights a day – low, loud and directly overhead, a number that is projected to increase substantially over the next twenty years. The image below depicts the actual air traffic above six parcels being considered for rezoning from agricultural to residential (Scott, Caird, Ekwill, and McCloskey-Lelande).**



(<https://flsba.santabarbaraca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/SBAAircraftAnnualNoiseRepo.pdf>)

**Image from Santa Barbara Airport 2021 Airport Noise Study – actual flight paths of a typical day in 2020.**

Scientific research on the health effects of living under the flight path, due to both noise and “ultrafine particulate matter” that can cross the blood-brain barrier and bypass the placenta, is consistent in its findings. People who live under the flight path suffer significant increases in blood pressure, increased risks of heart and lung disease, pregnant women have more preterm births, and the children who live there suffer from cognitive delays and learning disabilities.

**I submitted a letter complete with links to this research to the County more than a year ago, yet these threats to public health are not even being considered in this decision.** I reminded the Planning Commission of these facts last month and verified online that you do indeed have this information, yet the science is not discussed in the staff report.

Therefore, if you choose to rezone the Scott, Caird, Ekwill, and McCloskey parcels from agricultural to residential, it will be with the knowledge that doing so will place those with lower incomes in an environment that poses a significant threat to their health. This will constitute a deliberate act of environmental injustice.

**And it will be completely unnecessary. You can easily meet your housing goals simply by rezoning the Giorgi parcel instead.** You can leave the above-mentioned parcels (numbers 2-7 on your documents) – the only ones fully in the Airport approach zone - as Agricultural land. The County’s interactive map shows that rezoning the Giorgi parcel instead of the six identified would result in being only 33 units short of County’s self-chosen mandate-plus 15% goal. Thirty-three units could be made up by building 33 lower income units on County properties 15 and 16 instead of the 42 above moderate units currently planned. Or you could simply reduce the arbitrary – and mathematically unnecessary – 15% buffer by a mere 8 percent. A reduction of 8% of 15% of a voluntary (and mathematically illogical) buffer to safeguard the health of people who depend on the integrity of your decision making should be a no-brainer.

**The Planning Commission chose to trade a brief glimpse of a lemon orchard from a car window for the health of thousands of people, only because they are lower-income.** The Planning Commission does not represent us. You cannot abdicate your authority or your responsibility to them.

Do not rezone agricultural land under the flight path, rezone the Giorgi parcel instead.