

Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council

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TO: FAA

SUBJECT: Impacts of Plane Noise and Pollution on Sunset Cliffs Natural Park

Members of the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council are deeply concerned about impacts of the proposed departure flight routing on Sunset Cliffs Natural Park (SCNP), a San Diego regional park where park visitors seek a calm and peaceful respite from the stresses of their busy urban lives. This unique 68 acre coastal gem, featuring dramatic cliffs and inspiring ocean vistas, stretches for 1 ½ miles along the Pacific Ocean on the west side of Point Loma. The park provides a treasured island of tranquility, a rare resource in our urban setting. Can you imagine the jarring effect of plane noise as park users seek the restorative powers of the natural coastal environment?

Sunset Cliffs Natural Park is a Multiple Habitat Preservation Area (MHPA), a designation which restricts loud noises and bright lights because it has been proven that these adversely impact the lives of the animals. The environmental analysis should address: a) noise and pollution impacts on both the environmentally sensitive Sunset Cliffs Natural Park and the contiguous Point Loma Ecological Reserve and, b) public health impacts and quality of life factors.

In conclusion, a simple solution to the potential noise and pollution impacts would be to leave the departure flight pattern as it exists. While the proposed new departure plan might save a little on fuel, it would be expected to be very expensive in terms of human factors.

Sincerely,

Ann E. Swanson, Chair
Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council
(The official SCNP advisory council)

