



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DATE: February 1, 2012  
SUBJECT: Report on the Status of Military Aircraft Operations  
FROM: David H. Ready, City Manager  
BY: DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION

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### SUMMARY

This staff report provides an update on the City's initiatives toward reducing the number of Military aircraft operations and associated noise reduction at Palm Springs International Airport. Additionally, information is included which outlines past noise mitigation programs by the Airport and FAA (Federal Aviation Administration).

### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and File.

### STAFF ANALYSIS

Due to months of noticeable increases in the number of Military aircraft operations at the Palm Springs International Airport, and related increase in noise, the City has taken an active role in reaching out to the Military and federal representatives in an effort to reduce the number of Military flights. Although the City cannot restrict use of the Airport under federal law, the City is committed to work cooperatively with the Military and FAA to address these issues and develop a reasonable approach that reduces noise levels. Toward this goal, the City Council appointed an Airport Noise Subcommittee which includes members Mills and Lewin.

Joining us in this effort, Congresswoman Bono-Mack has taken the initiative to send a letter directly to the Department of Defense inquiring as to the reasons for the increased Military aircraft operations and requested information regarding precautionary steps that can be taken to reduce the noise. At this time, we have not received a response from

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the Department of Defense; however the Congresswomen's Office is following up on her request.

On December 12, 2011 the Council Subcommittee, the Airport Commission Noise Subcommittee Chairman, staff and a representative from the Congresswoman's Office met to discuss possible solutions. In addition to the formal request to the Department of Defense by the Congresswomen's Office, a range of several other noise mitigation strategies have been implemented.

- Signs requesting "good neighbor" flying practices have been placed adjacent to the apron where Military aircraft arrive and depart.
- The Airport Director met with fixed based aviation operators and requested their participation in communicating our "good neighbor" message to Military Pilots who utilize their facilities.
- The Airport's web-site now has information specifically directed to Military Pilots advising them of the residential areas surrounding the Airport and recommending noise abatement operational practices.
- The Council Subcommittee reaffirmed the inclusion of Military aircraft operations data in the Airport's updated Master Plan Environmental Review which is presently underway.

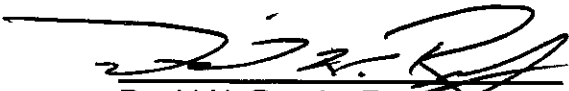
In 1993 a multi-year noise mitigation project was initiated and ultimately completed in 2005. This program, which was prompted by the extension of the Airport's primary runway, was compiled under FAA guidelines for studying and developing the Airport's noise footprint. Subsequently, a "noise exposure model" was approved by the FAA which included a plan for mitigating noise related issues for property within this noise footprint.

Approximately \$11 million in federal grant funds were expended on an array of mitigation projects which included noise insulation for approximately 200 homes, acquisition of vacant land to provide buffers between the airport and residential areas, construction of a noise barrier and wall, and the purchase and demolition of four homes and one multi family unit. These measures occurred at both the north and south ends of the Airport runway. The attached document provides a general overview of the noise exposure map developed at that time and a list of completed remediation expenditures.

Next steps in the current process include further meetings with the Council Subcommittee and federal officials where appropriate, review of the Department of Defense response to the Congresswomen's request, and updates to the City Council - including information relative to the Airport Master Plan Environmental Review update.

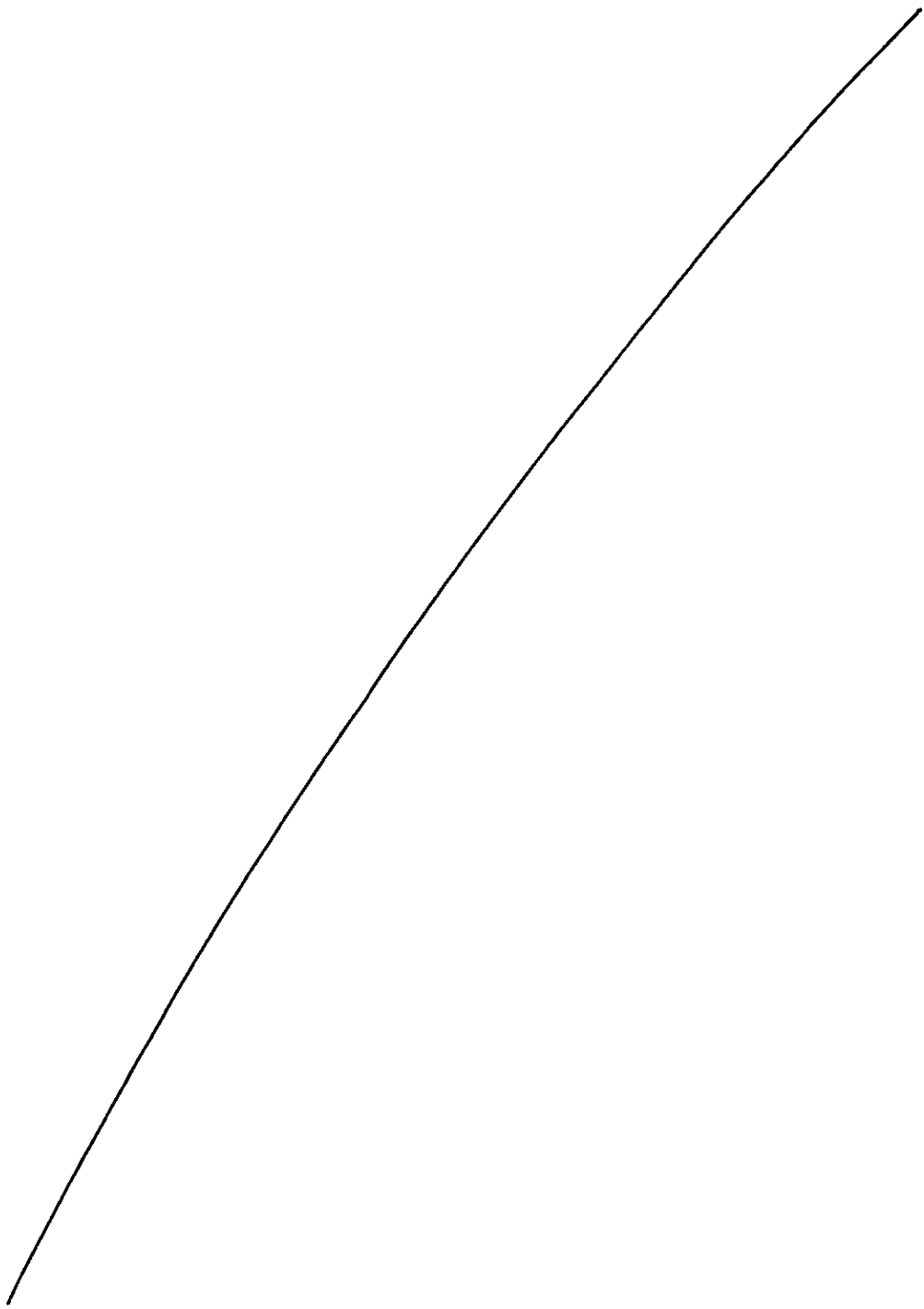


Thomas Nolan, A.A.E.  
Executive Director, Airport



David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D.  
City Manager

Attachment: PSP Noise Mitigation History



# PSP NOISE MITIGATION HISTORY

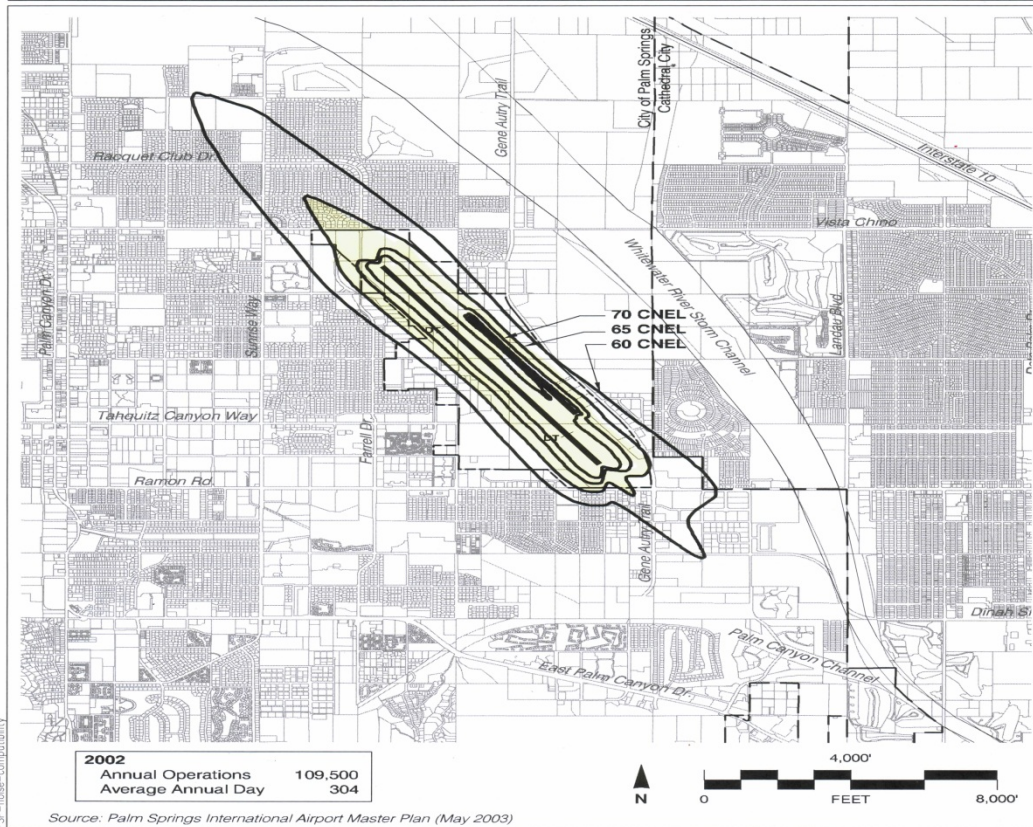
1993 through 2005



# 65 CNEL NOISE CONTOUR

(COMMUNITY NOISE EQUIVALENT LEVEL)

CHAPTER E7 BACKGROUND DATA: PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND ENVIRONS



PCP\_noise-compatibility

Exhibit PS-4

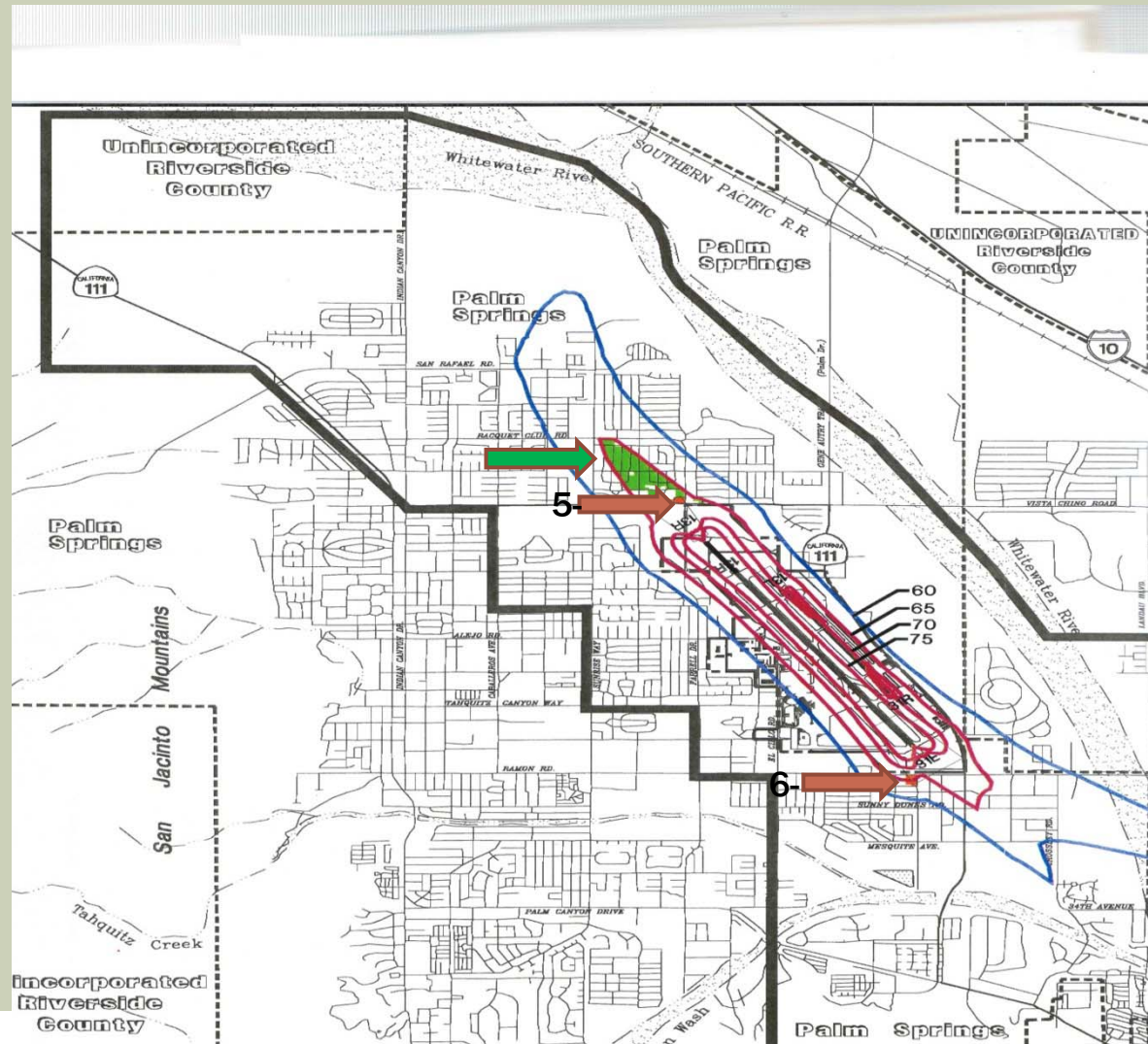
## Existing Noise Impacts Palm Springs International

E7-4

Riverside County ALUCP— East County Airports Background Data (March 2005)



**GREEN AREA = APPROX. 210 HOUSES/NOISE INSULATION**  
**11 PARCELS PURCHASED (DETAILS NEXT PAGE)**



# LAND ACQUISITION (DETAILS)

## ■ North end

- 5 parcels
- Included 2 single family homes and 3 (R-2) vacant lots

## ■ South end

- 6 parcels
- 1 four-plex, 1 single family home, 3 (R-2) vacant lots and 1 R-1 vacant lot



# PROJECT APPROXIMATE COSTS

Federal Grant	Year	Desc.	Funds
AIP-16	1993	Master Plan\Part 150 Noise Study	\$765,000
AIP-20	1996	70 CNEL Contour Single family sound to 65 CNEL Phase 1	\$1,111,112
AIP -21	1997	Acquire 11 parcels –included 3 single family homes and relocation, 1 four-plex and relocation, 7 vacant lots (5 north of Vista Chino & 6 south of Ramon)	\$2,222,222
AIP -23	1998	Phase 2 and 3 noise insulation	\$2,427,884
AIP -27	1999	Noise insulation (120 houses)	\$2,222,222
AIP-29	2005 completion	Noise insulation Phase 5	\$2,204,423
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$10,952,863</u></b>