

I N D E XCity Council -- June 16, 1976

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Adjourned at 11:40 P.M. to Thursday, June 17th
at 4:30 P.M.

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Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 1976, at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Armstrong, Geissert, Rossberg, Wilson and Mayor Miller. Councilman Brewster arrived at 7:10 P.M. Absent: Councilman Surber.

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, Assistant City Manager Scharfman, City Attorney Remelmeyer and City Clerk Coil. Absent: City Treasurer Rupert.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

City Attorney Remelmeyer led in the salute to the flag.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:32 P.M., Councilman Armstrong moved to recess for the purpose of an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation (a proper subject matter for an Executive Session, per the City Attorney). The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Surber).

The Council returned at 7:00 P.M.

PLANNING HEARING:

5. APPEAL BY THE CITY OF LOMITA of the Environmental Review Board decision on Environmental Impact Report for the Torrance Airport (EA 74-26). The report was accepted as accurate and adequate by the Environmental Review Board, April 21, 1976.

An Affidavit of Publication was presented by City Clerk Coil, and it was ordered filed, there being no objection.

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the appeal of the determination of the Environmental Review Board on the adequacy and sufficiency of the Environmental Impact Report for the Airport Master Plan. It was specifically pointed out by the Mayor that the only issues at this hearing are whether the report adequately sets forth:

- a. The environmental impact of the project.
- b. Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the project is implemented.

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- c. Mitigation measures to minimize the impact.
- d. Alternatives to the project.
- e. The relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.
- f. Any irreversible environmental changes which would be involved in the project if it should be implemented.
- g. The growth inducing impact of the project.

It was further pointed out by Mayor Miller that this is not a hearing on the desirability of the proposed Master Plan or on whether it should be carried out. Those matters will be heard at another time. Comments should be limited to the Environmental Impact Report and its contents. Comments on the project are out of order at this time.

Comments were first invited from Environmental Review Board Chairman Scharfman. Mr. Scharfman reviewed the extended hearings before the Environmental Review Board, and the substantial documentation thereby attained. Mr. Scharfman then specifically referred to the City of Lomita's comment #8: "This new EIR has been prepared with only a minimal contact, and then only within the last 45 days, with the City of Lomita. An EIR prepared without the input from and close consultation with a residential city lying immediately east of the Airport and directly under takeoff and landing patterns must prima facie be unsound and inadequate." In response thereto, Mr. Scharfman presented a letter dated March 7, 1974 to Allen Stephenson, City Administrator of Lomita enclosing the draft Environmental Impact Report and requesting review and comments, no reply was received -- next, a memorandum of a contact with Mr. Morris Vance, second City Administrator of Lomita, on December 18, 1975, where Transportation Administrator Critchfield personally visited his office and provided all pertinent documents, with another request for review and comment from the City of Lomita. Until Mr. Leland Dolley, Lomita's City Attorney, appeared at the first hearing of the Environmental Review Board (January 21, 1976) the City of Torrance had never heard a word from the City of Lomita, per Mr. Scharfman.

Further pointed out by Mr. Scharfman was the action of the City of Lomita in the issuance of a 1-page Negative Declaration on two subdivisions just east of the Torrance boundary under the Airport flight path -- there was never any notification to the City of Torrance that the environmental assessment was taking place

It was the concluding comment of Mr. Scharfman that the subject appeal by the City of Lomita seems to be a delaying tactic with very little foundation, except opinion. It was his recommendation that the Council concur with the decision of the Environmental Review Board.

Next to speak was Mr. Mills of the acoustical consulting firm of Bolt, Beranek and Newman who reviewed noise standards, procedures used in the noise studies, traffic flows, noise levels, noise measurements in the City of Lomita, the traffic situation, etc., it being his concluding comment that the report, of record, provided by his firm provides an accurate and useful assessment of the existing and projected noise environment around the Torrance Airport.

At this point in the meeting, it was confirmed by the Councilmembers that they had received a copy of the objections raised by Mr. Dolley in his letter of appeal and the answers on the part of the Planning Staff, which is incorporated in material provided and signed by Planning Associate Dave Ferren.

Mr. Charles Belba, City of Lomita Councilman, stated that Lomita's City Administrator was contacted in December, 1975-- this contact to solicit a response to the already then produced EIR -- hence their feeling that the City of Lomita has had no input into the document. It was the opinion of Mr. Belba that there are genuine shortcomings within the report in areas pertaining to the noise contour map and the data used; noise readings; etc. The need for dedicated coordination between all affected parties was stressed by Mr. Belba, to the end that an agreeable solution of the Airport problems may be achieved.

Lomita's City Attorney, Mr. Leland C. Dolley, provided item-by-item review of his April 21, 1976 communication, of record, regarding the deficiencies in the subject Environmental Impact Report. It was the request of Mr. Dolley that the Council take a very hard look at the accuracy and adequacy of the data supplied in the EIR as it relates to the major environmental impact on the City of Lomita and its citizens.

The next speaker was Lomita Councilman Moore who stated that the major deficiency in the EIR is that of control of offending pilots and aircraft as to flight patterns and noise.

Other speakers were:

Mr. C. Workman, 1858 263rd Street, Lomita: The Airport noise problems are very real -- accurate noise studies would support this fact.

Mrs. Charles Sitterly, 4105 Via Novell, Palos Verdes Estates: Voiced her objections to the Airport noise, and urged that there be an updated current noise reading. A petition protesting any further expansion of Torrance Airport was also presented.

Mrs. Peggy Hollander, 22959 Nadine Circle: On behalf of New Horizon residents, voiced their objections to any Airport expansion and to the present noisy conditions.

Mr. Jim Davis, 2618 Brian Avenue, Hillside Residents Association: Deem the E.I.R. inadequate on the subject of

noise. Statistical material regarding the Airport, compiled by Mr. Davis, was also submitted.

Ms. Yvonne Tressel, 4558 Cathann, representing Southwood Homeowners Association: Some areas which have not been adequately dealt with in the EIR are: the disregard for flight patterns; noise; possible legal action against the City of Torrance, and effect on land values.

Mr. Arnold S. Johnson, 2278 West 232nd Street, representing SETHA: His prepared statement of June 16, 1976 (of official record) concurred with the City of Lomita regarding inaccuracies and inadequacies of the Airport EIR. Particular concerns are the touch-and-go operations and avigation easements. (It was the finding of City Attorney Remelmeyer that the matter of avigation easements is not a consideration of the EIR. Also noted by Mr. Remelmeyer was the report regarding avigation easements now being prepared by him.)

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The hour being 9:10 P.M., Mayor Miller ordered a 10-minute recess.

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Mr. John LaResche, 3634 West 228th Street, representing Torrance Heights Civic Association: Pointed out that the paragraph discussing a lower level of operations (Page 121 of the EIR) is inadequate, in view of the many concerns which have been voiced in this regard.

Mr. Joe Arciuch, 23521 Kathryn Avenue: Reviewed his communication of May 4th (of record) which incorporated his findings regarding flight patterns, noise, etc. Specific recommendations were: Establish noise monitoring system; Establish better interface with local FAA; Issue necessary ordinances; Restructure flight path patterns to minimize noise annoyance to affected areas; Reestablish night curfew; Close down small runway to reduce number of operating aircraft; Reduce number of operations to 1/4 of a million annually, rather than 1/2 million; Conduct cost benefit analysis to determine optimum conditions; Include detailed data on aircraft-caused accidents.

Mr. Jim Frasso, 23007 Kent Avenue, representing Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association: Reiterated his previously expressed comments (of official record) regarding noise, the EIR treatment of same, and the need for the initiation of a noise abatement program now. It was the recommendation of Mr. Frasso that the Council approve the EIR, start working now with the City of Lomita and Torrance residents to solve their problems, and get on with the Master Plan hearings -- a noise abatement program will obsolete the EIR noise section.

Council discussion at this point was directed to the noise abatement program now under consideration in the 1976-77 budget, with actual construction slated early in 1977 -- per

Director of Transportation Horkay, were it the desire of the Council to expedite this program, this system could likely become effective in three to six months.

It was conceded by Councilman Brewster that the EIR is not adequate as to flight patterns actually flown and resultant inaccurate noise profiles -- however, recognizing the noise problem, to go back and redo the EIR for this reason will serve no purpose in that the Council must and will do whatever is necessary to control noise at the Airport. Concurrence with the expediting of the noise abatement program was indicated by the Council. Next questioned by Mr. Brewster was whether or not, in view of his feeling regarding the inadequacy of the EIR, he, as a Councilman, was bound to return the EIR for more study, or can he acknowledge same, request that these comments be appended therein, and move on with the job to be done? City Attorney Remelmeyer requested a caucus before responding to the question posed.

Other comments were forthcoming at this time from Mr. Dolley who indicated the desire of the City of Lomita to participate in the consideration of a noise abatement program; and Mr. Frasso who reiterated the Southwood Riviera Homeowners recommendation that the Council approve the EIR, contingent upon a noise abatement program -- a noise monitoring arrangement is just a means to an end, and the need for more extensive consideration should be acknowledged.

Mr. Marion A. Mason, #5 Bridle Lane, Rancho Palos Verdes, Torrance Pilots Association: The proposed monitoring system will do the job -- all agree that noise is the problem; a reasonable noise figure was urged by him.

Mr. John Dunbar, 2823 Danaha, chairman, Torrance Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee: It is their feeling that there are some inadequacies in the EIR -- however, it should be passed, and attention should be directed to the problem and the solution thereof.

Mr. Gary Liles, 19414 Redbeam: A prepared statement, of record, with recommended EIR revisions was provided by him. Action now, rather than seeking perfection in the EIR, was recommended by Mr. Liles.

There being no one else who wished to be heard, Councilman Wilson moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Surber absent).

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A 5-minute recess was ordered by Mayor Miller for the purpose of the caucus desired by City Attorney Remelmeyer, the hour being 11:05 P.M.

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On resumption of the meeting, Councilman Brewster reiterated his concerns: It appears that there are some deficiencies in the EIR -- these are acknowledged, but yet it is the feeling of Mr. Brewster that the report itself does an adequate job of conveying the impacts, the problems, etc. which must be met in proceeding with the Master Plan -- and were those deficiencies corrected, it would not have a major impact on the direction which must be taken. His question -- is he obligated by law, because of the acknowledged deficiencies, to return the EIR for rework?

City Attorney Remelmeyer responded that there is no obligation, as a matter of law, to send the EIR back -- the judgment of whether or not this EIR is adequate is up to the Council, as spelled out in the EIR Guidelines. The noise problem, per Mr. Remelmeyer, has been stressed at the public hearings, and is a problem known to the Council -- additional information which might pinpoint additional noise levels would not materially change any of the mitigation measures proposed.

MOTION: Councilman Armstrong moved to incorporate comments and testimony of the public, the Staff, and members of the Council into the report as an appendix. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Surber absent).

MOTION: Councilman Armstrong moved to DENY the subject appeal; the decision of the Environmental Review Board to be upheld and re-affirmed; further, that the Council finds the EIR on the Airport Master Plan is adequate and sufficient as provided in the Environmental Quality Act. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Surber absent).

Mayor Miller thereupon directed City Manager Ferraro to proceed with the public hearings -- such hearings to be held concurrently before the Traffic, Planning and Airport Commissions -- on the Airport Master Plan, with matter to be returned to the Council at the earliest possible date.

Relative to the noise monitoring system, Councilman Armstrong MOVED that the City Manager's Office be instructed to proceed with this system immediately. The motion, seconded by Councilman Wilson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Surber absent).

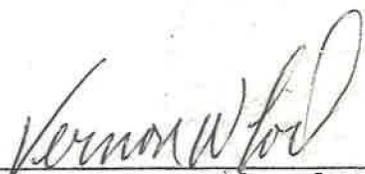
It was the further direction of Mayor Miller, on recommendation by Councilman Brewster, that the Transportation Committee undertake a study, with all interested parties (including City of Lomita, homeowner, pilot, Chamber of Commerce, Cal-Trans, State Aeronautical Commission representatives), regarding the matter of noise abatement at the Airport. The Mayor designated Councilman Armstrong to take Councilman Surber's place on the Transportation Committee, and named Councilman Brewster as Chairman of this Committee.

Mayor Miller, on behalf of the Council, expressed appreciation to all who participated in this public hearing for their courtesy, patience and valuable input.

Lomita Councilman Belba commented that much good had been gained, and the outcome will prove of benefit to all, and conveyed the appreciation of the City of Lomita to the City of Torrance for this forum.

At 11:40 P.M., Councilman Wilson moved to adjourn to Thursday, June 17, 1976, at 4:30 P.M. for a Budget Workshop Session of the Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rossberg, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Surber).

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Vernon W. Coil, Clerk of the
City of Torrance, California

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance

Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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