

I live at Smoky Hill Road & Chambers Road. In my water bill this month the NewsAurora newsletter solicits resident input regarding Centennial Airport and lists six proposals either supported or not by the city officials of Aurora. What seems to be the common denominator of this article is NIMBY. This is a hypocritical, socially irresponsible approach to decision making.

During the 1970's while living in the Santa Ana Heights area of Newport Beach, under the flight paths of John Wayne Airport, jets regularly flew over our home which a good portion of the year had open windows. While guests would frequently comment about the noise, we had completely tuned it out. It was especially not a problem while we were sleeping. You just adjust to it.

If we want air travel, and for me the proximity and convenience of Centennial Airport trumps DIA, there will be some noise. The idea that some other community should deal with the undesirable effects of something that serves me hardly seems fair. My comments on the six proposals:

1. Ban the noisiest aircraft: Stage 1 jets are among the oldest, noisiest and least fuel-efficient aircraft. The aircraft operator of the one Stage 1 jet based at Centennial Airport has agreed to phase it out. City officials support this recommendation. I also support this -- WHY NOT? This deals with the root of the issue -- the noise itself.
2. Ban noisier jets at night: There are several Stage 2 aircraft operating out of Centennial Airport, and depending on the number and type of jet operations, they could significantly increase airport noise. However, banning those aircraft would require another federal study, and other airports that have attempted similar bans have been repeatedly unsuccessful. City officials support this recommendation. I do NOT support this recommendation both on the grounds that a further study wastes time and money, and because jet noise at night is less a problem than during the day.
3. Allow more departures over Aurora: The Airport has recommended that some aircraft departures -- which are typically noisier than arrivals -- be routed over Aurora neighborhoods during nighttime hours. City officials oppose this recommendation. This is precisely what I refer to as my city trying to pass problems along to others -- NIMBY logic. Aurora should have its share of flight paths and nighttime is the better preference.
4. Route more daytime departures over Aurora. City officials oppose this recommendation. If needed, we should absorb our share of daytime flight paths as well.
5. Install noise monitoring system and develop a program to evaluate it. City officials support this recommendation. This one seems odd. There isn't already monitoring equipment in use?
6. Work with pilots in a voluntary program to mitigate the noisiest flight patterns: The voluntary "Fly Quiet" Program encourages pilots to use different flight tracks in order to mitigate noise. The program cannot force pilots to participate, and many have been reluctant to follow it in the past. Despite these limitations, city officials support this recommendation. Why are pilots reluctant to do this? I support safety as a concern that trumps noise concerns. So voluntary seems to work best.

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