

CITY OF HAWTHORNE



4455 West 126th Street • Hawthorne, California 90250-4482

William W. Wynder
Aleshire & Wynder, LLP
2361 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 475
El Segundo, CA 90245

June 20, 2018

Subject: Your letter dated June 14, 2018 regarding excessive Noise Concerns from Low Flying Aircraft Departing from the Hawthorne Municipal Airport

Dear Mr. Wynder:

This letter is in response to your letter dated June 14, 2018 regarding the reported aircraft noise over the Rancho Palos Verdes community caused by aircraft departing from the Hawthorne Municipal Airport. Staff researched Webtrak on various days which showed that half, if not most, of the aircraft at low altitudes originated from the Torrance Airport/Zamperini Field.

Our Airport provides every airport user with a Pilot Guide which encourages all pilots to follow procedures to minimize noise. The Pilot Guide is a voluntary program and per FAA guidelines the Hawthorne Airport does not have the authority to enforce it. Per your request we will also send an email to all airport users alerting them that the residents of Rancho Palos Verdes are complaining about aircraft noise and urging them to follow the FAA regulations for minimum altitudes when flying over or near the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

It should be pointed out that the Hawthorne Municipal Airport does not control aircraft in flight or regulate aircraft schedules. The FAA manages airspace, establishes flight patterns, implements flight procedures and corridors, and determines minimum flight altitudes for aircraft. Only the pilot, using guidance from the FAA, has control over aircraft while in flight. According to FAA regulations (14 CFR 91.119(d)) helicopters and weight-shift-control aircrafts have no minimum altitude requirements if the operation is conducted without hazard to public or property on the ground.

The Hawthorne Municipal Airport is responsible to maintain safety and security at the airport and ensures that the runway, taxiways, and other facilities are in good working condition, and available for use by the general aviation.

Sincerely,

Arnold Shadbehr, P.E.
City Manager/Public Works Director