

Council Meeting of  
November 14, 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL #1**

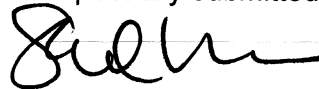
Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Finance – Supplemental #1 for Item 10B**

The attached correspondence was received after the posting of the agenda.

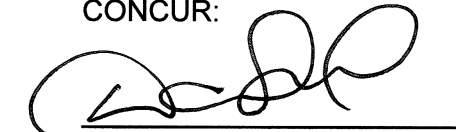
Respectfully submitted,



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Sheila Poisson  
Finance Director

CONCUR:

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For: Aram Chaparyan  
City Manager

Attachments:

A) Correspondence

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**

**#1**

**10B**



**From:** Richard Root <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Saturday, November 11, 2023 4:28 AM

**To:** CityCouncil <CityCouncil@torranceca.gov>; Council Meeting Public Comment  
<CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Cc:** Chaparyan, Aram <AChaparyan@TorranceCA.Gov>; Santana, Danny <DSantana@TorranceCA.Gov>;  
Sullivan, Patrick <PSullivan@TorranceCA.Gov>; Megerdichian, Shant  
<SMegerdichian@TorranceCA.Gov>; Poisson, Sheila <SPoisson@TorranceCA.Gov>; Poirier, Rebecca  
<RPoirier@TorranceCA.Gov>

**Subject:** COTAR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NOVEMBER 14 2023 AGENDA ITEM 10B - LANDING FEES

Please see the attached letter.



November 10, 2023

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT ON NOVEMBER 14 AGENDA ITEM 10B –  
AIRPORT LANDING FEES

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

**The Coalition for Torrance Airport Reform (COTAR) fully supports the City's recommendation to adopt landing fees for Torrance Airport.** Landing fees were unanimously recommended by the Transportation Committee and unanimously supported by the full Council on July 25, 2023.

As stated in our comment letter to the City Council for the July 25th meeting, COTAR continues to believe that fees should apply to all airport users. Landing fees are needed for the following reasons:

1. To offset the more than 60% increase in operations over the last two years, which has vastly outpaced the rate of increase in aeronautical revenue to the Airport Fund.
2. To ensure that users pay *proportionally* for their use of the facilities. Heavy users should contribute more to offsetting operating expenses because of their disproportionate impact on airport facilities.
3. To ensure that transient aircraft offset their impact to the facilities.
4. To ensure that aeronautical use of the airport remains fully self-funded, so that the City will not be forced to rely on Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants from the FAA, which would severely curtail local control of the airport.
5. To provide data on how the airport is being used.
6. To provide funding for upcoming airport-related expenses, such as improving the performance of the noise abatement program by adding staff and noise monitors.
7. To provide funding for ongoing and potential future airport-related legal costs.



Torrance residents are anxiously waiting for the City to implement the decisions it made on July 25th. We look forward to seeing the Council follow through on its promise to reform the airport for the betterment of the whole community.

For COTAR,



Charles Costello  
Torrance Riviera



Richard Root  
Torrance Riviera



Daniel Will  
Torrance Walteria

cc: Aram Chaparyan, City Manager  
Danny Santana, Assistant City Manager  
Patrick Sullivan, City Attorney  
Sheila Poisson, Finance Director  
Shant Megerdichian, General Services Director  
Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

**From:** Kalani, Sharon <SKalani@TorranceCA.Gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 11, 2023 3:10 PM  
**To:** Chaparyan, Aram <AChaparyan@TorranceCA.Gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: City Council meeting regarding landing fees

Hello,

Received the following email from Kurt. I will reach out to him on Monday and share that I have recused myself from this item. I will also let him know I have shared his email with staff.

Sharon

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**From:** Kurt Robinson <klr@robinsonheli.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 11, 2023 9:48 AM  
**To:** Kalani, Sharon <SKalani@TorranceCA.Gov>  
**Subject:** City Council meeting regarding landing fees

Councilmember Kalani,  
 I was very surprised to receive notice of the upcoming City Council Meeting this Tuesday with two landing fee proposals, one of which would severely impact Robinson Helicopter Company, Inc. and our 1,100 employees. Can we arrange a short call on Monday or Tuesday, prior to the meeting so we can understand the City's position moving forward?

*Regards,*  
**Kurt Robinson**  
**President**



**From:** Kalani, Sharon <SKalani@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 21, 2023 7:15 PM  
**To:** Kurt Robinson <klr@robinsonheli.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Robinson Helicopter Company, Inc.

**⚠ CAUTION: External email!**

Dear Kirk,

Thank you for your time Friday morning. I appreciated our conversation and enjoyed the tour of your campus.

I will be in touch.

Warmest Regards,  
Sharon

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**From:** Kurt Robinson <[klr@robinsonheli.com](mailto:klr@robinsonheli.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:50:24 PM  
**To:** Kalani, Sharon <[SKalani@TorranceCA.gov](mailto:SKalani@TorranceCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** Robinson Helicopter Company, Inc.

You don't often get email from [klr@robinsonheli.com](mailto:klr@robinsonheli.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**WARNING: External e-mail**

**Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

We hope you are doing well and are enjoying working on the Torrance City Council. As you are aware over the last 50 years Robinson Helicopter Company, Inc has established strong ties and a great relationship with the City of Torrance. Together we have built a world-class aviation company with over 1,000 employees.

We are, however, concerned about recent events on the airport and would like to share with you some of our future plans and discuss how we can work together to expand our workforce and help the City. In the next few weeks, would you be available for a short visit to our factory? I can provide you with a quick tour, a chance to meet some of our employees and a look at what we are doing.

If you are agreeable and can provide me with some available dates and times I can confirm my availability and look forward to meeting with you.

*Regards,*  
**Kurt Robinson**  
**President**



**From:** Jim Gates <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 3:46 PM  
**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Cc:** Jared Yoshiki <jared.yoshiki@aopa.org>; Mike Ginter <mike.ginter@aopa.org>; Barbara Marrin <[REDACTED]>; Jol Silversmith <[REDACTED]>; Alex Gertsen <agertsen@nbaa.org>; pderner@nbaa.org; Cross, Jonathan (FAA) <jonathan.cross@faa.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Many years ago, the City asked the FAA to release two large parcels (one on the north side and one on the south side) of airport property from the "aeronautical use" restriction in order to provide funds for the "development and maintenance" of the airport. The funds from the commercial leases are paid into the Airport Fund as promised.

Every year, the City transfers about \$10 million from the Airport Fund into the General Fund. This has been going on for at least 10 years. Landing fees are not necessary to "*offset the City's costs incurred in maintaining and operating the airport facilities.*" That \$10 million should be used for any needed airport "maintenance or operations costs."

The "facilities provided" at TOA are nowhere near what is provided at other similar airports in the area which have NO LANDING FEES:

- No jet fuel is available on the airport
- There is no AWOS or other weather info available when the tower is closed
- There is no full-service FBOs on the field
- The noise limits at Torrance are the most restrictive in the nation
- There are no auto rental facilities on the airport
- The City is in the process of driving out at least 4 flight schools by cancelling the business licenses which they have held for YEARS--one of which has received acclaim for its program from the California Senate and Assembly!
- There is no on-field restaurant
- There are no rent-a-car facilities or other transportation options

**From:** Fred Bongard <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 4:48 PM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Landing fees will not help the situation. IT will create an accounting morass, loose money, and not reduce any noise problem.

Fred Bongard

**From:** Gary Palmer <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 6:43 PM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** public comment

Council,

It is apparent you are not listening and while I expect the same attention to this email I'll try and assist you one more time.

Your attempt to ban touch and go landings and charge landing fees will not resolve the problem to which residents seek assistance.

The complaint is about the number of flights over a few people's local houses. Pilots are working to fly quieter, but the city staff (Michelle and Shant) refuse to enlist the aid of pilots seeking to find a fair solution.

In fact, they are refusing any help offered, but stating publicly they seek help.

Your staff is providing false information based upon what has been stated publicly, and how attempts by pilots have been discarded without consideration.

Your current path will increase flights over the southern areas of the airport, and the city will be unable to enforce (again) any left turn codes. This is not a threat and not what any of us want. It will be what the schools (local and others) are forced to do because it is legal.

Without even waiting to see what happens with landing fees you are pushing a full ban on touch and go landings. Your lack of understanding will result in a worse situation.

Perhaps some want the airport shut down. I would not like to see PCH and Torrance beach populated with 20 and 30 story buildings because airport runway protection is lost. I would hate to see the mess Torrance creates once that high density housing is created and prop 13 limits tax revenue to support the growing needs of those thousands of new residents. And certainly the whole south bay becomes a parking lot. All this and more is possible and is already happening at Santa Monica.

Please reconsider the validity of your opinionated and controlling staff, someone (or more) are not acting in the best interests of the residents you claim to represent. Perhaps it is important to understand the issues and not just respond blindly to loud mouths.

--

**Gary Palmer**

Please withhold all my personal information including email address for any publication of this message

From: James Kenney <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:20 AM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

If you vote for landing fees for all aircraft at Torrance airport, I will sell my aircraft and the 8000 of so I pay in annual rent for my hangar will go away.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:27 AM

To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Danrihn <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 8:29 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

**From:** glschmutz <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 8:41 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

George Schmutz

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Chris Leary <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:44 AM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Chris Leary

From: Robert gregory <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:45 AM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B-- NO LANDING FEES in Torrance.

Vote No on Landing Fees in Torrance.

City Council elections are coming in March. We will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Brandon Mercade <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 8:45 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Please do not kill general aviation, or the airport that has far predated the people living around it.

Brandon Mercade

[REDACTED]

Sent via mobile

**From:** John Winkler <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 8:52 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Can you tell me if FBO's at Torrance Airport charge a ramp fee? I am wondering if those landing at Torrance Airport will have to pay for both landing fee and ramp fee?

John Winkler

San Pedro  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Paul Storaasli <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 8:55 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

From: BEN HOLM <[REDACTED]>  
 Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:57 AM  
 To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
 Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

Council.

Regarding Landing Fees at Torrance airport.

Growing up in Welteria, attending walteria elementary and South High, airplane noise was never an issue.

We knew the airport was there and you would expect hearing an airplane every now and then. The landing fees will not decrease the amount of airplanes by much if anything. Your biggest number of flights are the flight schools, as I'm sure you well know as you are targeting them, and they will just pass the landing fees on to the student. Flight training is expensive and an extra \$6 is not going to deter anyone.

Also the \$6 per landing will not help the few residents that have an issue with this.

I understand that city council needs to stand up for residents and fight for the people's rights but this is ridiculous. It's gone back and forth trying to control airplanes in flight and imposing fees when these people either willingly moves in next to an airport or inherited a house from someone that willingly move next to an airport.

I would expect city council to be a little better at what they chose to spend their time on and dismiss the foolish requests by residents.

You don't see El Segundo trying to shut down LAX because of noise complaints. You may say well we need LAX. Well we need Torrance airport and flight schools. There are not enough pilots as is for all the Comercial flights. With less pilots they take younger and less experienced pilots and put them in control, decreasing safety.

Help build the flight schools, not tear them down, and you will get safer traveling for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ben Holm. Torrance resident for 33 years and airplane owner at Torrance airport.

[REDACTED]



From: DANNY COOK <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:58 AM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Landing fees-I am requesting that you please vote no on landing fees. Our Torrance Airport is part of our historic community. Starting as Lomita Field, used for training of pilots for WWII.

Thank you for your consideration.

A Torrance voting residence.

DanCook

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Art Brock <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 8:59 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

**From:** John Collver <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 9:06 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:19 AM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:27 AM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

What is wrong with you people??  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 9:28 AM  
**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

The airport was there long before most residents bought homes in Torrance they knew about the airport. I moved my airplane off the airport to a much more friendly and welcoming location  
In my opinion there are a few unhappy residents  
Let's vote in New council members  
George Schmutz

**From:** Scott Osborn <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 9:35 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B

I already pay high fees for my hangar, now you want me to pay you \$6 every time I need to put in a little practice in my own aircraft that I already pay you to keep there?

What will you do with my money that will make life any better for me?

Are you investing it back into the airport that I pay for?

When will we see upgraded security, or enhancements to us pilots.

You've already removed historic artifacts from Zamperini's display. Leave my airport alone. Stop trying to appease a few individuals. Have you asked those of us that pay for it what we think?

Scott Osborn

From: Jerry Visek <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:37 AM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--

I have had an airplane at Torrance airport for over 30 years, and I would welcome a landing fee. The flight school has addconsider about a congestion to the airport, and it is no longer a pleasure to fly out of Torrance. They should be made to pay their fair share



**From:** PHIL SCHMIDT <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 9:40 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Sent from Mail for Windows

**From:** Scott Osborn <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 9:49 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

What is your definition of a landing? Does a touch-and-go count, as I never actually landed my airplane and came to a stop off the runway? Will you charge me the landing fee if I don't touch the wheels to the runway and declare a go-around? What happens to the pilot making an emergency landing? Are you going to charge them?

Where do you want the future pilots from Torrance and the surrounding area to practice their landings? They won't be driving out to Corona to rent a plane. I just spent 4 hours at LAX waiting for a delayed flight because the pilot shortage. You're not helping this by pushing flight schools out.

You don't like the tax money you get from the local businesses that you'll push away? I guess the fees will help you offset the loss in tax \$\$, but what about the jobs you're throwing away?

This is a disgusting overreach of local government

Scott Osborn

From: DAVID SHABY <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:58 AM

To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B. I am a Torrance tenant and already pay high hangar fees. Imposition of landing fees at TOA is unjustifiable unless looked at as a means of chilling airport use. The airport generates much more annually than it needs.

David M. Shaby II

David M. Shaby II & Associates, APC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Tim OBrien <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:10 AM

To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

Please vote NO on item 10B. It will be counter productive to everyone's goals. Being a pilot at the airport I can say that I & my other pilot friends truly care about flying quietly and safely. This is harmful to local businesses, overly heavy handed, cumbersome and an unnecessary remedy. Takes some smaller, effective steps BEFORE punitive landing fees.

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Thanks,

Tim OBrien

**From:** Oded Yossifor <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 10:14 AM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Your chart is not to destroy general aviation!

From: William Tymczyszyn <[REDACTED]>  
 Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:26 AM  
 To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>; Chen, George <GChen@TorranceCA.Gov>; Kaji, Jon <JKaji@TorranceCA.gov>; Lewis, Bridgett <BLewis@TorranceCA.Gov>; Sheikh, Asam <ASheikh@TorranceCA.Gov>; Kalani, Sharon <SKalani@TorranceCA.Gov>; Mattucci, Aurelio <AMattucci@TorranceCA.Gov>; Griffiths, Mike <MGriffiths@TorranceCA.Gov>; Chaparyan, Aram <AChaparyan@TorranceCA.Gov>; Sullivan, Patrick <PSullivan@TorranceCA.Gov>; Goodrich, Tim <TGoodrich@TorranceCA.Gov>; Ramirez, Michelle <MRamirez@TorranceCA.Gov>; Megerdichian, Shant <SMegerdichian@TorranceCA.Gov>; Pinela, Gerardo <GPinela@TorranceCA.Gov>; Herrera, Rafael <RafaelHerrera@TorranceCA.Gov>; Al Muratcuchi <assemblymember.muratsuchi@assembly.ca.gov>; Huizar, Carlos <CHuizar@TorranceCA.Gov>; Airport Commission <AirportCommission@TorranceCA.gov>  
 Subject: Public Comment - Item 10B City Council Meeting Nov 14, 2023

I would like to submit the attached letter titled "Unintended Consequences II," for Supplemental information relating to agenda item 10B on the Nov 14th City Council agenda.

Sincerely,

Bill Tymczyszyn  
 Chair - Torrance Airport Association Noise Abatement Advisory Committee Torrance

From: William Tymczyszyn <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:38 AM

To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>; Chen, George <GChen@TorranceCA.Gov>; Kaji, Jon <JKaji@TorranceCA.gov>; Lewis, Bridgett <BLewis@TorranceCA.Gov>; Sheikh, Asam <ASheikh@TorranceCA.Gov>; Kalani, Sharon <SKalani@TorranceCA.Gov>; Mattucci, Aurelio <AMattucci@TorranceCA.Gov>; Griffiths, Mike <MGriffiths@TorranceCA.Gov>; Chaparyan, Aram <AChaparyan@TorranceCA.Gov>; Sullivan, Patrick <PSullivan@TorranceCA.Gov>; Goodrich, Tim <TGoodrich@TorranceCA.Gov>; Ramirez, Michelle <MRamirez@TorranceCA.Gov>; Megerdichian, Shant <SMegerdichian@TorranceCA.Gov>; Pinela, Gerardo <GPinela@TorranceCA.Gov>; Herrera, Rafael <RafaelHerrera@TorranceCA.Gov>; Al Muratcuchi <assemblymember.muratsuchi@assembly.ca.gov>; Huizar, Carlos <CHuizar@TorranceCA.Gov>; Airport Commission <AirportCommission@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment - Item 10B City Council Meeting Nov 14, 2023

My apologies. Here is the attachment.

I would like to submit the attached letter titled "Unintended Consequences II," for Supplemental information relating to agenda item 10B on the Nov 14th City Council agenda.

Sincerely,

Bill Tymczyszyn

Chair - Torrance Airport Association Noise Abatement Advisory Committee Torrance

### “Unintended Consequences II”

As our Council considers even more Draconian changes to operations at Torrance Airport, I feel it is my duty to inform you of the most ironic and consequential result of such proposals. I first shared these thoughts at the Airport Commission meeting November 9th, at which Michelle Ramirez and Shant Megerdichian were present. Simply put, a total touch and go ban will result in a *SHIFT OF NEARLY ALL TRAINING TO THE SOUTH PATTERN*. To understand why, you need to understand the layout of the airport, and conditions at surrounding airports.

Secondly, Staff Report Appendix B attempts to justify proposed landing fees. The problem is, Staff failed to consult any of the city’s own “Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports.” The FY 2021 report very clearly contradicts the premises set forth in Appendix B.

#### 1. A COMPLETE TOUCH AND GO BAN WILL SHIFT TRAINING TO THE SOUTH PATTERN –

To review, the city shut down their noise monitoring system in 2020 as a cost saving measure. At the same time, flight training was booming due to a worldwide airline pilot shortage. The Torrance Control Tower, whose primary role is traffic separation, began using the south runway for touch and goes, a practice which has not been in common use in the 58 years since I soloed here. Pilots had no guidance on how to fly this quietly, given the rising terrain. I live under the south pattern. My neighbors naturally equated the shutdown of the noise abatement system with the increased flights, and demanded a new system be installed. The City Council obliged, spending \$640,000 initially, plus ongoing charges. This changed nothing, and zero aircraft noise violations were identified in the latest quarter, according to the city’s latest noise report. (The only noise exceedances were loud cars, motorcycles, sirens, trash trucks, and crows).

The Torrance Airport Association recognized the problem, and the solution. We went to work on how to fly quietly from all the runways, conducting flight tests and developing signs and effective communications for pilots. What we got from city hall staff was, “We’ve got this,” and don’t need your help. Much of the continued neighborhood annoyance is testament to the ineffectiveness of city communications to pilots thus far.

*When the TAA realized the city would never succeed in pilot communications, we recommended the city prohibit touch and goes on the south runway. This would take us back to the traffic flows that have existed since the 1960s. All that would remain would be EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS with pilots on how to fly quietly in the north pattern, where touch and goes have traditionally been conducted - and this is possible!*



“Popular demand,” pushed the Council to approve a landing fee for all Torrance flight schools and visiting aircraft at their Sept 9th meeting. Their hope was that local flight schools will fly elsewhere to do their training. Despite the rarity of landing fees at General Aviation airports, they did not wait to see what effect that change would have on training operations.

At the October 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, they took the TAA’s recommendation to stop touch and goes on the south runway and unexpectedly expanded it to the whole airport. Ironically, throwing the airport under the bus with both landing fees and a total touch and go ban will cause most training flights to transfer to the south runway and the noise sensitive south pattern – *where the whole noise problem began*.

Consider where our local flight schools will teach takeoffs and landings if a full ban is enacted here. The choice is to fly elsewhere where you can do touch and goes, or do full stop landings at Torrance and taxi back for takeoff. I’ll call that a “FSTB” (full stop taxi back).

Without too much detail, know that other local airports are also saturated with training, many turning away visiting aircraft. For this and other reasons, pilots will avoid Santa Monica, Hawthorne, Compton, El Monte, Long Beach, and Fullerton. John Wayne is busy with airline operations, leaving only Van Nuys, Chino and Riverside as possibilities. The time it takes to fly to these distant airports in a slow training aircraft will result in Torrance and other pilots opting for the FSTB here at Torrance.

Looking at the layout of our airport, we see that a FSTB on the north runway results in a very long taxi back to takeoff (~1.5 miles) with many choke points along the way where delays are common (photo 1). In contrast, a FSTB on the south runway is only ¼ mile and has only two points where delays might occur (photo 2).

The choice is clear. FSTB on the south runway is the obvious choice to get the most takeoffs and landings per hour. This change was legislated by a City Council and City Hall Staff who know nothing about our airport, and don’t want to work with pilots, flight schools, or others who intimately understand the subject.



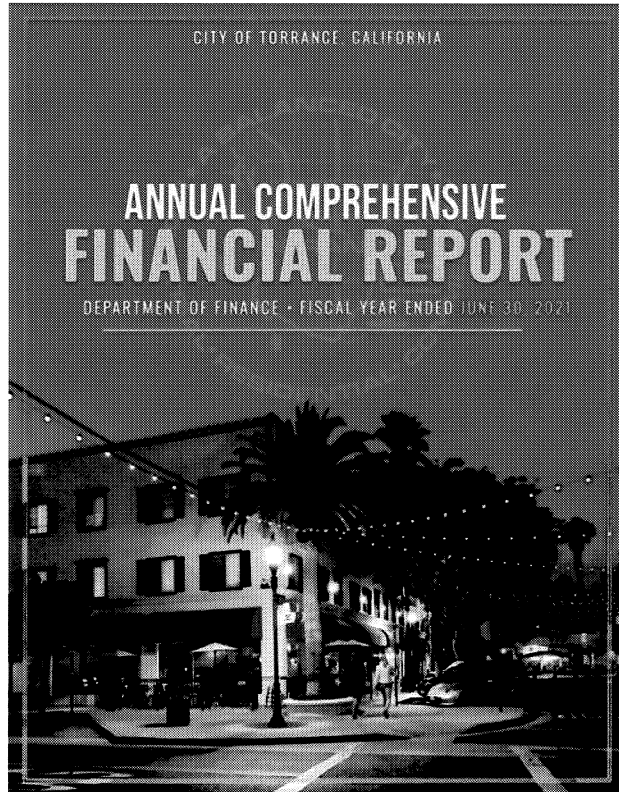
## 2. TO JUSTIFY FEES STAFF REPORT EXHIBIT B IGNORES CITY'S OWN FINANCE REPORTS

Buried in Staff Report item 10B, Attachment C now slips in a proposal to additionally charge Torrance based pilots and Robinson Helicopter landing fees. Local pilots already pay the highest hangar rates in the region (except for Santa Monica, where most hangars are rented by movie studios). This is a stab in the back, especially to Torrance based and resident pilots of Torrance. Hangar tenants already pay property tax on the land their hangar sits on – land that the city owns!

Additionally, Staff Report Exhibit B states:

1. "The following findings are true and correct and made part of this resolution."
4. "The landing fees, as adopted, are necessary to offset the City's costs incurred in maintaining and operating the airport facilities. The fees are non-excessive in comparison with the airport facilities provided."

Ha! Apparently, City Hall staff failed to consult the last few "City of Torrance Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports." (attached). Page 21 for FY ended June 2021 is a clear graph showing that the Airport is the largest revenue generator in all the city's business activities.



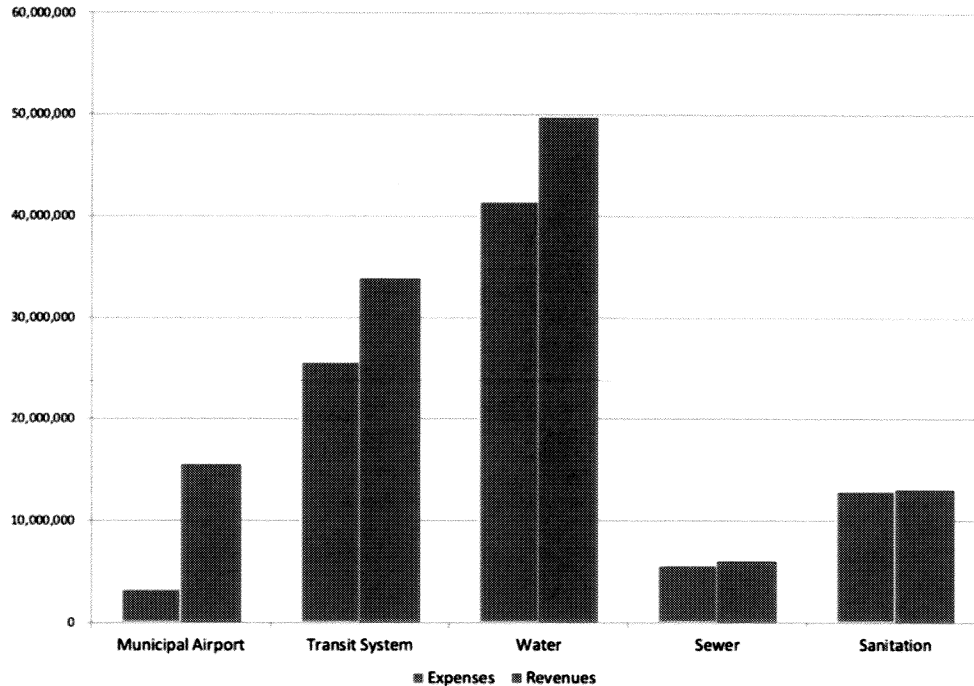
SEE NEXT PAGE

# CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
For the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2021

**Business-type Activities: Expenses and Program Revenues.** The following chart, Figure A-6, compares program revenues and expenses for the city's business-type activities.

**Figure A-6**  
**Expenses and Program Revenues Business-type Activities**



The comparison of direct expenses and program revenues demonstrates the extent to which each business-type activity area is self-financing, draws from its fund balance, or is supplemented with operating transfers. Since the chart above is a comparison of direct expenses and program revenues, it also does not include any operating transfers into/out of other funds. Overall the City's business-type activities fund their own operations.

Red is Expense and Blue is Revenue. It's time for City Hall Staff to stop lying to the residents of Torrance, the City Council, and Torrance pilots.

Sincerely,

Bill Tymczyszyn  
Chair, TAA Noise Abatement Advisory Committee  
Torrance

From: Ronald Bishop <[REDACTED]>  
 Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:49 AM  
 To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
 Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

I am a local area resident, pilot, and former business owner in Torrance .  
 City Council elections are coming up - I don't have a vote in Torrance , but I have some influence with a number of folks that do vote. I am not a current Torrance resident but I used to be a business owner in town. The people that worked with me, highly valued Torrance as a balanced community because it gave them jobs here in Torrance where they live. Torrance not only has residential property with owners also industrial and commercial properties, and their owners needs need to be respected also.  
 I have witnessed as a pilot the significant increase in runway operations at Torrance, especially the rate of increase of use of the "South pattern" . Generally, I avoid it if I can, but sometimes air traffic control for flow considerations needs to put me into the south traffic pattern. When This occurs I am very careful to use the closest to the airport, traffic pattern and stay as high as possible until on "short final" at which point my Aircraft is whisper quiet you couldn't hear it if you Cup your ears and face directly at it. Many planes can be flown in a profile that's relatively quiet, except on takeoff, when pilots are climbing to gain as much altitude as possible as quickly as possible for safety purposes.  
 A compromise position, maybe to involve positive incentives for pilots to fly quietly at sound levels less than or equal to Hawthorne Blvd or Crenshaw traffic. One incentive might be that these planes/ operations be allowed two to 2 1/2 extra hours per day time for a SINGLE takeoff per day. The planes takeoff and leave the area because they won't be able to take off again for 2 to 3 hours. They then accomplish their travel or flight training elsewhere away from Torrance.  
 I wish you well as you deal with this difficult and contentious issues.  
 \*\*\*\*Please advise residents that are interested in closing the airport that honestly it won't be possible for a minimum of 20 years given the federal dollars already spent at Torrance airport. \*\*\*\*\* some of them have their hopes up, but it just won't be possible and once they recognize this that a goal of closing the airport is not obtainable their motivation for attempting to do so, will likely diminished significantly.  
 It is my belief that there is not one knowledgeable honest, local politician would ultimately vote to restrict or limit flight operations at Torrance airport if it would significantly negatively impact the cities third largest employer , the #1 one manufacturer of helicopters in the world .  
 The Simple fact is that there will be on going flight operations at Torrance airport for a minimum of 20 years and probably a lot longer. Pilot should be encouraged to fly quietly and neighborly.  
 Please consider incentivizing pilots to fly extra quiet to be able to leave the Torrance area two hours earlier in the morning.  
 Please vote no on landing fees at Torrance airport if it affects Torrance pilots.  
 Thank you for your consideration as you attempt to handle difficult issues in a wonderful city.  
 Ron Bishop  
 ( please do not publish this letter unless you publish it in its entirety)

Sent from my iPad

From: Tad D <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:51 AM

To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

Stop the nickel and diming of life. We get it everywhere already. We do not want a slippery slope of anti airport so we eventually end up with 1700 housing units instead of an airport.

And on a separate note, who decided to change all the entering Torrance signs to ones that look like a metro station. Horrible. If you are going to change them, they should be made of stone, plants, wall caps, elegant- not painted blue metal. That is for a bus stop. Now it looks like you are entering a lower class community. We look like a joke to people leaving Palos Verdes Estates and entering Torrance. What a step in the wrong direction.

Tad Davis

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Barry Jay <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 11:17 AM  
**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Subject:** Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023 Agenda Item 10B

Dear Mayor and Council Members,


I oppose the proposed Adoption of Landing Fees per Item 10B. The Torrance Municipal Airport already generates more net revenue than any other source within the City and contributes to the general fund a disproportionate amount.

Landing fees will not reduce aircraft traffic in the pattern nor the nuisance as perceived by homeowners around the airport. Just like Santa Monica, transient aircraft owners/pilots will ignore the invoices coming from Torrance. They'll just keep coming. And if the pattern is open due to Torrance-based flight school aircraft going elsewhere to minimize their landing fee tally, MORE transient aircraft will come here.

The Torrance Airport Association, in partnership with the flight schools, has proposed procedures to reduce the nuisance traffic on the South side of the airport and can help find ways to reduce aircraft noise in total. You should give them a chance!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Barry Jay

 resident since 1978!

From: KENNETH LYONS <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 11:42 AM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Michael Haworth <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 12:02 PM  
**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

Please, I beg you, do not impose additional landing fees on loyal tenants who have been paying the hangar rent, property tax, and fire inspection fees for years at the Torrance Airport. Please do not charge your Torrance-based tenants a landing fee to be able to use our right and freedom to fly in this city.

Please do not impose this landing fee on us. I have been renting a hangar from the Torrance airport for nearly 10 years but I cannot justify paying each time to land at the airport.

I appreciate your consideration and support.

Thanks,

Michael

**From:** David Grubb <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 12:19 PM  
**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Just another stab at our freedom via the overgrowth of government domination of our lives. As the USA is in a sharp decline this will only get worse until the public finally realizes how much they have lost.

dg

**From:** Christopher del Palacio <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 1:03 PM  
**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

This is ridiculous, and poses undo financial burdens onto the

**From:** Michael Calabrese <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 1:12 PM  
**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

I am opposed to the approval of agenda item 51.2.30 in any form. City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Thank you,  
Mike Calabrese, ATP 3322160  
CFI, CFII & MEI

From: Daniel Holzman <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:23 PM

To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Let's keep the airport free for all. There are other ways to combat noise than labeling fees.

Sent from out in the world

From: Sam Nozik <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:36 PM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Zeus Lehel <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 2:21 PM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

I oppose this change!

Zeus Lehel



**From:** jw [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 2:51 PM

**To:** Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

**Importance:** High

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

VOTE NO on item 10B!

Jeff Wachner



From: Gene Summers <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:29 PM  
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Public comment Item 10B--DO NOT IMPOSE LANDING FEES ON US

City Council elections are coming in March. I will remember how you voted on Item 10B.

Best regards,  
Gene Summers

