

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(13) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/10/2023

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

#### Impact Information

Date: 04/12/2023

Update to a Previous Input: Yes

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-1125

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) formally asks the City Council to reject the Bonseph Helinet lease proposal in the best interests of the thousands of residents, schools and businesses impacted by Van Nuys Airport (VNY), and the City's long-term environmental and environmental justice goals, and to send the following letter to CF 22-1125 (as a CIS update), CD4, LAWA and other relevant parties:

## DRAFT SONC AIRPORT COMMITTEE CIS MOTION

Whereas,

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supported CF 22-1489 with a Community Impact Statement (CIS), because of our concern over LAWA's land use decisions at VNY and the substantial increase in jet operations that has occurred in recent years. Part of the concern and controversy pertains to major increases in both ramp and hangar accommodations at the landlocked city airport that has effectively facilitated and contributed to hosting larger aircraft sizes and volumes, and what constituents see as an unsustainable influx of non-essential helicopter and jet charters. The latter being of priority concern and the motivation behind City Council's recent adoption of CF 22-1127.

The presentation by LAWA staff to the BOAC regarding the Bonseph Helinet lease failed to disclose that the Bonseph Helinet proposal includes accommodating jets for charter. Additionally, the Bonseph Helinet project is yet another example of the piecemeal approach to redevelopment that LAWA has been doing at VNY for the past decade or more without a comprehensive, detailed plan that quantified the cumulative impact of these projects before they were allowed to proceed as required by CEQA. Considering the City and LAWA have not yet taken steps to dedicate time and resources into a critically needed and updated Airport Plan and CEQA required program level EIR, it seems premature - if not irresponsible - for the City to approve any more redevelopment projects at VNY until proper research has gone into:

- how the airport has transformed to date,
- the best use of remaining parcels and/or the airport's redevelopment opportunities,
- LAWA's current policies, protocols and practices, and
- a thorough environmental review, including the health and quality of life for existing communities both adjacent to the airport and in the low-altitude flight paths of the airport.

We request that you reject the Bonseph Helinet lease proposal for the following reasons:

1. City Council is on record citing the disproportionate detriment felt by the major influx of jet charters at VNY airport. To approve any development that would exacerbate jet charter activity would be a contradiction to council members' expressed concerns and efforts to date to explore how to reduce said detriment on their constituents and our shared natural environments.
2. The gradual reduction in the of diversity in aircraft, namely prop planes, on VNY parcels is what is facilitating the commercial corporate jet activity. The proposal suggests that the helicopter usage and operations would remain the same however, the proposal would again remove occasional use prop plane activity from a property in order to replace them with jets for charter. Communities impacted by the non-essential activity are opposed to introducing more jets for charter to a premises that does not currently house them.
3. Helinet stated to the BOAC that in 2022 they reduced their fleet of helicopters by 30 %. That suggests that status quo is more than sufficient for the societal benefitting medical flights, news

reporting and filming activities they serve. The need for a modernized hangar/maintenance facility for helicopters is not in question. However the major expansion of hangar space being proposed in the Bonseph Helinet proposal goes well beyond that needed for helicopters and as indicated in the proposal would allow for an increase in charter jet hangar space.

4. It is within the City's authority and responsibility to reject proposals that do not fit the City's long-term goals, or that are not in the best interest of the city and its citizens. Rejecting the Bonseph Helinet lease proposal would allow the City to consider more options that are better suited for the subject lease parcel, and more compatible with existing communities and our local environment.
5. In addition to the reasons stated above, LAWA has only begun a "VNY Vision Study" touted as a guide for VNY development, so we feel it is premature for LAWA to push any new development proposals, let alone one that would increase the capacity for charter jets under any name or guise.

Therefore,

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) formally asks the City Council to reject the Bonseph Helinet lease proposal in the best interests of the thousands of residents, schools and businesses impacted by Van Nuys Airport (VNY), and the City's long-term environmental and environmental justice goals.