

## Communication from Public

**Name:** QSWH  
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**Council File No:** 23-1339  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Comments of QSWH - Community Aviation Group (see next page / attached)

February 6, 2024

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RE: CF 23-1339 | Proposed Van Nuys Airport Specific Plan

Dear Ms. Feldstein Soto,

I respectfully reach out to you today on behalf of thousands of Valley signatories, comprised of residents and business operators in the San Fernando Valley, who are collectively interested in ensuring Van Nuys Airport (VNY) retains its self-sustaining status, while re-establishing its “good neighbor” responsibility. Valley communities and businesses are united in their focus on ensuring VNY operates safely and sustainably. Achieving this goal requires a thoughtful approach to all aspects of the airport, including land use, air, ground transportation, tourism and other commercial activities in the region. This is only realized by identifying and remedying the 2006 VNY Airport Plan’s shortcomings and contradictions with FAA policy, and **developing a new VNY Airport Specific Plan**, as was done for LAX.

**Two City Council Members**, Imelda Padilla (CD6-mover) and Nithya Raman (CD4-second) introduced motion 23-1339 instructing the Department of City Planning to initiate necessary studies, research, audit and analysis, and extensive engagement both with airport stakeholders and the surrounding community, in order to develop a new VNY Airport Specific Plan, **as initially instructed by the Council** on March 3, 2023 (22-1127 | N. Martinez, CD6-mover + B. Blumenfeld, CD3-second). This motion is intended to better assure that land use at VNY is broadly optimized across diverse aeronautical uses, tenants, commercial, and recreational alternatives, and adverse impacts are prioritized for mitigation policy measures that require the utilization of green energy systems such as electric Preconditioned Air (PCA) and Ground Power Systems, which were introduced as a requirement to LAX in the **1993** Noise Ordinance. The latter effectively works to reduce auxiliary power unit (APU) greenhouse gas emissions (aka: toxic fumes), improve air quality and reduce noise pollution in airport environments which is crucial to the longevity and sustainability of VNY.

**Support for CF 23-1339** has quickly amassed, with six (6) Neighborhood Councils across four (4) council districts and five (5) Community Aviation Groups collectively gathering over 11,000 documented signatories. The widespread backing across council districts CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD6, CD7 and CD12 reflects a deep understanding that the full realization of the benefits of this vital asset depend heavily on the adoption of a comprehensive updated VNY Airport Specific Plan; one that considers and maximizes the diverse and collective needs of residents, elected officials, the aeronautical industry, and the entire business community.

**The VNY Airport Specific Plan carries the intent** to achieve compliance with multiple federal, environmental justice and nuisance laws, ensuring consistency with federal statutes and FAA obligations – **something that the current Plan does not**. It will modernize airport infrastructure, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, support diversity in aircraft and operations, and enhance sustainability – obligations that the city holds to its citizens, visitors, and surrounding businesses through the capital leaseholds it enters into.

**The Specific Plan is *not* intended to** promote premature conclusions on expansion, containment, or reduction in aeronautical projects in the short-term or long-term as such determinations cannot possibly be made in advance of the robust processes envisioned in the Specific Plan.

**Commercial developments** are being pursued responsibly by Councilwoman Padilla concurrent with the objective to develop an updated VNY Airport Specific Plan. This assures continuity of commercial developments and economic outcomes that have no adverse impact on current or future considerations of aeronautical projects, nor do such proposals carry long-term mitigation and policy measures as is necessary for aviation land use developments. As such, the city is thoughtfully pursuing opportunities that pose no undo discrimination.

**The VNY Airport Specific Plan process** will verify demand statistics to ensure appropriate development at the airport, generate thoughtful, objective, and balanced consideration of alternative proposals, costs, and benefits, and ensure the city invests in developments that balance supply and demand planning. It will also meet its moral and legal obligations to consider all applicable considerations, including the June 2023 UCLA Pediatric Department’s Van Nuys Airport Health Impact Assessment (**HIA**).

**In closing**, failure to implement a newly updated, objective, rational and robust plan for VNY would be contrary to public interest and may have serious ramifications for the health, safety, environmental justice, and economic potential of the region. Impacted Valley stakeholders greatly appreciate your time and attention to these matters. As an independent legal research contractor and advocate for Valley stakeholders, I am available to assist in addressing the land use issues and objectives noted herein.

Respectfully,



Timi Romolini

CC:	Council President Paul Krekorian - CD2	Council member Imelda Padilla – CD6
	Council member Bob Blumenfeld - CD3	Council member Traci Park - CD11
	Council member Nithya Raman - CD4	Council member Hugo Soto-Martinez – CD13
	Council member Katy Yaroslavsky - CD5	Council member Tim McOsker –CD15