



January 28, 2016

TO: Roundtable Representatives and Alternates

FROM: James A. Castañeda, AICP, Roundtable Coordinator 

SUBJECT: Consideration of amending the Roundtable's Memorandum of Understanding and Bylaws to allow the City of Palo Alto to be a voting member

At the request of the Roundtable chairperson, the item of considering the City of Palo Alto to join the Roundtable as a member is being brought forth for consideration. Due to the ongoing noise impacts and recent FAA initiative to address noise issues in the Bay Area, it was felt appropriate to reintroduce the item for discussion and possibly amending the Roundtable's documents to allow membership to occur.

BACKGROUND

Up until the spring of 1997, the Roundtable had been limited to the original nine cities since the establishment of the Roundtable in 1981- Brisbane, Daly City, South San Francisco, San Bruno, Pacifica, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough and Foster City. Due to a growing number of complaints in the southern San Mateo County communities in the mid-1990s, cities within that region became more active in participating on the Roundtable, and actively request membership. Beginning in December 1995, the Roundtable started granting provisional non-voting membership to cities in the south county. The cities of Palo Alto and Los Altos in Santa Clara County at this time expressed interest in also becoming voting members. In April 1997, the Roundtable amended the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow any city within San Mateo County membership, with no provisions to offer membership to other counties or any cities located in other counties. At that time, the cities of Atherton, Belmont, Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Mateo, and Woodside formally requested voting membership as a result of the adopted amendment to the MOU.

In September 1997, the City of Palo Alto requested voting membership on the Roundtable. At the January 7, 1998 Regular Meeting, the Roundtable considered the request, but did not take a vote to grant the City of Palo Alto voting membership, which required an amendment to the MOU to allow it. The Roundtable felt it was more appropriate to discuss aircraft noise issues beyond San Mateo County in regional forum, such as the Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG) Regional Airport Planning Committee (RAPC).



At the Roundtable's regular meeting on October 1, 2014, the Roundtable considered another request from the City of Palo Alto to join the Roundtable. The membership voted not to grant membership, but to adopt recommendations provided by a subcommittee that encouraged ongoing participation at Roundtable meetings, participate at a regional level with RAPC, and assist the City of Palo Alto and County of Santa Clara to create a Roundtable organization in Santa Clara County.

AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

1. Approval by the Roundtable Members

In order to include the City of Palo Alto's request, the Roundtable must amend language in both the MOU and Bylaws to add a non-San Mateo County city. Per Article V of the Roundtable's MOU, a motion to include the City of Palo Alto must be made by a Roundtable member, seconded, and approved by at least two-thirds of the current 23 voting membership seats (15 affirmative votes), which also include vacant seated members. If less than two-thirds of the Roundtable member are present and/or approve in the affirmative, the proposal fails.

The language in the MOU and Bylaws to consider could include the following (changes in bold):

MOU page 7, Article III, Section 4 edits:

"Additional Voting Membership – Other incorporated towns and/or cities located within San Mateo County, **and the City of Palo Alto**, may request voting membership on the San Francisco International Airport/Community Roundtable by adopting a resolution"

Bylaws page 5, Article III, Section 9 edits:

"Any city or town in San Mateo County, **and the City of Palo Alto**, that is not a member of the Roundtable may request membership on the Roundtable in accordance with the membership procedure contained in the most current version of the MOU."

2. Approval by Current Member Cities

Once approved by the Roundtable members, the proposed MOU amendment must be considered and approved by at least two-thirds of the respective councils/boards of the Roundtable member agencies/bodies by a majority vote of each of those bodies. If at least two-thirds of the current 23 member agencies/bodies approve (15 affirmative) the proposed amendment, the amendment becomes effective. If less than two-thirds of the member agencies/bodies approve the proposed MOU amendment, the proposal fails.