



November 30, 2020

e-distributed

Dow Constantine, King County Executive  
King County Council President Claudia Balducci  
KC Council Community Health & Housing Services Cmte Chair Kathy Lambert  
KC Council Law & Justice Cmte Chair Girmay Zahilay  
KC Council Mobility & Environment Cmte Chair Rod Dembowski  
KC Council Regional Policy Cmte Chair Pete von Reichbauer  
KC Council Regional Transit Cmte Chair David Upthegrove  
Seattle King County Public Health Director Patty Hayes

re: Airplane Emissions and Input to Executive Potential Anti-Racist Policies and 2020 King County Strategic Climate Action Plan

Dear Hon. Constantine, Council Pres. Balducci, CM Lambert, CM Zahilay, CM Dembowski, CM von Reichbauer, CM Updegrave and Ms. Hayes,

Greetings from Beacon Hill Council and El Centro De La Raza. We thank you for your effective leadership during this difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic.

We highly applaud the June 11, 2020 declaration that "Racism is a public health crisis." and thank you for the opportunity to give input to two policy areas that overlap with climate, health and environmental justice.

However, the King County list of Priorities Anti-racist Policies and the 2020 King County Strategic Climate Action Plan does not include airplane emissions that harm our BIPOC and mainstream communities located in King County's Seattle Beacon Hill, near King County International Airport and near Seattle Airport. Our 269,509<sup>1</sup> with 135,578 BIPOC lives matter too. (See attachment 1.)

This is environmental issue that is also a health justice issue given that the established health effects of the aircraft air and noise emission include respiratory, cardiovascular, sleep deprivation, recently documented pre-term births (<https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/full/10.1289/EHP5732> ) and lower reading and math scores.

Case in point, in Beacon Hill, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, airplanes flew every 90 seconds at 70-90 decibels as compared to the allowable WHO standard of 55 decibels during the day and 45 at night. 70% of airplanes that are landing to Seattle Airport fly over Beacon Hill. Yet, Beacon Hill is not eligible for mitigation assistance.

Now, Seattle Airport is projecting that the 2019 398,910 aircraft operations (flights) will increase to 540,400 by 35% in 2034 due to regional growth. Their SAMP (Sustainable Airport Master Plan) NEPA environmental assessment, then SEPA will be published in 2021. Port of Seattle confirmed that fuel pumped alone from Sea-Tac totaled 6,508,848 tonnes. See attachment 2 on page 5.)

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<sup>1</sup> Does not include the near KC International Airport Residents

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The work to get airflight air and noise emissions as a health injustice and environmental justice is hard and long to change laws at several government and agency levels.

We strongly recommend that King County include in your Antiracist Policies the following elements which we would like to meet with you to explain in detail:

1. Environmental and Health Policy:

- a. Establish an environmental policy that calls for environmental, health, social and economic good for all.
- b. Establish a Select Committee on Airflights Emissions Health and Environmental Justice that can encompass the intersectionality of the King County Council Committees that have jurisdiction over parts of this issue such as Community Health & Housing Services, Law & Justice, Mobility & Environment, Regional Policy and Regional Transit towards an integrated comprehensive approach to this complex intergovernmental effort.

2. Establish in King County Policy and recognize in the 2020 King County Strategic Climate Action Plan:

- a. that airflight emissions as part of transportation Green House Gas (GHG) emissions that:
  - i. a.1 must be measured fully, not just at flight and take-off,
  - ii. a. 2 assigned GHG target reductions.
- b. partner with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to conduct complete measurement
- c. partner with Puget Sound Regional Council to conduct multi-modal planning that includes airflights in additions to land transportation.
- d. partner with Seattle King County Public Health board to:
  - i. d.1 Investigate ultrafine particles as public health issue, identify impacts and affected populations and identify interventions
  - ii. d.2 educate the public re health impacts and interventions
- e. partner and advocate at the federal level
  - i. e.1 inclusion of safe communities in safe skies legislation to allow for exceptions to FAA required guaranteed service of flights.
  - ii. e.2 identify a pathway for non-near airport communities like Beacon Hill to be eligible for mitigation.

iii.

King County Metro's origins include good people of Metro Council cleaning the polluted Puget Sound waters then integrating the transit system into Metro to tackle large systemic problems. Times have changed. We are at a critical crossroads. We need you to take on this issue.

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Black Lives Matter. BIPOC, immigrant and refugee communities are harder hit with COVID pandemic. We call on you to act on this elephant in the living room -- the flight air and noise emissions -- that cause us great harm. We need you to lift up our BIPOC immigrant and refugee communities because our lives matter too.

Sincerely,



Maria Batayola, Chair  
Beacon Hill Council



Estela Ortega, Executive Director  
El Centro De La Raza

c: Mayor Jenny Durkan  
Seattle Council President/At-large Representative CM Lorena Gonzalez  
Seattle District 2 Representative CM Tammy Morales  
Seattle At-Large Representative Teresa Mosqueda  
Burien Mayor Jimmy Mata  
Burien Councilmember Sofia Aragon  
Des Moines Mayor Matt Pina  
Des Moines CM Luisa Bangs  
Des Moines CM JC Harris  
SeaTac CM Peter Kwon  
Renton CM Ed Prince  
Tukwila CM Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson  
Federal Way Bill Vadino  
Federal Way Steve Edmisto

Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) Director Jessica Finn Coven  
Seattle OSE Climate Director Lylianna Allala  
King County Climate Equity Community Task Force care/of Jaime Strobel

Beacon Hill Council Board of Directors  
Duwamish Clean Up River Coalition ED Paulina Lopez  
Front & Centered Policy Director Deric Gruen and Sr Organizer Sameer Ranade  
Got Green CED Jill Mangaliman & Organizer Nancy Huizar  
King County International Airport Community Coalition Chair Velma Veloria  
Quiet Skies ES Seattle Chair Erik Stanford  
Quiet Skies Coalition Leadership Debi Wagner & Larry Cripes  
Quiet Skies Puget Sound Chair  
350 Seattle Sarah Shifley

Attachment 1:

Cities	Total Population	People of Color	Immigrants & Refugees	White	People of Color	Immigrants & Refugees
Burien	51,908	22,165	12,821	57.30%	42.70%	24.70%
Des Moines	32,364	13,884	7,162	57.10%	42.90%	22.10%
Federal Way	97,044	45,417	23,291	53.20%	46.80%	24.00%
Normandy Park	6,660	899	719	86.50%	13.50%	10.80%
SeaTac	29,239	17,368	11,052	40.60%	59.40%	37.80%
Tukwila	20,294	12,806	8,361	36.90%	63.10%	41.20%
TOTAL Near Sea Airport	<a href="#">237,509</a>	<a href="#">112,538</a>	<a href="#">63,407</a>	52.60%	47.40%	26.70%
Beacon Hill	32,000	23,040	14,080	28.00%	72.00%	44.00%
TOTAL IMPACTED	269,509	135,578	77,487		50.30%	28.80%

Attachment 2: 350 Seattle Letter of Input to 2020 King County Strategic Climate Master Plan on next page.