



Protect Marine Mammals and Seabirds

(Courtesy of the Red Baron Flyer Newsletter - Sonoma County Airport)



Marine wildlife is sensitive to aircraft disturbance

Northern California Aviators have a birdseye view of the region's spectacular coastline. Along with that privilege comes the responsibility of looking out for nature's creatures that lead lives on land's edge. There are laws to protect marine wildlife;

here are some reminders of how important it is to comply.

Seabirds

Seabirds nest along the coast on most offshore rocks, islands, and cliffs. Flying too close to seabird colonies disrupts nesting activities and causes adults to flush from their nests, which can break eggs and knock them loose. Close-flying aircraft noise may also leave eggs and chicks exposed to predators.

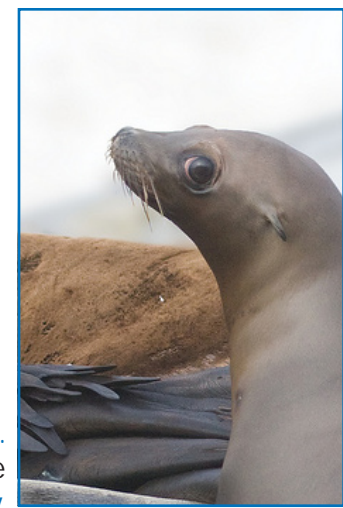


High levels of disturbance, including frequent incidents or a single, severe event, can cause complete breeding season failure, and/or colony abandonment. Many seabirds also need locations on shore where they are safe from predators to rest, preen, sleep, and in the case of pelicans and cormorants, to dry their feathers.

Marine Mammals

It is very important for seals and sea lions to haul out on inter-tidal ledges, beaches, and rocky inlets. At haul-out sites, resting marine mammals can be frightened into the water by low-flying aircraft.

During pupping season low-flying aircraft can cause mothers and pups to become separated and can result in stampedes that may cause trampling and deaths of animals. During haul-out times, seals and sea lions are able to nurse their pups, heal wounds on their bodies, and sleep.



To prevent wildlife disturbance

- * Remain at least 2,000 AGL when flying within ¼ mile of the coast over offshore rocks and islands or within California National Marine Sanctuaries.
- * Flying motorized aircraft less than 1,000 feet is prohibited over waters within one nautical mile of the Farallone Islands, Bolinas Lagoon, or any Area of Special Biological Significance as designated by the State of California.
- * Avoid sudden changes in direction, altitude, and speed near coastal nesting areas and marine mammal colonies.
- * If birds or marine mammals are observed fleeing or reacting to your presence, vacate the area
- * Report wildlife disturbances caused by low flying aircraft to the NOAA Enforcement Hotline: 800-853-1964.

For more information please contact: California.Seabird@noaa.gov, <http://farallones.noaa.gov>, www.sanmateocountyparks.org, www.fws.gov/sfbayrefuges/index.htm, and for more information on the National Marine Sanctuary Program, visit www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov. For a list of state and federal regulations and authorities related to aircraft disturbances visit www.farralones.noaa.gov/pilots.html.

Ernie Parker - Airport Operations Worker

Born in Portland, Oregon and raised in Pacifica, California, Ernie Parker became fascinated with flight at a young age. He lived near San Francisco International Airport, and would spend hours with friends watching airplanes land and depart. Following graduation from Oceana High School, he attended Skyline College and was employed at Bank of America in Air Courier Operations. After working 25 years in numerous capacities with Bank of America, Ernie decided it was time to pursue a career in aviation.



Ernie's first position with Santa Clara County was as a Messenger Driver for the Roads and Airports Department. After meeting Airport Operations Supervisor June Cramblit of South County Airports, he was further inspired to pursue a position within the Airports division. Eight Years ago, Ernie obtained a position as an Airport Operations worker with Reid-Hillview Airport. During this time, he has also worked with South County Airport and has gained exposure to multiple facets of airport operations, as well as the diversity of individuals traveling through the airport.

Ernie is the father of three daughters: La'Tryce, Veronica, and Jasmine, who is currently in her first year at Langston University. He is also a grandfather of three children: Destiny, Diamantae and Leilani. In his spare time, Ernie enjoys reading, learning about the latest gadgets, as well as building or repairing anything from cars to houses. Ernie also enjoys bowling, camping, attending air shows, and is a diehard San Francisco 49ers fan.

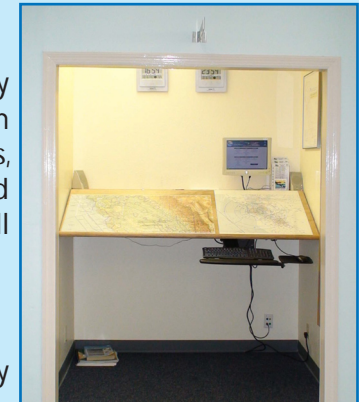
New Technology to Aid Customer Usability

We have been working to enhance usability of the RHV terminal building through the creation of the new Pilot Briefing Area. In addition to the new facility, the computer has updated weather software and a limited internet connection. Next time you're in the area, stop by and check it out. The new computer system is also available in the Palo Alto terminal building.



New computer kiosk added to RHV Terminal

As part of the Noise Monitoring and Flight Tracking program, we have recently installed a computer kiosk in the RHV terminal building. While the noise system is being installed, the kiosk can be used to gather information from the airports, Santa Clara County, many other Bay Area airports, several weather sites, and aviation-related web-pages. Once the noise system is in place, the kiosk will also be a great source for information on airport-related noise.



Vehicle Parking on the Airfield

When visiting the airport, your vehicle must be parked in one of the approved parking lots, directly on your tie-down, or in your hangar. Parking your vehicle in the taxi-way or adjacent to your tie-down or hangar may impede use of the airfield and could result in your vehicle being towed. If you have a tie-down and more than two vehicles to park, you can obtain a free pass in order to park additional vehicles at the terminal building parking lot. Please check with airport staff to obtain your pass.

PAO Receives New Signage

In an effort to make the PAO terminal building more noticeable, we just completed hanging signs on the front and back. Hope you enjoy the new signage!

Gate Procedures

Once you have passed through a gate, tenants are requested to remain there until it has closed. We have recently installed signs at each of the vehicle gates to this effect. If you encounter a hostile person who refused to abide by the rules and you feel threatened by their behavior, please contact Airport Operations as soon as possible.