



Wednesday, October 01, 2003

Mather noise testing focus of public hearings

By Ryan Rose

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The Mather Airport noise controversy continues. The 120-day test of various approaches to Mather Airport will be discussed at three separate meetings.

Today is day 77 of the 120-day testing period, with 43 days to go.

Residents in El Dorado Hills, Folsom and Cameron Park have complained about noise from cargo flights traveling to Mather Airport.

The testing, which started July 17 and includes nighttime air flyover, was developed by the Federal Aviation Administration and county officials in an effort to find alternative means by which cargo traffic could travel to Mather Air Field.

Residents from affected areas are invited to discuss noise issues at meetings scheduled this week.

Public hearings will be held tonight at the Community Service District's Pavilion, 1021 Harvard Way, on Thursday at the Granite Center Auditorium, 909 Mormon Street in Folsom; and Monday at the Light of the Hills Lutheran Church, 3100 Rodeo Road in Cameron Park. All meetings run from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

"The purpose of the public meetings is to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinion on the test and its effect on their communities," said Kathy Sutton of the Sacramento County Airport System.

"This is our chance to go on record to say to Sacramento County 'You are going to destroy the quality of life here in El Dorado County with the AirCargo Overflights,'" said resident Tara Mc Cann. "We want you [Sacramento County] to fly the planes high enough on approach, or change your approach to come in over Sacramento County with your 600 flights a day."

For more information, call Sutton 874-0727, or via e-mail at suttonk@saccounty.net.

Meeting information can also be found at the Sacramento County Airport System Web site at www.saccounty.org.