

C.A.G.E. L.F.A.

CITIZENS AGAINST GILLESPIE'S EXPANSION & LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT

• SAFETY • SECURITY • NOISE • ENVIRONMENT • FUNDING •

Established May 1, 2013

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Stephen Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue,
SW Washington, DC 20591

The Honorable Jennifer Homendy
Chairwoman
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza,
SW Washington, DC 20594

Dear Administrator Dickson and Chairwoman Homendy:

The intent of this letter is to express our profound concern with the frequent plane crashes and resulting fatalities of pilots and citizens in our surrounding communities at Gillespie Field (KSEE) located in El Cajon, California. The most recent crashes of October 11, 2021, and December 27, 2021, were just weeks apart. The December 27, 2021, crash on approach to Gillespie Field (KSEE) Airport involved a medevac jet resulting in 4 fatalities. The October 11, 2021, crash resulted in 2 fatalities. The Pilots in Control (PIC) of both crashes were very seasoned and qualified local pilots who were very familiar with Gillespie Field's approaches. We have had crashes on our city streets, in our school yards, and on our freeways surrounding Gillespie Field Airport (KSEE) El Cajon, California.

Planes crashing in our neighborhoods is becoming a common occurrence which raises serious concerns for the safety of the communities and families surrounding Gillespie Field Airport, as well as the pilots, personnel and staff that have access to or are located at Gillespie Field. All airports have a responsibility to meet necessary airport safety and operation standards in order to fulfill required certification and ensure that all safety and operational standards and all safety practices are met to the full extent as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and relevant state and local agencies, especially for a "reliever airport" to San Diego International Airport. Considering the harm these incidents have caused the community, as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigate the most recent crashes, we request a report that includes, but not limited to, the following information and data:

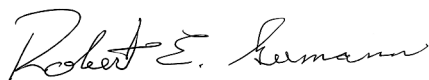
1. All aircraft incident reports and/or citations made by the FAA regarding traffic in and out of the Gillespie Field Airport.
2. Does the Gillespie Field Airport currently meet all federal, state and local government safety and operation standards as required by the FAA especially for a reliever airport classification? Gillespie Field is now in the process of re-classifying runway 17/35. Why?
3. Has Gillespie Field Airport had any issues meeting federal safety and operation standards and regulations? If so, at what point, what were the concerns and how were they mitigated?

4. Who is responsible for conducting safety training for those who have access to the airport and/or fly aircraft? How is safety training conducted and how often?
5. How frequently do aircraft incidents and accidents occur on, in route to, or around the communities surrounding Gillespie Field Airport since it was established?
6. How do the flight incident/crash/fatalities data and the frequency of accidents from Gillespie Field Airport compare to other similar general aviation reliever airports?
7. What are the safety requirements of Gillespie Field as a reliever airport to San Diego International Airport? Are those standards being fulfilled?
8. What does the topographical location and residential density surrounding an airport have on a safety evaluation of a reliever airport? Gillespie Field Airport is in a valley surrounded by mountains with short runways.
9. What process and/or procedures occur after such incidents to ensure that all operational safety standards were met before, during and after aircraft crashes in relationship as a "reliever airport"?

We are pleased to know that the FAA and NTSB are pursuing an investigation of the crashes of October 11, 2021, and December 27, 2021, that were within line of sight of Gillespie Field Tower, a FAA manned tower, and only weeks apart. Fair and transparent investigations like these keep communities safe, result in safer skies, prevent loss of life and ensure airports meet the necessary safety standards.

We respectfully request that the FAA and NTSB answer our questions and investigate these matters with urgency. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in these serious requests.

Sincerely,



Robert Germann
Citizens Against Gillespie Expansion Low Flying Aircraft