



CITY OF TORRANCE

Tim Goodrich
COUNCILMEMBER

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Ted Lieu
U.S. House of Representatives
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressmember Lieu:

On Wednesday evening, March 16th, the residents of Torrance experienced prolonged flaring from the Exxon-Mobil refinery. While the flaring itself was unsettling, to add insult to injury, residents near the refinery were harassed by noise from television news station helicopters covering the flaring event.

During the course of the evening, multiple television news helicopters came to Torrance and either circled or hovered near the refinery for an extensive amount of time. At one point, there were three helicopters hovering until after 11 o'clock, well after the time most children have gone to bed on a school night.

A potential fix to this issue has been put forth by the Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Coalition in the form of proposed Special Federal Aviation Regulations (SFAR). These SFARs propose limits on hover/orbit operations (PETITION NO. 02 – SPECIAL FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATION FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY – HELICOPTER HOVER/ORBIT RESTRICTIONS) as well as pooled media coverage (PETITION NO. 03 – SPECIAL FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATION FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY – MANDATORY MEDIA HELICOPTER POOLING).

In short, adopting these SFARs would reduce the duplicative efforts of multiple news helicopters covering the same event and reduce the occurrence of prolonged hovering, both of which would be a step forward in restoring quality of life to the people of Torrance and Los Angeles County.

If there is anything my office can do to assist in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tim Goodrich
Councilmember, City of Torrance

Cc: Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Rep. Maxine Waters, Rep. Adam Schiff