

4.

SKAGIT DEMS -

### Reduce the Impacts of Navy Growler Noise in Northwestern Washington State

**Whereas** the U.S. Navy conducts EA-18G Growler jet training flights from OLF Coupeville and Ault Field on Whidbey Island, over and near San Juan county, Jefferson County, Clallam County, Skagit County the North Cascades, the Olympia Mountains and throughout Northwest Washington; and

**Whereas** military jet noise has increased dramatically over Northwest Washington since the first Growlers arrived in 2008, ND THE Navy, having listed many surrounding communities including San Juan County as areas of "No Significant Impact" from Growler noise, yet San Juan County residents have entered over 4,800 jet noise complaints on the county jet noise reporting map since May of 2014; and

**Whereas** communities affected by jet noise from Ault Field and OLF Coupeville, including Whidbey Island, La Conner, San Juan County, Port Townsend, Sequim, Port Angeles, Forks and several Indian Reservations regularly measure noise levels that exceed thresholds for permanent hearing damage, often between 75 and 108 dba inside their homes during Growler overflights. Field Carrier landing Practice and stationary engine run ups that come in bursts lasting for hours and sometimes long after midnight; and

**Whereas** the current level of jet noise has affected real estate sales in San Juan County and Island County, forcing local realtors on Whidbey Island and San Juan County to add a military jet noise disclosure clause to property sales.

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that we, the San Juan county Democrats, call on the Washington State congressional Delegation to work with the Navy to take immediate steps to reduce the impact of the Growler noise and training in Northwest Washington, including:

- a. Change procedures to require Growlers to delay lowering landing gear to reduce noise until the jets are over water near the airfield unless specific safety concerns are identified.
- b. Eliminate the use of afterburners except when required for takeoff.
- c. Reposition the aircraft r install mitigation infrastructure to reduce the noise impact of stationary engine run-up activity for communities around Ault Field.
- d. Restore the practice of publishing the growler training schedules at Ault Field so that neighboring communities can regain some control over the use of their property. Ult Field conducts 14 – 16 thousand Field Carrier landing practices annually – each takeoff uses afterburners.
- e. Prohibit aggressive flying over and near civilian communities and public lands renowned for pristine quiet; this includes dogfighting, flying below minimum altitudes, use of afterburners, and sonic booms.
- f. Create an emergency notification system for communities when fuel or chaff dumps from aircraft occur.
- g. According to an active-duty Navy pilot, fuel dumps happen about once a month.
- h. According to the NWTT ETS, chaff dumps are expected to see a 72% increase. Chaff is small enough to be inhaled or swallowed, and each cylinder contains millions of heavy metal-coated glass fibers.
- i. Notify people to stay in their homes or cars until an all-clear signal is given.

**Therefore Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Washington State Congressional Delegation along with a request for response within thirty days, listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution, or a list of the reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

*Passed*

*6/11/16*

*Also*  
*Passed*  
*Jefferson*  
*Clallam*  
*Skagit*