



**Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council**

[shermanoaksnc.org](http://shermanoaksnc.org)

April 13, 2026

**Re: Ordinance No. 177327 Land Use at Van Nuys Airport (VNY)**

Dear Councilmember Raman,

On behalf of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC), we write in support of a motion calling for a targeted amendment to Ordinance No. 177327, which governs land use at Van Nuys Airport (VNY), to prohibit any changes to existing land use restrictions until completion of the new VNY Specific Plan. Alternatively, or simultaneously, we support a proposed Resolution making clear that City Council expects the Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) to apply heightened scrutiny to any awards arising from Los Angeles World Airports' (LAWA) December 5, 2025 RFPs, to ensure that all proposals comply with existing land use restrictions for all properties involved. This Ordinance amendment and/or Resolution should also explicitly apply to any speculative "land swap."

The current regulatory framework for the airport, established through the 2006 Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Plan and codified by Ordinance 177327, provides clear land-use designations intended to guide development within the airport footprint. These distinctions—particularly between Aviation, Airport Commercial, "Related" Aviation and "Special Aviation" uses—were adopted by the City Council after careful consideration of aeronautical and municipal needs, to ensure appropriate aeronautical activity, compatibility with surrounding communities, recognition of environmental constraints, and consistency with the City's adopted planning framework.

Recent proposals and solicitations issued by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) raise concerns that these established land use boundaries could be effectively altered through parcel consolidation or land reclassification prior to completion of the forthcoming Van Nuys Airport Specific Plan. In particular, development concepts that combine parcels with different use designations, or that require conversion between Aviation and Airport Commercial land categories, risk undermining the integrity of the existing ordinance before the comprehensive planning process directed by Council File 23-1339 is completed.

The ordinance amendment being proposed offers a practical and narrowly tailored safeguard. It does not halt development at the airport. Rather, it simply ensures that any projects moving forward remain consistent with the land use designations already adopted



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by the City until the new Specific Plan process has been completed and considered by the Council.

Preserving the integrity of the 2006 Plan during this interim period, and ensuring zoning remains consistent with the land-use designations established in Ordinance 177327, is essential to maintaining transparency, public confidence, and orderly planning. If land use categories are effectively altered through individual project solicitations or administrative actions prior to the Specific Plan update, the broader planning process risks being preempted by piecemeal decisions that may result in irreversible adverse consequences for our district and the San Fernando Valley region.

Additionally, a proactive Resolution by City Council, directed to BOAC, may help prevent unauthorized, unvetted, or premature actions that might otherwise force City Council to invoke its authority under Charter Section 245.

For these reasons, and because development at VNY Airport directly affects our district—bringing increased noise, pollution, blight and operational impacts—the SONC respectfully urges you to take the lead in filing this proposed action(s). The motion directs the Department of City Planning, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare an amendment clarifying that any land-use or zoning changes within the Van Nuys Airport Plan area may occur only through the ongoing Specific Plan process.

Finally, in developing the new Specific Plan, we strongly urge the City Council to preserve the existing land-use designations established in Ordinance No. 177327 to ensure continuity, protect the community, and maintain the integrity of the airport's planning framework, particularly given the dense population of the San Fernando Valley. Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for your continued attention to responsible planning at Van Nuys Airport.

Contact me with questions or for further information. I'm here to help.

Respectfully yours,

*Howard M. Katchen*

Howard M. Katchen

President

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC)



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Cc:

Councilmember John Lee

Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld

Councilmember Imelda Padilla

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky