

DATE: 4/13/2025  
TO: Alan B Fenstermacher (E-mail: afenstermacher@rutan.com)  
FROM: Jim Gates  
SUBJECT: "Inadvertently" disclosed records  
COPIES: Torrance City Council (E-mail:citycouncil@torranceca.gov)  
Torrance Airport Commission (E-mail: airportcommission@torranceca.gov)  
Patrick Sullivan (E-mail: psullivan@torranceca.gov)

Mr Fenstermacher:

I have received your letter dated 4/11/2025 stating that your firm has been hired by the City of Torrance to proceed with a SLAPP action against me. A few comments:

1) The website you identified (<https://us21.campaign-archive.com>) was unknown to me until your letter. It appears to archive, at the time of publication, all e-mails I send through MailChimp to the 464 Friends of Zamperini Field.

- I do not control it
- I don't know who does control it
- I don't know how to make any changes to this archive
- My offer to research these internet copies on a time and expense basis was rejected by the City.

2) The cases you cite involve either refusal of requests to provide full names, addresses, and phone numbers or inadvertent release of documents subject to attorney/client privilege. These are valid reasons for a city to refuse disclosure or request return, but none of these issues apply here:

- The noise complaint logs do not involve lawyer/client work product or similarly legally protected data
- My CPRA requests did NOT ask for names (either first or last), addresses or phone numbers. They were provided by the City at its discretion.
- In my previous study, the City had released full names and addresses of persons making airport complaints in response to requests for log data.
- Only last names were included, although they were NOT requested by me. This is insufficient to uniquely identify any individual.
- The City cannot provide any resolution, memo, website posting or other documentation that confers protected status on any of the log data. (CPRA #W013563)
- I was unaware of any claim by the City of protected status for any material provided under CPRA until Ms Poirier's letter of 2/18/2025--AFTER my analysis was completed and published.

3) Your letter claims I have refused to help the City fix the problem it has created. That is not true.

- Since 2/18/2025, I have replaced last names in the data with unique identifiers (UIDs).

- These UIDs have been used in all files and websites that I control.
- I have offered to assist the City to fix their problem on a time and expense basis. (My rate is \$100/hr.)

4) There are many strange things going on in the Noise Abatement Department. For example, in December 2024, the Casper Monitoring System reported that 114 individuals made airport complaints. The data provided under CPRA showed only 15. When asked about this discrepancy, Ms Ramirez, Director of Community Development, stated in an e-mail to me on Mar 6, 2025, 2:53 PM:

*" it was found that some complainants slightly change the spelling of their name when entering their information into Noise Lab. This leads the system to record different complainants, which then gets reported on Noise Lab . However, at the end of each month, staff goes through the actual list and rectifies the information. Staff then reports out the correct number in the reports presented to the Airport Commission on a quarterly basis. Unfortunately, staff cannot prevent someone from misspelling their name in hopes of increasing the perception of the number of complainants."*

This indicates that 99 of the 114 names were false and that staff "corrected" the names on all 99 of them. This raises some questions:

- What checks are made on the Casper on-line complaint entry website that verifies all information entered on it is true and accurate?
- How does the staff "rectify" the names--what is the process used to decide what name should be used?
- Were the names included on the CPRA responses to my request the real last names, the fake last names or a combination?
- With a clear demonstration that the Casper complaint data is false, why does the Noise Abatement Department refuse to report the true number of individuals making airport complaints each month (CPRA #W013630)?
- Why does the false information remain posted on the Casper website?
- How can the public verify that any of the complaint data currently being reported on the Casper System accurate?

Answers to these questions are clearly in the public interest to insure that our tax money is being spent properly and that information used to make decisions about airport operations is accurate.

Respectfully,



Jim Gates