

In 2015, There Are New Opportunities to Implement Effective Solutions to Intrusive Aviation Noise at East Hampton Airport

To do so requires the aviation community to acknowledge that it has a responsibility to protect the quality of life of the East Hampton community. Similarly, there needs to be a recognition that general aviation remains crucial to the East End.

To create those solutions, we believe the Town Board should consider the following steps:

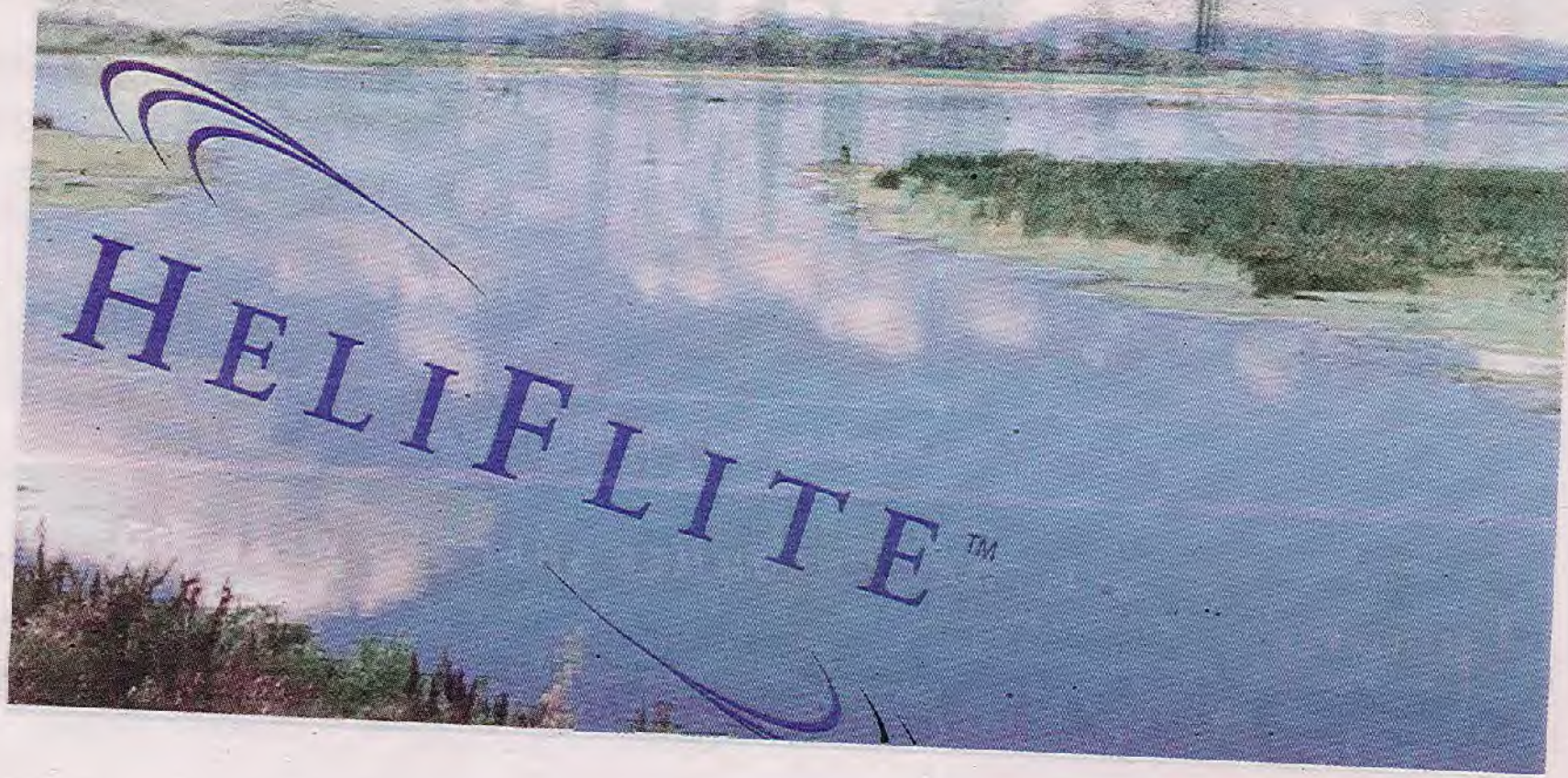
- Establish mandatory airport curfews with violators assessed a financial penalty that would escalate for repeated offenses.
- Consider higher landing fees in peak periods, an aviation version of congestion pricing.
- Review widening approach and departure routes on peak days and peak times so that homes currently under rigid flight patterns are granted relief from aviation traffic now required to fly over their homes repeatedly.
- Create a taskforce that includes community, business, and aviation stakeholders working through the winter to identify possible locations for a "reliever" helicopter landing zone in a remote East Hampton location that would further reduce aviation noise near the airport.

- Install an Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) that enables higher approach patterns during periods of restricted visibility, resulting in reduced ground noise and fewer operations from aircraft not capable of utilizing the system.

No single proposal is the key to reducing noise, but, taken together, they can provide an effective response to reducing aviation related noise that currently impacts the surrounding community. What both sides must recognize is the legitimacy of the other group's position and then implement solutions that make a genuine difference.

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