

9.0 NOISE

9.1 INTRODUCTION

LEGAL BASIS AND REQUIREMENTS

The legal requirements of the General Plan Noise Element are defined within Government Section 65302(f) as:

"[The General Plan shall include] a noise element which shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The noise element shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:

- 1) Highways and freeways.
- 2) Primary arterials and major local streets.
- 3) Passenger and freight railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.
- 4) Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations, aircraft over-flights, jet-engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.
- 5) Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.
- 6) Other ground stationary noise sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment."

Government code requires that noise contours be shown for the above noise sources based on noise monitoring and accepted noise modeling techniques. The noise contours are to be used as a guide for designating land uses within the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.

9.2 OVERVIEW

The compatibility between noise that is generated by various land uses and the sensitivity of the surrounding land uses to that noise is an important planning consideration. Noise level compatibility varies with numerous factors, including the following:

- Background noise levels
- Intensity of noise source
- Character of noise source
- Frequency of noise
- Timing of noise (day vs. night)
- Sensitivity of adjacent land uses

The information contained in this element is based on various sources, including field measurements of community noise levels, observations of existing traffic levels, existing land uses and projected future land uses, and transportation activities, including roads,





railroads, and airports. The Noise Element seeks to protect existing and future land uses from encroachment by noise sensitive uses.

9.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

The Noise Element of the Tehama County General Plan provides a basis for comprehensive local policies to control and abate environmental noise and to protect the citizens of the County from excessive noise exposure.

GOAL N.1

Provide sufficient information concerning the community noise environment so that noise may be effectively considered in the land use planning process.

Policy N-1.1

*The County shall require an acoustical analysis for new projects anticipated to generate excessive noise located adjacent, or near, to noise-sensitive land uses. The acoustical analysis shall be prepared in accordance with **Table 9.1**, Requirements for Acoustical Analysis Prepared in Tehama County.*

**TABLE 9.1
REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ACOUSTICAL ANALYSIS PREPARED IN TEHAMA COUNTY**

AN ACOUSTICAL ANALYSIS PREPARED PURSUANT TO THE NOISE ELEMENT SHALL:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Be the responsibility of the applicant. 2) Be prepared by qualified persons experienced in the fields of environmental noise assessment and architectural acoustics. 3) Include representative noise level measurements with sufficient sampling periods and locations to adequately-describe local conditions. 4) Estimate existing and projected cumulative noise levels in terms of the standards of Tables 9.2 and 9.3 of this General Plan and compare those levels to the adopted policies of the Noise Element. 5) Recommend appropriate mitigation to achieve compliance with the adopted policies and standards of the Noise Element. Where the noise source in question consists of intermittent single events, the report must address the effects of maximum noise levels in sleeping rooms evaluating possible sleep disturbance. 6) Estimate interior and exterior noise exposure after the prescribed mitigation measures have been implemented. 7) Describe the post-project assessment program that could be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures.

Implementation Measure N-1.1a

The County shall require site-specific noise analyses where noise generating land uses are proposed in proximity to sensitive noise sources such as residences, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and day care centers. Noise mitigation shall be included and followed where the results of the analysis warrant such actions.

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Implementation Measure N-1.1b

The County shall require noise analysis where noise sensitive uses are proposed adjacent to noise generating uses such as concentrated agricultural operations, airports, freeways and major roadways, etc. Noise mitigation shall be included and followed where the results of the analysis warrant such actions.



GOAL N-2

Develop strategies for abating excessive noise exposure through cost-effective mitigation measures in combination with appropriate zoning to avoid incompatible land uses.

Policy N-2.1

The County shall review the Zoning Code to ensure good land use planning to reduce possible conflicts regarding noise impacts.

Implementation Measure N-2.1a

The County shall develop and enforce a Countywide Noise Control Ordinance consistent with the standards and policies contained in this General Plan.

Policy N-2.2

The County shall require vegetative screening and appropriate landscaping along required solid noise mitigation barriers, such as walls or berms, in order to reduce the aesthetic impact of the solid noise barrier. The use of sound walls should only be utilized under extreme noise impacts and shall be discouraged in favor of less intrusive noise mitigation (e.g., landscaped berms, increased setbacks).

Implementation Measure N-2.2a

The County shall develop countywide requirements for noise mitigation that includes vegetative and landscaped buffers as well to mitigate for noise impacts. The requirements shall also include long-term maintenance of noise mitigation areas.

Policy N-2.3

The County shall enforce the State Noise Insulation Standards (California Administrative Code, Title 24) and Chapter 35 of the Uniform Building code regarding the construction of new multiple-occupancy dwellings such as hotels, apartments, and condominiums.

Implementation Measure N-2.3a

The County shall update the County's Building Codes to include the State Noise Insulation Standards and Chapter 35 of the Uniform Building Code.

Policy N-2.4

The County shall reduce noise impacts from construction activities.



Implementation Measure N-2.4a

The County shall restrict construction activities to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays unless an exemption is received from the County to cover special circumstances. Special circumstances may include emergency operations, short-duration construction, etc.

Implementation Measure N-2.4b

The County shall require all internal combustion engines that are used in conjunction with construction activities be muffled according to the equipment manufacturer’s requirements.

GOAL N-3

Protect those existing regions of the planning area whose noise environments are deemed acceptable, and also those locations throughout the community deemed “noise sensitive”.

Policy N-3.1

The interior and exterior noise level standards for noise-sensitive areas of new uses affected by traffic or railroad noise sources in Tehama County are depicted in **Table 9.2**.

**TABLE 9.2
NOISE STANDARDS FOR NEW USES AFFECTED BY TRAFFIC AND RAILROAD NOISE
TEHAMA COUNTY NOISE ELEMENT**

NEW LAND USE	OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AREA - L _{DN}	INTERIOR - L _{DN} /PEAK HOUR L _{EQ} ¹	NOTES
All Residential	60-65	45	2, 3, 4
Transient Lodging	65	45	5
Hospitals & Nursing Homes	60	45	6
Theaters & Auditoriums	---	35	
Churches, Meeting Halls, Schools, Libraries, etc.	60	40	
Office Buildings	65	45	7
Commercial Buildings	65	50	7
Playgrounds, Parks, etc.	70	---	
Industry	65	50	7

Notes:

- 1) For traffic noise within Tehama County, L_{dn} and peak-hour L_{eq} values are estimated to be approximately similar. Interior noise level standards are applied within noise-sensitive areas of the various land uses, with windows and doors in the closed positions.
- 2) Outdoor activity areas for single-family residential uses are defined as back yards. For large parcels or residences with no clearly defined outdoor activity area, the standard shall be applicable within a 100-foot radius of the residence.
- 3) For multi-family residential uses, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied at the common outdoor recreation area, such as at pools, play areas, or tennis courts.

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- 4) Where it is not possible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB L_{dn} or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB L_{dn} may be allowed provided that available exterior noise level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.
- 5) Outdoor activity areas of transient lodging facilities include swimming pool and picnic areas.
- 6) Hospitals are often noise generating uses. The exterior noise level standards for hospitals are applicable only at clearly identified areas designated for outdoor relaxation by either hospital staff or patients.
- 7) Only the exterior spaces of these uses designated for employee or customer relaxation have any degree of sensitivity to noise.



Policy N-3.2

*The County shall prohibit new noise-sensitive land uses in noise-impacted areas unless effective mitigation measures are incorporated into the project design. Where the noise levels standards in **Table 9.2** are predicted to be exceeded by new uses proposed within Tehama County, appropriate noise mitigation measures shall be included in the project design to reduce projected noise levels to a state of compliance with **Table 9.3** standards.*

Implementation Measure N-3.2a

The County shall review new project developments to ensure compliance with the standards depicted in **Table 9.2** and **Table 9.3**.

GOAL N-4

Protect existing noise-producing commercial and industrial uses in Tehama County from encroachment by noise-sensitive land uses.

Policy N-4.1

The County shall require review for discretionary industrial, commercial, or other noise-generating land uses for compatibility with adjacent and nearby noise-sensitive land uses.

Implementation Measure N-4.1a

The County shall review all development proposals to ensure that any new noise-generating land uses are compatible with existing uses or appropriate measures are implemented to ensure that nearby noise-sensitive land uses are not affected.

Policy N-4.2

*The interior and exterior noise level standards for noise-sensitive areas of new uses affected by non-transportation noise sources within Tehama County are depicted in **Table 9.3**.*

Implementation Measure N-4.2a

The County shall review all development proposals to ensure compliance with **Table 9.3**, Noise Standards for New Uses Affected by Non-Transportation Noise.



TABLE 9.3
NOISE STANDARDS FOR NEW USES AFFECTED BY NON-TRANSPORTATION NOISE

NEW LAND USE	OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AREA - LEQ		INTERIOR - LEQ	
	DAY-TIME	NIGHT TIME	DAY & NIGHT	NOTES
All Residential	50	45	35	1, 2, 7
Transient Lodging	55	---	40	3
Hospitals & Nursing Homes	50	45	35	4
Theaters & Auditoriums	---	---	35	
Churches, Meeting Halls, Schools, Libraries, etc.	55	---	40	
Office Buildings	55	---	45	5, 6
Commercial Buildings	55	---	45	5, 6
Playgrounds, Parks, etc.	65	---	---	6
Industry	65	65	50	5

Notes:

- 1) Outdoor activity areas for single-family residential uses are defined as back yards. For large parcels or residences with no clearly defined outdoor activity area, the standard shall be applicable within a 100-foot radius of the residence.
- 2) For multi-family residential uses, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied at the common outdoor recreation area, such as at pools, play areas or tennis courts. Where such areas are not provided, the standards shall be applied at individual patios and balconies of the development.
- 3) Outdoor activity areas of transient lodging facilities include swimming pool and picnic areas, and are not commonly used during nighttime hours.
- 4) Hospitals are often noise generating uses. The exterior noise level standards for hospitals are applicable only at clearly identified areas designated for outdoor relaxation by either hospital staff or patients.
- 5) Only the exterior spaces of these uses designated for employee or customer relaxation have any degree of sensitivity to noise.
- 6) The outdoor activity areas of office, commercial and park uses are not typically utilized during nighttime hours.
- 7) It may not be possible to achieve compliance with this standard at residential uses located immediately adjacent to loading dock areas of commercial uses while trucks are unloading. The daytime and nighttime noise level standards applicable to loading docks shall be 55 and 50 dB Leq, respectively.

General: The **Table 9.3** standards shall be reduced by 5 dB for sounds consisting primarily of speech or music, and for recurring impulsive sounds.

If the existing ambient noise level exceeds the standards of **Table 9.3**, then the noise level standards shall be increased at 5 dB increments to encompass the ambient.

GOAL N.5

To encourage and support the noise policies adopted by both airports in the Tehama County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (TCACLUP).

Policy N-5.1

The County shall work to keep current and implement the noise policies in the Tehama County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Implementation Measure N-5.1a

The County shall review all development proposals to ensure compliance with the TCACLUP. Compliance shall include:

- a. Airport/Land Use noise compatibility shall be evaluated in terms of the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL), as defined in Title 21 of the California Administration Code.
- b. The maximum noise exposure that shall be considered normally acceptable for residential areas is 60 dBA CNEL.
- c. The relative acceptability or unacceptability of particular land uses with respect to the noise levels to which they would be exposed as indicated in the "Airport/Land Use Noise Compatibility Criteria" matrix. These criteria shall be the principal determinants of whether a proposed land use is compatible with the noise impact from a nearby airport, but special circumstances, which would affect the specific proposal's noise sensitivity (e.g., the extent or lack of outdoor activity), also shall be taken into account.
- d. One of the conditions for approval of a land use which is "marginally acceptable" or "normally unacceptable" for the given noise environment is that the building must provide a satisfactory degree of noise attenuation. If the structure can reduce the noise exposure to the indicated level, the use may be acceptable. It should be noted that the interior noise criteria are measured in terms of maximum noise levels of individual events and not average noise levels as represented by CNEL values. Since maximum exterior individual even noise levels are greater than the CNEL value at a given location, the required noise reduction of the structure thus will be greater than the difference between the interior noise level criterion and the CNEL value.
- e. In applying the interior noise level criteria, engine run-up noise shall be considered as a source of commonly occurring exterior noise.
- f. When applying the noise compatibility criteria to a given location, the basis for evaluation shall be the maximum Community Noise Equivalent Level to which the location is or is forecast to be exposed.
- g. If a noise analyses, including noise monitoring, is conducted for a particular location and the results indicate that the maximum CNEL will be less than shown herein, the lower exposure level may be used for the land use evaluation at the discretion of the Airport Land Use Commission.

