



Building and Design

One of the most effective means of reducing noise in a sensitive area is to construct and design buildings in such a way that the noise is deflected in such a way that it does not affect the occupants. If the building has already been constructed, then landscaping and design techniques can be used to tastefully absorb the noise emitted from mobile or stationary sources. These building and design techniques should serve two purposes; to mitigate noise to acceptable indoor and outdoor levels, and to enhance the community character rather than detract from its surroundings. The following policies have been included in the Noise Element to ensure that the character of each community within Riverside County is preserved while minimizing noise to acceptable levels.

Natural Barriers and Landscaping

Policies:

- N 11.1 Utilize natural barriers such as hills, berms, boulders, and dense vegetation to assist in noise reduction. (AI 108)
- N 11.2 Utilize dense landscaping to effectively reduce noise. However, when there is a long initial period where the immaturity of new landscaping makes this approach only marginally effective, utilize a large number of highly dense species planted in a fairly mature state, at close intervals, in conjunction with earthen berms, setbacks, or block walls. (AI 108)

Temporary Construction

Policies:

- N 12.1 Minimize the impacts of construction noise on adjacent uses within acceptable practices. (AI 105, 108)
- N 12.2 Ensure that construction activities are regulated to establish hours of operation in order to prevent and/or mitigate the generation of excessive or adverse noise impacts on surrounding areas. (AI 105, 108)
- N 12.3 Condition subdivision approval adjacent to developed/occupied noise-sensitive land uses (see policy N 1.3) by requiring the developer to submit a construction-related noise mitigation plan to the County for review and approval prior to issuance of a grading permit. The plan must depict the location of construction equipment and how the noise from this equipment will be mitigated during construction of this project, through the use of such methods as
 - a. Temporary noise attenuation fences;
 - b. Preferential location of equipment; and
 - c. Use of current noise suppression technology and equipment. (AI 107)



N 12.4 Require that all construction equipment utilizes noise reduction features (e.g. mufflers and engine shrouds) that are no less effective than those originally installed by the manufacturer. (AI 105, 108)

Building and Design Techniques

Policies:



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Non-habitable areas within a home include:

- kitchens
- bathrooms
- hallways
- garages
- closets
- utility rooms
- laundry rooms

N 13.1 Enforce the California Building Standards that sets standards for building construction to mitigate interior noise levels to the tolerable 45 CNEL limit. These standards are utilized in conjunction with the Uniform Building Code by the County’s Building Department to ensure that noise protection is provided to the public. Some design features may include extra-dense insulation, double-paned windows, and dense construction materials.

N 13.2 Continue to develop effective strategies and mitigation measures for the abatement of noise hazards reflecting effective site design approaches and state-of-the-art building technologies. (AI 108)

N 13.3 Incorporate acoustic site planning into the design of new development, particularly large scale, mixed-use, or master-planned development, through measures which may include:

- separation of noise-sensitive buildings from noise-generating sources;
- use of natural topography and intervening structure to shield noise-sensitive land uses; and
- adequate sound proofing within the receiving structure. (AI 106)

N 13.4 Consider and, when necessary to lower noise to acceptable limits, require noise barriers and landscaped berms. (AI 108)

N 13.5 Consider the issue of adjacent residential land uses when designing and configuring all new, non-residential development. Design and configure on-site ingress and egress points that divert traffic away from nearby noise-sensitive land uses to the greatest degree practicable. (AI 106, 107)

N 13.6 Prevent the transmission of excessive and unacceptable noise levels between individual tenants and businesses in commercial structures and between individual dwelling units in multi-family residential structures. (AI 105, 108)

N 13.7 Assist the efforts of local homeowners living in high noise areas to noise attenuate their homes through funding assistance and retrofitting program development, as feasible. (AI 105, 108)

N 13.8 Review all development applications for consistency with the standards and policies of the Noise Element of the General Plan.

N 13.9 Mitigate 600 square feet of exterior space to 65 dB CNEL when new development is proposed on residential parcels of 1 acre or greater.