

(7) COMMUNITY NOISE

**ATTACHMENT 1
TULARE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES**

COMMUNITY NOISE

TULARE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2030 UPDATE POLICIES

LAND USE ELEMENT

LU-1.3 Prevent Incompatible Uses

The County shall discourage the intrusion into existing urban areas of new incompatible land uses that produce significant noise, odors, or fumes.

LU-3.6 Project Design

The County shall require residential project design to consider natural features, noise exposure of residents, visibility of structures, circulation, access, and the relationship of the project to surrounding uses. Residential densities and lot patterns will be determined by these and other factors. As a result, the maximum density specified by General Plan designations or zoning for a given parcel of land may not be attained.

SCENIC LANDSCAPES ELEMENT

SL-4.1 Design of Highways

The County shall work with Caltrans and Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) to ensure that the design of State Highway 99 and other State Highways protects scenic resources and provides access to vistas of working and natural landscapes by:

1. Limiting the construction of sound walls that block views of the County's landscapes (incorporate setbacks to sensitive land uses to avoid noise impacts whenever feasible),
2. Using regionally-appropriate trees and landscaping and incorporating existing landmark trees,
3. Preserving historic and cultural places and vistas,
4. Avoiding excessive cut and fill for roadways along State scenic highways and County scenic routes, and along areas exposed to a large viewing area, and
5. Promote highway safety by identifying appropriate areas for traffic pull-outs and rest areas.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

HS-8.1 Economic Base Protection

The County shall protect its economic base by preventing the encroachment of incompatible land uses on known noise-producing industries, railroads, airports, and other sources.

HS-8.2 Noise Impacted Areas

The County shall designate areas as noise-impacted if exposed to existing or projected noise levels that exceed 60 dB Ldn (or Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)) at the exterior of buildings.

HS-8.3 Noise Sensitive Land Uses

The County shall not approve new noise sensitive uses unless effective mitigation measures are incorporated into the design of such projects to reduce noise levels to 60 dB Ldn (or CNEL) or less within outdoor activity areas and 45 dB Ldn (or CNEL) or less within interior living spaces.

HS-8.4 Airport Noise Contours

The County shall ensure new noise sensitive land uses are located outside the 60 CNEL contour of all public use airports.

HS-8.5 State Noise Standards

The County shall enforce the State Noise Insulation Standards (California Administrative Code, Title 24) and Chapter 35 of the Uniform Building Code (UBC). Title 24 requires that interior noise levels not exceed 45 dB Ldn (or CNEL) with the windows and doors closed within new developments of multi-family dwellings, condominiums, hotels, or motels. Where it is not possible to reduce exterior noise levels within an acceptable range the County shall require the application of noise reduction technology to reduce interior noise levels to an acceptable level.

HS-8.6 Noise Level Criteria

The County shall ensure noise level criteria applied to land uses other than residential or other noise-sensitive uses are consistent with the recommendations of the California Office of Noise Control (CONC).

HS-8.7 Inside Noise

The County shall ensure that in instances where the windows and doors must remain closed to achieve the required inside acoustical isolation, mechanical ventilation or air conditioning is provided.

HS-8.8 Adjacent Uses

The County shall not permit development of new industrial, commercial, or other noise-generating land uses if resulting noise levels will exceed 60 dB Ldn (or CNEL) at the boundary of areas designated and zoned for residential or other noise-sensitive uses, unless it is determined to be necessary to promote the public health, safety and welfare of the County.

HS-8.9 County Equipment

The County shall strive to purchase equipment that complies with noise level performance standards set forth in the Health and Safety Element.

HS-8.10 Automobile Noise Enforcement

The County shall encourage the CHP, Sheriff's office, and local police departments to actively enforce existing sections of the California Vehicle Code relating to adequate vehicle mufflers, modified exhaust systems, and other amplified noise.

HS-8.11 Peak Noise Generators

The County shall limit noise generating activities, such as construction, to hours of normal business operation (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.). No peak noise generating activities shall be allowed to occur outside of normal business hours without County approval.

HS-8.12 Foothill and Mountain Noise

For areas designated by Tulare County as being within Foothill and Mountain Planning Areas and outside Foothill Development Corridors, the hourly Leq resulting from the development or new noise-sensitive land uses or new noise-generating sources shall not exceed 50 dB during the day (7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.) or 40 dB during the night (10:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.) when measured at the boundary of areas containing or planned and zoned for residential or other noise-sensitive land uses. For these same areas and under the same circumstances, the maximum A-weighted noise level (Lmax) shall not exceed 70 dB during the day or 60 dB during the night.

HS-8.13 Noise Analysis

The County shall require a detailed noise impact analysis in areas where current or future exterior noise levels from transportation or stationary sources have the potential to exceed the adopted noise policies of the Health and Safety Element, where there is development of new noise sensitive land uses or the development of potential noise generating land uses near existing sensitive land uses. The noise analysis shall be the responsibility of the project applicant and be prepared by a qualified acoustical engineer (i.e., a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of California, etc.). The analysis shall include recommendations and evidence to establish mitigation that will reduce noise exposure to acceptable levels (such as those referenced in Table 10-1 of the Health and Safety Element).

HS-8.14 Sound Attenuation Features

The County shall require sound attenuation features such as walls, berming, heavy landscaping, between commercial, industrial, and residential uses to reduce noise and vibration impacts.

HS-8.15 Noise Buffering

The County shall require noise buffering or insulation in new development along major streets, highways, and railroad tracks.

HS-8.16 State Noise Insulation

The County shall enforce the State Noise Insulation Standards (California Administrative Code, Title 24) and Chapter 35 of the Uniform Building Code.

HS-8.17 Coordinate with Caltrans

The County shall work with Caltrans to mitigate noise impacts on sensitive receptors near State roadways, by requiring noise buffering or insulation in new construction.

HS-8.18 Construction Noise

The County shall seek to limit the potential noise impacts of construction activities by limiting construction activities to the hours of 7 am to 7pm, Monday through Saturday when construction activities are located near sensitive receptors. No construction shall occur on Sundays or national holidays without a permit from the County to minimize noise impacts associated with development near sensitive receptors.

HS-8.19 Construction Noise Control

The County shall ensure that construction contractors implement best practices guidelines (i.e. berms, screens, etc.) as appropriate and feasible to reduce construction-related noise-impacts on surrounding land uses.

HOUSING ELEMENT

Housing Policy 3.17 Discourage developments of residential housing units in areas with high noise levels, as determined by State Noise Standards, or require mitigation measures to diminish the effects.