



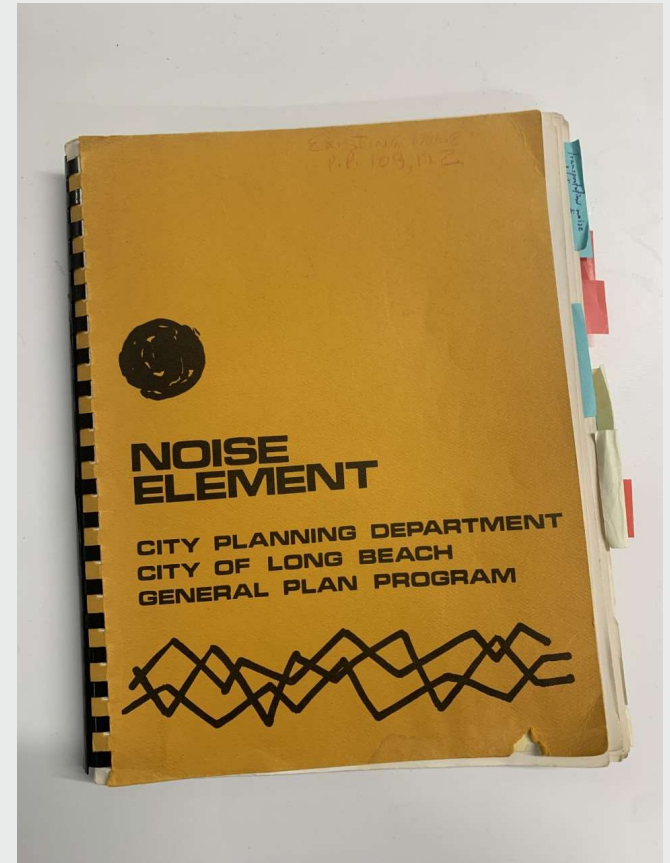
Noise Element and Noise Ordinance Update (Application No. 2110-03, GPA21-004)

Planning Commission

October 21, 2021

Background & Context

- The Noise Element is one of the nine state-mandated General Plan Elements required for every city in California.
- The Long Beach General Plan Noise Element was first adopted in 1975, and the Noise Ordinance was last updated in 1977 based on the Noise Element. Since then, the City's physical makeup, population regional context, and the regulatory guidance around noise have changed.
- Long Beach has changed and grown significantly since 1975
- The Noise Element update process has been underway since 2017 including extensive community engagement and technical analysis
- The proposed Noise Element update would ensure the City's policy framework reflects changes in the City's urban fabric and its soundscape, while identifying new strategies and policies to maintain healthy, livable neighborhoods for all residents.



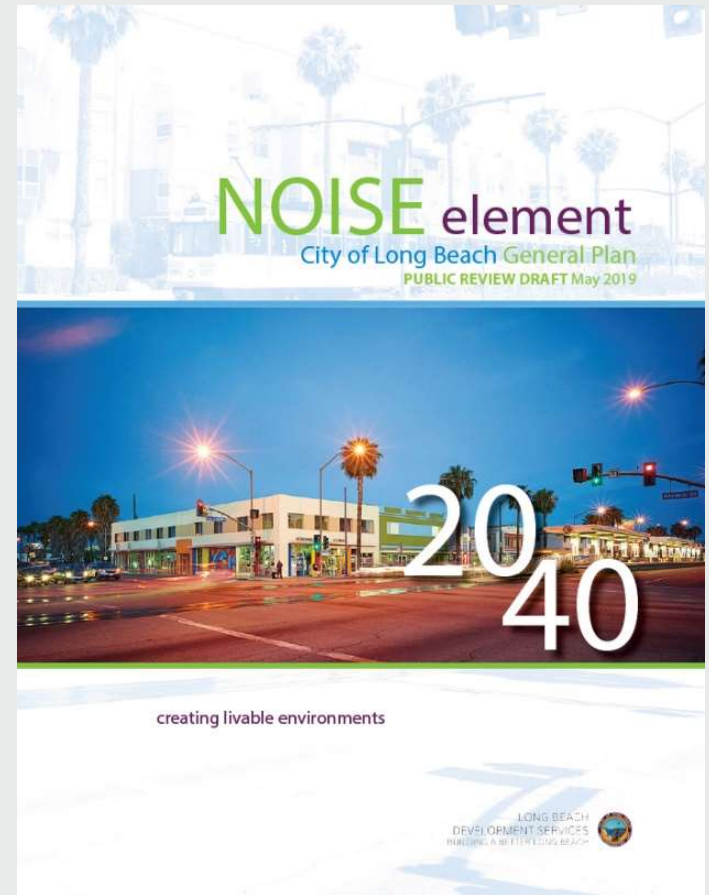
Current Recommended Action

Recommend that the City Council:

- Adopt Environmental Impact Report (EIR 03-20) and associated findings
- Adopt the General Plan Noise Element and associated amendments to the Noise Ordinance

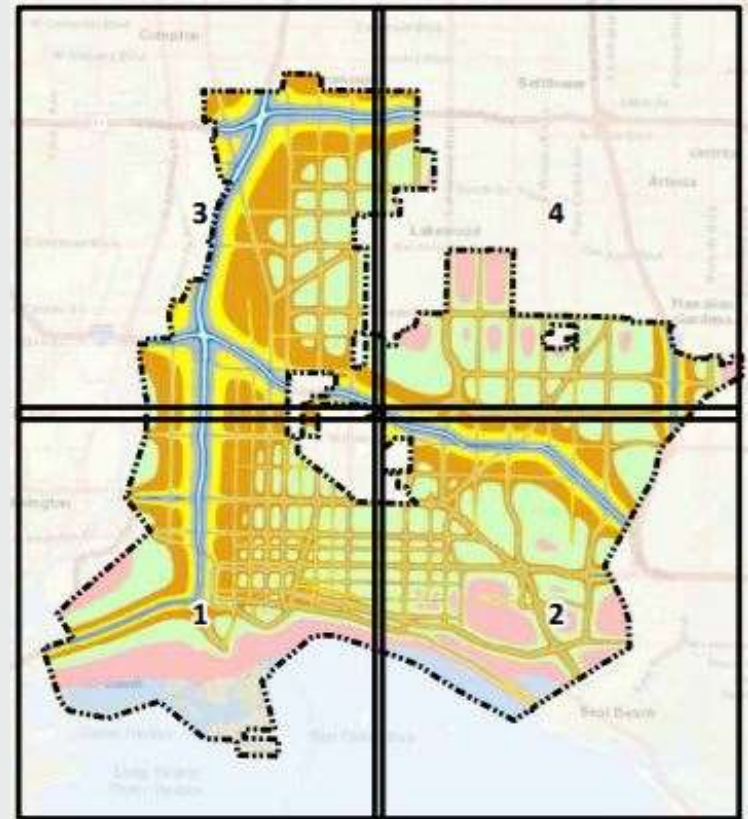
Noise Element Overview

- Content and framework guided by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Guidelines for General Plans
- Establishes policies that will guide how noise and land use compatibility are addressed throughout the City
- Addresses noise from a range of stationary sources
- Mandated by State law to be consistent with all other General Plan elements (Land Use, Housing, Mobility, Open Space, Urban Design)
- Implemented by the Noise Ordinance (LBMC Chapter 8.80)



Relationship to Other Elements

- **Land Use** – A key objective of the Noise Element is to provide noise exposure information for implementation of the LUE. When integrated with the Noise Element, the LUE will show acceptable new land uses in relation to existing and projected noise contours.
- **Housing** – Noise exposure information must be considered when planning the location of and designing new housing (noise sensitive uses).
- **Mobility** – The circulation system a major source of noise. Minimize noise exposure in the location and design of new transportation facilities and minimize exposure to noise from existing transportation facilities.
- **Open Space** – Noise exposure levels should be considered when planning for open space use. Open space can be used to buffer sensitive land uses from noise sources through the use of setbacks and landscaping.
- **Urban Design** – Urban design techniques can be employed to mitigate noise impacts. The Urban Design Element builds off of the LUE PlaceTypes approach to allowing a greater mix of compatible uses within neighborhoods in a harmonious manner supported by urban design strategies and policies.



Future 2040 Traffic Noise Contours

Noise Element Chapters

1. Vision: A City That Thrives
2. Introduction: What is a Noise Element?
3. Context: Understanding the Noise Environment
4. Noise Fundamentals: Characteristics of Sound
5. Noise Plan: Creating Livable Environments
6. Administration + Implementation: Maintaining the Noise Element

"Just as we share the air we breathe, we are submerged in a sea of shared sound. We are all connected by the vibrations we make as we use energy in daily life."

Bruce Odland and Sam Auinger

Reflections on the Sonic Commons, a Special Section of the Leonardo Music Journal



Noise Plan

- This Noise Plan (Noise Element Chapter 5) identifies strategies and policies to implement the vision of a healthy, livable noise environment in Long Beach.
- The Noise Plan contains a total of 16 strategies and 108 policies.



Noise Plan – Example Strategies & Policies

PlaceType Characteristics and Land Use Compatibility

- Strategy No. 1 - Apply site planning and other design strategies to reduce noise impacts, especially within the Founding and Contemporary Neighborhoods, Multifamily Residential—Low and Moderate, and Neighborhood Serving Centers and Corridors – Low and Moderate PlaceTypes.
 - Policy N 1-5. Use urban design strategies such as the use courtyards, paseos, alleys, plazas and open space areas to provide a buffer to noise sensitive uses.
 - Policy N 1-6. Encourage project site planning and the location of the various functional spaces within developments to minimize the potential adverse impacts of noise.

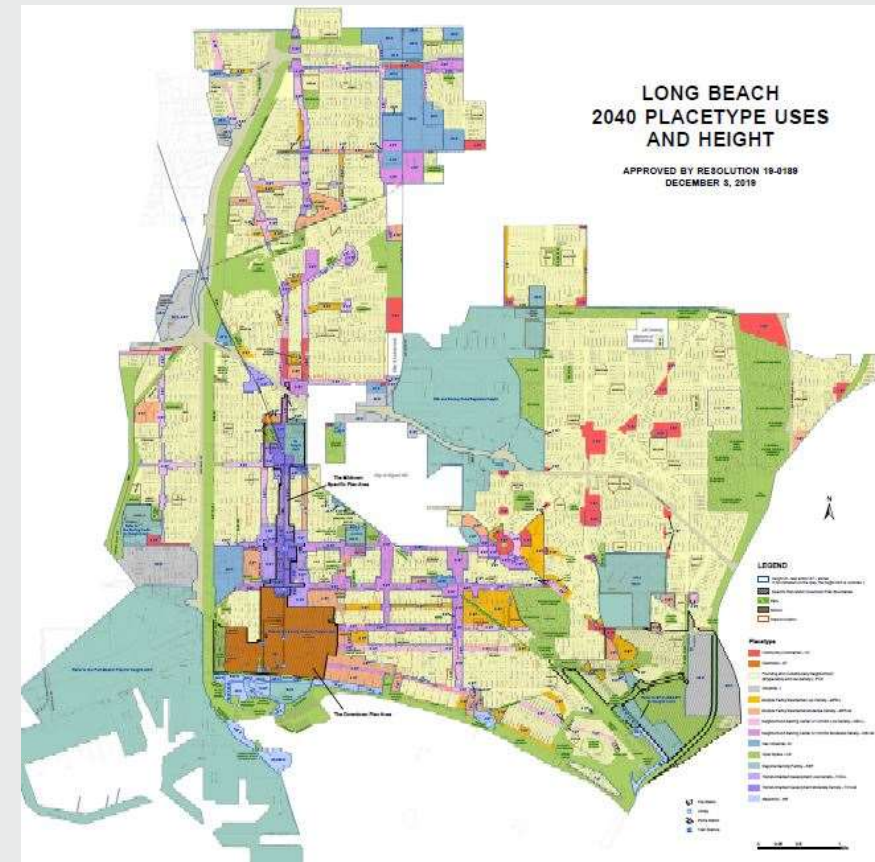
Noise Plan – Example Strategies & Policies

Environmental Justice & Social Equity

- Strategy No. 15 - Reduce the disproportionate environmental noise burdens affecting low-income and minority populations.
 - Policy N 15-2. Requires that proposals for new sensitive land uses incorporate adequate setbacks, barriers, landscaping or other measures as necessary to minimize noise impacts, particularly in areas of the City that are disproportionately impacted by noise.

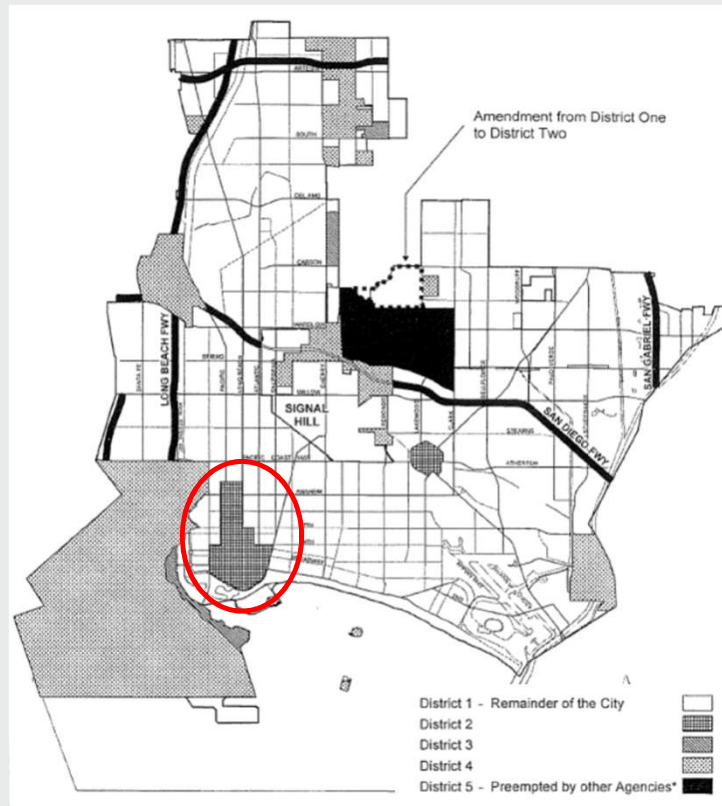
Update Noise District Map for Consistency with Land Use Element PlaceTypes

- The 2019 LUE update established mixed-use PlaceTypes that delineate areas that are currently mixed-use in nature and that are planned or anticipated to be more mixed-use in the future, and where commercial, residential and other compatible land uses will be integrated.
- Proposed amendments to the Noise Ordinance include updates to the boundaries of Noise District Two of the Noise District Map to better reflect and be consistent with the recently adopted LUE PlaceTypes.

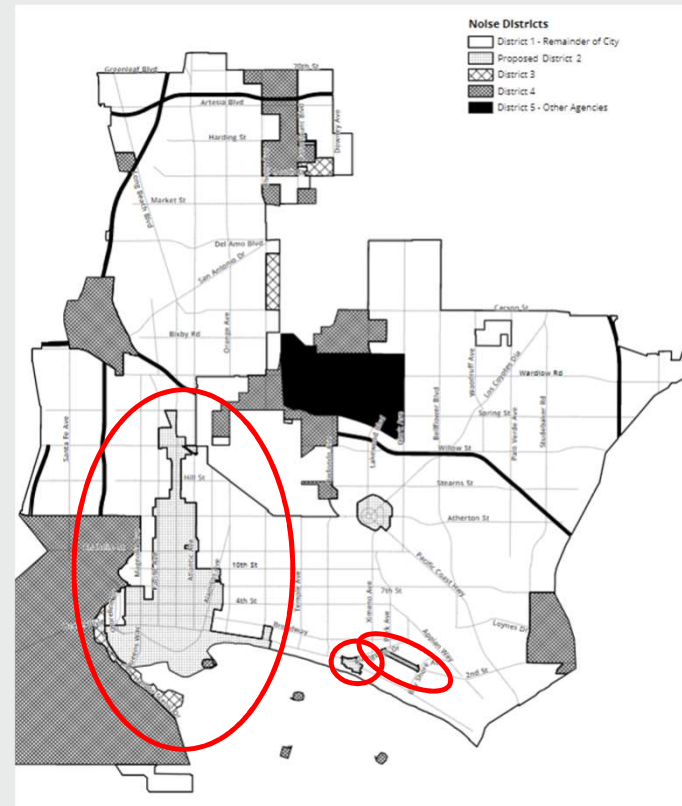


8.80.160 Noise District Map – Existing and Proposed

Existing

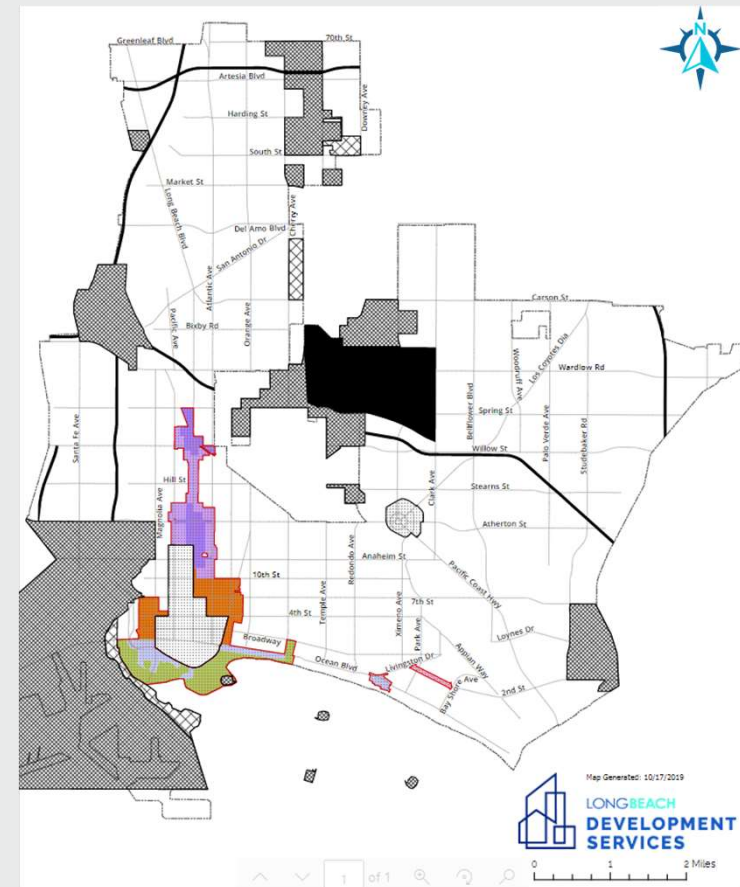


Proposed



Proposed Noise District Map with PlaceTypes

- Proposed Noise District two expansion areas encompass additional areas that tend to be high intensity, mixed-use areas that are served by transit, function as regional destinations, and incorporate visitor-serving uses, based on the LUE PlaceTypes.



Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendments

8.80.160 Exterior Noise Limits

Receiving Land Use District		Time Period	Noise Level** (dBA)
District One	Predominantly residential with other land use types also present	Night: 10:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.	45
District One		Day: 7:00 a.m. – 10:0 p.m.	50
District Two	Mixed-use or P predominantly commercial with other land use types also present	Night: 10:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.	55
District Two		Day: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	60
District Three	Predominantly industrial with other land use types also present	Any time	65
District Four		Any time	70
District Five	Airport, freeways and waterways regulated by other agencies	Regulated by other agencies and laws	

Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendments

8.80.170 Interior Noise Limits

Receiving Land Use District	Type of Land Use	Time Interval	Allowable Interior Noise Level (dBA)
All	Residential	10:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	35 45
All	Mixed-Use	10:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	45 50
All	School	10:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m. (while school is in session)	45
Hospital, designated noise sensitive zones		Any time	40

Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendments

8.80.030 Administration and enforcement

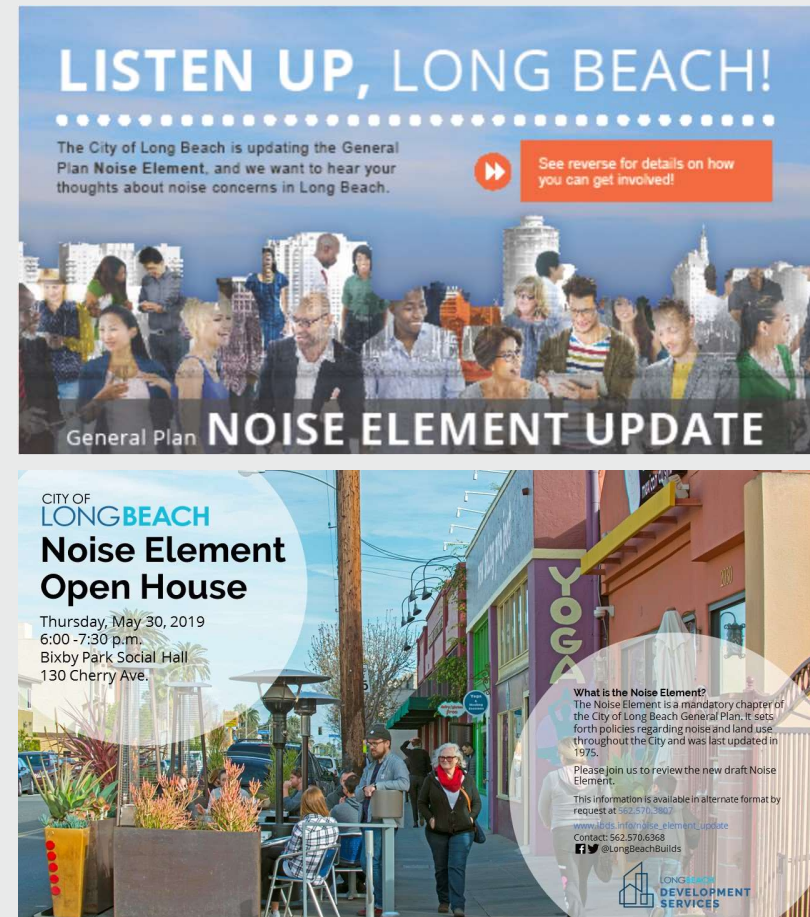
The noise control program established by this Chapter shall be administered by the noise control office as designated by the City Manager. An official within the noise control office shall be appointed as the Noise Control Officer and shall be a person with sufficient knowledge of environmental acoustics to enforce noise regulations.

All City departments and bureaus with noise regulation responsibilities, including but not limited to Airport, Animal Control, Building, Code Enforcement, Police, and the Office of Special Events and Filming, shall receive and address noise complaints that are within the purview of their respective functions. Additionally, all departments with noise regulation responsibility shall may, based on circumstance and need, carry out the duties of the Noise Control Officer to help ensure that noise complaints from the public are timely and adequately addressed. This includes but is not limited to taking noise measurements and acting as a case manager, upon receiving a noise complaint; coordinating with the Noise Control Officer and relevant City departments and bureaus as appropriate, based on the circumstance; and conducting other actions necessary to facilitate resolution of the noise complaint.

Noise Element Update Public Outreach and Engagement

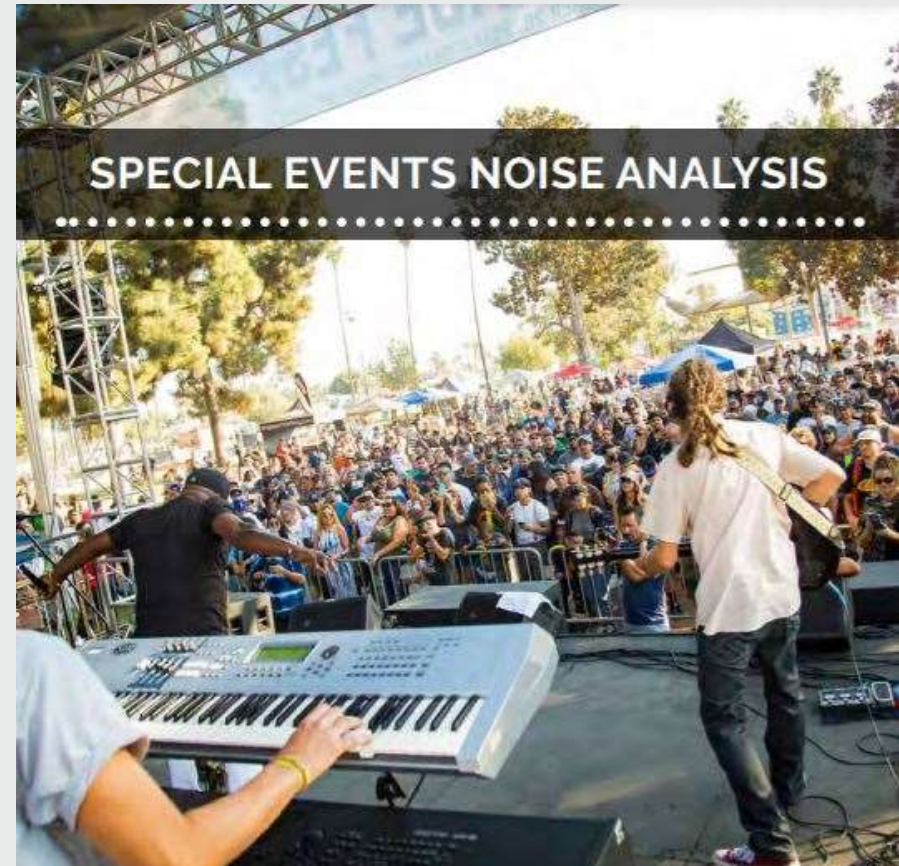
2017-2019

- 2017-2018 – variety of community engagement strategies including crowdsourced mapping tool "Listen Up Long Beach" to report on local noise issues, which resulted in the Existing Conditions Report that informed the Noise Element
- Oct 2018 – City staff held focus group on Special Events and Outdoor Noise
- Sept 26, 2019 – DV supported Special Events & Filming at their Special Events Sound Study community meeting
- May 30, 2019 – DV held Noise Element Open House



Special Events Noise Study

- Special Events & Filming Office conducted a Special Events Noise Study, at the request of City Council
 - Evaluated current regulations and procedures related to noise from special events
 - Includes case studies on cities with comparable range of special events: Austin TX, Nashville TN, Pasadena CA, Seattle WA
- Key Study Findings
 - Concluded that the City employs a number of best practices
 - Identified additional strategies, technologies and procedures to explore as next steps
- Informed development of Noise Element Strategy 13 (Special Events) and associated policies



Special Events

Special Events & Filming Office implemented measures to improve permitting processes and strengthen noise mitigations, including:

Outreach, Communication and Transparency

- Special events public calendar and notifications
- Permit applications circulated to various City departments for review and approval with conditions
- After hours events line to respond to noise complaints

Sound Mitigation

- Sound readings conducted with calibrated sound meter
- City staff trained in sound engineering and conducts regular sound monitoring and reporting
- Use of sound boxes monitored by third party
- Additional sound mitigation such as acoustical sound barriers
- Continues to consider potential future mitigation measures



Concert Map – Sound Study Grid

Response to Common Comments

- Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, the City, as Lead Agency, prepared a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR 03-20).
- The Draft EIR was released on March 23, 2021 and the public comment period ended on June 14, 2021.
- Staff received 21 comments during the public comment period.

Response to Common Comments

Common Comment #1. Special events should not be categorized as temporary, but rather stationary noise sources.

Due to the temporary and often seasonal nature of these events, they are not considered representative of typical noise patterns that contribute to the existing ambient noise setting. Due to the inconsistent natures of these events, regardless of frequency, these events are not considered stationary sources that can be regulated based on static criteria. Rather, each permitting process event is regulated according to its temporary and unique characteristics through the special events.

Common Comment #2. Standards for noise limits should be added to the Noise Element, in particular as a means for providing enforcement for Special Events.

The Noise Element appropriately does not include noise limits as the purpose of the General Plan Noise Element is to establish goals and policies related to noise, while the Municipal Code and Noise Ordinance establish the actual noise limits and can be updated without creating the need for a General Plan Amendment.

Response to Common Comments

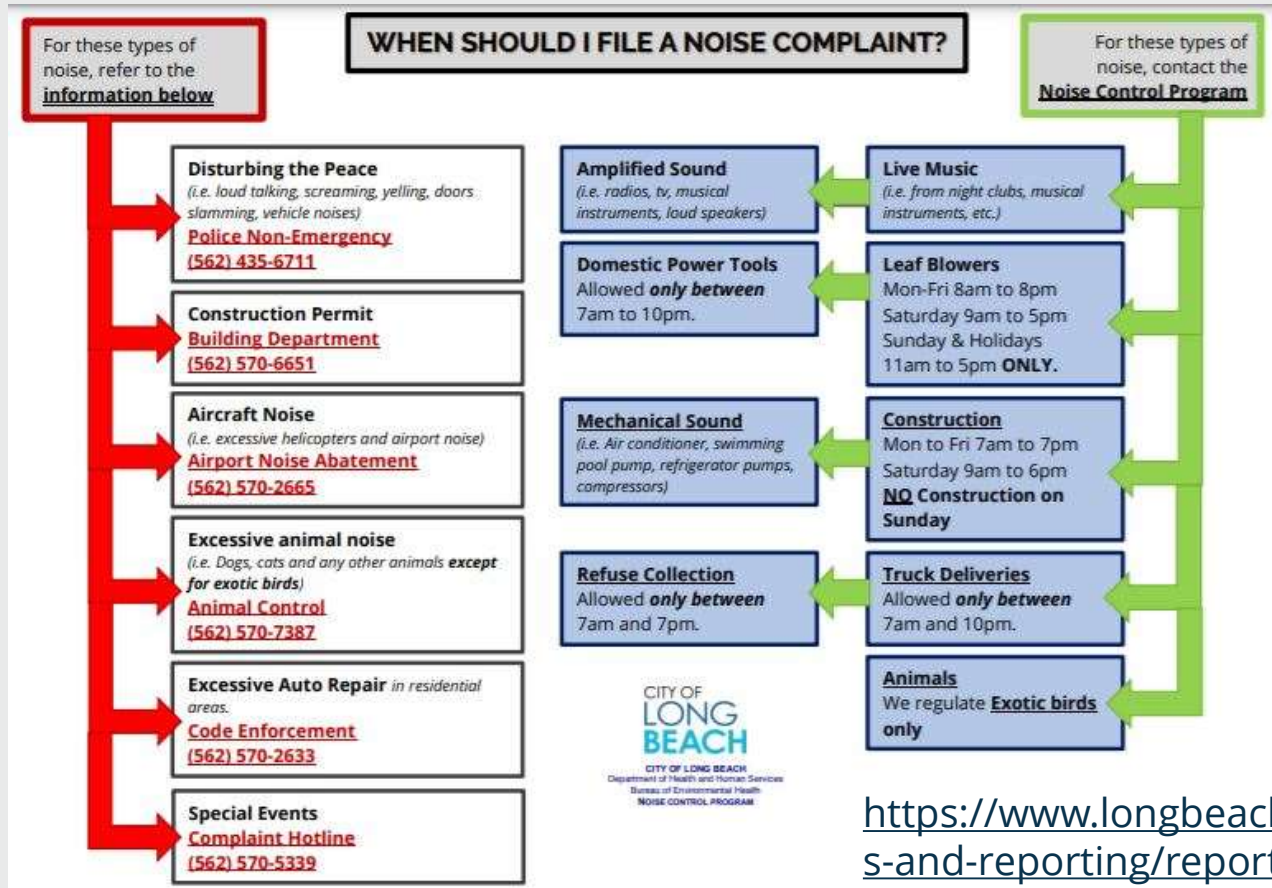
Common Comment #3. Lack of air conditioning in older buildings may inhibit the ability to keep windows closed during certain times of the year.

These standards are based on the requirements of the California Code of Regulations, Title 24. Comments related to the interior noise insulation standards demonstrate concern regarding existing State regulations and the state of existing, older buildings.

Common Comment #4. Excessive noise is a hazard to public health per California Health and Safety Code Section 46000.

California Noise Law Section 46000 provides overarching policies at the State level that are incorporated by the City in their creation of their own goals and policies related to noise regulations. As stated in Section 4.2.7 of the Draft EIR, the proposed Noise Element includes strategies and policies that are intended to provide protection for land uses from excessive noise and vibration sources, as well as to implement the vision of a healthy, livable noise environment in the City, consistent with the guidance in Section 46000. the A-weighted scale is the weighting scale most commonly used for OSHA regulatory measurements and is therefore used for the analysis of noise-related impacts to public health.

City Departments with Noise Regulatory Responsibilities



<https://www.longbeach.gov/health/inspections-and-reporting/reporting/noise-monitoring>

Public Hearing Notice

- Notice of this public hearing was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on October 7, 2021
- Notices were provided to City libraries that are open to the public and posted at City Hall. The public hearing notice was posted on the Department's website and distributed through the City's LinkLB email blast system.
- As of the date of preparation of this report, several comments have been received.

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half shows a night sky filled with various colorful fireworks exploding. The bottom half shows a large, brightly lit cruise ship at night, with its three funnels visible. In the background of the ship, there are industrial structures and cranes, likely at a port. The overall scene is festive and celebratory.

Thank you

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