

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION

COMMITTEE: MVCC PLUM

TITLE: City of Los Angeles CEQA Noise Thresholds

PURPOSE: To regulate the proposed new CEQA Noise Thresholds

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 15064.7(b), the Department of City Planning (Department) is considering adopting updated thresholds of significance and methodologies to analyze impacts: 1) for construction noise and vibration, and 2) to historic resources. Pursuant to the authority of the Director of Planning (Director) under Los Angeles Charter Section 506 to make and enforce any necessary rules and regulations, the Director is considering the adoption of updated thresholds and methodology in the Department's preparation of CEQA clearances.

THE MOTION: The MVCC expresses strong opposition to the proposed new noise thresholds for the city of Los Angeles, as outlined in the Department of City Planning's Fact Sheet Summary of Proposed Updates to CEQA Thresholds Related to Construction Noise and Vibration, dated January 11, 2024. While we acknowledge the importance of addressing noise concerns, we believe the proposed thresholds are excessively high and fail to consider the diverse nature of our city.

Currently, ambient residential daytime noise thresholds in many parts of Los Angeles typically hover around 50 dBA. The proposed thresholds, which peak at 80 dBA, represent a significant increase that may have detrimental effects on the quality of life for residents across various neighborhoods. I am concerned that adopting such high thresholds may lead to an increase in noise pollution and negatively impact the well-being of our citizens.

It is crucial to recognize that Los Angeles is a vast and diverse city, comprised of large residential neighborhoods as well as densely populated downtown areas. The proposed one-size-fits-all approach to noise thresholds does not take into account the unique characteristics of each neighborhood. Treating the entire city as if it were a densely populated downtown area fails to consider the different needs and sensitivities of our residential communities.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed noise thresholds and instead implement a more nuanced approach that takes into account the distinctiveness of various neighborhoods within Los Angeles. The imposition of a uniform maximum noise level fails to recognize the differences in population density, land use, and community characteristics that exist across the city.

We respectfully request that you reject the proposed noise thresholds and engage in a more comprehensive and community-specific approach to address noise concerns in Los Angeles. By doing so, we can ensure that our policies are fair, equitable, and reflective of the diverse needs of our residents.

DIRECTED TO: Jeff Khau & Ashley Lozada, Office of City of Los Angeles Councilmember Traci Park

ACTION/VOTE COUNT: _____

MVCC PLUM Committee Meeting, February 1st, 2024

Motion of support moved by MVCC April Peterson, seconded by MVCC Carolyn Honda

Andrea - Yes; Steve Paddock - No; April Peterson - Yes; Carolyn Honda - Yes; Shia Greenwald - No; Dorothy - Yes; Chris Curry - No; Charlene Samiley - No; Kalani Whittington - Yes; Vic - Abstain; Kevin Wheeler - Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION

Motion of support approved by MVCC PLUM COMMITTEE 06Y-04N-01A

MVCC Board Meeting, February XX, 2024

Motion of support moved by MVCC _____, seconded by MVCC _____

Motion of support approved by the MVCC Board XXY-XXN-XXA