



ITEM IV.B: POTENTIAL NOISE IMPACTS OF THE OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER

A Task Force member asked about noise from the OSC that could impact surrounding development. The following is an extract from a Planning Commission report on the Ponderosa Active Adult Community now in development to the north of the OSC.

"Noise:

External noise sources that could affect the site include noise from the City's Operation Service Center (OSC) to the south, sand and gravel operations to the east, Livermore Municipal Airport, traffic on adjacent City streets, Pleasanton Garbage Service transfer station, Kiewit Construction and Utility Vault facilities, and other adjacent land uses. Seven-foot tall masonry walls are currently located along the site's southern and western boundaries. The existing seven-foot tall wall along the southern boundary would be removed and replaced with a new seven-foot tall masonry wall. For Lots 93 and 94, the seven-foot wall along the southern boundary would be located on top of a five-foot tall retaining wall (making the effective height of the wall 12-feet tall from the City's OSC side of the wall), further mitigating noise from the City's OSC. Seven-foot tall masonry walls would also be constructed along the project's northern and eastern boundaries.

For single-family housing projects, the City's General Plan generally requires that backyard areas not exceed 60 dB L_{dn} and that indoor noise levels not exceed 45 dB L_{dn} . In addition, if the noise source is aircraft, the General Plan states that residential developments should be strongly discouraged where exterior noise levels exceed 55 dB L_{dn} due to aircraft and should not be allowed in areas where exterior noise levels exceed 65 dB L_{dn} due to aircraft. A noise study was prepared to ensure that the project will meet General Plan noise standards. The noise study indicates that the aircraft noise exposure at the site is less than 55 dB L_{dn} and that traffic noise exposure at the site is less than 60 dB L_{dn} . Therefore, noise levels from traffic and airport noise would meet the General Plan noise standards and noise mitigation is not required for these noise sources. Nevertheless, the project has been conditioned to provide disclosure to buyers of the proximity to the airport and overflights.

The project site is exposed to intermittent noise from the City's Operations Service Center. The noise study indicated that the police firing range, which is located approximately 630 feet from the project's southern boundary, would be the most significant noise source from the OSC. The noise study indicates that gunshot noise is significantly more annoying than traffic noise at the same level. The noise study

recommends that noise levels from gunshots be reduced to not exceed 40 dBA L_{max} inside the residences with the windows and exterior doors closed. In order to meet this interior noise standard, the windows and exterior doors on the east, west, and south sides of the homes on Lots 3, 4, and 91-96 would need to provide at least 25 dBA of noise reduction on the first floor and provide at least 35 dBA of noise reduction on the second floor. These homes would also need to be provided with forced air mechanical ventilation (i.e., air conditioning) so that windows and doors may be closed at the discretion of the occupants to control noise. The exact Sound Transmission Class (STC) ratings of the windows and doors to meet these requirements would be determined at the building permit stage. A condition of approval requires that the applicant comply with the recommendations of the noise study. "