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Following is a summary of our findings for the Smith Flat House Outdoor Patio project in Placerville, California (El Dorado County). If you would like to forward this email to the County Planner working with you on the project, I'd be happy to discuss these preliminary findings and receive additional direction from County Staff.

## Noise Criteria

Daytime (7 a.m.-7p.m.) noise exposure criteria established by the County's Noise Element of the General Plan, including the required penalty for sounds consisting primarily of speech or music or impulsive noise, are 50 dB Hourly  $L_{eq}$  (average) and 65 dB  $L_{max}$  (maximum). During evening hours (7 p.m.-10 p.m.), the criteria are reduced to 45 dB Hourly  $L_{eq}$  and 55 dB  $L_{max}$ .

## Project Sound System

Reference measurements completed at the project site and in the vicinity show that a typical DJ setup or live band would likely produce noise levels in excess of the evening criteria by as much as 6 dB at the closest unshielded residential receiver to the northeast (on west side of Smith Flat School Road, adjacent to the proposed north project parking lot). For DJs, this potential impact could be mitigated to a state of compliance with County noise standards using a distributed sound system with limiting/compression hardware/software. However, such controls would not be available for live bands, which would likely produce significant noise exposure that would be difficult if not impossible to mitigate to a state of compliance with the County's evening noise criteria.

## Crowd Noise

Crowd noise is highly variable. We estimate that unmitigated crowd noise at the closest unshielded residential receiver to the northeast could be in the vicinity of 55 dB Hourly  $L_{eq}$  and 70 dB  $L_{max}$ , which would exceed the applicable evening criteria by 10 dB and 15 dB, respectively. A noise barrier at the residential property line (north property line of proposed north parking lot) in excess of 11-feet tall would be required to satisfy the evening noise exposure criteria. A barrier height of at least 6 feet at this location would be required to satisfy the daytime criteria. Due to the elevation of this receiver, a property line barrier of reasonable height at the north patio boundary would not provide sufficient noise attenuation to result in compliance with the County's evening noise standards.

## Parking Lot Noise

During busy periods of parking lot usage, noise exposure from project parking at neighboring residential uses to the west and north would likely be near 50 dB Hourly  $L_{eq}$  and 70 dB  $L_{max}$ , exceeding the applicable daytime and evening noise criteria by as much as 5 dB and 15 dB, respectively. Mitigation in the form of standard 6-foot high property line noise barriers would be required to satisfy the daytime criteria. However, no reasonable barrier could be constructed that would provide the noise attenuation needed to satisfy the nighttime noise criteria.

I know this is not the information you were hoping for. I do hope we can work together, in conjunction with the County, to find solutions that will be satisfactory. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

We have moved! Please note our new contact information.

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