



Local Coastal Program  
Permit Sonoma

# Sonoma County Local Coastal Plan Update

## **Policy Option: Noise**

### **Noise Policy Recommendation:**

Remove the Noise Element from the Local Coastal Plan and add the following policy to the Open Space and Resource Conservation Element, 3.2 Biotic Resource Protections section:

“Policy C-OSRC-5xx: Noise emissions shall not exceed standards found in the Sonoma County General Plan Noise Element. Impacts to coastal resources that may result from project noise shall be evaluated as part of biological resources assessments required by Policy C-OSRC-5a(1). If project noise, either construction or operational, is found to have a potential adverse impact on biological resources, noise emissions shall be reduced so that no adverse noise effects on adjacent uses will occur from the project.”

### **Need and Purpose**

The 2019 Public Review Draft Local Coastal Plan Noise Element was duplicated from the Sonoma County General Plan Noise Element. The General Plan Noise Element is intended to protect people from the adverse effects of exposure to excessive noise by reducing emission and exposure to avoid health risks associated with noise exposure and reduce interference between land uses. The General Plan Noise Element does not consider or establish standards for noise impacts on biological resources. Because wildlife response to noise is complex, noise analysis necessary to determine impacts to wildlife is often complex and must be specific to the species being affected.

General Plan Noise Element standards will still apply in the coastal zone to development project where impacts are to people or adjacent developed uses, regardless of including a copy of the General Plan Noise Element in the Local Coastal Plan. Removing the Noise Element also makes it unnecessary to amend the Local Coastal Plan if improvements or changes are made to the General Plan Noise Element.

Addition of a noise policy specific to evaluation of impact to wildlife will improve protection to coastal resources through prevention and mitigation of noise impacts to wildlife.