15980 CARLTON AVENUE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT NOISE AND VIBRATION ASSESSMENT SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA

July 17, 2017

♦ ♦ ♦

Prepared for:

Amber Sharpe
Associate Project Manager
David J. Powers & Associates, Inc.
1871 The Alameda, Suite 200
San José, CA 95126

Prepared by:

Casey Zaglin
Michael S. Thill

ILLINGWORTH & RODKIN, INC.
Acoustics • Air Quality
1 Willowbrook Court, Suite 120
Petaluma, CA 94954
(707) 794-0400

I&R Job No.: 16-248

INTRODUCTION

A residential project is proposed on an approximate 0.45-acre parcel located at 15980 Carlton Avenue in the City of San José. The project proposes to demolish the three existing residences on site and construct six single-family detached residences.

This report evaluates the project's potential to result in significant noise and vibration impacts with respect to applicable California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. The report is divided into three sections: 1) the Setting Section provides a brief description of the fundamentals of environmental noise, summarizes applicable regulatory criteria, and discusses the results of the ambient noise monitoring survey completed to document existing noise conditions; 2) the General Plan Consistency Section discusses the noise and land use compatibility of the proposed project utilizing policies in the City's General Plan; and 3) the Impacts and Mitigation Measures Section describes the significance criteria used to evaluate project impacts upon sensitive receivers, provides a discussion of each project impact, and presents measures, where necessary, to mitigate the identified impacts to a less-than-significant level.

SETTING

Fundamentals of Environmental Noise

Noise may be defined as unwanted sound. Noise is usually objectionable because it is disturbing or annoying. The objectionable nature of sound could be caused by its *pitch* or its *loudness*. *Pitch* is the height or depth of a tone or sound, depending on the relative rapidity (*frequency*) of the vibrations by which it is produced. Higher pitched signals sound louder to humans than sounds with a lower pitch. *Loudness* is intensity of sound waves combined with the reception characteristics of the ear. Intensity may be compared with the height of an ocean wave in that it is a measure of the amplitude of the sound wave.

In addition to the concepts of pitch and loudness, there are several noise measurement scales which are used to describe noise in a particular location. A *decibel (dB)* is a unit of measurement which indicates the relative amplitude of a sound. The zero on the decibel scale is based on the lowest sound level that the healthy, unimpaired human ear can detect. Sound levels in decibels are calculated on a logarithmic basis. An increase of 10 decibels represents a ten-fold increase in acoustic energy, while 20 decibels is 100 times more intense, 30 decibels is 1,000 times more intense, etc. There is a relationship between the subjective noisiness or loudness of a sound and its intensity. Each 10 decibel increase in sound level is perceived as approximately a doubling of loudness over a fairly wide range of intensities. Technical terms are defined in Table 1.

There are several methods of characterizing sound. The most common in California is the *A-weighted sound level (dBA).* This scale gives greater weight to the frequencies of sound to which the human ear is most sensitive. Representative outdoor and indoor noise levels in units of dBA are shown in Table 2. Because sound levels can vary markedly over a short period of time, a method for describing either the average character of the sound or the statistical behavior of the variations must be utilized. Most commonly, environmental sounds are described in terms of an average level that has the same acoustical energy as the summation of all the time-varying events.

This *energy-equivalent sound/noise descriptor* is called L_{eq}. The most common averaging period is hourly, but L_{eq} can describe any series of noise events of arbitrary duration.

The scientific instrument used to measure noise is the sound level meter. Sound level meters can accurately measure environmental noise levels to within about plus or minus 1 dBA. Various computer models are used to predict environmental noise levels from sources, such as roadways and airports. The accuracy of the predicted models depends upon the distance the receptor is from the noise source. Close to the noise source, the models are accurate to within about plus or minus 1 to 2 dBA.

Since the sensitivity to noise increases during the evening and at night -- because excessive noise interferes with the ability to sleep -- 24-hour descriptors have been developed that incorporate artificial noise penalties added to quiet-time noise events. The *Community Noise Equivalent Level* (*CNEL*) is a measure of the cumulative noise exposure in a community, with a 5 dB penalty added to evening (7:00 pm - 10:00 pm) and a 10 dB addition to nocturnal (10:00 pm - 7:00 am) noise levels. The *Day/Night Average Sound Level* (*DNL* or L_{dn}) is essentially the same as CNEL, with the exception that the evening time period is dropped and all occurrences during this three-hour period are grouped into the daytime period.

Effects of Noise

Sleep and Speech Interference

The thresholds for speech interference indoors are about 45 dBA if the noise is steady and above 55 dBA if the noise is fluctuating. Outdoors the thresholds are about 15 dBA higher. Steady noises of sufficient intensity (above 35 dBA) and fluctuating noise levels above about 45 dBA have been shown to affect sleep. Interior residential standards for multi-family dwellings are set by the State of California at 45 dBA DNL. Typically, the highest steady traffic noise level during the daytime is about equal to the DNL and nighttime levels are 10 dBA lower. The standard is designed for sleep and speech protection and most jurisdictions apply the same criterion for all residential uses. Typical structural attenuation is 12-17 dBA with open windows. With closed windows in good condition, the noise attenuation factor is around 20 dBA for an older structure and 25 dBA for a newer dwelling. Sleep and speech interference is therefore possible when exterior noise levels are about 57-62 dBA DNL with open windows and 65-70 dBA DNL if the windows are closed. Levels of 55-60 dBA are common along collector streets and secondary arterials, while 65-70 dBA is a typical value for a primary/major arterial. Levels of 75-80 dBA are normal noise levels at the first row of development outside a freeway right-of-way. In order to achieve an acceptable interior noise environment, bedrooms facing secondary roadways need to be able to have their windows closed; those facing major roadways and freeways typically need special glass windows.

Annoyance

Attitude surveys are used for measuring the annoyance felt in a community for noises intruding into homes or affecting outdoor activity areas. In these surveys, it was determined that the causes for annoyance include interference with speech, radio and television, house vibrations, and interference with sleep and rest. The DNL as a measure of noise has been found to provide a valid

correlation of noise level and the percentage of people annoyed. People have been asked to judge the annoyance caused by aircraft noise and ground transportation noise. There continues to be disagreement about the relative annoyance of these different sources. When measuring the percentage of the population highly annoyed, the threshold for ground vehicle noise is about 50 dBA DNL. At a DNL of about 60 dBA, approximately 12 percent of the population is highly annoyed. When the DNL increases to 70 dBA, the percentage of the population highly annoyed increases to about 25-30 percent of the population. There is, therefore, an increase of about 2 percent per dBA between a DNL of 60-70 dBA. Between a DNL of 70-80 dBA, each decibel increase increases by about 3 percent the percentage of the population highly annoyed. People appear to respond more adversely to aircraft noise. When the DNL is 60 dBA, approximately 30-35 percent of the population is believed to be highly annoyed. Each decibel increase to 70 dBA adds about 3 percentage points to the number of people highly annoyed. Above 70 dBA, each decibel increase results in about a 4 percent increase in the percentage of the population highly annoyed.

Fundamentals of Groundborne Vibration

Ground vibration consists of rapidly fluctuating motions or waves with an average motion of zero. Several different methods are typically used to quantify vibration amplitude. One method is the Peak Particle Velocity (PPV). The PPV is defined as the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of the vibration wave. In this report, a PPV descriptor with units of mm/sec or in/sec is used to evaluate construction generated vibration for building damage and human complaints. Table 3 displays the reactions of people and the effects on buildings that continuous vibration levels produce.

The annoyance levels shown in Table 3 should be interpreted with care since vibration may be found to be annoying at much lower levels than those shown, depending on the level of activity or the sensitivity of the individual. To sensitive individuals, vibrations approaching the threshold of perception can be annoying. Low-level vibrations frequently cause irritating secondary vibration, such as a slight rattling of windows, doors, or stacked dishes. The rattling sound can give rise to exaggerated vibration complaints, even though there is very little risk of actual structural damage.

Construction activities can cause vibration that varies in intensity depending on several factors. The use of pile driving and vibratory compaction equipment typically generates the highest construction related groundborne vibration levels. Because of the impulsive nature of such activities, the use of the PPV descriptor has been routinely used to measure and assess groundborne vibration and almost exclusively to assess the potential of vibration to induce structural damage and the degree of annoyance for humans.

The two primary concerns with construction-induced vibration, the potential to damage a structure and the potential to interfere with the enjoyment of life, are evaluated against different vibration limits. Studies have shown that the threshold of perception for average persons is in the range of 0.008 to 0.012 in/sec PPV. Human perception to vibration varies with the individual and is a function of physical setting and the type of vibration. Persons exposed to elevated ambient vibration levels, such as people in an urban environment, may tolerate a higher vibration level.

Structural damage can be classified as cosmetic only, such as minor cracking of building elements, or may threaten the integrity of the building. Safe vibration limits that can be applied to assess the potential for damaging a structure vary by researcher and there is no general consensus as to what amount of vibration may pose a threat for structural damage to the building. Construction-induced vibration that can be detrimental to the building is very rare and has only been observed in instances where the structure is at a high state of disrepair and the construction activity occurs immediately adjacent to the structure.

TABLE 1 Definition of Acoustical Terms Used in this Report

Term	Definition
Decibel, dB	A unit describing, the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure. The reference pressure for air is 20 micro Pascals.
Sound Pressure Level	Sound pressure is the sound force per unit area, usually expressed in micro Pascals (or 20 micro Newtons per square meter), where 1 Pascal is the pressure resulting from a force of 1 Newton exerted over an area of 1 square meter. The sound pressure level is expressed in decibels as 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio between the pressures exerted by the sound to a reference sound pressure (e. g., 20 micro Pascals). Sound pressure level is the quantity that is directly measured by a sound level meter.
Frequency, Hz	The number of complete pressure fluctuations per second above and below atmospheric pressure. Normal human hearing is between 20 Hz and 20,000 Hz. Infrasonic sound are below 20 Hz and Ultrasonic sounds are above 20,000 Hz.
A-Weighted Sound Level, dBA	The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the frequency response of the human ear and correlates well with subjective reactions to noise.
Equivalent Noise Level, L_{eq}	The average A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.
L_{max}, L_{min}	The maximum and minimum A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.
L_{01}, L_{10}, L_{50}, L_{90}	The A-weighted noise levels that are exceeded 1%, 10%, 50%, and 90% of the time during the measurement period.
Day/Night Noise Level, L_{dn} or DNL	The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 10 decibels to levels measured in the night between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.
Community Noise Equivalent Level, CNEL	The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 5 decibels in the evening from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and after addition of 10 decibels to sound levels measured in the night between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.
Ambient Noise Level	The composite of noise from all sources near and far. The normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location.
Intrusive	That noise which intrudes over and above the existing ambient noise at a given location. The relative intrusiveness of a sound depends upon its amplitude, duration, frequency, and time of occurrence and tonal or informational content as well as the prevailing ambient noise level.

Source: Handbook of Acoustical Measurements and Noise Control, Harris, 1998.

TABLE 2 Typical Noise Levels in the Environment

Common Outdoor Activities	Noise Level (dBA)	Common Indoor Activities
	110 dBA	Rock band
Jet fly-over at 1,000 feet		
	100 dBA	
Gas lawn mower at 3 feet		
	90 dBA	
Diesel truck at 50 feet at 50 mph		Food blender at 3 feet
	80 dBA	Garbage disposal at 3 feet
Noisy urban area, daytime		
Gas lawn mower, 100 feet	70 dBA	Vacuum cleaner at 10 feet
Commercial area		Normal speech at 3 feet
Heavy traffic at 300 feet	60 dBA	
		Large business office
Quiet urban daytime	50 dBA	Dishwasher in next room
Quiet urban nighttime	40 dBA	Theater, large conference room
Quiet suburban nighttime		
	30 dBA	Library
Quiet rural nighttime		Bedroom at night, concert hall (background)
	20 dBA	
		Broadcast/recording studio
	10 dBA	
	0 dBA	

Source: Technical Noise Supplement (TeNS), California Department of Transportation, September 2013.

TABLE 3 Reaction of People and Damage to Buildings from Continuous or Frequent Intermittent Vibration Levels

Velocity Level, PPV (in/sec)	Human Reaction	Effect on Buildings
0.01	Barely perceptible	No effect
0.04	Distinctly perceptible	Vibration unlikely to cause damage of any type to any structure
0.08	Distinctly perceptible to strongly perceptible	Recommended upper level of the vibration to which ruins and ancient monuments should be subjected
0.1	Strongly perceptible	Virtually no risk of damage to normal buildings
0.3	Strongly perceptible to severe	Threshold at which there is a risk of damage to older residential dwellings such as plastered walls or ceilings
0.5	Severe - Vibrations considered unpleasant	Threshold at which there is a risk of damage to newer residential structures

Source: Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual, California Department of Transportation, September 2013.

Regulatory Background – Noise

The State of California and the City of San José have established regulatory criteria that are applicable in this assessment. The State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, are used to assess the potential significance of impacts pursuant to local General Plan policies, Municipal Code standards, or the applicable standards of other agencies. A summary of the applicable regulatory criteria is provided below.

State CEQA Guidelines. The CEQA contains guidelines to evaluate the significance of effects of environmental noise attributable to a proposed project. Under CEQA, noise impacts would be considered significant if the project would result in:

(a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies;

(b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels;

(c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project;

(d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project;

(e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, if the project

would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels;

(f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, if the project would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

Pursuant to recent court decisions, the impacts of site constraints such as exposure of the proposed project to excessive levels of noise and vibration are not included in the Impacts and Mitigation Section of this report. Checklist item (a), regarding the compatibility of the project with noise levels at the site, is discussed in the General Plan Consistency section of the report. Checklist items (a) through (d) are applicable in the assessment of potential impacts resulting from the proposed project at off-site receptors. Checklist items (e) and (f) are not applicable to this project because the project is not located within an airport land use plan, is not within two miles of an airport, and is not in the vicinity of a private air strip.

CEQA does not define what noise level increase would be considered substantial. Typically, an increase in the DNL noise level resulting from the project at noise sensitive land uses of 3 dBA or greater would be considered a significant impact when projected noise levels would exceed those considered acceptable for the affected land use. An increase of 5 dBA DNL or greater would be considered a significant impact when projected noise levels would remain within those considered acceptable for the affected land use.

City of San José General Plan. The Environmental Leadership Chapter in the Envision San José 2040 General Plan sets forth policies with the goal of minimizing the impact of noise on people through noise reduction and suppression techniques, and through appropriate land use policies in the City of San José. The following policies are applicable to the proposed project:

EC-1.1 Locate new development in areas where noise levels are appropriate for the proposed uses. Consider federal, state, and City noise standards and guidelines as a part of new development review. Applicable standards and guidelines for land uses in San José include:

<u>Interior Noise Levels</u>

- The City's standard for interior noise levels in residences, hotels, motels, residential care facilities, and hospitals is 45 dBA DNL. Include appropriate site and building design, building construction and noise attenuation techniques in new development to meet this standard. For sites with exterior noise levels of 60 dBA DNL or more, an acoustical analysis following protocols in the City-adopted California Building Code is required to demonstrate that development projects can meet this standard. The acoustical analysis shall base required noise attenuation techniques on expected Envision General Plan traffic volumes to ensure land use compatibility and General Plan consistency over the life of this plan.

Exterior Noise Levels

- The City's acceptable exterior noise level objective is 60 dBA DNL or less for residential and most institutional land uses (Table EC-1). The acceptable exterior noise level objective is established for the City, except in the environs of the San José International Airport and the Downtown, as described below:

    - For new multi-family residential projects and for the residential component of mixed-use development, use a standard of 60 dBA DNL in usable outdoor activity areas, excluding balconies and residential stoops and porches facing existing roadways. Some common use areas that meet the 60 dBA DNL exterior standard will be available to all residents. Use noise attenuation techniques such as shielding by buildings and structures for outdoor common use areas. On sites subject to aircraft overflights or adjacent to elevated roadways, use noise attenuation techniques to achieve the 60 dBA DNL standard for noise from sources other than aircraft and elevated roadway segments.

Table EC-1: Land Use Compatibility Guidelines for Community Noise in San José

LAND USE CATEGORY	EXTERIOR NOISE EXPOSURE (DNL IN DECIBELS (DBA)) 55 60 65 70 75 80
1. Residential, Hotels and Motels, Hospitals and Residential Care[1]	
2. Outdoor Sports and Recreation, Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds	
3. Schools, Libraries, Museums, Meeting Halls, Churches	
4. Office Buildings, Business Commercial, and Professional Offices	
5. Sports Arena, Outdoor Spectator Sports	
6. Public and Quasi-Public Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Amphitheaters	

[1]Noise mitigation to reduce interior noise levels pursuant to Policy EC-1.1 is required.

Normally Acceptable:

- Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements.

Conditionally Acceptable:

- Specified land use may be permitted only after detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements and needed noise insulation features included in the design.

Unacceptable:

- New construction or development should generally not be undertaken because mitigation is usually not feasible to comply with noise element policies.

EC-1.2 Minimize the noise impacts of new development on land uses sensitive to increased noise levels (Categories 1, 2, 3 and 6) by limiting noise generation and by requiring use of noise attenuation measures such as acoustical enclosures and sound barriers, where feasible. The City considers significant noise impacts to occur if a project would:

- Cause the DNL at noise sensitive receptors to increase by five dBA DNL or more where the noise levels would remain "Normally Acceptable;" or
- Cause the DNL at noise sensitive receptors to increase by three dBA DNL or more where noise levels would equal or exceed the "Normally Acceptable" level.

EC-1.7 Require construction operations within San José to use best available noise suppression devices and techniques and limit construction hours near residential uses per the City's Municipal Code. The City considers significant construction noise impacts to occur if a project located within 500 feet of residential uses or 200 feet of commercial or office uses would:

- Involve substantial noise generating activities (such as building demolition, grading, excavation, pile driving, use of impact equipment, or building framing) continuing for more than 12 months.

For such large or complex projects, a construction noise logistics plan that specifies hours of construction, noise and vibration minimization measures, posting or notification of construction schedules, and designation of a noise disturbance coordinator who would respond to neighborhood complaints will be required to be in place prior to the start of construction and implemented during construction to reduce noise impacts on neighboring residents and other uses.

City of San José Municipal Code. Chapter 20.100.450 of the Municipal Code establishes allowable hours of construction within 500 feet of a residential unit between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm Monday through Friday unless permission is granted with a development permit or other planning approval. No construction activities are permitted on the weekends at sites within 500 feet of a residence.

Regulatory Background – Vibration

City of San José General Plan. The Environmental Leadership Chapter in the Envision San José 2040 General Plan sets forth policies to achieve the goal of minimizing vibration impacts on people, residences, and business operations in the City of San José. The following policies are applicable to the proposed project:

EC-2.3 Require new development to minimize vibration impacts to adjacent uses during demolition and construction. For sensitive historic structures, a vibration limit of 0.08 in/sec PPV (peak particle velocity) will be used to minimize the potential for cosmetic damage to a building. A vibration limit of 0.20 in/sec PPV will be used to

minimize the potential for cosmetic damage at buildings of normal conventional construction.

Existing Noise Environment

The project site is located at 15980 Carlton Avenue in the City of San José. Figure 1 shows the project site plan overlaid on an aerial image of the site vicinity. As shown on Figure 1, the project site is surrounded by existing residential land uses; there are two-story apartment buildings to the west and south and single family residences to the north and east.

A noise monitoring survey was made between Monday, December 19, 2016 and Wednesday, December 21, 2016. The noise monitoring survey included two long-term noise measurements (LT-1 and LT-2) and four short-term noise measurements (ST-1 through ST-4). All measurement locations are shown in Figure 1 and the daily trends in noise levels for the long-term measurements are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3. The noise environment at the site and at the nearby residential land uses results primarily from vehicular traffic along Carlton Avenue and National Avenue.

Long-term noise measurement LT-1 was made on a light pole in front of 105 Campanula Place, approximately 25 feet west of the Campanula Place centerline. Hourly average noise levels at this location typically ranged from 49 to 57 dBA L_{eq} during the day and from 45 to 55 dBA L_{eq} at night. The day-night average noise level on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 was 58 dBA DNL.

Long-term noise measurement LT-2 was made on a utility pole across from 15946 Carlton Avenue, approximately 25 feet north of the Carlton Avenue centerline. Hourly average noise levels at this location typically ranged from 59 to 64 dBA L_{eq} during the day and from 47 to 61 dBA L_{eq} at night. The day-night average noise level on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 was 64 dBA DNL.

Short-term noise measurement ST-1 was made across from 15980 Carlton Avenue on the northwest corner of Kingridge Drive and Carlton Avenue, approximately 35 feet north of the Carlton Avenue centerline. The 10-minute average noise level measured at this location between 2:40 p.m. and 2:50 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2016 was 57 dBA L_{eq}. Short-term noise measurement ST-2 was made in front of 207 Drakes Bay Avenue, approximately 20 feet north of the Drakes Bay Avenue centerline. The 10-minute average noise level measured at this location between 3:00 p.m. and 3:10 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2016 was 44 dBA L_{eq}. Short-term noise measurement ST-3 was made along the western fence line of the project site, approximately 190 feet south of the Carlton Avenue centerline. The 10-minute average noise level measured at this location between 3:20 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2016 was 47 dBA L_{eq}. Short-term noise measurement ST-4 was made on the southwest corner of Carlton Avenue and National Avenue, approximately 50 feet south of the Carlton Avenue centerline and 35 feet west of the National Avenue centerline. The 10-minute average noise level measured at this location between 3:40 p.m. and 3:50 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2016 was 62 dBA L_{eq}. Table 4 summarizes the results of the short-term noise measurements.

FIGURE 1 15980 Carlton Avenue Noise Measurement Locations

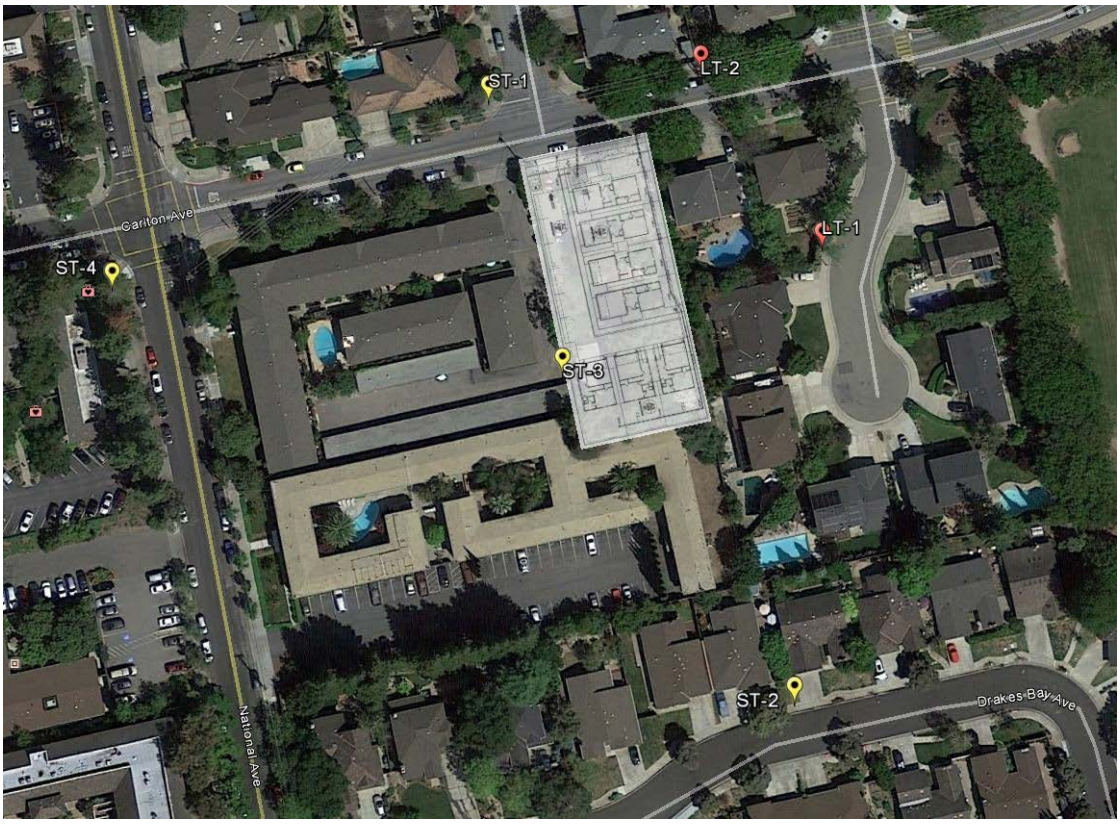

FIGURE 2 Long Term Noise Level Daily Trend for LT-1

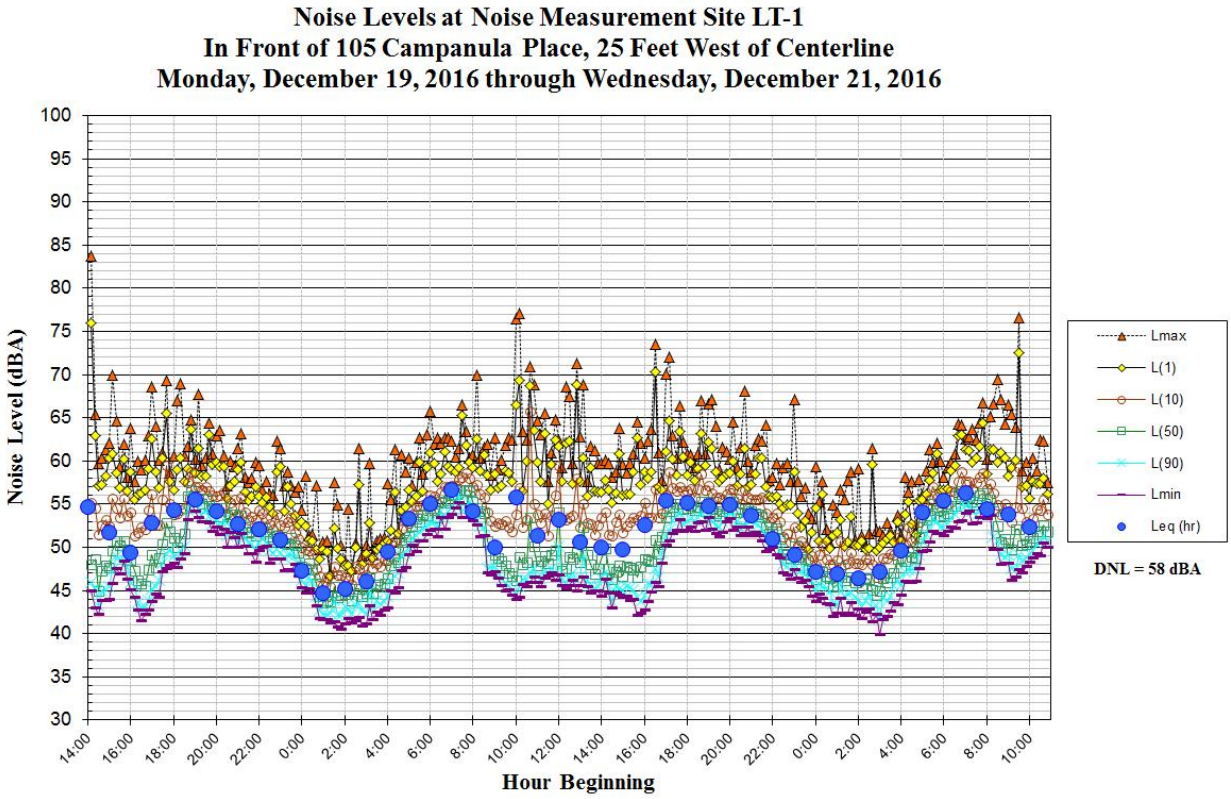

FIGURE 3 Long Term Noise Level Daily Trend for LT-2

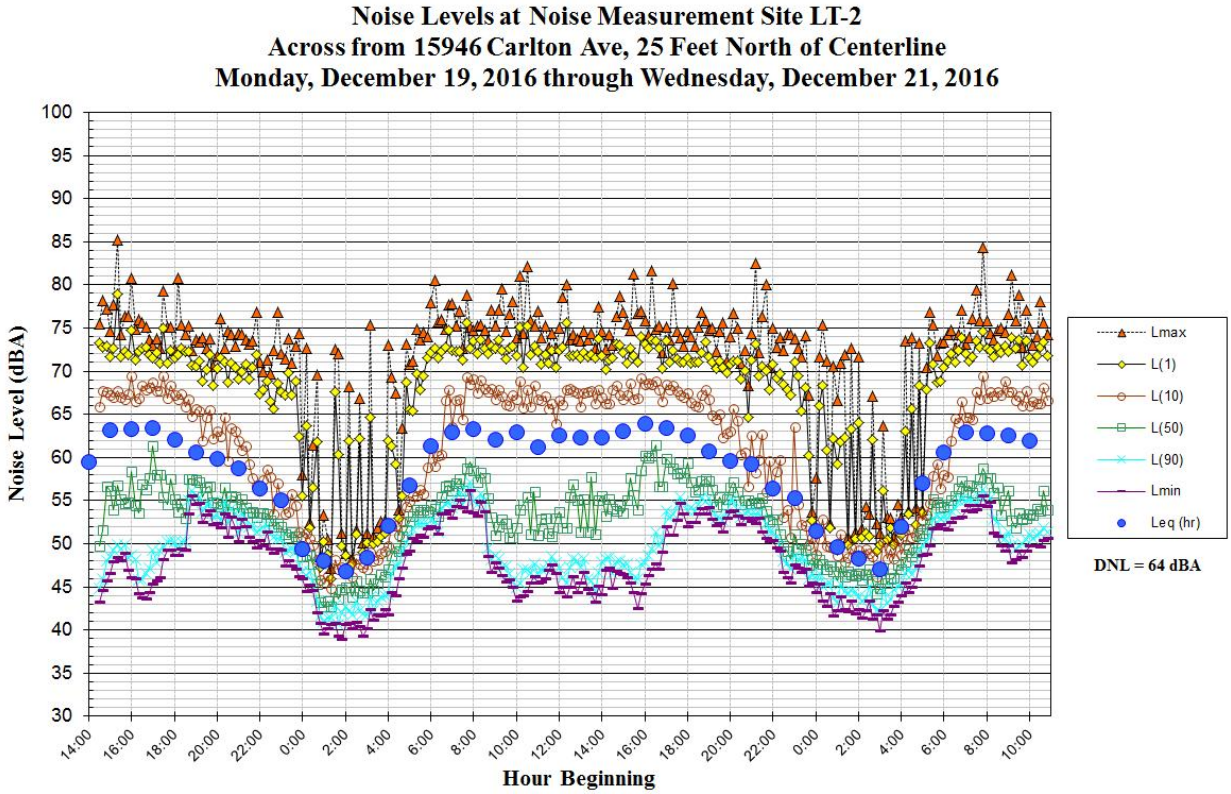

TABLE 4 Summary of Short-Term Noise Measurement Data

Noise Measurement Location	L_{max}	$L_{(1)}$	$L_{(10)}$	$L_{(50)}$	$L_{(90)}$	L_{eq}
ST-1: NW corner of Kingridge Dr. and Carlton Ave. (12/19/2016, 2:40 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.)	69	67	61	48	45	57
ST-2: In front of 207 Drakes Bay Ave. (12/19/2016, 3:00 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.)	52	51	46	42	41	44
ST-3: Along the western fence line of the project site. (12/19/2016, 3:20 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)	54	53	49	47	45	47
ST-4: SW corner of Carlton Ave and National Ave. (12/19/2016, 3:40 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.)	78	72	64	59	55	62

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS – COMPATIBILITY OF PROJECT WITH NOISE ENVIRONMENT AFFECTING THE SITE

The Environmental Leadership Chapter in the Envision San José 2040 General Plan sets forth policies with the goal of minimizing the impact of noise on people through noise reduction and suppression techniques, and through appropriate land use policies in the City of San José. The applicable General Plan policies were presented in detail in the Regulatory Background section and are summarized below for the proposed project:

- The City's acceptable exterior noise level standard is 60 dBA DNL or less for the proposed residential land use.

- The City's standard for interior noise at the proposed residential land use is 45 dBA DNL.

The future noise environment at the project site would continue to result primarily from vehicular traffic along Carlton Avenue. The Envision San José 2040 General Plan EIR[1] provided future noise level increases in the project vicinity. From this data, traffic noise along State Route (S.R.) 17 and S.R. 85 would increase by up to 1 dBA DNL by the year 2035. This analysis assumes a similar noise increase on local roadways in the area; therefore, as a credible worst-case estimate, the future noise environment would be 59 dBA DNL at a distance of 25 feet from the centerline of Campanula Place and 65 dBA DNL at a distance of 25 feet from the centerline of Carlton Avenue.

Future Exterior Noise Environment

As noted above, the City's acceptable exterior noise level standard is 60 dBA DNL or less at residential outdoor activity areas. A review of the site plan indicates that each of the six single-family residences would have backyards. At the center of the backyard of the residence closest to Carlton Avenue, future exterior noise levels are predicted to be up to 62 dBA DNL. The project plans also indicate that a five-foot wooden fence would be built around each of the residential backyards. A five-foot "good-neighbor" wooden fence would provide 3 dBA of noise reduction in shielded outdoor activity areas. When accounting for the shielding provided by the proposed wooden fence, future exterior noise levels are calculated to be less than 60 dBA DNL in the backyard closest to Carlton Avenue. The remainder of the backyards would be set back further from the Carlton Avenue traffic noise and have future exterior noise levels less than 60 dBA DNL.

Future Interior Noise Environment

The City of San José requires that residential interior noise levels be maintained at 45 dBA DNL or less. Assuming a 1 dBA increase in noise levels in the project vicinity, the future exterior traffic noise exposure at the façade of the single-family residence closest to Carlton Avenue would be up to 62 dBA DNL.

Interior noise levels would vary depending upon the design of the buildings (relative window area to wall area) and the selected construction materials and methods. Standard residential construction provides approximately 15 dBA of exterior to interior noise reduction, assuming the windows are partially open for ventilation. Standard construction with the windows closed provides approximately 20 to 25 dBA of noise reduction in interior spaces. Where exterior noise levels range from 60 to 65 dBA DNL, the inclusion of adequate forced-air mechanical ventilation is often the method selected to reduce interior noise levels to acceptable levels by closing the windows to control noise.

For the residence closest to Carlton Avenue, the interior noise level standard would be met assuming standard construction methods with the windows closed. For the remainder of the

[1] Environmental Impact Report for the Envision San José 2040 General Plan, City of San José, June 2011.

residences, the set back from Carlton Avenue is sufficient to ensure the interior noise level standard would be met assuming standard construction methods with the windows open for ventilation. No additional noise insulation features (e.g., sound-rated construction methods) would be required.

The following measures shall be incorporated into the project's conditions of approval to ensure that interior noise levels are reduced to 45 dBA DNL or less:

- Provide a suitable form of forced-air mechanical ventilation, as determined by the local building official, for the residence closest to Carlton Avenue, so that windows can be kept closed to control noise.

NOISE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Significance Criteria

Paraphrasing from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally result in significant noise impacts if noise levels generated by the project conflict with adopted environmental standards or plans, if the project would generate excessive groundborne vibration levels, or if ambient noise levels at sensitive receivers would be substantially increased over a permanent, temporary, or periodic basis. The following criteria were used to evaluate the significance of environmental noise resulting from the project:

- **Noise Levels in Excess of Standards:** A significant noise impact would be identified if the project would expose persons to or generate noise levels that would exceed applicable noise standards presented in the General Plan or Municipal Code.

- **Groundborne Vibration from Construction:** A significant impact would be identified if the construction of the project would expose persons to excessive vibration levels. Groundborne vibration levels exceeding 0.2 in/sec PPV would have the potential to result in cosmetic damage to normal buildings.

- **Project-Generated Traffic Noise Increases:** A significant impact would be identified if traffic generated by the project would substantially increase noise levels at sensitive receivers in the vicinity. A substantial increase would occur if: a) the noise level increase is 5 dBA DNL or greater, with a future noise level of less than 60 dBA DNL, or b) the noise level increase is 3 dBA DNL or greater, with a future noise level of 60 dBA DNL or greater.

- **Construction Noise:** A significant noise impact would be identified if construction-related noise would temporarily increase ambient noise levels at sensitive receptors. Hourly average noise levels exceeding 60 dBA L_{eq} at the property lines shared with residential land uses, and the ambient by at least 5 dBA L_{eq}, for a period of more than one year would constitute a significant temporary noise increase at adjacent residential land uses.

Impact 1: **Noise Levels in Excess of Standards.** The proposed project would comply with the allowable hours of construction as established in the City's Municipal Code. **This is a less-than-significant impact.**

Chapter 20.100.450 of the City's Municipal Code establishes allowable hours of construction within 500 feet of a residential unit between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm Monday through Friday unless permission is granted with a development permit or other planning approval. No construction activities are permitted on the weekends at sites within 500 feet of a residence. This analysis assumes that construction activities will occur between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm Monday through Friday and not on weekends. Project construction will be consistent with the code limits and the impact is less-than-significant.

Mitigation Measure 1: **None required.**

Impact 2: **Exposure to Excessive Groundborne Vibration due to Construction.** Construction-related vibration levels resulting from activities at the project site would exceed 0.2 in/sec PPV at the nearest residential land uses. **This is a potentially significant impact.**

The construction of the project may generate vibration when heavy equipment or impact tools (e.g. jackhammers, hoe rams) are used. Construction activities would include demolition of existing buildings, grading, foundation work, paving, and new building framing and finishing. This analysis assumes the proposed project would not require pile driving, which can cause excessive vibration.

According to Policy EC-2.3 of the City of San José General Plan, a vibration limit of 0.08 in/sec PPV shall be used to minimize the potential for cosmetic damage to sensitive historical structures, and a vibration limit of 0.2 in/sec PPV shall be used to minimize damage at buildings of normal conventional construction. With no known historical buildings in the vicinity of the project site, a significant impact would occur if nearby buildings were exposed to vibration levels in excess of 0.2 in/sec PPV.

Table 5 presents typical vibration levels that could be expected from construction equipment at a distance of 25 feet. Project construction activities, such as drilling, the use of jackhammers, rock drills and other high-power or vibratory tools, and rolling stock equipment (tracked vehicles, compactors, etc.), may generate substantial vibration in the immediate vicinity. Jackhammers typically generate vibration levels of 0.035 in/sec PPV, and drilling typically generates vibration levels of 0.09 in/sec PPV at a distance of 25 feet. Vibration levels would vary depending on soil conditions, construction methods, and equipment used.

The residential land uses adjacent the project site include multi-family residences 5 feet southwest and 20 feet west of the project property line and single-family residences 10 feet east of the project property line. At these distances, vibration levels at the three adjacent residences would be range from 0.3 to 1.2 in/sec PPV, which exceeds the 0.2 in/sec PPV threshold. The remaining residential land uses are 70 feet north of the project property line on the opposite side of Carlton Avenue. At this distance, vibration levels would be at or below 0.07 in/sec PPV, which would be below the 0.2 in/sec PPV threshold. While the residential land uses across Carlton Avenue to the north would

not be exposed to vibration levels exceeding the 0.2 in/sec PPV threshold, the adjacent residential land uses to the west, south, and east would at times be exposed to vibration levels that would exceed the threshold where vibration levels could cause cosmetic damage to adjacent residential buildings. This is a potentially significant impact.

TABLE 5 Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment		PPV at 25 ft. (in/sec)	Approximate L_v at 25 ft. (VdB)
Pile Driver (Impact)	upper range	1.158	112
	typical	0.644	104
Pile Driver (Sonic)	upper range	0.734	105
	typical	0.170	93
Clam shovel drop		0.202	94
Hydromill (slurry wall)	in soil	0.008	66
	in rock	0.017	75
Vibratory Roller		0.210	94
Hoe Ram		0.089	87
Large bulldozer		0.089	87
Caisson drilling		0.089	87
Loaded trucks		0.076	86
Jackhammer		0.035	79
Small bulldozer		0.003	58

Source: Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, United States Department of Transportation, Office of Planning and Environment, Federal Transit Administration, May 2006.

Mitigation Measure 2:

The following measures are recommended to reduce vibration impacts from construction activities:

- Prohibit the use of heavy vibration-generating construction equipment, such as vibratory rollers or excavation using clam shell or chisel drops, and avoid dropping heavy objects or equipment within 30 feet of any adjacent residential building.

The implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

Impact 3: Substantial Permanent Noise Increase due to Project-Generated Traffic. Project-generated traffic would not cause a permanent noise level increase at existing noise-sensitive land uses in the project vicinity. **This is a less-than-significant impact.**

A significant noise impact would occur if traffic generated by the project would substantially increase noise levels at sensitive receptors in the project vicinity. A substantial increase would occur if: a) the noise level increase is 5 dBA DNL or greater, with a future noise level of less than 60 dBA DNL, or b) the noise level increase is 3 dBA DNL or greater, with a future noise level of

60 dBA DNL or greater. Existing ambient levels, based on the measurements made in the project vicinity, exceed 60 dBA DNL; therefore, a significant impact would occur if project-generated traffic would permanently increase noise levels by 3 dBA DNL.

Traffic noise levels from Carlton Avenue dominate the noise environment in the immediate project vicinity. Existing traffic volumes along Carlton Avenue would have to double as a result of the project for noise levels to substantially increase (i.e., by a minimum of 3 dBA DNL). The proposed six single-family residences would generate approximately six trips during the peak hour and approximately 70 daily trips. Although the individual car pass-bys will be audible, the relatively low volume of additional traffic along roadways serving the site would not measurably increase the ambient noise environment on an hourly average or daily average basis. Therefore, the noise level increase attributable to the project would be considered to be less-than-significant.

Mitigation Measure 3: None required.

Impact 4: Substantial Temporary Noise Increase due to Construction. Existing noise-sensitive land uses would not be exposed to construction noise levels in excess of the significance thresholds for a period of more than one year. **This is a less-than-significant impact**.

Noise impacts resulting from construction depend upon the noise generated by various pieces of construction equipment, the timing and duration of noise-generating activities, and the distance between construction noise sources and noise-sensitive areas. Construction noise impacts primarily result when construction activities occur during noise-sensitive times of the day (e.g., early morning, evening, or nighttime hours), the construction occurs in areas immediately adjoining noise-sensitive land uses, or when construction lasts over extended periods of time.

Where noise from construction activities exceeds 60 dBA L_{eq} and exceeds the ambient noise environment by at least 5 dBA L_{eq} at noise-sensitive residential uses in the project vicinity for a period exceeding one year, the impact would be considered significant. Additionally, the City considers significant construction noise impacts to have occurred if a project located within 500 feet of residential uses would involve substantial noise-generating activities (such as building demolition, grading, excavation, pile driving, use of impact equipment, or building framing) continuing for more than 12 months, according to Policy EC-1.7 of the General Plan.

Construction activities generate considerable amounts of noise, especially during earth-moving activities when heavy equipment is used. Table 6 presents the typical range of hourly average noise levels generated by different phases of construction measured at a distance of 50 feet. Hourly average noise levels generated by excavation equipment associated with the project are calculated to range from 71 to 89 dBA L_{eq} measured at a distance of 50 feet. Construction-generated noise levels drop off at a rate of about 6 dBA per doubling of the distance between the source and receptor. Shielding by buildings or terrain often result in lower construction noise levels at distant receptors.

TABLE 6 Typical Ranges of Construction Noise Levels at 50 Feet, L_{eq} (dBA)

	Domestic Housing		Office Building, Hotel, Hospital, School, Public Works		Industrial Parking Garage, Religious Amusement & Recreations, Store, Service Station		Public Works Roads & Highways, Sewers, and Trenches	
	I	**II**	**I**	**II**	**I**	**II**	**I**	**II**
Ground Clearing	83	83	84	84	84	83	84	84
Excavation	88	75	89	79	89	71	88	78
Foundations	81	81	78	78	77	77	88	88
Erection	81	65	87	75	84	72	79	78
Finishing	88	72	89	75	89	74	84	84
I - All pertinent equipment present at site. **II** - Minimum required equipment present at site.								

Source: U.S.E.P.A., Legal Compilation on Noise, Vol. 1, p. 2-104, 1973.

Typically, small construction projects do not generate significant noise impacts when the duration of the noise generating construction period is limited to one year or less. Construction noises associated with projects of this type are disturbances that are necessary for the construction or repair of buildings and structures in urban areas. Reasonable regulation of the hours of construction, as well as regulation of the arrival and operation of heavy equipment and the delivery of construction materials, are necessary to protect the health and safety of persons, promote the general welfare of the community, and maintain the quality of life. Limiting the hours when construction can occur to daytime hours is often a simple method to reduce the potential for noise impacts. In areas immediately adjacent to construction, controls such as constructing temporary noise barriers and utilizing "quiet" construction equipment can also reduce the potential for noise impacts. Project construction is expected to last approximately four months; therefore, the temporary noise impact resulting from project construction activities would be considered less-than-significant.

Mitigation Measure 4: None required.