

Noise Regulations Ordinance 847



Q: What is the definition of “noise”?

A: Any loud, discordant or disagreeable sound.

Q: How is the noise measured?

A: In most cases, the noise is measured by what is audible to the human ear per Sec. 6.6 since most cases are regarding what is heard.

Q: Are there instances where a sound level meter is not necessary to prove a noise violation?

A: Yes. In certain cases there are specified hours or specific distances in which sound may not be audible. For example, audio equipment may not be audible from inside a different inhabited dwelling between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., or at any time at a distance greater than 200 feet prior to 10 p.m. and 100 feet after 10 p.m. Other sources with similar restrictions include motor vehicle sound systems, power tools, live music, and sound amplification equipment.

Q: What are acceptable levels of noise?

A: The ordinance lays out allowable noise levels for permitted businesses by decibel and audible to human ear levels permissible but not to exceed certain distances at certain hours.

Q: Are any sources exempt from these provisions?

A: Yes. Some exempt sources include government facilities, agricultural operations on land designated for agricultural use by the Riverside County General Plan. School activities, public safety personnel, heat and air conditioning systems, safety, warning, and alarm devices are also exempt.

Q: What are the penalties for violating the noise ordinance?

A: The first two violations within 180 days are infractions with minimum fines of \$500 and \$750, respectively. Any violation after that is a maximum fine of \$1,000 per occurrence.

Q: Are there any exceptions in case someone may need permission for an event?

A: Yes. There is an application process for construction-related exceptions, single event exceptions, & continuous events exceptions managed through the Building and Safety and Planning Departments.



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