



Date: March 17, 2017

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *[Signature]*

From: Amy J. Bodek, Director of Development Services *[Signature]*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **General Plan Noise Element Update**

Every City in California is required under State Law to adopt and maintain an updated General Plan. The General Plan is made up of seven mandatory elements. The City completed an update of its Mobility Element in 2013, the Housing Element in 2014, and is currently finalizing an update to the Land Use Element, along with an optional Urban Design Element.

The City is now embarking on a planning effort to update the Noise Element. The City's Noise Element was last updated in 1975 and was implemented through a 1977 Noise Ordinance. Since that time, the City's physical makeup, population, regional context, and the regulatory guidance around noise have changed significantly.

The Noise Element is envisioned to provide a tailored approach to noise policy across neighborhoods, recognizing the unique characteristics of mixed-use downtown and major transportation corridor environments. The updated Noise Element will contain a set of goals, policies, and implementation measures to limit noise exposure, particularly to sensitive receptors (such as areas with housing, hospital, school or day care center uses).

One significant component of this effort is a multi-pronged community engagement strategy, including traditional stakeholder meetings and focus groups, augmented by online participation and social media communications. An online mapping tool will be launched by March 31, 2017, to collect specific comments and photos from a broad cross-section of the City's population. Social media channels will be used to promote the online mapping tool and provide opportunities to post video, audio, and text comments. Two Planning Commission study sessions are anticipated; the first is scheduled for April 20, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Christopher Koontz, Advance Planning Officer, at (562) 570-6288.

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