Since 2016, the Department of Development Services has been working on an update to the Noise Element of the General Plan. The City generally regulates noise and vibration through the Noise Element of the General Plan and the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) Noise Ordinance. Major sources of noise in the City include traffic, rail, aircraft, and stationary.

The Noise Element, one of seven State-mandated General Plan Elements, was last updated in 1975. Since that time, the City's physical makeup, population, regional context, and the regulatory guidance around noise have changed significantly. The update to the Noise Element aims to provide a tailored approach to noise policy across neighborhoods, recognizing the unique characteristics of a mixed-use downtown and major transportation corridor environments. The Noise Element will establish updated policies that will guide how noise and land use compatibility issues are addressed throughout the City.

The City released the Noise Element (Draft Plan) on May 17, 2019, and it is available online for public review on the Department of Development Services website. Both an Initial Study and Notice of Preparation are available as part of the required environmental review for the project. Release of the Notice of Preparation marks the beginning of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Draft Plan and will kick off a 30-day public comment period that will end on June 17, 2019. Finally, the Planning Bureau will host a public open house on the Draft Plan on May 30, 2019. The public and all interested parties are invited to attend the open house to learn more about the Draft Plan and the forthcoming environmental review process. Information regarding the open house is presented in a subsequent section.

Community Engagement for the Noise Element

To provide information on the Draft Plan and identify potential issues, a variety of community engagement strategies were employed in 2017 and 2018. The Draft Plan has incorporated a significant online outreach component, including a project website and opportunities to provide input through the website, email, Facebook, and Twitter. Another innovative online outreach strategy included “Listen Up Long Beach,” an online mapping tool that crowdsourced data from residents and members of the public to report local noise issues and observations through their smart phone or other device. Outreach efforts also included counter cards placed in various city locations.
Materials have been provided in English and Spanish. Additionally, a series of meetings were conducted with stakeholders from February 2017 through April 2017.

A Planning Commission study session was conducted on April 20, 2017, to introduce the Noise Element effort and solicit comments from commissioners and members of the public. Responses received from the numerous outreach efforts were recorded, studied, and used to inform a Draft Existing Conditions Report (released in early 2018), as well as the Draft Plan.

**Noise Element Development Process**

Since the release of the Draft Existing Conditions Report in 2018, staff has been preparing the Draft Plan. The Initial Study that has been completed for the project indicates that the Noise Element has potentially significant impacts in the areas of Noise, Transportation/Traffic, and Land Use/Planning. The draft EIR will further study and disclose potential impacts and feasible mitigation measures for the Draft Plan. It is anticipated that upon adoption of the Noise Element, the City's Noise Ordinance will be amended, as appropriate, to implement the Noise Element.

**Special Events Noise Study**

In April 2018, Council District 2 requested the City Manager to study the impact of amplified sound from City-permitted outdoor events in Downtown Long Beach on adjacent residences and neighborhoods. The City Manager was also requested to develop recommendations that Long Beach may be able to implement to help address concerns associated with amplified volume on adjacent residences and nearby businesses. The City Manager’s Office is developing a Special Events Noise Study in a separate, but concurrent process to the Noise Element update.

**Invitation to Noise Element Open House – May 30, 2019**

The community is invited to attend a citywide Noise Element Open House (Attachment A), on Thursday, May 30, 2019, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., at Bixby Park Social Hall, at 130 Cherry Avenue. The purpose of the open house is to share information about and solicit feedback on the draft Noise Element.

**Project Webpage**

The draft Noise Element is posted to following Web page:
http://www.lbds.info/noise_element_update/.

LFT:CK: PD: JL
P:\Planning\TFF Memos
If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (562) 570-6428.

ATTACHMENT:
A. NOISE ELEMENT OPEN HOUSE INVITATION FOR MAY 30, 2019

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
    DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
    LAURA DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
    TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
    KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
    REBECCA GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER
    CHRISTOPHER KOONTZ, PLANNING BUREAU MANAGER
NOISE ELEMENT
OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, May 30, 2019
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Bixby Park Social Hall
130 Cherry Ave.

Light refreshments to be provided.