Welcome + Agenda

1. Special Event Study Context
2. Noise Metrics and Measurements
3. Special Events Study
4. Special Events and Filming Practices
Special Events Study

Context
Special Events Study Context

- Three related efforts:
  - **Special Events Sound Study**
    - A study of the impact of amplified sound from city-permitted outdoor events in Downtown
  - **Noise Element Update**
    - Required General Plan element that guides how noise and land use compatibility are addressed throughout the City
  - **Noise Ordinance Update**
    - Update implementing ordinance to make consistent with updated Noise Element

What is the Noise Element

- Establishes **policies** that will guide how noise and land use compatibility are addressed throughout the City
- Addresses **noise from a range of sources**, including special events and many others
- One of seven state-mandated General Plan Elements
- Last updated in 1975
- Implemented by several ordinances

Noise Element—Process

- Community Outreach and Engagement
  - “Listen Up, Long Beach” (Spring 2017)
  - Sound Study Focus Group (October 17, 2018)
  - Noise Element Open House (May 30, 2019)

- Studies/Background Reports
  - Draft Existing Conditions Report (February 2018)
  - Special Events Noise Analysis (July 2019)

- Draft Plan
  - Draft Noise Element (May 2019)

- Public Review Draft—YOU ARE HERE
  - Refine and adopt Noise Element
  - EIR
  - Update Noise Ordinance
## Noise Element - Chapter 5: Noise Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Policies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place Type Characteristics &amp; Land Use Compatibility</td>
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<td>Mobility</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Noise Element—Special Events Policies

Strategy: Balance the needs of special events while prioritizing the well-being of residents

1. Ensure **consistency and clear communication** between various City departments

2. Provide an efficient and standardized process for **Special Events permitting**

3. Implement and enforce procedures related to **noise policies and conditions of approval** for large special events

4. Communicate with residents to increase **transparency and timely information**

5. Consider **geographic distribution** of special events

6. Stay up-to-date with **sound mitigation technology** for special events
Existing Regulatory Setting

- **City of Long Beach**
  - Development Services
    - General Plan Noise Element
    - Noise Ordinance (LBMC 8.80)
  - Health Department
    - Enforce Noise Ordinance (LBMC 8.80)
  - Special Events and Filming Office
    - Special Events Ordinance (LBMC 5.60)
    - Applications, Scheduling, Noticing, Staffing, Complaints
    - Exempt from Noise Ordinance standards
  - Long Beach Airport
    - Airport Noise Compatibility Ordinance (LBMC 16.43)

- **State of California**
  - Health and Safety Code Sections 46000 – 46080
  - California Building Code
Noise Fundamentals

- **Sound**: vibrations that travel through the air or another medium and can be heard when they reach a person's ear or measured by a microphone.

- **Noise**: unwanted sounds.

- **Pitch**: This is a characteristic of sound that is present in Hertz (Hz) and is the measure of cycles.

- **Loudness**: Strength of a sound or amplitude of the wave.
Noise Fundamentals

- **Ambient Noise** – this term defines the noise level prior to or immediately after the occurrence of a new source.

- **Perceived Noise** – perception is almost always relative and with noise is no exception. Perception can be discussed when talking about a comparison of events or a change in noise level from one point in time to the next.
Bels...or decibels?

Q: What is a decibel?
A: Technically, a decibel is the ratio of the pressure created by a source relative to a reference pressure level.

Q: Why decibel and not Bel?
A: Because this ratio is logarithmic, we use the decibel essentially for “reporting purposes”. 6.7 Bels is the same as 67 decibels.

Q: What is the purpose of a logarithmic scale?
A: The ear is capable of hearing a very large range of sounds: the ratio of the sound pressure that causes permanent damage from short exposure to the limit that (undamaged) ears can hear is more than a million. To deal with such a range, logarithmic units are useful.
The A, C, Z’s of Sound Weighting

- **A**: This is the most common weighting, identified as dBA. The ultimate purpose for this weighting is to assess impacts to humans, adjusting for the human ear sensitivity, and to ensure the minimization of hearing loss.

- **C**: This weighting is used typically for VERY loud noises (120 dB+). It is at times used for sounds that are heavily influenced by low-frequencies (bass-type concerts). While this seems like an automatic scale to be used for all live music, it may not always be appropriate. As noted by many professionals, there is a necessity for much more research in this area of sound study to come to more concrete conclusions.

- **Z = Flat**: Used interchangeably, the Z-weighting applies no weighting based on frequency to a sound measured.
The A, C, Z's of Sound Weighting
40 + 40 is actually 43. Because we are using logarithms, the addition of 40 dB to 40 dB is 43 dB. (A difference of 0 dB, which adds 3 dB to equal 43 dB)

80 + 70 is actually 80. Similarly, when Source A creates a noise level that is 10 dB more (difference) than Source B, effectively, source B is not audible and numerically does not influence the receptor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tr>
<td>up to 1 dB</td>
<td>3 dB</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 to 3 dB</td>
<td>2 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 9 dB</td>
<td>1 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 dB or more</td>
<td>0 dB</td>
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</table>
Not All Microphones are Created Equal

- Regulations on Equipment.
  - American National Standards Institute (ANSI) sets **performance and accuracy tolerances**; the type or class of a sound level meter defines the device’s accuracy.
  - **Type 1** is used for precision measurements in the field, and **Type 2** is used for general-purpose measurements.

- What makes a noise meter ‘Type 1’?
  - The accuracy of the microphone is the limiting factor. ANSI requires that a Type 1 noise meter measure within 0.7 dB and 1.0 dB for Type 2.
Special Events
Sound Study
Purpose of Study

- Analyze existing regulations from various City Departments involved (Special Events, Health, Planning)
- Discover new ideas, technologies, and approaches in cities with a similar environment for Special Events

Content of Study

1. Introduction: Background/Purpose, Fundamentals of Noise and Vibration
2. Existing Regulatory Setting: State, City (including Development Services, Health Department, Office of Special Events and Filming)
3. Case Studies: Pasadena, Nashville, Austin, Seattle
4. Key Findings/Options
What is a Special Event?

- **What is classified as a Special Event?** (LBMC 5.60.010.H)
  - Organized event of **75 or more people** in public right-of-way or publicly owned space
  - Open to **public or private**

- **Three Categories** of special events:
  - **Tier I**: Free and open to the public, no setup, no alcohol
  - **Tier II**: Paid entry, open to public OR private event with donation (Charitable Solicitation Permit required)
  - **Tier III**: Paid entry, exclusive use, requires extensive setup in enclosed venue
Previous Community Engagement

- **Summarized in Chapter 1 of Study**

- **Sound Study Focus Group** (October 17, 2018)
  - Attendees included City staff, consultants, representatives from the convention center, Live Nation, and ORCA members
  - City received feedback from the community regarding:
    - Communications and coordination
    - Sound metrics and limitations (sound levels and hours)
    - Geographic distribution of events
    - New technologies (example, “silent discos”)
    - Transparency of process and opportunity for more community input
    - Enforcement and controls

- **Noise Element Open House** (May 20, 2019)
  - Focus was on Noise Element, however, information regarding the Sound Study was available.
Also Practiced in LB

- Special Events Office processes applications for review by City departments
- Event permit conditions regarding noise apply mostly to amplified sound on public property with the exception of commercial use of sound amplifying equipment in Old Pasadena.
- Established ambient noise levels prior to a special event
  - Event noise should not exceed 10 to 15 dBA over the ambient level
Nashville Best Practices

- **Less Restrictive Practices**
  - Emphasis on relevance of music in City’s history
  - Special events approved by State or City government are exempt from noise conditions
  - Live music is exempt from noise restrictions
Austin Best Practices

- Also Practiced in LB
  - City department dedicated to oversee events and coordinate with other City departments
  - Outdoor music venues must apply for an outdoor music venue permit.
  - Sound impact evaluations may be performed, and the following conditions may be imposed:
    - Limits on attendance, capacity, decibel levels, and hours of operation
    - Restrictions for stage construction and orientation; size, location and orientation of speakers;
    - Appropriate sound buffering; and on-site decibel meters

- Less Restrictive Practices
  - Hours and levels of amplified sound are generous
    - Louder levels and later at night allowed.
  - Spring Festival Season allows for more generous hours of noise

- Not Currently practiced in LB
  - Comprehensive guidebook containing all procedures and regulations related to special events
  - A “responsible party” must be designated for each event
Seattle Best Practices

Already Practiced in LB
- City maintained webpage to inform the public and track application
- City department dedicated to oversee events and coordinate with other City departments
- Specific noise level conditions based on land use
- Design specifics, such as speaker directions, are required for setup
- Noise measurements during events

Not Currently practiced in LB
- The event organizer must hire a third-party noise monitor to be responsible for monitoring set-up and dB levels during the special event and to utilize noise prediction software
- Noise monitoring technology creates log of levels which can be easily referenced in the event of a noise complaint
Special Events Process and Actions
Application and Review

**Application**
- Available online through the Special Events & Filming website
- Special events case manager assigned
- Application circulated for review through various City departments including Fire, Police, Public Works, and Health
- Coordination for requirements as necessary (ABC, ADA, etc.)

**Review Process**
- Depending on the characteristics and scale of the event, conditions of approval are instated, such as limited hours, sound mitigation measures, monitoring methods, and community notifications
- Meeting with special events to review, resolve, and finalize
Locations and Scheduling

- To ensure one area isn’t over exposed to repeated events, **Special Events tracks and limits the use of places and venues**

- **Hours**
  - All special events occurring in and around the Shoreline Dr. area and on the beach end at 10:00 PM
  - Events at Queen Mary’s Harry Bridges Memorial Park end at 10:00 PM Mon-Thurs, and 11:00 PM Friday and Saturday

- **Scheduling**
  - No events allowed in downtown events parks between November and February
  - No events except for runs/walks/youth sporting activities allowed at Shoreline Park, Marina Green, Rainbow Lagoon Park, and Alamitos Beach from February 1st until the end of the Grand Prix (April)
Conditions and Mitigation

**Amplified Speaker Conditions**
- Speakers must face away from residents along Ocean Blvd, towards the water. There may be exceptions for events needing unique configurations or for low sound level events.
- Directional Speakers and/or Amplified Speakers on a delay system is required for larger events except Grand Prix, Pride, and the Marathon.
- These requirements are depicted in the event site plan and are confirmed by assigned city staff.

**Additional Sound Mitigation**
- For larger events, Special Events may require the use of acoustical sound barriers (sound diffusing blankets, foam, etc.) to be placed at the concert stage, depending on size and set-up.
Sound Monitoring and Reporting

- **City Staffing at Events**
  - **Special Events Department** has at least one staff member on site for the duration of all major special events.
  - **Health Department** has at least one staff member on site for all large events conducting sound readings.

- **Monitoring**
  - **Sound Level Meter**: EXTECH Digital Datalogging Sound Level Meter - Model: HD600, Calibrator: EXTECH 1KHz / 94db Sound Level Calibrator - Model Number: 407744
  - Readings are taken at the venue, at the docks, and at the residential towers along Ocean Blvd.
Complaints, Response, Enforcement

- **Complaints**
  - **After-hours hotline** for messages and concerns regarding events. All messages left on the after-hours hotline are time/date stamped and sent directly to the on-site Special Events staff in real-time.

- **Response + Enforcement**
  - Any written or verbal complaints are included in the permit file
  - When/if the event returns, mitigation measures for these complaints are addressed
Community Noticing

- **Every month**, Special Events staff **emails and/or hand delivers Special Event Notices** to each residential building on Ocean Blvd. and anyone else that will be affected by the events.
- This notification process was agreed upon to keep residents apprised of any and all upcoming events.
- A **calendar** of events is listed **three months in advance** on our website, [filmlongbeach.com](http://filmlongbeach.com).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Event Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th Annual LB Lobster Festival</td>
<td>September 6, 2019</td>
<td>5:00 PM - 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Rainbow Lagoon</td>
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<td>September 7, 2019</td>
<td>12:00 PM - 10:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 8, 2019</td>
<td>12:00 PM - 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Rainbow Lagoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old School Explosion</td>
<td>September 7, 2019</td>
<td>2:00 PM - 11:00 PM</td>
<td>Harry Bridges Memorial Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Run Series Long Beach</td>
<td>September 8, 2019</td>
<td>7:00 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Shoreline Park/ Shoreline Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aloha Run</td>
<td>September 15, 2019</td>
<td>7:00 AM - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Shoreline Park</td>
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<td>QM - Doggie Paradise</td>
<td>September 14, 2019</td>
<td>11:00 AM - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Harry Bridges Memorial Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit Beer Festival</td>
<td>September 14, 2019</td>
<td>12:00 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
<td>Marina Green</td>
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<td>Focus at the Piko</td>
<td>September 15, 2019</td>
<td>10:00 AM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Shoreline Park</td>
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<td>Queen Mary's Night Market</td>
<td>September 20, 2019</td>
<td>10:00 AM - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Queen Mary Area 6</td>
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<td>10th Annual Japanese Classic Car Show</td>
<td>September 21, 2019</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Marina Green</td>
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<td>Children's Clinic Beach Walk</td>
<td>September 28, 2019</td>
<td>7:00 AM - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Shoreline Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Tastes Good—CANCELLED</td>
<td>September 26, 2019</td>
<td>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Marina Green</td>
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<td>Butterfly Walk/Run &amp; Flutter</td>
<td>September 29, 2019</td>
<td>8:00 AM - 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Shoreline Park</td>
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<td>AAA's Distracted Driving</td>
<td>October 5, 2019</td>
<td>7:30 AM - 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Marina Green</td>
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<td>Pagan Pride Day, LA</td>
<td>October 6, 2019</td>
<td>10:00 AM - 5:30 PM</td>
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<td>2019 Jet Blue Marathon</td>
<td>October 12, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 AM - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Marina Green and Waterfront</td>
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<td>Strides for Disability</td>
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<td>Walk to End Alzheimer's</td>
<td>October 26, 2019</td>
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<td>Zombie Walk</td>
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<td>Karaoke 5K</td>
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<td>November 2, 2019</td>
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<td>Rainbow Lagoon</td>
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<td>November 3, 2019</td>
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Practices Implemented from Sound Study

- Greater distribution/dispersion of events at various parks
- Monthly notification sent to residences and businesses reflecting three months of events
  - Supplemental notices sent in the event of a substantial impact (determined by size and scope)
  - Notifications include name, time, and date of events
  - Recipients include anyone on City distribution list, including Shoreline Village, ORCA, SITE Centers, Boat Owners (contact Office of Special Events at (562) 570-5333 to be added to the distribution list)
- Stationary sound monitoring devices in addition to staff-operated devices
- Sound readings posted on filmlongbeach.com, including previous events
Stationary Sound Monitoring Devices

- Recent Example - Implemented at Alchemy Tour on August 17, 2019
  - Located at Alamitos Beach, Linden Avenue, and the Marina
Potential Future Implementation Measures

- **Sound monitoring boxes** in downtown event parks during summer months
  - Has already been tested for consistent, reliable results
  - Trial results available on [filmlongbeach.com](http://filmlongbeach.com)
  - New devices will give **real-time sound readings** to City staff
  - New devices can utilize a predetermined noise threshold, with notifications sent to City staff and event sound engineer

- Implement penalty fee structure

- Website improvements
  - Email notification
  - Map of special events
Questions?

City of Long Beach
Office of Special Events and Filming
(562) 570-5333