



# NOISE TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

**To:** Adam Finestone, City Planner, City of Escondido

From: Sharon Toland, Senior Technical Specialist, and Kelsey Hawkins, Noise Technical Analyst/

Project Manager

RE: Analysis of Permanent Vehicle Noise Impacts for the East Valley Specific Plan

**Date:** March 24, 2023

**CC:** Diane Sandman, Vice President, Environmental + Planning Consulting, Harris & Associates

Att: 1, FHWA Noise Prediction Model Results

## Introduction

This memorandum provides the results of Harris & Associates' analysis of the potential vehicle noise impacts from implementation of the East Valley Specific Plan (EVSP or Project) in the City of Escondido (City). The Project is immediately adjacent to and east of downtown. The EVSP is consistent with and implements the vision for the East Valley Target Area as identified in the Escondido General Plan; however, the potential impacts of the land use mix and rezoning were not evaluated at the Specific Plan level in the certified 2012 General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update, and Climate Action Plan (CAP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). Therefore, this analysis focuses on the land use and zoning changes in the EVSP.

The EVSP Area (i.e., the 191-acre area in the City covered by the EVSP) is in central Escondido, immediately adjacent to and east of downtown. The EVSP Area is generally bounded by Escondido Creek to the north; Harding Street to the east; East Grand Avenue and East 2nd Avenue to the south; and North Hickory, South Hickory, and North Fig Streets to the west. The EVSP Area is adjacent to a variety of neighborhoods: Downtown Escondido to the west, residential neighborhoods to the north and south, and large commercial shopping centers to the east. The Escondido Transit Center is an approximately 20-minute walk southwest of the EVSP Area, and multiple transit stops exist throughout the EVSP Area.

The goal of the EVSP is to encourage new housing opportunities, improve economic vibrancy, and allow for flexibility in use and implementation as the EVSP Area changes over time. The EVSP rezones the existing 191-acre EVSP Area to cluster uses to create a more cohesive pattern and design with a goal of revitalizing the physical character and economic health of the community. The EVSP presents goals, policies, design standards, and implementation strategies for topics such as land use, mobility, and parks. The EVSP provides guidance for private development and public investment through 2035. The EVSP includes the EVSP Density Transfer Program to enable the City to transfer densities from undeveloped or underutilized properties in the EVSP Area to other properties in the EVSP Area to enable a developing property to increase its density beyond what current zoning would permit.

## **Noise Analysis Background**

The California Department of Transportation defines "noise" as sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or undesired. Sound pressure levels are quantified using a logarithmic ratio of actual sound pressures to a reference pressure squared, called "bels." A bel is typically divided into tenths, or decibels (dB). Sound pressure alone is not a reliable indicator of loudness because frequency (or pitch) also affects how receptors respond to sound. To account for the pitch of sounds and the corresponding sensitivity of human hearing to them, the raw sound pressure level is adjusted with a frequency-dependent A-weighting scale that is stated in units of decibels (dBA) (Caltrans 2013).

A receptor's response to a given noise may vary depending on the sound level, duration of exposure, character of the noise sources, time of day during which the noise is experienced, and activity affected by the noise. Activities most affected by noise include rest, relaxation, recreation, study, and communications. In consideration of these factors, different measures of noise exposure have been developed to quantify the extent of the effects from a variety of noise levels. The community noise equivalent level (CNEL) is the average equivalent A-weighted sound level over a 24-hour period. This measurement applies weights to noise levels during evening and nighttime hours to compensate for the increased disturbance response of people at those times. CNEL is the equivalent sound level for a 24-hour period with a +five dBA weighting applied to sound occurring between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. and a +10 dBA weighting applied to sound occurring between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (City of Escondido 2012a).

The dB level of a sound decreases (or attenuates) as the distance from the source of that sound increases. For a single point source, such as a piece of mechanical equipment, the sound level typically decreases by approximately six dBA for each doubling of distance from the source. Sound that originates from a linear (or "line") source, such as vehicular traffic, attenuates by approximately three dBA per doubling of distance. Other contributing factors that affect sound reception include ground absorption, natural topography that provides a natural barrier, meteorological conditions, and the presence of human-made obstacles, such as buildings and sound barriers (Caltrans 2013).

Noise-sensitive land uses include noise receptors (receivers) where an excessive amount of noise interferes with normal activities. The Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element lists residential development, care facilities, schools, churches, transient lodging, hospitals, healthcare facilities, libraries, museums, cultural facilities, golf courses, and passive recreational sites as sensitive receptors. Community noise sources, defined as "common indoor and outdoor noise sources," are also identified in the Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element. Commercial, general office, and industrial land uses are not considered noise-sensitive land uses. Community noise sources of note include the City's roadway network (including Interstate 15 and State Route 78), North County Transit District's SPRINTER commuter rail service, two firing ranges, and flight operations to and from McClellan-Palomar Airport and helicopter flights to and from Palomar Medical Center Escondido (City of Escondido 2012a).

Vehicle noise is the main source of ambient noise in the EVSP Area. The noise contours modeled in the certified 2012 General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update, and CAP PEIR (City of Escondido 2012b) identify noise levels up to 70 dBA CNEL along Valley Parkway in the EVSP Area and noise levels from 60 to 65 dBA CNEL on several EVSP Area roadways, including Washington Avenue, Grand Avenue, Ash Street/San Pasqual Valley Road, Date Street, and Fig Street.

# **Regulatory Setting**

#### **Escondido General Plan**

The Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element establishes noise and land use compatibility standards and outlines goals and policies to achieve these standards. New projects in the City are required to meet the noise exposure compatibility guidelines listed in Table 1, Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element Community Noise Exposure Levels (dBA CNEL), to determine the compatibility of land uses when evaluating proposed development projects (Noise Policy 5.1). A land use in an area identified as "normally

acceptable" indicates that standard construction methods attenuate exterior noise to an acceptable indoor noise level and that people could conduct outdoor activities with minimal noise interference. Land uses that fall into the "conditionally acceptable" noise environment include noise insulation features included in the design. Conventional construction, but with closed windows and fresh air supply systems or air conditioning, usually suffice. For land uses where the exterior noise level falls within the "normally unacceptable" range, new construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development proceeds, a detailed analysis of noise reduction requirements must be made with noise insulation features included in the design. For land uses where the exterior noise levels fall within the "clearly unacceptable" range, new construction generally should not be undertaken.

Following are other Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element policies relevant to ambient vehicle noise:

- Noise Policy 5.2: Apply a CNEL of 60 dB or less for single-family uses and 65 dB CNEL or less for multi-family uses as goals where outdoor use is a major consideration (back yards and single-family housing developments, and recreation areas in multi-family housing developments), and recognize that such levels may not necessarily be achievable in all residential areas.
- Noise Policy 5.3: Require noise attenuation for outdoor spaces in all developments where projected incremental exterior noise levels exceed those shown in Table 2, Exterior Incremental Noise Impact Standards for Noise-Sensitive Land Uses (dBA).
- **Noise Policy 5.4:** Require noise attenuation for new noise-sensitive receptors, which include residential, daycare facilities, schools, churches, transient lodging, hotels, motels, hospitals, healthcare facilities, and libraries, if the projected interior noise standard of 45 dBA CNEL is exceeded.

Table 1. Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element Community Noise Exposure Levels (dBA CNEL)

| Land Use Category  | Normally<br>Acceptable | Conditionally<br>Acceptable | Normally<br>Unacceptable | Clearly<br>Unacceptable |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Residential – single-family, duplex, mobile home           | 50–60                  | 60–70                       | 70–75                    | 75–85                   |
| Residential – multi-family, residential mixed use          | 50–65                  | 60–70                       | 70–75                    | 75–85                   |
| Transient lodging, motels, hotels                          | 50–65                  | 60–70                       | 70–80                    | 80–85                   |
| Schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, nursing homes     | 50–65                  | 60–70                       | 70–80                    | 80–85                   |
| Auditoriums, concert halls, amphitheaters                  | NA                     | 50–70                       | 65–85                    | NA                      |
| Sports arenas, outdoor spectator sports                    | NA                     | 50–75                       | 70–85                    | NA                      |
| Playgrounds, parks   | 50–70                  | NA                          | 67–75                    | 73–85                   |
| Golf courses, riding stables, water recreation, cemeteries | 50–75                  | NA                          | 70–80                    | 80–85                   |
| Office buildings, business commercial and professional     | 50-70                  | 67–73                       | 75–85                    | NA                      |
| Industrial, manufacturing, utilities, agriculture          | 50–75                  | 70–80                       | 80–85                    | NA                      |

Source: City of Escondido 2012a.

Notes: CNEL = community noise equivalent level; dBA = A-weighted decibel; NA = not applicable

Table 2. Exterior Incremental Noise Impact Standards for Noise-Sensitive Land Uses (dBA)

| Residences and Buildings W | here People Normally Sleep <sup>1</sup> | Institutional Land Uses with Primarily Daytime and<br>Evening Uses <sup>2</sup> |                           |  |
|----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|--|
| Existing CNEL              | Allowable Noise Increment               | Existing Peak-Hour Leq  | Allowable Noise Increment |  |
| 45                         | 8                                       | 45  | 12                        |  |
| 50                         | 5                                       | 50  | 9                         |  |
| 55                         | 3                                       | 55  | 6                         |  |
| 60                         | 2                                       | 60  | 5                         |  |
| 65                         | 1                                       | 65  | 3                         |  |
| 70                         | 1                                       | 70  | 3                         |  |
| 75                         | 0                                       | 75  | 1                         |  |
| 80                         | 0                                       | 80  | 0                         |  |

Source: City of Escondido 2012a.

**Notes:** CNEL = community noise equivalent level; dBA = A-weighted decibel;  $L_{eq}$  = equivalent continuous sound level Noise levels are measured at the property line of the noise-sensitive land use.

### Escondido Municipal Code – Noise Ordinance

The Escondido Noise Ordinance establishes prohibitions for disturbing, excessive, or offensive noise and provisions, such as sound level limits, to secure and promote public health, comfort, safety, peace, and quiet for the City's residents. The Escondido Noise Ordinance applies to individual noise sources rather than overall ambient noise levels (City of Escondido 2018). The noise standards established in the Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element are the applicable standards for exposure to vehicle noise levels.

# **Standards of Significance**

Implementation of the Project would result in a significant direct impact if it would result in an increase in vehicle noise levels that would exceed the incremental noise impact standards listed in Table 2 compared to noise levels without project implementation, or result in the development of new sensitive receptors in areas exposed to noise levels in excess of the compatibility standards listed in Table 1. A significant cumulative impact will occur related to vehicle noise if cumulative growth results in future noise levels that exceed the noise impact standards listed in Table 2 compared to existing conditions. The Project will result in a cumulatively considerable contribution if the Project's contribution exceeds the allowable noise increment.

# **Impact Analysis**

The following analysis includes an analysis of increases in vehicle noise that may result from project implementation and the potential for new sensitive receptors to be exposed to incompatible noise levels.

#### **Permanent Increase in Vehicle Noise**

The potential for implementation of the Project to permanently increase ambient noise levels as a result of increased traffic was assessed using standard noise modeling equations adapted from the Federal Highway Administration Noise Prediction Model (Attachment 1, FHWA Noise Prediction Model Results). The modeling calculations take into account the posted vehicle speed, median width, average daily trip volume, and estimated vehicle mix. Traffic volumes and roadway characteristics with buildout of the Project were obtained from Linscott, Law & Greenspan, Engineers (LLG) (2023), and modeling conducted for the Escondido General Plan (City of Escondido 2012b). Noise levels were calculated at 50 feet from the centerline of each roadway segment. Generally, noise from heavily traveled roadways experience a decrease of approximately three dBA for every

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This category includes residences, hospitals, and hotels where a nighttime sensitivity to noise is assumed to be of utmost importance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This category includes schools, libraries, theaters, and churches where it is important to avoid interference with activities such as speech, meditation, and concentration on reading material.

doubling of distance. The actual sound level at any receptor location depends on such factors as the source-to-receptor distance and the presence of intervening structures, barriers, vegetation, and topography; therefore, the result of the calculations is the worst-case scenario.

The 12 traffic analysis study area segments that will experience the greatest increase in vehicle trips as a result of project implementation (increase of 3,700 average daily trips or more) are modeled to represent the potential changes in traffic noise conditions. Buildout of the land uses accommodated by the Project will occur over a 15year period, during which regional growth and development elsewhere in the City will occur. Therefore, consistent with the traffic analysis, the significance of project direct impacts on ambient noise levels is evaluated based on a comparison of future (2035) noise levels with and without project implementation. Although the Project will implement planned growth, growth under the EVSP is considered separately from this regional growth for the traffic impact analysis to identify Specific Plan-level impacts. The analysis also assumes implementation of the roadway classifications in the Escondido General Plan Mobility and Infrastructure Element with or without project implementation. However, the Transportation Analysis states that roadway upgrades may not be necessary for all segments. Therefore, the Transportation Analysis also includes an analysis of roadway conditions assuming existing segment build. Traffic volumes will be the same under each scenario, but the existing roadway builds will result in slightly lower noise levels under future conditions compared to the upgraded classifications due to smaller roadway footprints and reduced speed limits. Therefore, the following analysis that assumes roadways will be improved to Escondido General Plan Mobility and Infrastructure Element classifications represents the worst-case scenario.

Table 3, Future (Year 2035) Traffic Noise Levels With and Without Project Implementation, provides existing noise levels and future increases in traffic with implementation of the Project from the 12 traffic analysis study area segments. Table 4, Cumulative Vehicle Noise Impacts, evaluates the cumulative impact of project buildout and regional development compared to existing conditions. As shown in Table 3, implementation of the Project would result in a direct noise impact to two segments of Valley Parkway and one segment of Date Street. As shown in Table 4, regional growth will result in cumulative noise impacts to segments of Mission Avenue, Valley Parkway North Hickory Street, Fig Street, Date Street, and San Pasqual Valley Road. Implementation of the Project would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to the cumulative noise on the segments of Valley Parkway from Fig Street to Date Street and Date Street from Valley Parkway to Grand Avenue.

Implementation of the Project would result in permanent increases in noise level in the traffic analysis study area, including direct and cumulative impacts from implementation on Valley Parkway and Date Street. Future development would be required under Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element Noise Policies 5.3 and 5.6 to evaluate potential project impacts to ambient noise levels and to implement noise attenuation to the extent feasible. As evaluated below, future noise levels with project implementation would generally be within the conditionally acceptable noise compatibility range for sensitive land uses (as identified in Table 1) that can be attenuated with standard building construction. However, consistent with the findings of the certified 2012 General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update, and CAP PEIR, development associated with the Project would still contribute to future regional noise increases associated with roadway traffic. It is anticipated that Escondido General Plan standards and policies will not be sufficient to reduce impacts to a less than significant level because project-level attenuation, such as noise barriers, window or other building upgrades, or changes to roadway design or speed, may not be available in all cases. Implementation of Escondido General Plan policies will reduce impacts related to permanent increases in noise level but not to a less than significant level. Therefore, implementation of the Project would result in direct impacts related to permanent increases in vehicle noise in the EVSP Area.

Table 3. Future (Year 2035) Traffic Noise Levels With and Without Project Implementation

| Roadway                    | Segment                                | Future<br>Noise Level<br>(dBA CNEL) | Allowable<br>Increase<br>(dBA CNEL) | Future +<br>Project<br>(dBA CNEL) | Increase<br>in Noise<br>Level | Significant<br>Impact? |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mission Avenue             | Broadway to North<br>Hickory Street    | 71                                  | 1                                   | 72                                | +1                            | No                     |
|                            | Hickory Street to Fig<br>Street        | 67                                  | 1                                   | 69                                | +2                            | Yes                    |
| Valley Parkway             | Fig Street to Date<br>Street           | 68                                  | 1                                   | 70                                | +2                            | Yes                    |
|                            | Date Street to Ash<br>Street           | 69                                  | 1                                   | 70                                | +1                            | No                     |
| North Hickory Street       | Washington Avenue to Valley Parkway    | 61                                  | 2                                   | 62                                | +1                            | No                     |
| Fig Street                 | Mission Avenue to<br>Washington Avenue | 64                                  | 2                                   | 66                                | +2                            | No                     |
|                            | Washington Avenue<br>to Valley Parkway | 63                                  | 2                                   | 65                                | +2                            | No                     |
| Date Street                | Valley Parkway to<br>Grand Avenue      | 61                                  | 2                                   | 65                                | +4                            | Yes                    |
|                            | Grand Avenue to East 2nd Avenue        | 66                                  | 1                                   | 67                                | +1                            | No                     |
| Ash Street                 | Mission Avenue to<br>Washington Avenue | 68                                  | 1                                   | 69                                | +1                            | No                     |
|                            | Washington Avenue<br>to Valley Parkway | 69                                  | 1                                   | 70                                | +1                            | No                     |
| San Pasqual Valley<br>Road | Grand Avenue to East 2nd Avenue        | 71                                  | 1                                   | 71                                | +0                            | No                     |

Source: See Attachment 1.

**Notes:** dBA = A-weighted decibel; CNEL = community noise equivalent level

**Table 4. Cumulative Vehicle Noise Impacts** 

| Table 4. Cumulative Venicle Noise Impacts |  |                         |                                     |  |  |                       |                      |                               |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Roadway                                   | Segment                                      | Existing<br>Noise Level | Allowable<br>Increase<br>(dBA CNEL) | Future +<br>Project Noise<br>Level<br>(dBA CNEL) | Increase in<br>Noise<br>Level From<br>Existing | Cumulative<br>Impact? | EVSP<br>Contribution | Cumulatively<br>Considerable? |
| Mission<br>Avenue                         | Broadway to<br>North<br>Hickory<br>Street    | 70                      | 1                                   | 72   | +2   | Yes                   | +1                   | No                            |
|   | Hickory<br>Street to Fig<br>Street           | 69                      | 1                                   | 69   | 0  | No                    | 0                    | No                            |
| Valley<br>Parkway                         | Fig Street to<br>Date Street                 | 68                      | 1                                   | 70   | +2   | Yes                   | +2                   | Yes                           |
|   | Date Street<br>to Ash Street                 | 69                      | 1                                   | 70   | +1   | No                    | +1                   | No                            |
| North<br>Hickory<br>Street                | Washington<br>Avenue to<br>Valley<br>Parkway | 58                      | 3                                   | 62   | +4   | Yes                   | +1                   | No                            |
| Fig Street                                | Mission<br>Avenue to<br>Washington<br>Avenue | 59                      | 3                                   | 66   | +7   | Yes                   | +2                   | No                            |
|   | Washington<br>Avenue to<br>Valley<br>Parkway | 60                      | 2                                   | 65   | +5   | Yes                   | +2                   | No                            |
| Date Street                               | Valley<br>Parkway to<br>Grand<br>Avenue      | 58                      | 3                                   | 65   | +7   | Yes                   | +4                   | Yes                           |
|   | Grand<br>Avenue to<br>East 2nd<br>Avenue     | 64                      | 1                                   | 67   | +3   | Yes                   | +1                   | No                            |
| Ash Street                                | Mission<br>Avenue to<br>Washington<br>Avenue | 68                      | 1                                   | 69   | +1   | No                    | +1                   | No                            |
|   | Washington<br>Avenue to<br>Valley<br>Parkway | 69                      | 1                                   | 70   | +1   | No                    | +1                   | No                            |
| San Pasqual<br>Valley Road                | Grand<br>Avenue to<br>East 2nd<br>Avenue     | 69                      | 1                                   | 71   | +2   | Yes                   | +0                   | No                            |

**Source:** See Attachment 1.

**Notes:** dBA = A-weighted decibel; CNEL = community noise equivalent level

## **Noise Incompatibilities with New Sensitive Receptors**

In addition to the potential to increase vehicle noise as a result of future development, implementation of the Project would have the potential to result in the placement of new sensitive receptors in areas that will be exposed to vehicle noise levels in excess of the City's noise and land use compatibility standards. Development under the EVSP will increase residential density along the traffic analysis study area segments. As shown in Table 3, vehicle noise will generally be within the conditionally acceptable noise level range of 60 to 70 dBA CNEL at 50 feet from roadway centerlines under existing and future conditions, with two exceptions: Mission Avenue and San Pasqual Valley Road. Therefore, conventional construction, such as wall, insulation, and window design consistent with current building codes, will generally be sufficient to reduce noise exposure to an acceptable level. The portion of Mission Avenue that will exceed 70 dBA CNEL under future conditions is not in the EVSP Area, and the Project will not increase sensitive receptor density on this segment. The segment of San Pasqual Valley Road from Grand Avenue to East 2nd Avenue is partially in the EVSP Area. However, this area is currently developed with residential uses and includes a Park Overlay Zone that will likely decrease residential density adjacent to this roadway segment. Additionally, development proposed under the EVSP will comply with Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element Noise Policies 5.1 and 5.4, provided above in Regulatory Setting, which require proposed new sensitive receptors to include a project site-specific evaluation of potential noise exposure and installation of noise attenuation if the new receptors will be in an area where interior noise levels may exceed 45 dBA CNEL. Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element Noise Policy 5.7 recommends that the noise reduction strategies identified in Table 5, Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element Noise Reduction Strategies, be applied to future development of noise-sensitive receptors. Consistent with the findings of the certified 2012 General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update, and CAP PEIR, future development projects in the EVSP Area would be required to demonstrate that appropriate noise attenuation has been incorporated into project design to achieve noise compatibility. Therefore, implementation of the Project would not result in a significant impact related to exposure of new sensitive receptors to ambient noise levels in excess of the City's noise and land use compatibility standards due to existing Escondido General Plan requirements and the likelihood of conventional construction to reduce impacts to a compatible level. This impact is less than significant.

Table 5. Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element Noise Reduction Strategies

| Category  | Strategies <sup>1</sup>   |
|---|---|
| Site planning responsive to topography                | <ul> <li>Increase distances between noise sources and receivers</li> <li>Place non-noise-sensitive uses, such as utility areas, parking lots, and maintenance facilities, between the noise source and the receiver</li> <li>Use non-noise-sensitive structures, such as garages, to shield noise-sensitive areas</li> <li>Orient buildings to shield outdoor spaces from a noise source</li> </ul> |
| Architecture responsive to noise-<br>sensitive spaces | <ul> <li>Orient bedrooms away from noise sources</li> <li>Limit openings and penetrations on portions of buildings impacted by noise</li> </ul>   |
| Barriers responsive to reduce noise levels            | <ul> <li>Ensure that line of sight is interrupted between the noise source and receptor when constructing noise walls</li> <li>Apply noise insulation to walls, roofs, doors, windows, and other penetrations</li> </ul>  |

Source: City of Escondido 2012a.

#### Notes:

## **Mitigation Measures**

Implementation of the Project would not result in a significant impact related to construction of new sensitive receptors that may be exposed to incompatible noise levels because existing Escondido General Plan requirements and conventional construction reduce impacts to a compatible level. No mitigation measures are required for this potential impact.

The strategies provide suggestions for attenuation that may be incorporated into Project to the extent required to achieve an interior noise level of 45 dBA CNEL. Individual strategies are not required to be implemented. For example, placing non-noise-sensitive uses between noise source and receivers will generally conflict with EVSP policies that prioritize building entrances along sidewalks. Therefore, this strategy will generally not be selected, and other available strategies will be used to achieve require noise reductions.

However, under the worst-case scenario, implementation of the Project would result in a direct noise impact to one segment of Valley Parkway (Hickory Street to Fig Street) and direct and cumulative impacts to an additional segment of Valley Parkway (Fig Street to Date Street) and one segment of Date Street (Valley Parkway to Grand Avenue). The certified 2012 General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update, and CAP PEIR considered mitigation measures that fully reduce impacts to below a level of significance, including construction of noise barriers and implementation of a Citywide moratorium on building permits for projects that result in a potentially significant increase in regional roadway noise for which no feasible mitigation is available. However, the City determined that these measures are infeasible. Noise barriers potentially require installation of noise walls in private property, in a designated right-of-way, or otherwise outside of the City's jurisdiction, which may not be allowed by a property owner or the jurisdiction in which the sound barrier would be located. The feasibility of noise walls is also restricted by access requirements for driveways, presences of local cross streets, underground utilities, other noise sources in the area, and safety considerations. Finally, construction of a noise barrier potentially walls off existing neighborhoods or individual residences from the surrounding community, which could result in adverse impacts to aesthetics, land use, and public safety. For example, the impacted segments of Valley Parkway and Date Street include existing driveways and cross streets on both sides of the roadways that reduce wall effectiveness. Additionally, walls on these segments block existing residential and commercial entrances from street view, which are a potential aesthetic and public safety impact by reducing visibility and accessibility. A building permit moratorium impedes the City's ability to implement the EVSP because it prohibits future development in areas identified for increased growth in the EVSP Area under the Escondido General Plan. This mitigation measure conflicts with the Escondido General Plan and the City's ability to meet the housing needs of existing and future residents.

Therefore, for the reasons listed above, these mitigation measures are infeasible for the Project. As determined by the certified 2012 General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update, and CAP PEIR, no feasible mitigation measures are available for impacts related to increases in roadway noise as a result of anticipated growth. Therefore, impacts from the Project related to increases in ambient noise level are significant and unavoidable.

## **Summary**

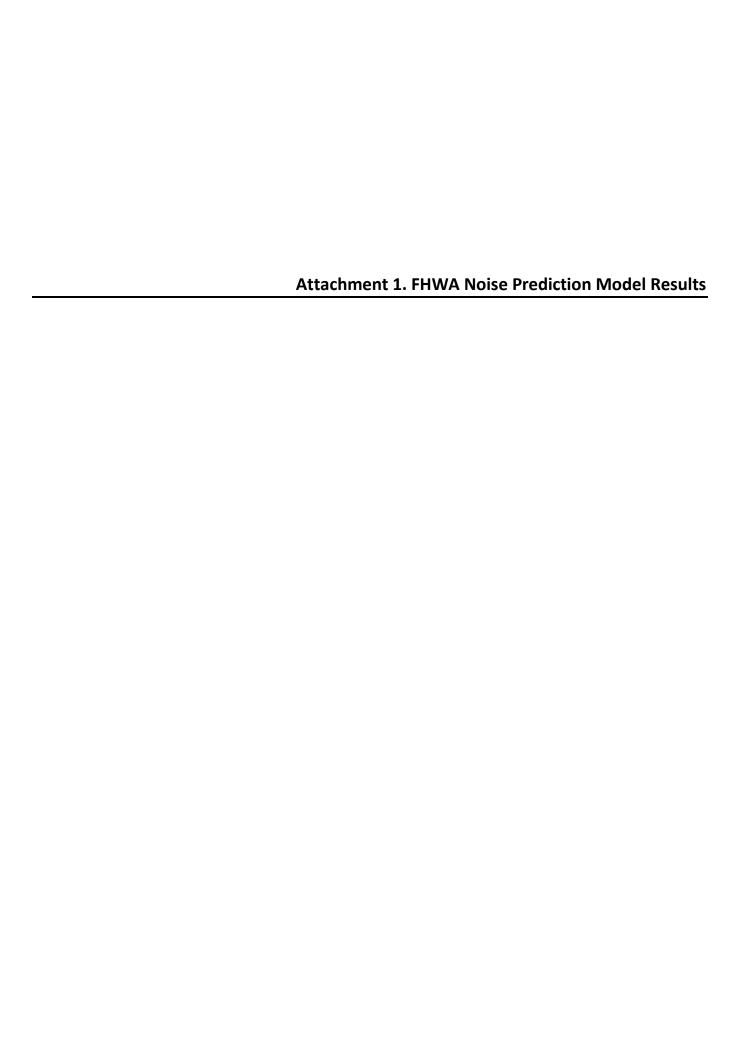
Implementation of the Project would have the potential to contribute to direct and cumulative permanent increases in vehicle noise in the EVSP Area. Feasible mitigation measures are not available to reduce this impact to a less than significant level, and direct and cumulative impacts are significant and unavoidable.

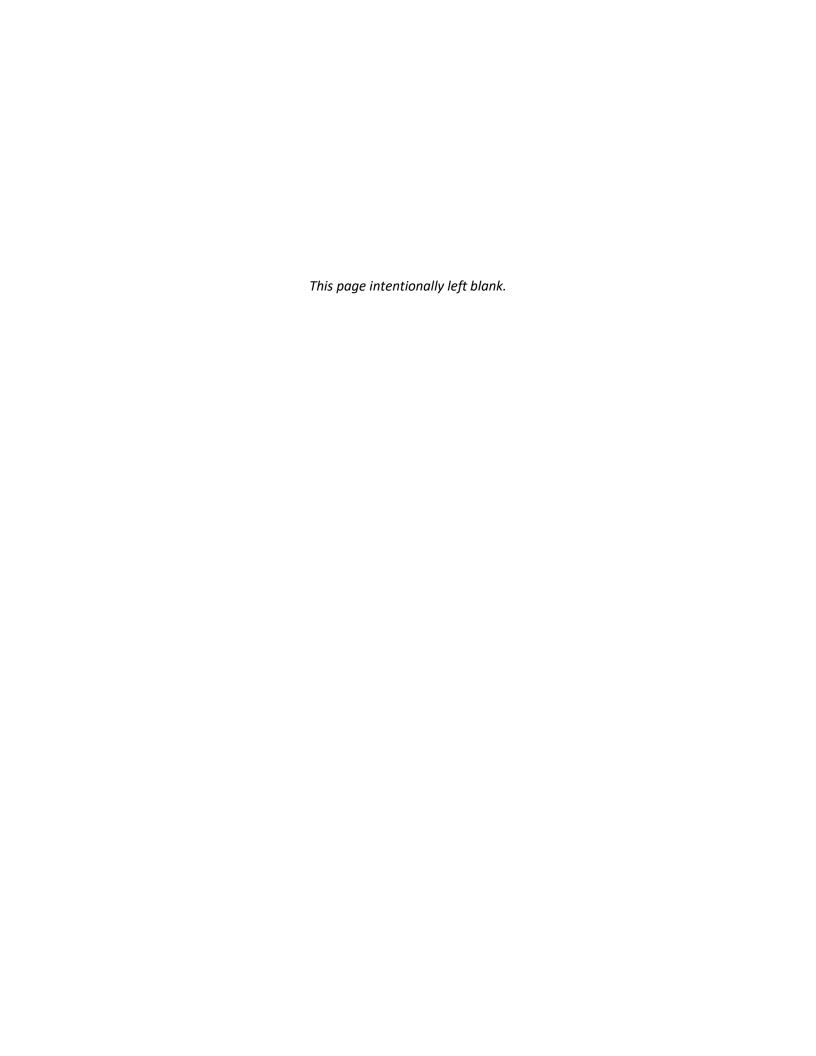
New sensitive receptors accommodated by the EVSP have the potential to be exposed to noise levels in excess of normally compatible noise standards. However, the Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element includes requirements for project-specific noise evaluations and implementation of noise attenuation to reduce noise exposure to existing and new receptors to compatible noise levels. Compliance with Escondido General Plan Community Protection Element requirements ensures impacts related to exposure to vehicle noise are less than significant and do not require mitigation.

## References

- Caltrans (California Department of Transportation). 2013. Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol. September.
- City of Escondido. 2012a. "Chapter VI: Community Protection." In the Escondido General Plan. Adopted May 23. Accessed March 2023. https://www.escondido.org/Data/Sites/1/media/PDFs/Planning/GPUpdate/GeneralPlanChapterVI.pdf.
- City of Escondido. 2012b. Environmental Impact Report for the Escondido General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update, and Climate Action Plan. Final. Vol. 1. PHG 09-0020, PHG 10-0016, SCH No. 2010071064. Prepared by Atkins. April 23. Accessed March 2023. https://www.escondido.org/Volume-I-Draft-EIR.aspx.
- City of Escondido. 2021. Escondido Municipal Code. September.
- LLG (Linscott, Law & Greenspan, Engineers). 2023. Transportation Analysis for East Valley Specific Plan.

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#### TRAFFIC NOISE LEVELS AND NOISE CONTOURS

Project Number:

Project Name: Escondido EVSP/Housing Element

#### **Background Information**

Model Description: FHWA Highway Noise Prediction Model (FHWA-RD-77-108) with California Vehicle Noise (CALVENO) Emission Levels.

Source of Traffic Volumes: Linscott, Law, and Greenspan, December 2022

Community Noise Descriptor: L<sub>dn</sub>: CNEL: X

 Assumed 24-Hour Traffic Distribution:
 Day
 Evening
 Night

 Total ADT Volumes
 77.70%
 12.70%
 9.60%

 Medium-Duty Trucks
 87.43%
 5.05%
 7.52%

 Heavy-Duty Trucks
 89.10%
 2.84%
 8.06%

"-" = contour is located within the roadway right-of-way.

Distance is from the centerline of the roadway segment to the receptor location.

Vehicle Mix Distance from Centerline of Roadway Design **Analysis Condition** Median ADT Speed Alnha CNEL at Distance to Contour Medium Heavy Roadway, Segment Lanes Width Volume (mph) Factor Trucks Trucks 50 Feet 70 CNEL 65 CNEL 60 CNEL 55 CNEL Mission Avenue Broadway to Hickory St, existing 517 23,500 2.0% 2.0% 70.2 111 58 271 Broadway to Hickory St, existing + project 10 28.240 40 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 71.0 126 585 Broadway to Hickory St, future 10 28,800 40 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 71.1 59 128 275 592 Broadway to Hickory St, future + project 40 0.5 2 0% 66 141 10 33 540 2.0% 71.8 304 656 Valley Parkway Hickory Street to Fig Street, existing 23 680 35 0.5 2.0% 2 0% 68.8 90 193 416 Hickory Street to Fig Street, existing + project 31,760 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 70.4 54 115 249 536 35 3.0% 155 335 Hickory Street to Fig Street, future 15.700 0.5 2.0% 67.4 72 Hickory Street to Fig Street, future + project 3.0% 69.2 44 442 23,780 0.5 205 Valley Parkway Fig Street to Date Street, existing 10 19,600 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 68.3 83 179 385 52 112 241 Fig Street to Date Street, existing + project 10 28.230 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 70.3 520 Fig Street to Date Street, future 10 16,200 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 67.8 77 167 359 478 Fig Street to Date Street, future + project 10 35 0.5 69.7 103 222 24.830 3.0% 2.0% Valley Parkway 35 0.5 99 212 458 Date Street to Ash Street, existing 10 25.360 2.0% 2.0% 69.4 Date Street to Ash Street, existing + project 10 34,400 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 71.1 59 128 276 594 10 19,900 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 68.7 89 191 412 Date Street to Ash Street, future Date Street to Ash Street, future + project 10 28.940 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 70.4 53 114 246 529 **Hickory Street** Washington Avenue to Valley Parkway, existing 2 4,810 25 0.5 2.0% 1.0% 58.2 38 81 Washington Avenue to Valley Parkway, existing + project 2 0 8,510 25 0.5 2.0% 1.0% 60.6 55 119 Washington Avenue to Valley Parkway, future 8,800 25 0.5 2.0% 1.0% 60.8 56 122 Washington Avenue to Valley Parkway, future + project 12,500 25 0.5 2.0% 1.0% 62.3 33 71 154 Fig Street Mission Ave to Washington Ave, existing 5,200 25 0.5 2.0% 1.0% 58.5 40 86 Mission Ave to Washington Ave, existing + project 9,680 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 64.9 49 106 229 Mission Ave to Washington Ave, future 7,600 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 63.9 91 195 Mission Ave to Washington Ave, future + project 12,080 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 65.9 57 123 266 Fig Street 53 Washington Ave to Valley Parkway, existing 2 7.950 25 0.5 2.0% 1.0% 60.3 114 Washington Ave to Valley Parkway, existing + project 13,160 30 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 65.8 57 122 263 Washington Ave to Valley Parkway, future 6,300 30 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 62.6 75 161 Washington Ave to Valley Parkway, future + project 11,510 30 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 65.2 112 241 Date Street Valley Parkway to Grand Ave, existing 3,570 30 0.5 2.0% 1.0% 58.3 39 83 46 Valley Parkway to Grand Ave, existing + project 8,640 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 64.4 99 212 Valley Parkway to Grand Ave, future 3,800 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 60.9 57 123 Valley Parkway to Grand Ave, future + project 8.870 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 64.5 47 100 216 **Date Street** 94 Grand Ave to 2nd Ave, existing 2 9 800 30 0.5 2 0% 2.0% 64.1 44 203 14,320 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 66.6 64 138 298 Grand Ave to 2nd Ave, existing + project 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 55 119 256 Grand Ave to 2nd Ave, future 11,400 65.6 Grand Ave to 2nd Ave, future + project 15,920 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 67.1 148 319 Ash Street Mission Ave to Washington Ave, existing 20,660 35 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 68.2 82 176 380 45 24.360 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 97 208 449 Mission Ave to Washington Ave, existing + project 0 69.3 Mission Ave to Washington Ave, future 19,700 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 68.4 84 181 390 Mission Ave to Washington Ave, future + project 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 69.1 94 437 23 400 203 0.5 90 193 416 Washington Ave to Valley Pkwy, existing 10 21,980 35 2.0% 2.0% 68.8 Washington Ave to Valley Pkwy, existing + project 10 26,360 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 70.0 50 107 231 497 10 21,000 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 92 427 Washington Ave to Valley Pkwy, future 69.0 198 Washington Ave to Valley Pkwy, future + project 10 35 0.5 104 225 485 3.0% 69.8 San Pasqual Valley Road Grand Ave to 2nd Ave, existing 23,400 0.5 2.0% 2.0% 93 201 434 35 10 51 109 Grand Ave to 2nd Ave, existing + project 27.100 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 70.1 235 506 Grand Ave to 2nd Ave, future 10 29,900 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 70.5 54 116 251 541 Grand Ave to 2nd Ave, future + project 33 600 35 0.5 3.0% 2.0% 71.0 126 271 584 10