Purpose and Function

The purpose of the Noise Element is to provide information on current and future noise levels in the City. In largely undeveloped areas, this information is used to identify the most suitable locations for various land uses, especially those that are particularly sensitive to noise impacts. In more built-out areas, the Noise Element provides a General Plan basis for the enforcement of noise associated standards and codes and thereby protects the health and well-being of the persons living and working in Villa Park.

Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

The Noise Element is a guide for the Land Use Element as it identifies noise sensitive areas. This information is considered in designating land uses that are noise compatible. Since roadway noise is the prime noise generator in most communities, the Circulation Element has an important affect on the noise environment. Residential land uses are among those that are noise sensitive. Housing Element programs must consider data presented in the Noise Element when evaluating housing sites.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

The typical community noise environment is comprised of a background noise level and higher noise levels, frequently transportation oriented. Since the background level is lower at night, the problems posed by higher noise levels from individual sources are more pronounced during night time hours, a period when most people demand quiet.

Noise exposure information is presented in terms of noise contours expressed in community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day/night average level (Ldn). CNEL means the average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels to sound levels in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and after addition of 10 decibels to sound levels in the night before 7:00 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m. Ldn means the average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 10 decibels to sound levels in the night before 7:00 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m.