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 Division of Environmental Health
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CONSTRUCTION NOISE STANDARDS

The following is a summary of sections of the Berkeley Community Noise Ordinance pertaining to Construction/Demolition. You are required to comply with the following sections:

13.40.070 Prohibited Acts

(B) (7) (a) Operating or causing the operation of any tools or equipment used in construction, drilling, repair, alteration, or demolition work between **weekday** hours of **7 p.m. and 7 a.m., or 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. on weekends or holidays** such that the sound therefrom creates a noise disturbance across a residential or commercial real property line...

(b) Noise restrictions at affected properties. Where **technically and economically feasible**, construction activities shall be conducted in such a manner that the maximum sound levels at affected properties will not exceed those listed in the following schedule:

MOBILE EQUIPMENT: Maximum sound levels for nonscheduled, intermittent. Short-term operation (less than 10 days) of mobile equipment. (*jackhammer, backhoe, drill, saws, sander grinder, etc.*)

Table 13.40-3	Time	Residential (R-1, R-2)	Multi-Family Residential R-3	Commercial/Industrial
Daily	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	75 dBA	80 dBA	85 dBA
Weekends and	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	60 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA
Legal Holidays	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	60 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA

STATIONARY EQUIPMENT: Maximum sound levels for repetitively scheduled and relatively long term operation (period of ten days or more) of stationary equipment.

Table 13.40-4	Time	Residential (R-1, R-2)	Multi-Family Residential R-3	Commercial/Industrial
Daily	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	60 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA
Weekends and	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	50 dBA	55 dBA	60 dBA
Legal Holidays	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	50 dBA	55 dBA	60 dBA

Failure to comply with the Noise Ordinance will result in issuance of a written warning, a possible citation, and a potential stop work order. Thank you in advance for your efforts to comply with these provisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ **As a courtesy, notify neighbors prior to starting a job that you anticipate will create noise. Communication with neighbors can prevent complaints from arising, and resolve concerns before there is a problem. Provide a phone number where the foreman can be reached prior to the start of the job.**
- ❖ **Mitigate noise from power equipment or other noise producing activities with sound barriers, muffling devices, lower settings on power equipment, and shortened work periods.**
- ❖ **If power equipment is to be used, take preliminary noise readings to determine whether you may be in violation of the noise ordinance. These readings should be taken at the closest adjacent property line from the noise source.**
- ❖ **If you have questions about the Noise Ordinance, or you would like a health inspector to take noise readings at your worksite, please call Environmental Health at (510) 981-5310 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Monday through Friday.**