



NOISE ANALYSIS FOR ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE – AMPLIFIED LIVE MUSIC AT BOUTIQUE WINERIES

ZONING VERIFICATION PERMIT NOISE ANALYSIS GUIDE FOR BOUTIQUE WINERIES

The primary author of the noise analysis accompanying the Zoning Verification Permit submittal shall be on the list of County-approved consultants for noise analysis found at this [link](#) (see PDF p. 41 for approved noise consultants).

The following are minimum requirements that must be included in the noise analysis submittal:

A. CRITICAL GUIDANCE TO LIMIT COST & SCOPE

1. Noise studies must focus exclusively on amplified live music and demonstrate compliance with the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance Threshold of 50 dBA L_{eq} property-line limit under Section 36.404 of the [Noise Ordinance](#). This guide provides details on an alternative path to compliance in Section E (Ambient Noise Level Measurements) in accordance with 36.404.e of the Noise Ordinance.

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **APN, Legal Lot boundaries, site address, parcel size** – Provide the Assessor's Parcel Number(s), legal lot boundaries, full address, and acreage. If multiple parcels function together, list all APNs and combined acreage. A vicinity location map is recommended.
2. **Owner/applicant contact information** – Include full names, emails, phone numbers, and the primary point of contact.
3. **Description of amplified music** – Indicate typical days of outdoor music performance, start/end times, expected frequency (e.g., 1–2 days per week on weekdays or weekends), and typical types of music performance (solo, duo, small ensemble, acoustic, with/without speakers).
4. **Aerial map** – Provide an aerial map with sufficient detail to clearly depict parcel boundaries, including the subject parcel and all adjoining parcels.

C. PERFORMANCE AREA & SITE FEATURES TO BE ADDRESSED IN PLOT PLANS SUBMITTED WITH NOISE ANALYSIS - In addition to the [Minimum Plot Plan Requirements](#), provide the following noise analysis related items in the plot plans submitted with the Zoning Verification Permit Application.

1. **Entire parcel shown** – Include entire legal lot parcel boundaries and dimensions.
2. **Scaled performance/stage depiction** – Provide a drawn-to-scale plan showing the exact location of the music performance area, speakers, extent of stage pad area, and audience zone.
3. **Speaker locations and orientation** – Show on the plan sheet, speaker placement, the direction each speaker faces using arrows, and distance from the amplification source to the closest portion of the property line for each adjacent property. Specify speaker height and whether the speakers are stand mounted or placed on a surface.
4. **Measurement locations** – Source noise levels shall be taken at 10 feet from the amplification source, with a measurement for the direction of each adjacent property (e.g., a square shaped parcel would have four measurements). Show the 10-foot measurement points (source noise levels) and closest portion of the property line for each adjacent property.
5. **Property line dimensions** – Indicate on the plan sheet, precise distances from the noise amplification device(s) (speakers; or location of musicians for non-amplified acoustic music) to the closest portion of the property line (not to buildings) of each adjacent parcel. Include elevation differences between noise amplification and property lines if significant enough to impact noise attenuation. If there are portions of an adjacent property line that are the same distance from the music performance area, the analysis should provide justification for the measurement used, which could relate to the location of noise sensitive land uses on adjacent properties.
6. **Noise-attenuation features** – Identify buildings, walls, fences, berms, or topography that block line-of-sight between the music performance area and adjacent property lines. Provide heights, materials, and their influence on sound shielding. Include all structures, fences, or terrain relied on for compliance. Include only existing, permitted features of the built environment. If additional built attenuation features are required to reach compliance, those must be permitted, built, and in place prior to noise measurements and submittal of the Zoning Verification Permit application. Only existing and fully permitted Boutique Wineries with permitted vineyards are eligible for the Zoning Verification Permit application.



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- D. REQUIRED NOISE MEASUREMENTS** – Measurements shall be conducted using American National Standards Institute (ANSI) compliant instrumentation and in accordance with sound level measurement requirements in [Section 36.403 of the County Noise Ordinance](#).
- One-hour L_{eq} measurement – source noise levels** – Measure amplified live music source noise levels to get the one-hour average for the duration of the performance. If the performance is shorter than one hour, document the actual duration and use that L_{eq} . Take the measurement 10 feet from the noise amplification device(s) (speakers; or location of musicians for non-amplified acoustic music). Ensure no reflective surface is within 5 feet.
 - One-hour L_{eq} measurement – adjacent property lines** – Measure amplified live music noise levels at each adjacent property line to get the one-hour average for the duration of the performance. If the performance is shorter than one hour, document the actual duration and use that L_{eq} . If there are portions of an adjacent property line that are the same distance from the music performance area, the analysis should provide justification for the measurement used, which could relate to the location of noise sensitive land uses on adjacent properties.
 - Exclude CNEL/ L_{dn}** – Do not include 24-hour metrics. Only the short-term, amplified live music L_{eq} is relevant.
- E. OPTIONAL ALTERNATIVE PATH TO COMPLIANCE: AMBIENT NOISE LEVEL MEASUREMENTS** – If the one-hour average measurements during live music performance are greater than 50 dBA at any property line, the Noise Ordinance provides an alternative pathway to compliance. If ambient noise levels (without live music) are greater than 50 dBA, the live music can increase the ambient noise levels by up to 3 dBA. The following requirements apply if applying this threshold for any of the property lines. If the analysis uses this approach for only certain property line measurements, the analysis must clearly explain which property line measurements rely on the comparison to ambient noise levels and which rely on the standard 50 dBA threshold
- One-hour L_{eq} measurement of ambient noise – adjacent property lines** – Ambient noise levels shall be measured at each adjacent property line (where the ambient threshold is relied on for compliance) during periods with no live music. Ambient measurements shall represent typical conditions outside of live music performances. Ambient measurements shall exclude the occurrence of atypical or rare noise events (e.g., sirens, uncommon aircraft overflights).
 - Measurement requirements** – Ambient noise measurements shall be conducted using American National Standards Institute (ANSI) compliant instrumentation and in accordance with sound level measurement requirements in [Section 36.403 of the County Noise Ordinance](#).
- F. REPORT FORMAT**
- Project summary** – Describe winery operations, music schedule, and purpose of study.
 - Methods & instrumentation** – Document meter model, measurement setup, and environmental conditions.
 - Measured 1-hour L_{eq}** – Provide a table.
 - Compliance determination** – Include a clear pass/fail table with rows covering the source noise level and property line measurement in the direction of the property line for each adjacent property. In each row, include the distance between the amplification source and the property line, to get to the 50 dBA or lower property line measurement (or to get to the 3 dBA or less increase over ambient noise levels if relying on the alternative path to compliance referenced in Section E).
 - Appendix** – Include raw data, photos, and calibration certificates; and reference separate submittal of plot plans.
- G. REFERENCES**
- [County of San Diego Noise Ordinance](#)
 - [County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance Section 6910.b](#) – zoning regulations for Boutique Wineries