

1 **3.12 NOISE**

NOISE – Would the Project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 **3.12.1 Environmental Setting**

3 Existing noise levels within the Park result from associated OHV operations, boating
 4 and camping, and other related recreational activities within and directly adjacent to the
 5 Project area. The nearest sensitive receptor (e.g., residential uses, schools, hospitals,
 6 nursing homes, religious institutions, libraries, and similar uses) is the short-term/limited
 7 stay mobile home park located approximately one mile southeast from the current
 8 designated OHV area and the Project area.

9 The Project area is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a
 10 public airport or public use airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

11 **3.12.2 Regulatory Setting**

12 The following Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to this issue area and
 13 relevant to the Project are identified in Table 3.12-1.

Table 3.12-1. Laws, Regulations, and Policies (Noise)

U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Noise Control Act (42 USC 4910) required the USEPA to establish noise emission criteria, as well as noise testing methods (40 CFR Chapter 1, Subpart Q). These criteria generally apply to interstate rail carriers and to some types of construction and transportation equipment. The USEPA published a guideline (USEPA 1974) containing recommendations for acceptable noise level limits affecting residential land use of 55 dBA L_{dn} for outdoors and 45 dBA L_{dn} for indoors. • NTIS 55019-74-004, 1974 (“Information on Levels of Environmental Noise Requisite to Protect Health and Welfare with an Adequate Margin of Safety”). In response to a Federal mandate, the USEPA provided guidance in this document, commonly referenced as the, “Levels Document,” that establishes an L_{dn} of 55 dBA as the requisite level, with an adequate margin of safety, for areas of outdoor uses including residences and recreation areas. The USEPA recommendations contain a factor of safety and do not consider technical or economic feasibility (i.e., the document identifies safe levels of environmental noise exposure without consideration for achieving these levels or other potentially relevant considerations), and therefore should not be construed as standards or regulations.
CA	<p>State regulations for limiting population exposure to physically and/or psychologically significant noise levels include established guidelines and ordinances for roadway and aviation noise under California Department of Transportation as well as the now defunct California Office of Noise Control. The California Office of Noise Control land use compatibility guidelines provided the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exterior noise level of 60 to 65 dBA Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is considered "normally acceptable" for residences. • A noise level of 70 dBA CNEL is considered to be "conditionally acceptable" (i.e., the upper limit of "normally acceptable" noise levels for sensitive uses such as schools, libraries, hospitals, nursing homes, churches, parks, offices, and commercial/professional businesses). • A noise level of greater than 75 dBA CNEL is considered "clearly unacceptable" for residences.

1 The following goals and policies related to noise are from the San Bernardino County
 2 2007 General Plan:

- 3 • Chapter VII. Noise Element – Section B. Goal N 1. Countywide Goals and
 4 Policies of the Noise Element. There are no specific goals for the Desert Region.
 5 Provide the abatement and avoidance of excessive noise exposures through
 6 noise mitigation measures incorporated into the design of new noise-generating
 7 and new noise-sensitive land uses, while protecting areas within the County
 8 where the present noise environment is within acceptable limits.
- 9 • San Bernardino County 2007 Development Code, Section 83.01.080 (g) (3).

10 **3.12.3 Impact Analysis (CEQA)**

- 11 a) ***Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of***
 12 ***standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or***
 13 ***applicable standards of other agencies?***
- 14 c) ***A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project***
 15 ***vicinity above levels existing without the project?***
- 16 d) ***A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the***
 17 ***project vicinity above levels existing without the project?***

1 **Less than Significant Impact.** The Project does not propose to construct
2 facilities that would generate noise near sensitive receptors (e.g., residential
3 uses, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, religious institutions, libraries, and
4 similar uses), and therefore will not subject persons to long-term excessive noise
5 impacts.

6 Construction activities may increase the ambient noise in the vicinity of the
7 Project area; however, according to County Development Code Section
8 83.01.080 (g) (3), the following sources of noise shall be exempt from the
9 regulations of this Section: “Temporary construction, maintenance, repair, or
10 demolition activities between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and
11 Federal holidays.” Construction is proposed to take place within these
12 timeframes; therefore, there will be a less than significant impacts related to
13 construction noise.

14 The operation of construction equipment for Phases 1 through 3 applies under
15 the Development Code Section 83.01.080 (g) (3). Therefore, operation of the
16 construction equipment would have less than significant impacts to noise levels
17 within and around the Project area.

18 Since there are no facilities or structures generating noise included in the design
19 of the Project, current noise levels associated with OHV operations, boating and
20 camping activities and related recreational activities is anticipated to remain at its
21 current levels in the Park.

22 **b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration**
23 **or groundborne noise levels?**

24 **Less than Significant Impact.** Groundborne vibration can be an issue when
25 vibration causes structural damage to existing buildings or disturbs sleep.
26 Equipment used for construction will be graders, excavators, water truck, and
27 haul trucks (Figure 2.4.1). These would not be a permanent or substantial source
28 of vibration. Therefore, no significant impacts from excessive groundborne
29 vibration or groundborne noise levels would result.

30 **e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan**
31 **has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use**
32 **airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project**
33 **area to excessive noise levels?**

34 **f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project**
35 **expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise**
36 **levels?**

37 **No Impact.** The Project would not expose people at the Project area to
38 excessive noise levels since no airport-related noise currently exists within two
39 miles of the Project area. Therefore, impacts from airport-related noise are not
40 anticipated.

1 **3.12.4 Environmental Consequences (NEPA)**

2 **No Action Alternative**

3 The No Action Alternative would have no impacts related to Noise. The Project would
4 not be implemented and no noise would be generated from heavy fuel based
5 construction equipment. The Project area would be managed as a regional Park as
6 described in Section 3.12.1. and current noise levels from recreational activities within
7 the Park would continue.

8 **Proposed Action (Project)**

9 Although Phases 1 through 3 would require the use of heavy fuel-based equipment that
10 would temporarily raise ambient noise levels when in use, the use of construction
11 equipment is exempt according to County Development Code Section 83.01.080 (g) (3).
12 Construction is proposed to take place for maintenance, repair, or clearing activities
13 during business hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Impacts to Project related noise
14 would be short-term. Noise conditions after construction would go back to the current
15 conditions.

16 In addition, no additional sensitive receptors, facilities, and other noise generating
17 structures would be constructed.

18 **Cumulative Impacts**

19 The analysis area for potential cumulative impacts related to Noise was defined as the
20 Project area because no potential impacts are anticipated outside of the Project area.
21 No cumulative impacts are anticipated because the Project design would not include
22 additional sensitive receptors, facilities, and other noise generating structures that would
23 cumulatively impact noise levels in the Project area.

24 **3.12.5 Mitigation Summary (CEQA Only)**

25 The Project would not result in significant impacts to Noise. Therefore, no mitigation is
26 required.