

NOISE STANDARDS

The City’s primary focus is to minimize noise problems in areas sensitive to noise because the majority of land in Santa Ana is fully established. The City emphasizes mitigation measures to deal with existing noise problems, as well as the prevention of new noise problems. Noise levels are managed through proper design and location of mobility and noise systems in relationship to noise-sensitive land uses, and establishment of appropriate noise emission or insulation standards for the various land uses.

The City adopts the standards and guidelines for noise levels for land uses as displayed in Table N-1. Residential uses should be protected with sound insulation over and above what is provided by normal building construction when they are constructed in areas with noise levles higher than 60 dB CNEL (community noise equivalent level).

TABLE N-1. INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR NOISE STANDARDS

Categories	Land Use Categories	Interior ¹	Exterior ²
Residential	Single-family, duplex, multi-family	45 dB CNEL ³	65 dB CNEL
Institutional	Hospital, school classroom/ playground	45 dB CNEL	65 dB CNEL
	Religious facility, library	45 dB CNEL	--
Open Space	Parks	--	65 dB CNEL

Notes:

1. Interior areas, to include but not limited to bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, living rooms, dining rooms, private offices, and conference rooms.
2. Exterior areas shall mean: private yards of single family homes, park picnic areas, school playgrounds, common areas. Private open space, such as atriums on balconies, shall be excluded from exterior noise requirements provided sufficient common area is included within the project.
3. Interior noise level requirements assume a closed-window condition. Mechanical ventilation system or other means of natural ventilation shall be provided per Chapter 12 of the Uniform Building Code, as necessary.

