

**Generators and other Mechanical Equipment on Residential sites**

The City of San Rafael has specific setback and noise requirements for mechanical Equipment like A/C units, pool equipment, and stationary generators. The setback information can be found in the municipal code section [14.16.320](https://library.municode.com/ca/san_rafael/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT14ZO_DIVIVREAPALSEDI_CH14.16SIUSRE_14.16.320SWPOHOTUOTMEEQ). The basic information to know is that all mechanical equipment needs a minimum five (5) foot setback from all property lines and fifteen (15) feet from a neighbor’s bedroom window. Mechanical equipment is not allowed in the required front yard. It also needs to be on your property so we will need a letter from your HOA if they are authorizing it in a common area. The [General Noise Limits](https://library.municode.com/ca/san_rafael/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT8MOCO_CH8.13NO_8.13.040GENOLI) are also detailed in the municipal code and it is the applicants responsibility to show that the unit will not exceed the noise limits.**In light of the recent Public Safety Power Shutoffs, Community Development is currently approving permits for stationary generators in a residential area that do not exceed 69 dBa at 7 meters from the unit (typical industry standard measuring distance).**

Plans/Documents required for permitting

Three (3) sets of plans will be required. Plans should include:

* **Site plan**
	+ *Showing all property lines and structures*
	+ *Distance of unit to property lines and neighboring bedroom windows*
* **Manufactures Specifications Including:**
	+ *Decibel ratings for unit and distance from unit the rating is measured at.*
	+ *Installation instructions, including details how the unit will be permanently installed*
* **Electrical information (see attached diagram)**
	+ *including modifications to be made to existing electrical service and connection to the unit.*
* **Gas Schematic (see attached diagram)**
	+ Required when connecting to your existing Natural Gas system.
* **Additional Items if applicable:**
	+ *Product documentation for any Noise reducing measures or products being added to the unit.*

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Example:

Electrical Single Line Diagram