

Figure 7-9: Land Use Compatibility Standards

LAND USE CATEGORY	COMMUNITY NOISE LEVEL							INTERPRETATION
	Ldn or CNEL, dB							
	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	
Residential—Single Family Duplex, Mobile Home	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	<p>NORMALLY ACCEPTABLE Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements.</p> <p>CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTABLE New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Conventional construction, but with closed windows and fresh air supply systems or air conditioning will normally suffice.</p> <p>POTENTIALLY UNACCEPTABLE New construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Outdoor areas must be shielded.</p> <p>NORMALLY UNACCEPTABLE New construction or development should generally not be undertaken. Construction costs to make the indoor environment acceptable would be prohibitive and the outdoor environment would not be usable.</p>
Residential—Multi-Family	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	
Transient Lodging— Motel, Hotel	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	
School, Library, Church, Hospital, Nursing Home	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	
Auditorium, Concert Hall, Amphitheatre	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	
Sports Arena, Outdoor Spectator Sports	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	
Playground, Neighborhood Park	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	
Golf Course, Stable, Water Recreation, Cemetery	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	
Office Building, Business, Commercial & Professional	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	
Industrial, Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Potentially Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Normally Unacceptable	

Noise Source Characteristics

The land use/noise compatibility recommendations should be viewed in relation to the specific source of the noise. For example, aircraft and railroad noise is normally made up of higher single noise events than auto traffic, but occurs less frequently. Therefore, different sources yielding the same composite noise exposure do not necessarily create the same noise environment.

Suitable Interior Environments

One objective of locating both single and multi-family residential units relative to a known noise source is to maintain a suitable interior noise environment at no greater than 45 dB CNEL or Ldn. This requirement, coupled with the measured or calculated noise reduction performance of the type of structure under consideration, should govern the minimum acceptable distance to a noise source.

Source: State of California, Office of Noise Control, 1975, as modified by City of Larkspur, 1982.