

DATE: 5/04/99 AGENDA ITEM # 13  
( ) APPROVED ( ) DENIED  
( ) CONTINUED TO \_\_\_\_\_

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER  
FROM: BOB LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR *BL*  
SUBJECT: UNION ROAD NOISE COMPLAINTS  
DATE: MAY 4, 1999

Needs: For the City Council to confirm the recommendations of the Council's Ad Hoc Committee regarding complaints about noise along Union Road.

- Facts:
1. On January 21, 1999, an Ad Hoc Committee composed of Councilmembers Baron and Macklin met with City staff to review complaints about noise from traffic on Union Road and to discuss feasible mitigation measures. The recommendations of the Committee were summarized in a letter to Roy Boyce and Bill Shaffner, dated February 9, 1999 (copy attached).
  2. On March 8, 1999, Councilmembers Baron and Macklin and City staff met with Roy Boyce and Bill Shaffner to discuss the recommendations contained within the February 9 letter.
  3. The recommendations contained within the February 9 letter are as follows:
    - Restrict the hours of truck traffic on Union Road;
    - Undertake further steps to improve the surface of Union Road.
    - Consider a change in the Circulation Element of the General Plan to reduce Union Road from an Arterial to a Collector Street status (in conjunction with an update to the Circulation Element);
  4. At the March 8 meeting, Roy Boyce delivered letters (copies attached) from three residents whose homes back up to North River Road, complaining about the hours of operation of businesses along North River Road.
  5. Residents whose homes back up to Union and North River Roads, signers of a recent petition and North River Road businesses have been given mail notice that this matter would be discussed by the Council on May 4.

RIMC CODE  
DATE: May 4, 1999  
FILE PLAN/GEN CAT: Enforcement  
SUBJECT: UNION ROAD NOISE COMPLAINT  
LOCATION: Housing Division Files  
RETENTION: 3 Years  
OTHER: ED\ENFORCE\OTHER\UNION ROAD NOISE \CCR 050499

Analysis and

Conclusion:

Two of the recommended mitigation measures, a Circulation Element update that would include consideration of redesignating Union Road as a collector street and road surface improvements to Union Road, are scheduled for Council consideration as part of the Fiscal Year 99/00 Budget.

Regarding the third recommendation, the Public Works Department will soon be preparing an ordinance, for Council consideration, to restrict the hours of truck traffic on Union Road.

The February 9 letter addresses other mitigation measures requested by residents: the reduction of speed limit on Union Road and construction of a noise wall. The letter concludes that such measures are neither practically nor fiscally feasible.

Policy

Reference:

Circulation Element of the General Plan

Fiscal

Impact:

As noted above, two of the recommendations are scheduled to be addressed in the Fiscal Year 99/00 Budget. The estimated cost of road surface improvements is \$10,000. The estimated cost of a comprehensive update to the Circulation Element is \$130,000.

Prohibition of truck traffic during certain hours would not have a direct fiscal impact. It could, however, redirect limited police resources from other tasks.

Options:

- a. Via minute action, confirm the following recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee:
  - Restrict the hours of truck traffic on Union Road (forthcoming ordinance prepared by the Public Works Department);
  - Consider funding to improve the surface of Union Road (as part of the Fiscal Year 99/00 Budget);
  - Consider funding for an update of the Circulation Element of the General Plan, including an evaluation of the feasibility of redesignating Union Road from an Arterial to a Collector Street (as part of the Fiscal Year 99/00 Budget).
- b. Amend, modify or reject the foregoing option.

Attachments:

1. Letter to Roy Boyce and Bill Shaffner dated February 9, 1999
2. Three letters from owners of property that back up to North River Road



# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

"The Pass of the Oaks"

February 9, 1999

Roy Boyce  
206 Via Promesa  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

William Shaffner  
222 Via Promesa  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Subject: Union Road Noise

Dear Mr. Boyce and Mr. Shaffner:

As you are aware, the City Council appointed a subcommittee to investigate complaints of noise generated by traffic on Union Road. Members of that subcommittee met with City staff to review the concerns expressed by your and your neighbors. We have discussed what noise mitigation measures would seem to be reasonable and appropriate, in light of adopted City policies and the history of development approvals for the three subdivisions north of Union Road. The committee's recommendations to the City Council are outlined as follows:

- Status of Union Road as an Arterial Street: Union Road has been designated in the City's General Plans as an arterial street since at least 1974. As an arterial street, the General Plan anticipates that Union Road would ultimately be improved to contain 4 traffic lanes. The City does not presently have an adopted schedule for completing the widening of Union Road, and it is likely that such widening (beyond the present two lanes) will not occur in the next 5-10 years.

The committee agrees that there may be some merit in considering a redesignation of Union Road to a "collector" street, which would be designed to carry less traffic and contain only 2 lanes. It will be recommended that the City Council consider such a redesignation as part of the future update of the Circulation Element. At that time, the impacts, if any, of such a redesignation to the City's traffic circulation system, as a whole, would be evaluated. That update has not yet been scheduled.

- Prohibition of Truck Traffic on Union Road: In response to previously-expressed concerns, the City contacted major retailers who have truck deliveries. At the City's request, these retailers took steps to reroute their trucks off of Union Road. It is our understanding that most of the remaining truck traffic using Union Road is related to construction activity throughout the City.

RIMC CODE  
DATE: February 9, 1999  
FILE PLAN/GEN CAT: Code Enforcement  
SUBJECT: Union Road Noise Complaint  
LOCATION: Housing Division Files  
RETENTION: 3 Years  
OTHER: ED\ENFORCE\OTHER\UNION ROAD NOISE\Letter to Boyce & Shaffner Feb 99

While it may not be prudent to completely prohibit heavy truck traffic on Union Road, it would seem reasonable to consider such a prohibition between the hours of 7:00 pm and 7:00 am, consistent with the permitted hours of construction activity. Therefore, it will be recommended that the City Council consider adopting such an ordinance and post the road accordingly.

- Road Surface on Union Road: John McCarthy, the Public Works Director, has indicated that, in addition to the recent paving improvements on Union Road, some additional leveling of bumps can be accomplished at a cost of about \$10,000. Such leveling could help reduce the rattling noise associated with truck trailers hitting bumps. It will be recommended that the City Council budget for and authorize this work.
- Mailboxes on Union Road at Kleck Road: In response to expressed concerns, the mailboxes that had been located on the south side of Union Road at Kleck Road have been relocated to the north side of the road. Residents of the area served by Kleck Road no longer have to cross Union Road to access their mailboxes.
- Reduction of Speed Limit on Union Road: The California Vehicle Code establishes regulations for setting speed limits and for using radar to enforce speed limits. The present speed limit of 45 mph on Union Road has been set in accordance with a traffic and engineering survey required by the Vehicle Code.
- Noise Wall Along Union Road: The design of the existing ornamental iron fence along Union Road was authorized based on the contents of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was prepared by independent third party consultants. A solid noise wall was not required because the noise study in the EIR prepared for the Union/46 Specific Plan in March 1988 projected that neither existing nor future noise levels from traffic on Union Road would exceed 60 dBA  $L_{DN}$ .

The three subdivisions along Union Road were approved between May 1988 and February 1989, based on the EIR prepared for the Union/46 Specific Plan. The EIR had been certified, and the three subdivision maps were approved following properly-noticed public hearings. The City's decision to permit the ornamental iron fence was based on the best available information in 1988 and 1989.

The purpose of the Noise Element of the General Plan is to provide guidance for evaluating future development proposals. The latest update to the City's noise Element occurred in 1994, about five years after the entitlements/approvals were granted for your subdivision. If maps or tables in the 1994 Noise Element indicated that maximum noise levels may be exceeded, the proper course of action would have been for the City to have required a more-detailed noise study *prior to approval* of a development application. Since the approvals/entitlements were granted in 1988 and 1989, the current Noise Element could not apply to your situation.

The General Plan's Noise Element does not obligate the City to mitigate adverse levels of noise that arise at a later date as a result of unforeseen circumstances.

Summary

In response to concerns expressed by you and your neighbors, the subcommittee is recommending that the following measures be considered with the intent to reduce the present and future generation of vehicular traffic related noise:

- Consider a change in the Circulation Element of the General Plan to reduce Union Road from an Arterial to a Collector Street status;
- Restrict the hours of truck traffic on Union Road;
- Undertake further steps to improve the surface of Union Road.

Your concerns about noise along Union Road are appreciated by the City of Paso Robles. We are hopeful these additional steps the City is taking in response to your concerns are of assistance.

Sincerely,

  
James L. App  
City Manager

26, Feb. 99

City Manager  
Paso Robles, Ca. 93446

Subject: Local noise.

Sir,

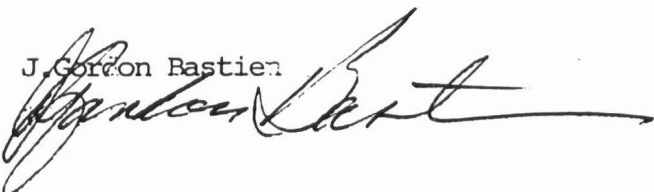
My name is Gordon Bastien and I reside at 1541 Las Brisas Dr. Paso Robles with my wife Gen.

We purchased this property in Oct. 1997 to be built by Coker Ellsworth. The house was completed on July 1 1998 at which time we took possession. From that date on until late October there was constant noise coming from the cement plant located on No. River Rd. below us. Most noticeably was the Batch machine in which I believe they mix the cement. It's operation starts somewhere between 3:30 A.M. or 4 A.M. and the trucks start loading in this timeframe somewhere up to about 6:30 or 7 A.M. at which time they are all out from then on throughout the day. This BATCH machine is somewhat like or has a compressor attached as it gives off a pressure relief noise at approximately every 8 seconds which at this hour is very annoying, and hard to sleep with. Especially with the windows open, which is a normal living condition in this season. Throughout the night we have trucks coming and going bringing in new materials for the plant. There is a constant noise from the safety bells on the trucks backing up. However I must in all fairness say that this plant was here long before me and that also during the colder winter months we do not have as much noise but we still have the trucks operating throughout the night bringing supplies and dumping gravel and sand I believe.

I do find it hard to believe that a City like Paso Robles who is so advanced would actually allow homes to be built in an area that is obviously a commercially developed street without sound barriers of some sort being installed.

Respectfully,

J. Gordon Bastien



RECEIVED  
MAR 8 1999  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City Atoll,

We hear the noise on North River Rd, starting at 4:30 AM. We do not want to deny any business their living - but we feel there should be concern for their neighbors.

The Ventura's

1525 Las Brisas Ave.

Paso Robles, Ca 93446

RECEIVED

MAR 8 1994

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



March 7 1999

To City Manager;

Just to inform you that there is more noise in the very early morning below me on North River Road.

I was told they didn't start until 4<sup>30</sup> AM. it has been louder than normal.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Judith Nichols  
1551 Las Brisas Dr  
Paso Robles, 93446.



RECEIVED

MAR 8 1999

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

