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Meeting Overview

- Noise Element Overview, Background and Discussion
- Safety Element Overview, Background and Discussion
- Public Facilities & Services Element Overview, Background and Discussion

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Noise Element Overview,
Background

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Noise Element Requirements

Purpose: Ensure that an area limits exposure to excessive noise levels in noise-sensitive areas & at noise-sensitive times of day

It should discuss all of the following noise sources:

- Highways/ freeways.
- Primary arterials & major local streets.
- Passenger & freight railroad operations & ground rapid transit systems.
- Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, & military airport operations, jet engine test stands, & all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.
- Industrial plants, including, (e.g. railroad classification yards).
- Other ground stationary noise sources, (e.g. military installations)

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Noise & Health

- Excessive noise levels can become personal medical problems.
- Exposure to excessive noise can have negative health impacts.
- Most common health impact from excessive noise exposure is sleep disturbance.
 - Others include: increased levels of hypertension, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease.

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Current San Marcos General Plan

Adopted in 2012

Planning based on nine Guiding Themes:


- Create a vibrant destination city
- A strong local economy and employment base
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- An education and academic hub
- A city with choices
- Sustaining environmental quality
- Building a greener community
- **A healthy and safe community** ← Current Noise Element focuses on meeting this theme
- Continuing our agricultural heritage

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Current General Plan Noise Element

- Addresses existing & future noise abatement issues
- Policies are designed to reduce the effects of human-caused noise & to improve residents' quality of life by regulating & reducing noise, particularly near noise sensitive land uses: residences, hospitals, convalescent and day care facilities, schools, and libraries.
- Provides direction regarding best practices and strategies to protect City residents & businesses from severe noise levels.
- Broken down into 3 Sections:
 - [Background & Structure](#) (defines noise standards & noise control practices)
 - [Noise Plan/Goals & Policies](#)
 - [Implementation Plan](#) (outlines action plan)




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Current General Plan Noise Element

Current Goals

- Land Use Compatibility
- Noise Reducing Design Features
- Controlling Transportation-Related Noise (traffic, rail, aviation) near noise sensitive land uses
- Control Non-Transportation-Related Noise (commercial, industrial, construction) near noise sensitive land uses



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Noise Regulations in San Marcos

The General Plan provides acceptable and nonacceptable noise levels for different land uses.


Land Use Category	Exterior Noise Level (CNEL)					
	55	60	65	70	75	80
A Residential—single family residences, mobile homes, senior/care-restricted housing						
B Residential—multifamily residences, mixed use (residential/commercial)						
C Lodging—hotels, motels						
D Schools, churches, hospitals, residential care facility, child care facilities						
E ¹ Passive recreational parks, nature preserves, contemplative spaces, cemeteries						
F ¹ Active parks, golf courses, athletic fields, outdoor spectator sports, water recreation						
G ² Office/professional, government, medical/dental, commercial, retail, laboratories						
H ³ Industrial, manufacturing, utilities, agriculture, mining, stables, ranching, warehouse, multi-use/manufacturing						

Acceptable—Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved

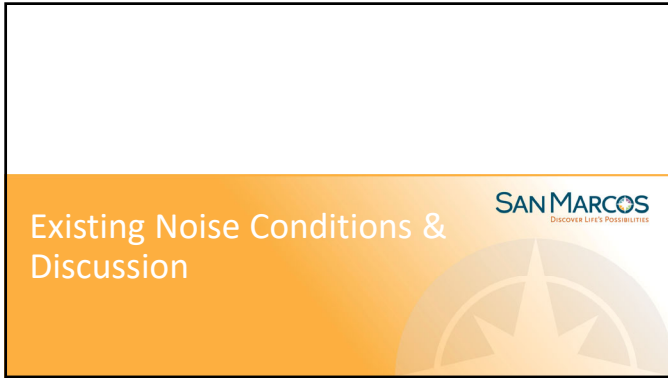
Conditionally acceptable—New construction or development should be conditioned only after a detailed noise analysis is conducted to determine if noise reduction measures are necessary to achieve acceptable levels for land use. Criteria for determining noise and greater noise levels are listed in Table 7-4, Noise Standards. If a project cannot mitigate noise to a level deemed Acceptable, the appropriate County decision-maker must determine that mitigation has been provided to the greatest extent practicable or that unacceptable circumstances exist.

Unacceptable—New construction or development shall not be undertaken.

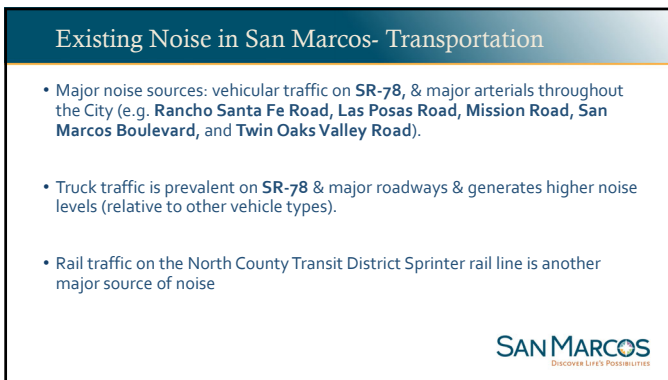
The City Noise Ordinance is established in the Municipal Code.



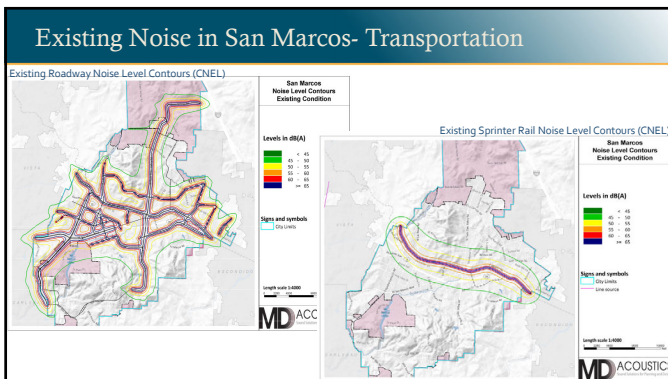
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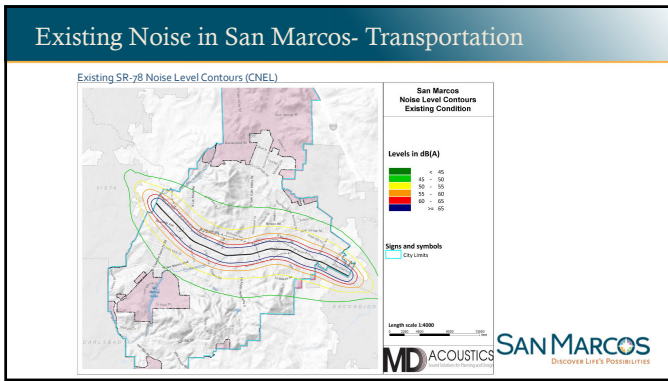
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- ### Existing Noise in San Marcos- Non-Transportation
- Construction Projects,
 - Industrial Areas (primarily located north and south of SR-78),
 - Residential & Commercial Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems,
 - Loading Docks & Parking Areas,
 - Commercial/Retail Centers,
 - Event Venues (e.g. sports fields, amphitheatres)
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- ### Noise Element Discussion Questions
- What types of measures should the City implement to reduce noise exposure to sensitive receptors? (land use patterns? Physical sound buffers?)
 - What is the loudest, or most consistent noise source you hear in your day-to-day life?
 - Are some types of community noise nuisances acceptable (i.e. festivals, concerts, community events etc.)? Should the City continue to endorse and support such events?
 - Are there specific areas within San Marcos where louder noise sources are acceptable than others (i.e. bars, event spaces, commercial districts, industrial work spaces, transportation hubs)?
 - Should the City focus more on reducing stationary or mobile noise sources?
 - Should minimizing noise pollution be prioritized over City design/appearance/aesthetic?
 - What are some ways the City can reduce traffic noise? Especially at peak traffic noise hours?
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Safety Element Overview and Background



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Safety Element Requirements

- The Safety Element must:
 - Identify hazards & hazard abatement provisions to guide local decisions related to zoning, subdivisions, & entitlement permits.
 - Contain general hazard & risk reduction strategies complementary with those of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).
- The Safety Element must discuss:
 - Slope Instability
 - Seismic risks
 - Flooding
 - Wildland and Urban Fires
 - Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience



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Current General Plan Safety Element

Current vision:

- Promote and ensure adequate safety for residents, businesses, and visitors
- Establish plans and programs to minimize potential safety hazards
- Create greater levels of neighborhood safety

Established goals and policies associated with:

- Fire Hazards
- Flooding Hazards
- Hazardous Materials & Waste
- Emergency Preparedness/ Neighborhood Safety
- Natural Geologic Hazards



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Changes Since Last Safety Element Update

Local and Regional Safety Context:

- Increased development and population
- Larger and more frequent wildfires (and drought) throughout the region & state


New Regulatory Requirements:

- SB 379 – Measuring Climate Change Impacts
- AB 38- Defensible Space Inspections (Fire Management)
- State requires that the Safety Element addresses Climate Change impacts & that agencies are a part of, climate plans (i.e. LHMPs, Climate Action Plans, Climate Vulnerability Assessments, etc...)
- San Marcos has a 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP)



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Existing Safety Conditions and Discussion




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Safety Threats & Risks in San Marcos

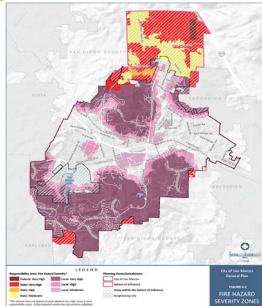
Some of the greatest potential threats in the City are:

- Fire Hazards (Wildfires)
 - COCO'S Fire (2014) – Originated in San Marcos
- Drought (in conjunction with warming)
 - Threatening local and imported water sources
- Extreme Heat
 - Increase in heat waves, and increase in length of heat wave
- Earthquake- seismically induced incidents (landslides, liquefaction)




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Fire Hazards




- San Marcos contains Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs).
- Contains FHSZs that are under LRAs & FHSZs that are under SRAs.
- Current General Plan addresses wildland fire risk reduction and prevention, how to minimize fire hazards resulting from structural fires, & hazard mitigation efforts through policies,
- Land Use and Community Design Element, Conservation & Open Space Element, & Mobility Elements address fire hazards
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)- borders between development and open space.



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Improvements Since 2014 COCO'S Fire

- We have learned a lot from the Coco's Fire from 2014 and have made changes locally in the North Zone, and well a regionally in San Diego County
- Reverse 911 (Alert San Diego) aids in precise evacuation grids so entire neighborhoods aren't "leaving at the same time."
- Continuous relationships with CalFire Improving Wildland Urban Interface Pre-Plans and communications.
- Annual joint wildland training with North County Fire Departments.
- Proactive Vegetation Management Program (weed abatement) all parcels in fire severity zones inspected annually.



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Other Ongoing Fire Safety Programs

- "Getting information out" : Active on Social Media platforms: Twitter and Instagram. Large emergencies and closures that effect our citizens we push out on both platforms-. We tag the City and they repost even reaching a further audience.
- Community Involvement and Stakeholder groups: Starting in 2022, SMFD will be embarking on a 3-5 year plan to become "Internationally Accredited" through the Center Of Public Safety Excellence. With this process comes the establishment of community stakeholders and outside community entities that will be needed throughout the strategic planning process.
- Recently completed P.A.C.E. Video (Primary, Alternate, Contingent, Emergent) in partnership with CSUSM covering wildfire preparedness and evacuation. This video will be released on all media channels in the City and on website



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Extreme Heat & Drought

Heat

- Historical average temp: 74 F
 - Mid-Century Prediction: 78F
 - End of Century Prediction: 78-82 F
- Largest contributors to GHG emissions in San Marcos
 - On-road transportation (54%)
 - Electricity (27%)
 - Natural gas (12%)

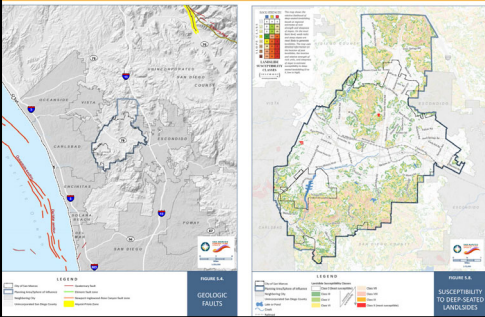
Drought

- Historical average dry spell: 128
 - Mid-Century Prediction: 134-137
 - End of Century Prediction: 135-143
- Multi-regional water infrastructure/multi-regional drought




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Seismic Hazards




- No faults run through the City
- But, the City's topography & soil allows for greater risk of landslides



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Safety Element Discussion Questions

- What do you think is the City's most significant public health and safety concerns?
- Should the City/General Plan place a larger emphasis on emergency response than it currently does?
- How can the City better prepare for climate-related hazards (extreme heat events, drought, increased flooding, sea level rise, etc.)?
- How should the City address open space conservation while also prioritizing fire safety, as open spaces are a large fuel source for wildfires?
- How should the City combat over heating? (Minimize Urban Heat Islands, Incorporate more urban greenery, Use heat reflecting building material, Create/prioritize public cooling zones (i.e. shaded plazas or air conditioned public buildings), Focus on providing public transportation as to help reduce heat produced from automobiles?)
- How are you currently receiving Fire Department information and how would you like to receive information in the future?



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Public Facilities & Services Element Overview and Background



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Public Facilities & Services Element

- Public Facilities Services Element is not required by the State.
- Purpose: to ensure proper accommodation is provided for community services and facilities as the community grows and ages.
- NO existing Public Facilities Element. Currently public services are generally discussed in Land Use & Safety Elements
- Public Facilities & Services include:
 - Fire protection
 - Emergency response
 - Police service
 - Public facilities (libraries, schools, civic centers, senior centers)
- Utilities are generally discussed in existing Land Use Element. Utilities include:
 - Wastewater services (sewer)
 - Water Supplies
 - Stormwater and Drainage Facilities
 - Lighting and Electricity



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Current Public Facilities & Services Discussion in General Plan- Land Use

- The City provides a variety of services and infrastructure but also contracts with appropriate service agencies & special districts to ensure the adequate provision of urban services.
- Public Service, Infrastructure, & Utilities section discusses
 - Law Enforcement
 - Fire Protection & Emergency Services
 - Schools
 - Higher Education
 - Libraries
 - Medical/Hospital Resources
 - Solid Waste Disposal
 - Water Services
 - Wastewater
 - Flood Control Facilities & Stormwater Management
 - Dry Utilities
 - Communications



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Existing Public Facilities and Services Conditions




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Utilities

Water Services (potable water):

- Vallecitos Water District (largest provider to the City)
- Vista Irrigation District
- Olivenhain Municipal Water District & Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District

Wastewater (collection and treatment)

- Vallecitos Water District
- City of Vista & Buena Sanitation District

Stormwater & Drainage


- City is responsible for managing the storm drain system
- Pipes/infrastructure; nearly 30% of pipes need to be replaced
- Surface water runoff and pollution



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Schools

- San Marcos Unified School District includes:
 - 12 elementary schools,
 - 3 middle schools,
 - 2 comprehensive high schools,
 - 1 alternative high school, and
 - 1 adult education school
- Higher Education in San Marcos includes:
 - Cal State San Marcos
 - Palomar College
 - University of St. Augustine
- CSUSM and Palomar are expanding facilities



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Library & Community Centers

- One library: San Diego County Library (SDCL), San Marcos Branch
 - Seat ~40
 - Public access to computers
- San Marcos Community Center:
 - Used for civic events (council meetings, conferences, etc.)
 - Rooms available to rent to the public




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Public Facilities & Services Discussion Questions

- Are there enough public facilities/services for all community members?
- Are utilities functioning at level of the price they cost?
- Regarding Public Services & Utilities (drainage, sewer, water services), are there areas of the City that need focused attention in terms of capital improvement planning?
- Do you think the City (residents and/or infrastructure) is prepared to handle a natural hazard event such as a wildfire or inland flooding?

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General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #7
Community Services Main Hall | December 16, 2021

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