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Certified Neighborhood Council
August 13, 2002

February 17, 2024

Transmitted via email

City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning
Attn: Mindy Nguyen, Senior City Planner
Project Planning, mindy.nguyen@lacity.org

Office of City of Los Angeles Councilmember Traci Park
Attn: Jeff Khau
Planning Deputy
Jeff.Khau@lacity.org

CC: Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD11, Vincent P. Bertoni, AICP, Director, DCP

RE: Proposed Updates to CEQA Thresholds Related to Construction Noise and Vibration

Dear Ms. Nguyen

The MVCC has voted unanimously in their strong opposition to the proposed new noise thresholds for the city of Los Angeles, as outlined in the Department of City Planning's Fact Sheet Summary of Proposed Updates to CEQA Thresholds Related to Construction Noise and Vibration, dated January 11, 2024. While we acknowledge the importance of addressing noise concerns, we believe the proposed thresholds are excessively high and fail to consider the diverse nature of our city.

Currently, ambient residential daytime noise thresholds in many parts of Los Angeles typically hover around 50 dBA. The proposed thresholds, which peak at 80 dBA, represent a significant increase that may have detrimental effects on the quality of life for residents across various neighborhoods. I am concerned that adopting such high thresholds may lead to an increase in noise pollution and negatively impact the well-being of our citizens.

It is crucial to recognize that Los Angeles is a vast and diverse city, comprised of large residential neighborhoods as well as densely populated downtown areas. The proposed one-size-fits-all approach to noise thresholds does not take into account the unique characteristics of each neighborhood. Treating the entire city as if it were a densely populated downtown area fails to consider the different needs and sensitivities of our residential communities.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed noise thresholds and instead implement a more nuanced approach that takes into account the distinctiveness of various neighborhoods within Los Angeles. The imposition of a uniform maximum noise level fails to recognize the differences in population density, land use, and community characteristics that exist across the city.

We respectfully request that you reject the proposed noise thresholds and engage in a more comprehensive and community-specific approach to address noise concerns in Los Angeles. By doing so, we can ensure that our policies are fair, equitable, and reflective of the diverse needs of our residents.

Very Truly Yours,

Kevin Wheeler, Chair MVCC PLUM
Committee

Drew Ruesch, MVCC Board Chair