

NOISE TWEAKS IN LODE

AUDIO POLLUTION PLAN WILL RETURN TO BOARD IN MONTH

By **Joe Goldeen**
July 26, 2012
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SAN ANDREAS - A proposed noise ordinance up for consideration by the Calaveras County supervisors earlier this week was returned to staff for some tweaking and is expected to come back before the board in about a month.

County planner Darcy Goulart said the first reading of the proposed ordinance prompted a productive discussion among supervisors and a supportive public that has waited years for the county to put some teeth into dealing with noise complaints.

"They gave us some direction on some things to bring back," Goulart said Wednesday. "They want us to take a look at the fine structure that we have; some thought maybe the fines were a little too low. They want us to take a look at other jurisdictions and see how they are handling it."

The current proposal sets the noise nuisance fines at \$150 for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense and \$500 for a third offense.

"Other issues they want us to look at are where the (sound) measurements are taken such as at the property lines, and how it relates to new industrial and commercial uses," she said.

The board also asked staff to review the enforcement section that calls for the Sheriff's Office and the Code Compliance Unit to enforce the new ordinance. Most noise complaints come at night and on weekends, Goulart said, when sheriff's deputies are most likely to be working.

That could save the county a little upfront money - about \$1,000 - for the cost of a fifth sound meter.

The Sheriff's Office has indicated it would only need four meters.

When the revised ordinance comes back to the board, it will be presented as a first reading, Goulart said.

It cannot be adopted until it is presented at a subsequent meeting.

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