



City Council Staff Report

Subject: Noise Standards Ordinance

Date: January 13, 2026

Submitted By: David Mohlenbrok, Community Development Director

Department: Community Development

Recommendation:

- A. Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Rocklin Approving a Notice of Exemption (Noise Standards / ENV2025-0016).
- B. Introduce, Waive the Full Reading and Read by Title Only, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Rocklin Amending Title 9 of the Rocklin Municipal Code by Adding Chapter 9.52 – Noise Standards.

Background:

As the proposal includes a legislative action which requires approval of an ordinance, a two-meeting process is required.

Staff recommends City Council approval of the following:

January 13, 2026 – First reading of ordinance:

- A. Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Rocklin Approving a Notice of Exemption (Noise Standards / ENV2025-0016); and
- B. Introduce, Waive the Full Reading and Read by Title Only, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Rocklin Amending Title 9 of the Rocklin Municipal Code by Adding Chapter 9.52 – Noise Standards.

January 27, 2026 – Final action for ordinance:

Adopt an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Rocklin Amending Title 9 of the Rocklin Municipal Code by Adding Chapter 9.52 – Noise Standards.

Proposal:

The proposal is to amend Title 9 – Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the Rocklin Municipal Code (RMC) to incorporate noise standards as Chapter 9.52.

Proponent:

The proposed ordinance was initiated by the City of Rocklin.

Location:

The proposed ordinance would apply Citywide.

Background:

The City of Rocklin does not currently have citywide noise regulations. The City has historically applied its "Construction Noise Guidelines" on construction projects as a condition of approval through the entitlement process, and through notes on project plans for non-entitlement projects. The "Construction Noise Guidelines" prohibit the generation of construction noise within or near residential areas on weekdays before 7:00 A.M. or after 7:00 P.M., and on weekends before 8:00 A.M. or after 7:00 P.M. While most construction activities abide by these restrictions, there are occasions where the restrictions are not followed, but the ability to more strictly enforce the restrictions is hampered by not having the restrictions codified within the Rocklin Municipal Code through a noise standards ordinance.

In addition, the City receives complaints from residents and businesses regarding common "nuisance" noise sources such as landscaping equipment and loud music, which also are not directly regulated within the Rocklin Municipal Code due to the lack of a noise standards ordinance. Having a noise standards ordinance in place would provide an enforcement tool to address these complaints.

Prior to drafting the proposed noise standards ordinance, staff reviewed existing noise ordinances from other jurisdictions, including the cities of Roseville, Yuba City, Modesto, and Stockton. In addition, internal discussions took place with staff members who had familiarity with adopting, implementing and enforcing noise ordinances in other jurisdictions, and there was overwhelming support for a noise ordinance that used qualitative thresholds (descriptive and subjective) rather than quantitative thresholds (numerical and objective). It should also be noted that qualitative thresholds do not require initial and continuing investment in equipment and training like quantitative thresholds do.

When drafting the proposed noise standards ordinance, staff took into account a desire to not overly restrict City and other outdoor entertainment events, to not overly restrict business operations adjacent to residential areas, and to create an ordinance that was easily enforceable. The noise standards ordinance was reviewed by the City Attorney's Office, the Code Enforcement Division, the Planning Division, the Police Department and the Parks and Recreation Department as it was being drafted.

Summary of the Proposed Ordinance:

For noise generated by construction activities, the proposed noise standards ordinance codifies the City's current day and hour restrictions in the "Noise Construction Guidelines" and identifies the type of equipment that is subject to the restrictions. With the exception of owner construction at their own residence, it also requires the appointment of a Noise Coordinator, their performance of specific duties, and the posting of signage.

For non-construction generated noise such as landscape maintenance activities and amplified sound, the proposed noise standards ordinance identifies day and hour restrictions.

The proposed noise standards ordinance also identifies activities that would be exempt from the regulations, such as emergency responses, safety/warning/alarm devices, parades, concerts, City authorized activities on or in publicly owned property and facilities, and organized sporting events.

Lastly, for violations and penalties that would be imposed under the proposed noise standards ordinance, the provisions of RMC Chapter 1.14 – Administrative Violations and Administrative Enforcement Procedures would apply.

Conclusion:

The adoption of the proposed noise standards ordinance would allow for more meaningful enforcement of what are now the City's Noise Construction Guidelines, and it would establish codified day and time restrictions on common noise sources in the community such as landscape maintenance equipment and amplified music, which when operating at high volumes and/or improper hours, are often the sources of community concerns.

Environmental Analysis:

The proposed addition of Chapter 9.52 – Noise Standards to Title 9 of the Rocklin Municipal Code is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15061(b)(3), as the activity is not expected to result in a direct physical change, nor is it reasonably foreseeable to cause an indirect physical change to the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution - Notice of Exemption](#)
2. [Ordinance - Noise Standards](#)