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Noise Study

Materra Winery
Use Permit Major Modification Application No. P20-00184-MOD
Planning Commission Hearing, June 2, 2021

Materra Cunat Family Vineyards

Napa

ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE ASSSESSMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Materra Wines proposes to modify its use permit by increasing visitation from 18 persons per day to 34 persons per day. The expanded visitation also includes the addition of a new two-story production and hospitality building and proposed parking for 25 spaces including one ADA. The County of Napa required Materra wines to submit an acoustical study analyzing how the proposed patio would impact the noise to surrounding neighbors. This study provides the insight and analysis to the acoustic environment.

SUMMARY

The proposed patio and expansion of the use permit would not generate a significant increase to the existing noise levels due to increased use.

CRITERIA

Applicable criteria are contained in the Napa County Code and in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Appendix G: Acoustical Impacts.

Napa County

Section 8.16 in the County Code provides the following table establishing the exterior noise limits at adjacent property lines.

Table 8.16.070
EXTERIOR NOISE LIMITS
(Levels not to be exceeded more than 30 minutes in any hour)

		Noise Level (dBA) Noise Zone Classification [1]		
Receiving Land Use Category	Time Period	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Residential Single and double	10 p.m. — 7 a.m.	45	45	50
	7 a.m. — 10 p.m.	50	55	60
Residential multiple and country	10 p.m. — 7 a.m.	45	50	55
	7 a.m. — 10 p.m.	50	55	60

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines include a checklist of items, some of which related to noise and vibration. One item asks if the project will exceed any established noise standards or substantially increase existing ambient noise levels. To address the future increase in noise levels from this project, a change of 3 dB or less is considered just noticeable and not expected to cause significant community response. A change of 4 to 5 dB is marginal but could be considered an impact if the resultant noise level exceeds "normally acceptable" levels. A change of more than 5 dB would be clearly noticeable and considered a significant impact, especially since it could potentially cause adverse community response.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

During the Covid-19 shelter in place, traffic patterns have experienced decreased traffic volumes causing environmental noise levels to decrease. To estimate the "normal" noise levels at and around the project site, the Caltrans Traffic Noise Model (TNM) was used in conjunction with historical traffic volume data. This calculation factors in volume, speed, distance, and truck percentage to estimate the noise due to roadway noise. This model predicts daytime noise levels to be 50 dBA to 55 dBA.

ANALYSIS

This noise analysis compares existing noise levels with future noise projections and compares the anticipated noise levels to the Napa Ordinance and to CEQA guidelines. The analysis is broken down into the following noise-generating activities:

- Outdoor Use – including but not limited to day visitation, small and medium events, and harvest celebrations
- Traffic and Parking Activities – including but not limited to daily traffic, instantaneous vehicle noise (engine starts, revs, fans)

Outdoor Noise

The proposed hospitality building includes an outdoor patio with space for up to 34 people (the maximum daily guest total). Currently, the existing project hosts guests in an outdoor space in areas to the north of the existing production building and north/northwest of the existing offices/hospitality area. The patio would introduce up to 34 people into a new outdoor area, moving the outdoor noise source. Based on the site map, this proposed patio area is 600 feet away from the nearest residence located to the southwest.

Assuming the patio is at the daily visitation capacity of 34 people, we assume that 17 people (half) would be talking at once using a raised voice. A single raised voice typically measures 70 dBA at 3 feet. If 17 people are talking with raised voices at once, the overall noise level would be 83 dBA, 10 times the logarithmic ratio of patrons (i.e. 10*log (1 guest $_{ref}$ / 17 guests $_{actual}$) at 3 feet. This volume of speech would

drop off to 37 dBA at the nearest residential neighbor. Speech drops off at a rate of 20 times the logarithmic ratio of distances (i.e. 20*log (3 feet distance $_{ref}$ / 600 feet distance $_{actual}$).

Objectively, speech levels of 37 dBA comply with the County's noise requirements.

Subjectively, the predicted noise level of the proposed patio would be nearly inaudible except for an occasional single voice.

Mitigation: No further mitigation would be required.

Traffic and Parking Lot Noise

Traffic and Parking Lot Noise are assessed by calculating the difference in noise using trip generation. The existing trips are compared to the projected trips created by the proposed expansion. Based on the traffic data from the Napa County Use Permit Traffic Information/Trip Generation Worksheet, the peak trips to the winery will increase from 12 to 25 during non-harvest weekdays and 21 to 36 peak trips during harvest weekends.

These two cases represent the lowest use and highest use of the winery by all vehicles. These changes in traffic volume amount to a 2 to 3-decibel change in noise. According to CEQA, a 3-decibel or less change is considered just noticeable and not expected to cause significant community response. No further mitigation would be required.

Mitigation: No further mitigation would be required.