

MINUTES BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S NOISE TASK FORCE

Thursday, February 18, 2010
10-11:30 AM, Room 278, City Hall

Task Force Members Present:

311, Scott Oswald	
City Attorney, Cecilia Mangoba	DPW, Nancy George
DBI, Laurence Kornfield	Entertainment Com., Jocelyn Kane
DPH, Thomas Rivard	Entertainment Com., Vajra Granelli
DPH, Patrick Fosdahl	Planning, Jessica Range
DPH, Michael Harris	Police, Bill Coggan
DPH, Jen McLaughlin	Police, Jim O'Meara

Noise Map:

Jessica Range discussed the existing Noise Map of San Francisco and the proposed updated version of this map. She discussed the Planning Department's needs regarding the map. It was further discussed that the existing Noise Map is based on information from 1974 so the new map represents a much needed update to this information. Laurence Kornfield discussed the fact that the Department of Building Inspection uses the map everyday. Laurence made three suggestions regarding the updated map: 1) do some field validations of the model, 2) DBI needs a clear line for areas exceeding 60 dB, 3) the model needs to be able to make noise predictions extending 10 years into the future.

Tom Rivard responded that models are essentially tools used for screening and can not take the place of field measurements. The new map will meet DBI's needs as far as delineating the 60 dB line and the DPH could provide DBI with an Excel file of the city divided up by parcel numbers. Tom went on to explain that the SF Champ model can predict future traffic patterns and may provide the tool for making some 10 year noise predictions as they relate to traffic. Tom and Laurence discussed the possibility of running some predictive models on a small portion of the City in order to pilot the concept.

Broadband Back-Up Alarms:

Tom Rivard played a video clip of a typical, pure tone, back-up alarm on a garbage truck. Tom then demonstrated a broadband back-up alarm so the group could hear the difference. Tom explained that the pure tone back-up alarms continue to create a number of noise complaints on an ongoing basis and suggested that we initiate a pilot study using broadband alarms on City vehicles. It was suggested that Tom collaborate with Nancy George (DPW) on this project. It was further suggested that DPH take a look at whether or not broadband could be used for garage door alarms.

Construction Noise:

Patrick Fosdahl reported that following the last task force meeting that he had met with Nancy George, Barbara Moy and Rassendyl Dennis of DPW to discuss the night time construction standard and the idea of developing a noise approved equipment list for San Francisco. It was further discussed that the city of New York has an ordinance which specifies construction noise mitigation standards. It was suggested that DPH and DPW continue to evaluate whether or not a similar standard could be adopted locally.

Tour Bus Noise:

Vajra Granelli reported that Supervisor Chiu's office would like to ban open top tour buses from operating public address systems. Representatives from the Police Department mentioned that the police have the authority to ban tour buses from certain parts of town. It was further discussed that the police permit authority, as outlined in Section 1295, may give them the authority regulate the tour bus PA system noise but they would need to check into it.

Tom suggested that the Entertainment Commission look into the regulatory requirements for sound trucks and explore whether or not these requirements could be applied to the tour buses.

UCSF Siren Noise Study:

Tom Rivard reported that an intern from the UCSF Nursing program was conducting a noise analysis in the Tenderloin area. The purpose of the project was to specifically evaluate emergency vehicle siren noise. So far the study has discovered that 35% of the intrusive noise is from sirens.

Items For Further Discussion:

Tom Rivard reminded the group that we will need to continue to evaluate the Noise Ordinance and discuss any possible revisions or amendments.

The topic of poorly constructed live work spaces was discussed and the problems these units have with noise.

The jurisdictional issue between the Police Department and Animal Control was discussed as it pertains to barking dogs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

