

Noise Mitigation Plan
Honeydew Ranch LLC
APN 107-272-005
Case No. PLN-12256-CUP

Objective:

The objective of this plan is to implement noise mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate the impact of sound that could disturb wildlife and neighboring residents.

I. Electricity

Electricity is currently sourced from PG&E, however, a solar plan has been developed to further limit environmental impact and minimize use of enclosed generator to back-up use only. Honeydew Ranch complies with CMMLUO § 55.4.11 (2016), which states that “the noise produced by a generator used for cannabis cultivation shall not be audible by humans from neighboring residences. The combined decibel level for all noise sources, including generators, at the property line shall be no more than 60 decibels. Where applicable, sound levels must also show that they will not result in harassment of Marbled Murrelet or Spotted Owl species, when generator use is to occur in the vicinity of potential habitat.” Please see Attachment A, 24-hour Noise Monitoring Report, which has been conducted to ensure that this standard is met.

II. Equipment

The use of large tractors or other heavy noise generating equipment on the cultivation site is not anticipated on a regular basis. Employee vehicles will be limited, as they carpool as much as possible, and are limited to the employee parking area. Company trucks and/or off-road vehicles may only be used to transport equipment or haul harvested cannabis from the planting area to their designated on-site areas. Landscape maintenance equipment will be limited to residential use lawn mowers and weed eaters.

Structures are equipped with duct/vent mufflers, which can reduce noise up to 25dB. Fans will be isolated in a silencing box with a Neoprene Clamp in between the fan and silencer to suppress vibrations. The proposed processing facility will be an engineered steel building, which eliminates additional noise generated by building and construction on-site.

III. Peak Noise Generating Activity

Regular hours of operation are 7am to 7pm. Noise levels associated with cannabis cultivation activity will be highest during harvest phases. Staggered harvests will be implemented to minimize noise generated by traffic and employees. Road maintenance is projected to generate temporarily increased noise levels. Neighbors will be notified before construction that is anticipated to produce higher sound frequency. Construction will only take place between the hours of 7am and 5pm PT.

IV. Additional Noise Mitigation

A contract has been signed with Native Ecosystems Inc. to implement a native plant fence to further reduce the travel of sound waves to the adjacent parcel.

Attachment A

24-hour Noise Monitoring Report

Honeydew Ranch LLC

APN 107-272-005

Record No. PLN-12256-CUP

Background

A noise study was conducted for Honeydew Ranch, LLC on May 5, 2020 for a 24-hour period beginning at 7am. Decibel Readings were taken every hour then averaged through a six-hour period and documented. Decibel Readings were documented onsite between greenhouse #1 and the barn in the large open field.

Site Conditions May 5, 2020

Partly to Mostly sunny conditions with slight winds.

Honeydew Ranch, LLC greenhouse fans operate from 9am-6pm on average. The fans demonstrated an increase in the decibel readings by 3-5 decibels on average.

Neighboring parcels have weed eaters and mowing equipment operating intermittently throughout the day-time hours between 10am-6pm.

Neighboring parcel across the Mattole River to the west has a dozer, motor grader, and small bob-cat tractor operating intermittently throughout the day-time hours between 8am-5pm.

The construction activities by the neighboring parcel demonstrated an increase in the decibel readings by 5-7 decibels from the back-up alarms and tracks from the dozer

Results from Decibel Readings

7am-36.4 DB

8am-37.9 DB

9am-39.2 DB

10am-43.2 DB

11am-43.9 DB

Noon-41.4 DB

6-hour average=40.3 DB

1pm-42.7 DB

2pm-44.6 DB

3pm-43.8 DB

4pm-44.9 DB

5pm-47.6 DB

6pm-45.3 DB

6-hour average=44.8 DB

7pm-41.6 DB

8pm-40.8 DB

9pm-40.7 DB

10pm-38.6 DB

11pm-37.4 DB

Midnight-35.4 DB
6-hour average=39.0 DB

1am-34.6 DB
2am-33.2 DB
3am-34.1 DB
4am-32.9 DB
5am-37.6 DB
6am-38.4 DB
6-hour average=35.1 DB

Conclusion

Honeydew Ca, Old Hindley Ranch Road, is mostly comprised of agricultural land that is utilized for the cultivation of cannabis and grapes. Cannabis cultivation occurs on the neighboring parcels to the East, West, North, and grape cultivation occurs to the South. Neighboring parcels during the daytime contribute to the ambient noise levels recorded due to the greenhouse fans, employees working on daily tasks, and site development with construction activities. As night falls on Honeydew Ca the ambient noise levels decrease by 10-15 decibels as the valley is rather quiet except for the cows that are grazing across the Mattole River to the west.

Report Conducted & Completed by
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