



IMPERIAL COUNTY

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

PLANNING / BUILDING INSPECTION / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / PLANNING COMMISSION / A.L.U.C.

JURG HEUBERGER, AICP, CEP, CBO
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

October 20, 2010

Derek Dessert, Project Manager
Development Design and Engineering, Inc.
1065 West State Street
El Centro, CA 90043

SUBJECT: SDG&E Sunrise Power Link/ Noise levels

Dear Mr. Dessert:

On October 6, 2010 the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department met with your firm Development Design and Engineering. The meeting was a follow-up to the Department's September 17, 2010 letter to Development Design and Engineering, regarding the requested modification to hours of construction for your client SDG&E's Sunrise Power Link project.

In the Department's September 17, 2010 letter we stated that there was a limit to the hours of construction activity permitted. The Sunrise Power link Final EIR/EIS stated that construction activities were approved for 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday (no Saturdays). A provision in the Final EIR-EIS gave the County of Imperial (local jurisdiction) the authority to permit an alternative schedule. The Imperial County General Plan, Noise Element, the hours allowed for construction operations are Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Saturdays 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

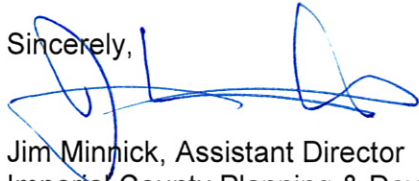
The above time limitations strictly refer to the generation of noise that would exceed the normally actable noise levels within a given zone or type of use. Construction noise is classified separately from normally accepted noises. Under the County's General Plan the highest acceptable noise levels permitted in a given zone or type of use is 70 dB L_{eq} (or CNEL db). This level of noise is found in agricultural, industrial, commercial, utilities, and open space areas, while residential uses limit noise levels to 50 dB L_{eq} . Construction noise, which is considered temporary noise allows for the exceedance of the normally accepted noise to a maximum of 75 dB L_{eq} . The caveat is the limited hours and days that construction noise is permitted. Additionally, noise levels are measured at the property boundary or within in the interior of a structure.

The majority of the Imperial County leg of the Sunrise Power Link project is located on government open space land, where the acceptable noise level is 70 dB L_{eq} , which is only 5 dB L_{eq} lower than the maximum allowed construction noise.

Therefore provided the SDG&E, is contractor, subcontractors, etc... do not exceed the noise level of the specific zone they can work beyond the construction noise hours limitations. The Noise Element is available on the Department's website www.icpds.com which includes zoning and land uses along with their various noise levels.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jimminnick@co.imperial.ca.us or by telephone at 760-482-4236 extension 4278.

Sincerely,



Jim Minnick, Assistant Director
Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department

cc: Darrell Gardner, Interim Director
Patricia Valenzuela, Planner III
Daniel Stewart, BLM
Files: 10.101, 10.102, SDGE