

29 April 2025

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**Subject: West Valley Muslim Association, Los Gatos, CA  
Hours of Operation Noise Analysis  
Salter Project 25-0042**

Dear Matthew:

We understand that the West Valley Muslim Association (WVMA) is requesting that their allowable hours of operation be increased as follows:

- Nighttime hours: From 10 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- During the 30-day month of Ramadan: From 11 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- Morning hours: Daily dawn (Fajr) indoor prayer service starting an hour and 15 minutes before sunrise

Neighbors have expressed concern that noise related to these activities (e.g., vehicle traffic, ingress and egress) could be intrusive to their homes. This report summarizes calculated noise transfer to the nearest adjacent property lines, compares these to applicable Town criteria, and provides mitigation recommendations as needed.

## **SUMMARY**

Our measurements and analysis indicate that noise associated with the requested extended hours of operation, such as from vehicles arriving and departing, would not exceed the Town Noise Ordinance standards. Additionally, measured event arrival and departure activity did not noticeably increase noise levels above ambient.



## LOS GATOS CODE OF ORDINANCES

Chapter 16 of the Los Gatos Municipal Code<sup>1</sup> provides the Town's Noise ordinance. We have included the full sections applicable to the project in **Appendix A**. The pertinent criteria are summarized as follows:

- Section 16.20.055 relates to motor vehicle noise and includes the following applicable criteria:
  - Typical non-commercial vehicle noise (less than 6,000 lbs.) is limited, according to the Vehicle Code of the State of California, to 95 dBA<sup>2</sup>
  - Heavy vehicles (greater than 10,000 lbs.) are not to idle for 15 minutes or more during any hour within 150 feet of a residential area
  - Vehicle repair and testing noise shall meet the Town's property line noise limits
  - Motorized recreational vehicles (e.g., non-commercial racing vehicles, motorcycles, go-carts, campers) must meet the Town's property line noise limits
- Section 16.20.015 provides the property line noise limits. Based on the WVMA's requested increased hours of operation, our analysis focuses on the hours between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. The applicable noise limits for the site during this time period are as follows:
  - Weekdays: 54 dBA
  - Weekends and Holidays: 49 dBA
- Section 16.20.010 addresses noise made between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. (curfew noise disturbance). This section prohibits the following types of noise from being generated within 100 feet of a building regularly used for sleeping purposes or from disturbing any person(s) within hearing distance of such noise:
  - Unreasonably disturbing noises that are physically annoying to people of ordinary sensitivity or which are so harsh or prolonged or unnatural or unusual in their use, time or place as to cause physical discomfort to a person(s)
  - Noises that are not necessary in connection with an activity which is otherwise lawfully conducted

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<sup>1</sup> [https://library.municode.com/ca/los\\_gatos/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=CO\\_CH16NO](https://library.municode.com/ca/los_gatos/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CO_CH16NO)

<sup>2</sup> A-Weighted Sound Level – The A-weighted sound pressure level, expressed in decibels (dB). Sometimes the unit of sound level is written as dB(A). A weighting is a standard weighting that accounts for the sensitivity of human hearing to the range of audible frequencies. People perceive a 10 dB increase in sound level to be twice as loud.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The WVMA is located at 16769 Farley Road. The building is along the road and there is a parking lot in the rear (to the north). The facility has a driveway at each end. The arrival driveway is on the east side of the property and the departure driveway is to the west. The motorized gate at the departure driveway has been disabled to reduce noise from gate operation and from vehicles driving over the gate track. The property is adjacent to residential properties on all sides. There are approximately 5-to-6 foot-tall wood slat fences separating WVMA property from the adjacent residences along every property line except the south (Farley Road).

## **AMBIENT NOISE MEASUREMENTS**

We conducted three long-term ambient noise measurements between January 31 and February 11<sup>th</sup>. LT-1 was located at the departure egress aisle, LT-2 was located on Farley Road and LT-3 was located in the rear parking lot. Our noise monitors were mounted on trees and utility poles at an approximate height of 12 ft above grade. The measurement locations are shown on **Figure 1** for reference.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Vehicle Noise**

We did not measure vehicle noise in excess of 95 dBA at any of the three measurement locations over the duration of our measurement interval.

Additionally, we understand that the WVMA parking lot is not used for heavy vehicle idling, vehicle repair or testing, or recreational vehicle usage. Therefore, the project meets the motor vehicle noise criteria of Section 16.20.055 and this is not expected to change if the requested increased hours of operation are granted.

### **Nighttime Hours – Event Departure Noise**

The Town's property line noise limits concern heavy vehicle idling, vehicle repair and testing, and recreational vehicles. These seemingly do not apply to vehicle egress noise. However, to provide additional context to the noise environment at the site, we conducted additional noise analyses in relation to the property line noise limits and existing ambient noise levels.

Using the WVMA's schedule of events, we identified the average noise level ( $L_{eq}(h)^3$ ) in the hour after an event as the congregation was leaving<sup>4</sup>. We measured the following noise levels:

- Location LT-1: WVMA Egress Aisle – 49 dBA
- Location LT-2: Farley Road – 53 dBA
- Location LT-3: WVMA Rear Parking Lot – 53 dBA

Based on the barrier noise reduction methodology specified in Laymon Miller<sup>5</sup> and our experience with similar projects, we calculate that the wooden fences between the WVMA and adjacent properties provide approximately 7 dB of noise reduction across the property lines. Accounting for potential discontinuities in the fencing, we are conservatively applying a 5 dB reduction. This would result in the following property line noise levels:

- West Property Line: Adjacent to WVMA Egress Aisle (fence) – 44 dBA
- South Property Line: Adjacent to Farley Road (no fence) – 53 dBA
- North Property Line: Adjacent to WVMA rear parking lot (fence) – 48 dBA

Our analysis indicates that the weekday 54 dBA criterion would be met at each property line. The 49 dBA weekend and holiday criterion would be met at the residential property line adjacencies (west and north).

For additional context, we compared noise from the congregation leaving an event to ambient noise levels measured during the same hour on nights when no events were held. **Table 1** summarizes this analysis. For reference, ambient noise levels are higher during rain. This is due to the sound of the rainfall and because vehicle noise is louder on wet roadways. So, for simplicity, the following noise level comparisons are all at times when, according to available weather data, it was not actively raining.

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<sup>3</sup>  $L_{eq}(h)$  – The equivalent steady-state A-weighted sound level that, in a stated period of time, would contain the same acoustic energy as the time-varying sound level during the same period.

<sup>4</sup> Community Event departure, 8 to 9 p.m. Friday, 2/7/25 (no rain)

<sup>5</sup> Laymon Miller, *Noise Control for Buildings and Manufacturing Plants* (Cambridge, Mass: Bolt, Beranek, and Newman, Incorporated, 1981), Chapter 10

**Table 1: Event Departure Noise Level Comparison Along Farley Road**

Measurement Location	Measured Noise Level from Congregation Leaving Event (8 to 9 p.m., Fri 2/7, No Rain)	Measured Weekday Ambient Noise Level (8 to 9 p.m., No WVMA Event, No Rain)	Measured Weekend Ambient Noise Level (8 to 9 p.m., No WVMA Event, No Rain)
LT-1: WVMA Egress Aisle	49 dBA	44 to 55 dBA	46 to 51 dBA
LT-2: Farley Road	53 dBA	47 to 52 dBA	46 to 53 dBA
LT-3 WVMA Rear Parking Lot	53 dBA	44 to 52 dBA	45 to 52 dBA

Measured noise levels from the congregation leaving an event were within 1 dB of measured ambient noise levels on weekdays and weekends when there was no WVMA event. For reference, increases of less than 3 dB are typically considered unnoticeable<sup>6</sup>.

Though vehicle egress noise does not apply to the Town property line noise criteria, our measurements and analysis indicate that noise levels from the congregation leaving an event would meet these standards. Additionally, our measurements indicate that event departure did not noticeably increase noise levels above ambient.

### Sunrise Prayer – Event Arrival Noise

We conducted similar noise measurements and analysis for the congregation arriving to an event. The following noise levels were recorded during a WVMA event arrival<sup>7</sup>:

- Location LT-1: WVMA Egress Aisle – 53 dBA
- Location LT-2: Farley Road – 56 dBA
- Location LT-3: WVMA Rear Parking Lot – 53 dBA

Accounting for the fences at the site perimeter results in the following property line noise levels:

- West Property Line: Adjacent to WVMA Egress Aisle (fence) – 48 dBA
- South Property Line: Adjacent to Farley Road (no fence) – 56 dBA
- North Property Line: Adjacent to WVMA rear parking lot (fence) – 48 dBA

<sup>6</sup> Based on findings from the US Department of Transportation Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) and The Federal Interagency Committee on Noise (FICON). This standard is also applied in other Bay Area noise elements, such as, Sunnyvale and Piedmont.

<sup>7</sup> Arabic Playground and Women’s Fitness arrival, 9 to 10 a.m. 2/6/25 (no rain)

Our analysis indicates that the weekday 54 dBA criterion and 49 dBA weekend and holiday criterion would be met at the residential property line adjacencies (west and north).

**Table 2** compares event arrival noise to ambient noise levels measured during the same hour in the mornings when no events were held. Similar to **Table 1**, all reported noise levels are from days and times when it was not raining.

**Table 2: Sunrise Service Approximation**

Measurement Location	Measured Noise Level from Congregation Event Arrival (9 to 10 a.m., Th 2/6, No Rain)	Measured Weekday Ambient Noise Level (9 to 10 a.m., No WVMA Event, No Rain)	Measured Weekend Ambient Noise Level (9 to 10 am, No WVMA Event, No Rain)
LT-1: WVMA Egress Aisle	53 dBA	48 to 53 dBA	N/A*
LT-2: Farley Road	56 dBA	50 to 64 dBA	N/A*
LT-3 WVMA Rear Parking Lot	53 dBA	46 to 54 dBA	N/A*

\* We were not able to compare to weekend non-event ambient noise levels because there were morning services on all weekend days over the course of our measurements (and we assume this would be the case moving forward).

Measured noise levels from the congregation arriving to an event were within the range of measured ambient noise levels on weekdays.

Though vehicle ingress noise does not apply to the Town property line noise criteria, our measurements and analysis indicate that noise levels from the congregation arriving to an event would meet these standards at the west and north property lines. Note that the 56 dBA measurement along Farley Road includes all traffic. Thus, it is not fully attributable to WVMA activity. Additionally, our measurements indicate that event arrival did not increase noise levels above ambient.

### Additional Discussion

Our analysis has primarily focused on vehicle ingress and egress for facility events as that is the activity likeliest to occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. (in line with the WVMA’s request for extended hours of use). Between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., the Town Noise Ordinance prohibits “unreasonably disturbing noises that are physically annoying to people of ordinary sensitivity”. This is difficult to quantify. However, the Ordinance allows noise that is “necessary in connection with an activity which is otherwise lawfully conducted” and allows vehicle noise of the type that is anticipated with the requested hours of use. Therefore, the extended hours of use would not appear to violate the Town’s applicable noise standards. Additionally, we understand that the facility will be using security guards and volunteers to direct traffic and manage parking. This should further reduce noise transfer to neighboring residences.

We understand that event noise within the facility occurs with windows and doors shut. Thus, we do not expect activity within the building to exceed the Town Noise Ordinance criteria.



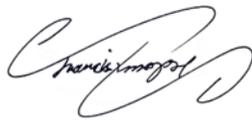
We also understand that there are no exterior speakers that might produce amplified music or voices to neighboring property lines.

## CONCLUSION

Our measurements and analysis indicate that the requested extended use hours would not violate the Town's applicable noise standards. Additionally, measured event arrival and departure activity did not noticeably increase noise levels above ambient. This concludes our noise analysis for this project. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Best,

## SALTER



Francis Fedora  
Consultant



Ben Piper  
Senior Associate

## APPENDIX A: LOS GATOS CODE OF ORDINANCES

### Chapter 16: NOISE

#### § 16.20.010. Curfew noise disturbance.

- a) No persons shall between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. make, cause, suffer or permit to be made any noise disturbance which:
  - 1) Is made within one hundred (100) feet of any building or place regularly used for sleeping purposes; or
  - 2) Disturbs any person(s) within hearing distance of such noise.
- b) No persons shall make, cause, suffer or permit to be made any noise or sounds which:
  - 1) Are unreasonably disturbing or physically annoying to people of ordinary sensitivity or which are so harsh or prolonged or unnatural or unusual in their use, time or place as to cause physical discomfort to a person(s); or
  - 2) Are not necessary in connection with an activity which is otherwise lawfully conducted.

(Ord. No. 1852, § II (11.30.010), 5-20-91)

#### § 16.20.015. Exterior noise levels for residential zones

No person shall cause, make, suffer or allow to be made by any machine, animal, device or any combination of same in a residential zone, a noise level more than six (6) dB above the noise level specified for that particular noise zone, as shown on the Noise Zone Map (Appendix A), during that particular time frame, at any point outside of the property plane.

(Ord. No. 1852, § II (11.30.015), 5-20-91)

The applicable zoning criteria are copied below. Note that the Noise Zone Map applies a 5 dB penalty for weekends and holidays, and this is reflected in the final column of the table.

Table A1: Zoning Criteria

Time of Day	Weekdays Ambient Noise Level	Weekday Max Level (Ambient + 6 dB)	Weekend and Holiday Max Level (Weekday Criteria – 5 dB)
6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	55 dBA	61 dBA	56 dBA
1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	59 dBA	65 dBA	60 dBA
10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.	48 dBA	54 dBA	51 dBA

We are examining the WVMA’s requested hours allowable hours of operation after 10 pm and at sunrise. Therefore, our analysis focuses on the (strictest) criteria from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

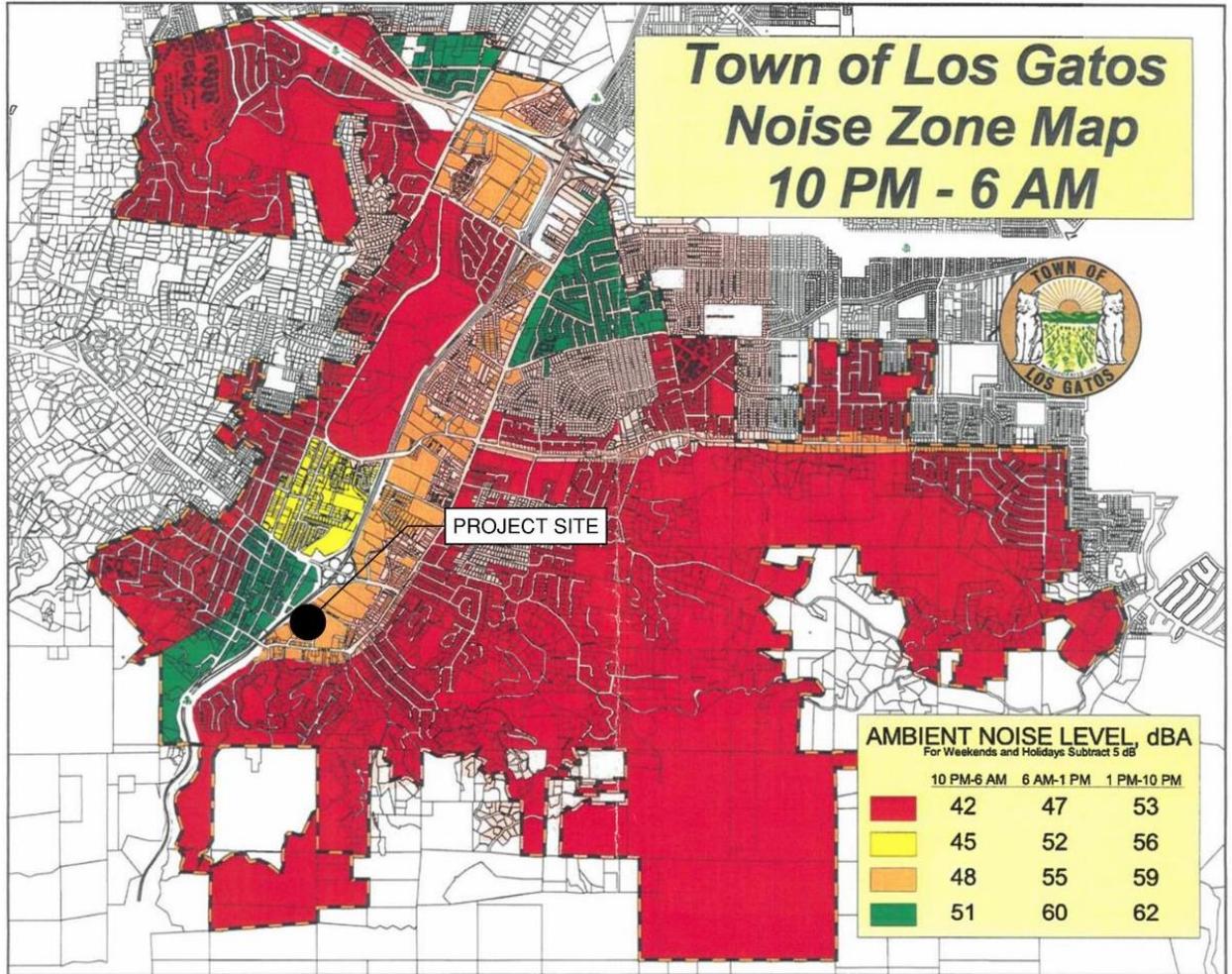
### **§ 16.20.055. Motor Vehicle Noise**

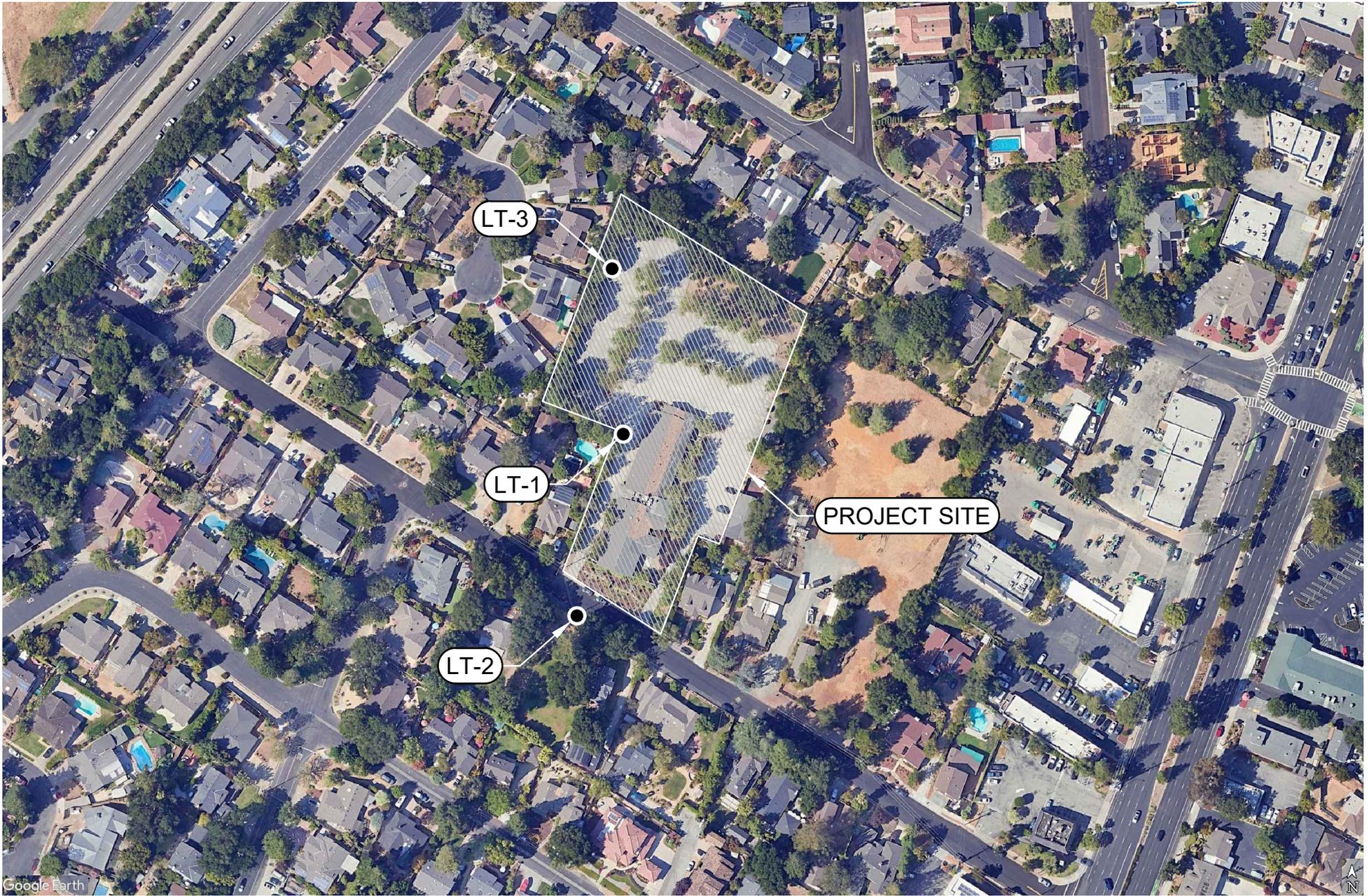
- a) *Motor vehicles. It shall be the policy of the Town to enforce those sections of the Vehicle Code of the State of California regarding motor vehicle noise emission limits and equipment problems which create noise problems, motor vehicle horns, sound levels emitted from off highway vehicles operating off the public right-of-way, and the successors thereof.*
- b) *Refuse collection vehicles.*
  - 1) *Except as authorized by contract with the Town or regional agency, no person shall collect refuse with a refuse collection vehicle between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. the following day in a residential area.*
  - 2) *No person authorized to engage in waste disposal service or garbage collection shall operate any truck-mounted waste or garbage loading and/or similar device in any manner so as to create any noise exceeding state or federal standards.*
- c) *Vehicle, motorboat and aircraft repairs and testing. No person shall repair, rebuild, modify or test any motor vehicle, motorboat or aircraft in such a manner as to create a noise disturbance across a residential property plane or at any time to violate the provisions of Article II of this chapter.*
- d) *Standing motor vehicles. No person shall operate or permit the operation of any motor vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) in excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds, including refrigeration and/or heating units attached to any vehicle weighing in excess of five thousand (5,000) pounds, or any auxiliary equipment attached to same, for a period of fifteen (15) minutes in any hour while the vehicle is stationary, for reasons other than traffic congestion, within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a residential area or designated noise sensitive zone, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day.*
- e) *Motorized recreational vehicles operating off public rights-of-way. No person shall operate or cause to be operated any motorized recreational vehicle off a public right-of-way in such a manner that the sound levels emitted therefrom violate the provisions of this chapter. This paragraph shall apply to all motorized recreational vehicles, whether or not duly licensed and registered including, but not limited to, commercial or noncommercial racing vehicles, motorcycles, go-carts, amphibious craft, campers and dune buggies, but not including motorboats.*

### **LOS GATOS ZONE NOISE MAP**

Below is the applicable portion of the Los Gatos Noise Zone Map. We have indicated the location of the project site for reference.







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# WEST VALLEY MUSLIM ASSOCIATION NOISE MEASUREMENT LOCATIONS

## FIGURE 1

Salter #  
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