



Restaurant in La Verne

Wieland Acoustics had the pleasure of working with Comprehensive Planning Services and the City of La Verne, CA, in the preparation of an acoustical study for a proposed Denny's® diner. The proposed diner would feature 24-hour service and an outdoor seating area at a location across the street from a residential community. Because of concerns from the residents, the City requested that an acoustical study be performed to assess the noise levels that would be experienced at the nearby homes.

Noise Sources

The first step in an acoustical study is, of course, to identify the noise sources at the site and the levels generated by those sources. In the case of the proposed diner, the noise sources would include: patron activities in the outdoor dining area, rooftop mechanical equipment, parking lot activities, truck deliveries, trash pickups, parking lot sweepers, and construction activity during development.

Using published data, as well as data obtained during previous studies, we conducted an analysis to estimate the noise levels that would be experienced at the nearby homes as a result of these noise sources.

The Findings

Based on the results of our analysis, we were able to conclude that there would be several potentially significant impacts associated with the 24-hour operation of the restaurant, particularly nighttime (10:00 pm to 7:00 am) activities such as truck deliveries and parking lot sweepers. Perhaps surprisingly, it was concluded that one of the noise sources of greatest concern, people talking and laughing in the outdoor dining area, would produce some of the lowest noise levels.

Noise Control

As a result of our findings, we conducted additional analysis to identify practical and cost-effective noise control measures that could be incorporated into the design and operation of the diner. These included restrictions on hours of operation for certain activities such as truck deliveries, and a noise barrier at one location.

The Follow-Through

Because of the controversial nature of the project, there were quite a few questions from homeowners who would find themselves living across the street from a 24-hour restaurant. As a result, we were asked to attend a meeting of the City's Planning Commission to respond to the homeowners' concerns, as well as to address any queries the Planning Commissioners and other City staff may have. This is part of the normal follow-through that accompanies such projects, so we were happy to assist the City in this manner, resolve the homeowners' issues and achieve compliance with the City's noise ordinance.