

From: [Tim Brummer](#)
To: [Plowman, Lisa](#)
Cc: [County Executive Office; sbcob; Haugh, Kristine; ae.lvaor@gmail.com; "Collins, LoRene"; "Karin Hauenstein"; "Joanie Niesen"](#)
Subject: Non compliant County Noise Element, errors and omissions.
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:13:47 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[12-4-20 Machine noise outside 71 Db Avg..PNG](#)
[2020 Winter field and machine locations.png](#)
[Machine in field cutout.png](#)
[2020 Sonic Assault Data.xlsx](#)
[2021 Sonic Assault Data .xlsx](#)
[Brief re Right to Farm Rincon Pacific.pdf](#)
[Dr. Schlosser letter.pdf](#)
[Resident Comments.docx](#)
[250H-CC.png](#)

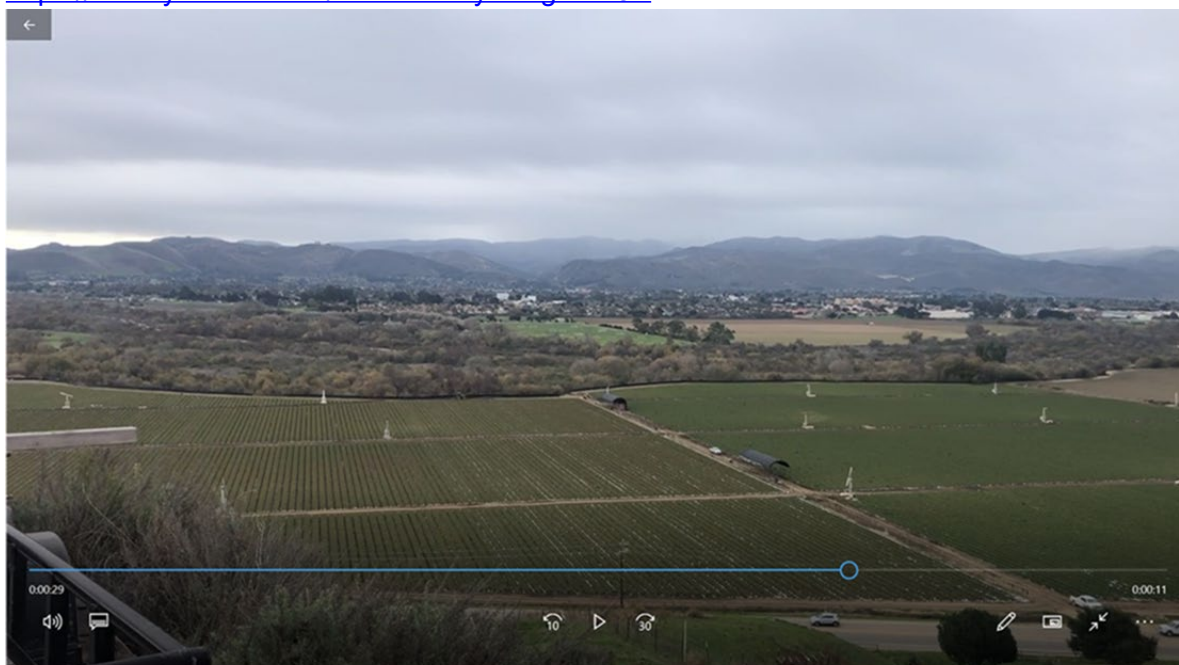
Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Director Plowman,

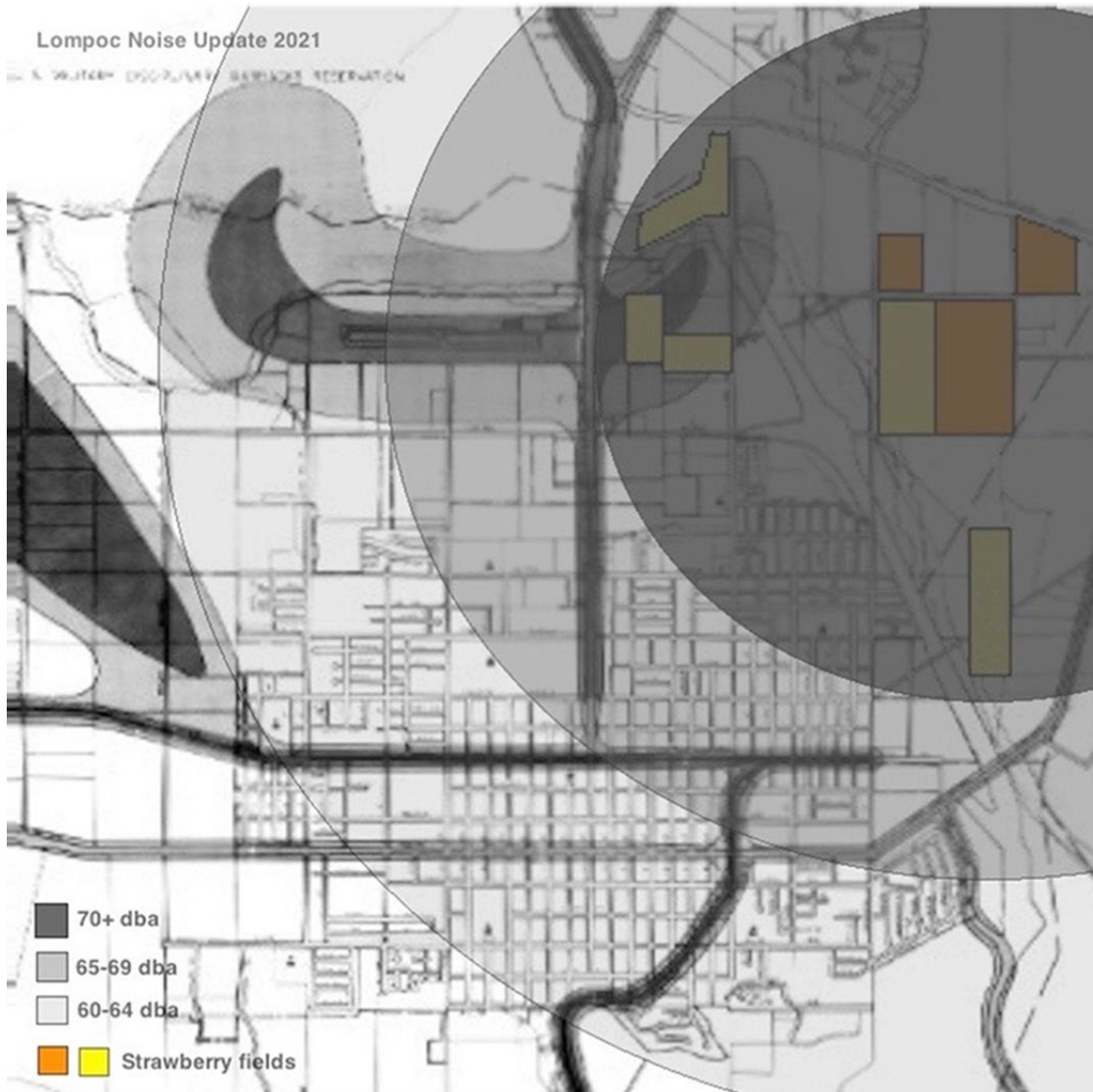
We wish to formally inform you that the County Noise Element has very large errors and omissions.

1. THE major source of noise in the Lompoc area, it's impact and potential reduction methods are totally absent from the Noise Element. This NEW, very significant noise source is many dozens of large, unregulated wind machines operating all night long during winter months immediately adjacent to residential areas in the Lompoc Valley. Therefore, the County Noise Element is not in compliance with California State Law.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oylmwgYED3Y>



2. The County HAS NOT quantified the Lompoc area noise environment in terms of noise exposure contour as required by California State Law. An actual noise exposure contour map is below. This was produced using data obtained last winter with a calibrated Db meter, and updated for the recently planted strawberry fields where the Farm Corporation, Rincon Pacific, may install wind machines starting THIS NOVEMBER if they follow their past practices. As you can see almost half the City of Lompoc exceeds the recommended 65 Dba Ldn level, and almost all of the City of Lompoc exceeds 60 Dba Ldn.



3. Attached to this email are photos showing calibrated Dba readings from Adobe Falls Rd, which is adjacent to one of the strawberry fields, on mornings when all the machines were running. The machines started at midnight and ran until 8am on the morning of the photos. Sometimes the machines start at 9 PM and run all night long.

4. Attached to this email are screenshots of your zoning map showing the strawberry fields in November 2020. They are the green fields with narrow access road spacing. The second screenshot is a closeup of a machine located in a field cutout. Every machine is put in this type of cutout.

5. Winter 2020 and 2021 decibel calculation sheets are attached to this email. The distance was measured from each machine to houses on Adobe Falls Rd using your zoning map tool. Then the sound pressure output was calculated that each machine generates to correlate with the decibel reading at that residential location. Next, those sound pressure outputs were used to calculate decibel readings at different areas around Lompoc. This sampling of readings and calculations were performed by a local resident who has a Masters degree in Aerospace Engineering.

6. The County IS NOT collecting this noise exposure information in order to develop the land use element to achieve noise compatible land use.

7. These wind machines ARE NOT protected by "Right To Farm Laws." Please see legal brief by Santa Maria attorney Phillip Senco (attached to this email.)
8. The County HAS NOT presented specific proposals, such as zoning revisions, to implement the 65Db Ldn level recommended in the Noise Element.
9. Lompoc residents are losing millions of dollars in property value and untold negative health impacts due to these night time noise levels that exceed State and Federal Law and Standards.
10. There exist alternatives which are no additional cost to these old, noisy machines the farm Corporation, Rincon Pacific, can use for crop production. One is pictured as attached, made by Tow and Blow in New Zealand.
11. The County needs to require noise impact permits for ALL types of agriculture wind machines, no matter if they have concrete bases in dirt which are currently regulated, or steel bases in the dirt which are currently unregulated. A picture of an unregulated steel base machine in dirt is attached to this email.
12. In conclusion, in order to achieve noise compatible land use as California State Law requires, ag zoning near residential areas in Santa Barbara County needs to be updated to regulate noise emanating from ag wind machines, potentially with some type of permit.

Thank you for your time, attention and service to all.

Sincerely,

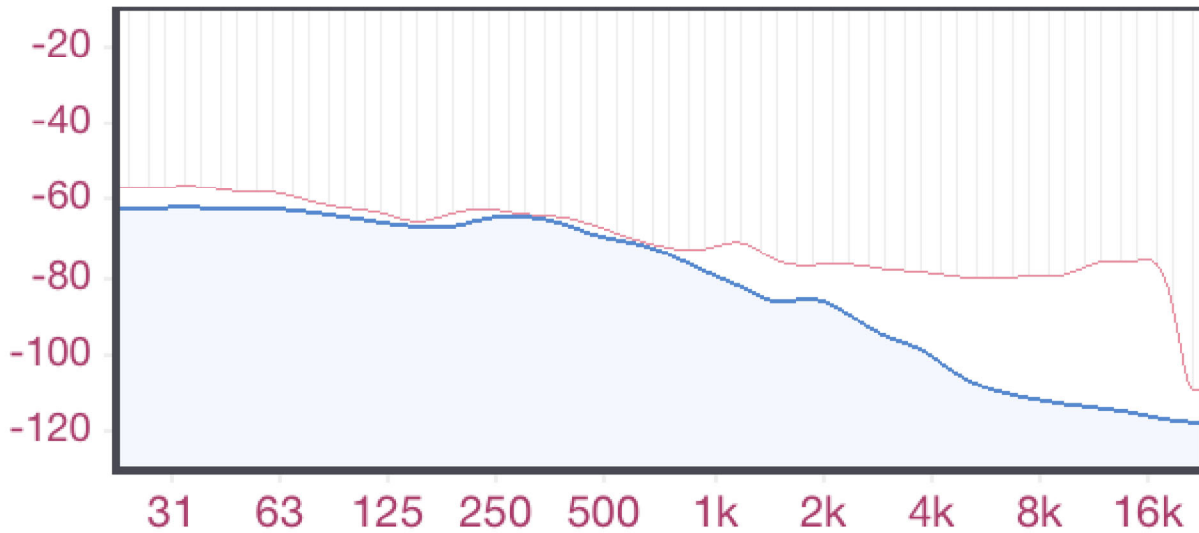
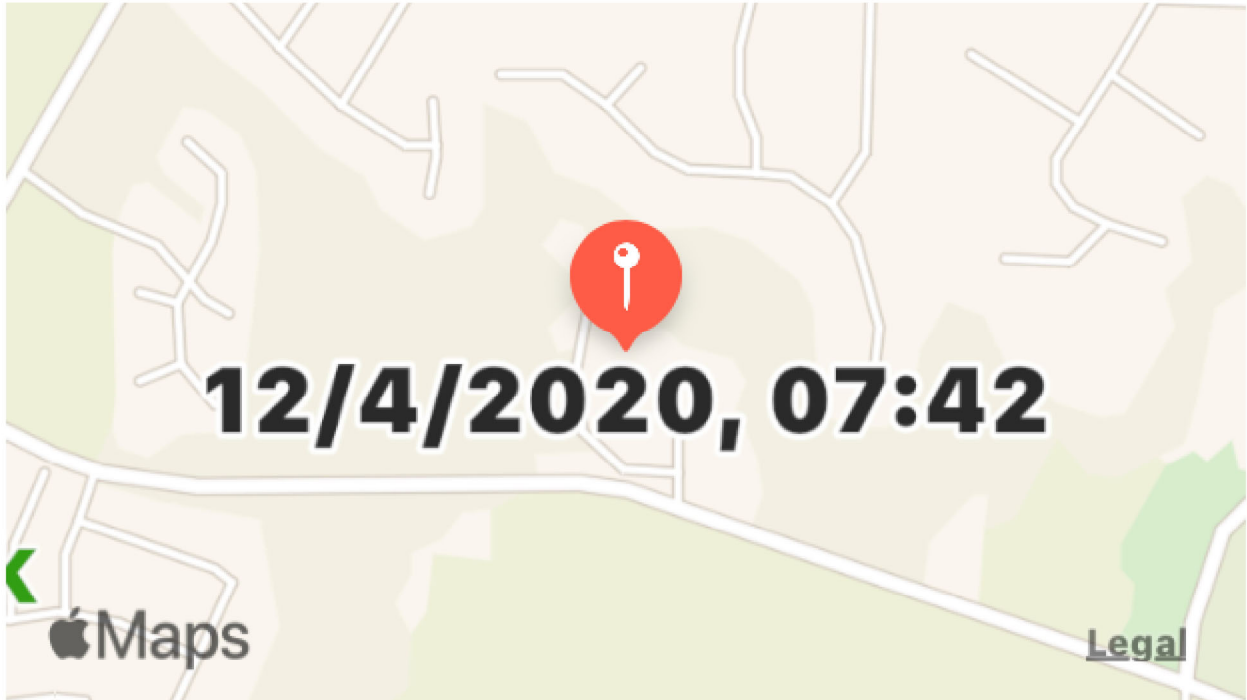
Timothy R. Brummer MSAE
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805-588-6293

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1335 La Purisima Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
805-736-1557

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12/4/2020, 07:42



MIN 69

MAX 73

00:12

AVG 71



County Land Use and Zoning Map



County Land Use and Zoning Map



Location	Machine #	2690 Adobe d (miles)	Distance factor*	x Machine #	
1					
A	1	0.25	4.30		4.3
B	1	0.24	4.48		4.5
C	1	0.31	3.47		3.5
D	1	0.31	3.47		3.5
E	1	0.26	4.14		4.1
F	1	0.27	3.99		4.0
G	1	0.34	3.16		3.2
H	1	0.37	2.91		2.9
I	1	0.39	2.76		2.8
J	1	0.5	2.15		2.2
K	1	0.53	2.03		2.0
L	1	0.6	1.79		1.8
M	1	0.68	1.58		1.6
2	4	0.78	1.38		5.5
3	3	1.07	1.01		3.0
4	6	1.17	0.92		5.5
5	6	1.15	0.94		5.6
6	5	1.44	0.75		3.7
7	9	1.32	0.82		7.3

Machine Total 46

Total Sound Pressure (mPa)

71.0

Db

71

*Distance factor = E/d (mPa)

E = 1.076 for VAMCO type machines

Riverside Dr. d (miles)	Distance Factor*	x Machine #
0.72	1.49	1.49
0.72	1.49	1.49
0.72	1.49	1.49
0.72	1.49	1.49
0.74	1.45	1.45
0.74	1.45	1.45
0.74	1.45	1.45
0.69	1.56	1.56
0.69	1.56	1.56
0.69	1.56	1.56
0.69	1.56	1.56
0.52	2.07	2.07
0.52	2.07	2.07
0.56	1.92	7.69
0.59	1.82	5.47
0.74	1.45	8.72
1.01	1.07	6.39
1.1	0.98	4.89
0.58	1.86	16.70

70.6
71

Just a few of the **80** comments/complaints to date.

"This throbbing wind machine sound keeps me awake at night and makes my chest hurt. China government would never allow this."

Meidi Zhu

"I lived on the promontory that was in the direct path of the helicopter sound made by these wind machines. I can attest to the negative impact on sleep – health as well as property values. This is extremely disturbing because the grower has the ability to use other technologies or methods to cease the noise but won't do it unless forced to. Some of the other methods are not much more money but they wish to save money at the expense of the communities health as well as their property. This needs to stop."

Michael Donohue

"These are absurdly loud and I hear them from miles away at all hours of the night. There are others fans used around Lompoc and all should be reviewed, but these are the loudest most obnoxious of them."

Thomas Budde

"When these fans come on it vibrates my house and interrupt my sleep all night long I wish somebody else could hear what I hear when you're trying to sleep and you can't"

Rod Waters

"Use a quieter alternative!"

Karen Secore

"My significant other and I where awoke by sounds what we thought was a near invasion! And we thought Helicopters? Wasn't sure. I jumped in my Car to follow the sound to seem it was near the drive in. Wasn't sure how to get further access."

"I am Mr. Brummer's neighbor and can attest to how loud the wind machines are. I don't think people on this thread realize just how bad it is. When the machines are on it sounds like 5 helicopters are landing in your backyard (that is not an exaggeration). Keep in mind, the noise lasts for a long time and is often during sleeping hours. It makes it impossible to sleep and function at work the next day. Additionally, it decreases home values. I absolutely agree that a different crop should be grown or a different method used."

Melanie Knight

"This noise is unacceptable! No reason for those machines."

"Not only is it noisy and annoying it is useless. As a sound engineer I can tell you that 85 db goes beyond annoying and into a serious health concern. That kind of db level is dangerous."

Sean Flynn

"This noise has to stop. It kept me up all night!"

"The sound of the wind machines is excessive , especially when operated late nights and early mornings. Machines have been operating when there is no real frost risk."

"The noise is too loud unable to sleep"

"Stop the wind machines"

"These things are horrible loud and keep me up at night. They never even asked OR notified us about these. They need to go!"

"Really loud"

"Too much noise at night"

"This is LOUD!!! It sounds like a helicopter is landing in my backyard. I'm not a particularly light sleeper and this kept me up all night on Thanksgiving. Starting night two with this unimaginably loud, industrial sound in the night. Please make this stop."

"As a resident of Mesa Oaks, these wind machines have created a huge amount of noise pollution in the surrounding area. It is especially evident at night, which makes it difficult to sleep. PLEASE END THIS IMMEDIATELY"

"This level of noise is unacceptable and is effecting our sleep as if we were on the runway of an airport. I respectfully strongly suggest county supervisors look into this situation.as soon as possible."

"This level of noise is very annoying and is noise pollution and disturbing the peace. County supervisors need to get involved with this situation and get it resolved."

"Please help those who suffer from PTSD. This noise is constant and uncomfortable."

"Way too loud at night I can't sleep"

"The noise generated by these fans is similar to what I experienced in Afghanistan and Iraq, with constant helicopter traffic from the nearby helipads. Brings back a bit of PTSD."

Mark Belrose

"Very loud at night. Keeps me awake the humming in my ears is bad. Get rid of them!!!!"

"My sister lives on our family ranch adjacent to the fields and has health problems as a result of exposure to the continuous noise from these fans."

"This noise is excessive. And that's from someone that works in the helicopter industry."

Morgan Ball

"Sounds like a squadron of B-25's taxiing in circles all night long"

"We also have newer windows and the sounds bounces off all corners of the house. Hard to sleep!"

"Stop this horrible noise."

"This noise unconscionable. I can't sleep. It has GOT to stop. This is hazardous to my family's health. Last night was unbearable"

These wind machines are so bad I haven't slept n days! I'm barely functional because of it. My dog cannot stand to go outside when the noise is on!

"This constant noise at night is disrupting our sleep which is a quality of life and a health issue!"

"I am concerned about noise pollution. This is new to this area. This has never occurred in the 20 plus years since my family have moved here."

Many people have also told me privately they are abusing drugs and alcohol to try and deal with this ongoing sonic assault.

Timothy E. Brummer

805-588-6293



