

**From:** [Eve Diamond](#)  
**To:** [BOS Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes to Outdoor Event Ordinance  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:32:04 PM

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Honorable Supervisors:

For neighbors living at the property line, and up to as far as ¼ mile away and even more, the current noise limitations are not appropriate for the kind of amplified sound that is common at concerts, weddings and other large functions. Under the proposed ordinance, a property on 6- 10 acres could have 8 concerts a year with amplified sound up to 10:00 at night in some zoning districts where other homes are nearby. This would not be tolerable for us.

Our home is about ¼ mile from two properties at opposite sides of our neighborhood that have, or have had, large gatherings or weddings with amplified sound. The sound has been so loud as to be a nuisance to us and forced us inside at the end of the day and to close windows on some of the hottest nights of the year. One has to wonder why the sound needs to be so loud that it travels beyond the crowd of guests, over the property line and into nearby neighborhoods.

The reality of setting noise limits at an event by decibel levels seems impractical to enforce. Can we rely on a Sheriff deputy or a Code Compliance officer to bring a sound level meter to an event on a Friday or Saturday night? How will this provision in the ordinance be enforced? With four weddings a year the situation for us was barely tolerable. We object to 8 events a year and would prefer the Board deny this request. However, understanding that this proposed ordinance has been under development for some time, and could benefit small businesses who may have suffered greatly since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, we respectfully and emphatically ask the Board to require stricter limitations and reliable enforcement on amplified sound, and expand the noticing requirements.

Specifically:

- Reduce by 10 decibels the allowable levels for amplified sound on parcels of 10 acres or less.
- Ensure Sheriff deputies are trained on, and utilize, sound meters when responding to nuisance calls at the hours when Code Compliance staff are not available.
- Because sound carries, expand the Notice to Neighbors (Sec. G-5 2.7.A.13 ) to properties up to 1,000 feet away instead of 500 feet. Such notice should also include any neighborhood association the Community Development Agency has in its contact list for the neighborhood(s) containing the property(s) within the 1000 foot boundary.

Thank you for your service to the County and for accepting these comments.

Respectfully,

Eve Diamond and Tom Sheehy



# **Nevada County Fire Chiefs' Association**

P. O. Box 1742 Grass Valley, California 95945

CAL FIRE  
Grass Valley  
Higgins CDF  
Nevada City  
Nevada Co. Consolidated  
North San Juan  
Ophir Hill  
Peardale-Chicago Park  
Penn Valley  
Rough & Ready  
U.S.F.S.-Tahoe  
Washington

April 21, 2020

County of Nevada  
Board of Supervisors  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City CA 95959

Re: Outdoor Events Ordinance

The Nevada County Fire Chiefs' Association held a conference call and reviewed the proposed changes to the current Outdoor Event Ordinance and has the following comments:

The Chiefs' do not have a concern with increasing the number of events from four (4) to eight (8).

The Nevada County Fire Chiefs Association supports the Community Development Agency as the issuing agency as long as all permits are routed to the proper Fire District for comments and conditions. As I understand, the current system Fire Agencies are supposed to be notified of these events. The concern is that we seldom get notified of events until there is a complaint from a neighbor or in some cases a neighborhood. In polling the Districts on the call no agency had been notified of these types of events.

We have no comment on the requirements for portable toilets, criminal record checks, security posting or proof of insurance. As far as the appeal and violation procedures there are provisions in the California Fire Code that address violations of the code and are typically misdemeanor violations that would be handled through the court system.

In reviewing the document labeled Exhibit A, the following are a list of suggested changes for your consideration:

- Section G-V 2.1 Findings

B. There is also increased demands on the Fire Service and/or First Responders.

D. Consider adding narrow roads and inadequate access as concerns.

- Section G-V 2.5 Outdoor Events for which no Permit is Required:

A.1 This has not been happening. we feel that the application needs to be routed to the Fire Agencies for comment and approval. It is suggested that the Community Development Agency work with the Fire Districts to determine when notification will be required, or an application needs to be forwarded to the District for review.

- Section G-V 2.8 Regulations for Outdoor Events:

D. Add to Compliance with County Building and Fire Codes.

G. Parking and Traffic Circulation. Last sentence should read. Vehicles shall not be parked in any manner that would create a traffic hazard or interfere with the ingress or egress of emergency vehicles as determined by the Community Development Agency, Sheriff and/or the Local Fire Official.

- Section G-V 2.9 Processing Application; Bonds; Appeals:

B. Add Local Fire Agencies after "Sheriff" in the first sentence.

- Section G-V 2.10 Effective Date of Permit; Separate Permit Required for Each Day; Permit Non-Transferable:

Where appropriate in this section add that the Fire Agencies may impose a fee for services.

- Section G-V 2.12 Revocation of Permits and Denial of Future Permits; Failure to Comply with Permit Conditions; Closure of Events:

E. Add Local Fire Official after "Sheriff" in the first sentence.

- Section G-V 2.13 Penalties:

Should Fire Code Violations be added to this section or is it necessary? The Fire Service would need to be able to enforce the Fire Code misdemeanor violations and fines.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

  
Jerry Good  
President