

September 30, 2020

Kristina Roodsari Boero, MPPA
Senior Planner
Ventura County Resource Management Agency
Planning Division
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1740

Subject: *Requested Clarifications
Dudek Noise Assessment Technical Report for the Camp Ramah Project, February 2020
Ventura County, California*

Dear Ms. Boero:

It is my understanding that you requested various clarifications in regard to the content of the Dudek noise report for the Camp Ramah Project, dated February 2020. Provided below are the points of clarification identified as necessary by the Planning Division, and additional information to respond to the requests for clarification.

CLARIFICATION REQUESTS AND RESPONSES

1. How are the portable speakers oriented at the softball fields?

Answer: A speaker is only rarely employed in connection with the use of the softball fields. On such rare occasions, a single portable speaker is placed on the southern edge of the fields, directed north.

2. What activities go on at Café Ezra during the camp session? Just a social meeting place with music?

Answer: As described on Page 4 of the February 2020 report, Café Ezra is operated one night per week during the summer camp season, by placing tables and chairs in the patio area and adjacent lawn area on the northwest side of the dining hall. The café serves as a social meeting place, and music is provided for ambience. As described on Page 18 of the report, low level amplified music is proposed to be provided from 9 PM to 11 PM for Café Ezra,

3. How many portable speakers are available along the southern basketball court fence line facing north for the Israeli dance event?

Answer: As described on Page 21 of the February 2020 report, the analysis assumes that three portable speakers would be used for the Israeli Dance event. The above statement is accurate regarding the placement of these three speakers along the southern basketball court fence line facing north, for the Israeli dance event.

Clarifications for Camp Ramah Project Noise Study Dated February 2020

4. How many portable speakers would be located in the amphitheater for the Performance night event?

Answer: As described on Page 18 of the February 2020 report, the amphitheater is proposed to be equipped with permanent speakers (as compared to temporary or portable speakers), including a pair of speakers at the stage corners, and a pair of speakers at the half-way point on either side of the seating area, facing northeast and northwest. No additional portable speakers are proposed to be employed in the amphitheater, on Performance Night or at any other times. As described on Page 19 of the report, Performance Night would occur once per camp session, would involve amplified speech and low level music, and would occur in the period from 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

5. The Noise study states that there would be impacts at western PL from Israeli Dance between 10 PM and 6AM. The noise study states it is 45 dBA. The threshold in the GP Policy 2.16.2-1 is 45 dBA between 10 PM and 6AM, so why is there an impact?

Answer: The threshold in GP Policy 2.16.2-1.4(c) is "*Leq1H of 45dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.*" (emphasis added). As stated on Page 23 of the February 2020 report, the calculated noise levels for the Israeli Dance event (which terminates at 11PM) at each property boundary would exceed the existing average ambient noise level by 4 dBA or more, resulting in a noise impact. This impact would be mitigated to less than significant levels with imposition of MM-2, found on Page 26 of the report.

6. There is 1 reference to "sport court" in the February 2020 Noise Study, but then there are references to basketball, softball and tennis courts. Please reconcile, especially for the location of the speakers and impacts. The site plan identifies these courts separately as basketball, softball and tennis courts – not sport courts. An Addendum to the noise study would be needed to be provided to reconcile the discrepancies.

Answer: The one reference to "sports courts" occurs on Page 24 of the February 2020 report, in conjunction with the request to increase the number of allowed outdoor events, and is used in a generic manner to define the nature of the additional outdoor events, including the facilities to which outside groups renting the camp could be granted access. "*Outdoor events as described above are envisioned to include groups hosting daytime retreats featuring access to the sports courts, pool, and hiking trails, possibly with meals served in the dining hall.*" The term "sports courts" in this generic reference indicates that groups could be given access to all of the sporting facilities on site, including tennis and basketball courts. However, further down on Page 24, clarification is provided regarding the use of individual courts by such groups. "*Because the basketball courts and tennis courts are not configured on a full-time basis with speaker systems, these court areas are not likely to be used for outdoor events similar to the Israeli Dance function hosted as part of the Camp Ramah program (and described under 4.1.1.2 above). Therefore, use of the courts to host dances or activities with amplified music is not anticipated, and is not evaluated as part of outdoor events noise levels.*" Consequently, the generic "sports court" used in this one instance is qualified on the same page. For clarification, to dismiss any apparent discrepancy regarding the use of courts and speakers by outside groups, outside groups would not be permitted the use of portable speaker systems. Hence, the report already addresses the only event at the basketball courts where portable speakers would be used (i.e., the Israeli Dance event).

Clarifications for Camp Ramah Project Noise Study Dated February 2020

Should you have any questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 308-8527 or jleech@dudek.com.

Respectfully submitted,

DUDEK



JONATHAN V. LEECH, INCE
Senior Environmental Specialist / Acoustician

Cc: Katy Vanderwyk, Hospitality Manager & Special Projects Coordinator, Camp Ramah in California
Steve Welton, Principal Planner, SEPPS