

# Noise Control Program

## Noise Complaints

- With its diverse and active population, rural community setting, pockets of densely populated residence and agriculture, traffic and construction, Tehama County can seem like a loud place at times. Sound is inevitable in any type of setting, whether it be a rural agricultural zone with homes scattered throughout an area or a more densely populated community center. Levels or types of sound occurring in some parts of Tehama County may be bothersome to residents and workers. Any unwanted sound can be characterized as noise; everyone reacts differently to noise, and not everyone agrees about what sounds are noisy.
- In the unincorporated areas of Tehama County, there are several regulatory agencies that respond to different nuisance noise sources. Incorporated cities, such as Red Bluff and Corning, have separate authority to address nuisance noise.

## Regulatory Agencies to Respond to Noise Complaints in Unincorporated Tehama County:

- Environmental Health Code Enforcement Department
- Sheriff's Department

## Regulatory Agencies in Incorporated City

- City of Red Bluff Non-Emergency Police Line (530) 527-3131
- City of Corning Non-Emergency Police Line (530) 824-7000
- City of Tehama refer to Tehama County Sheriff's office Non-Emergency Sheriff's Line (530) 529-7900 ext.1
- To report any other type of excessive noise disturbance during daytime or night time hours contact the Tehama County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency Dispatch at Sheriff's Line (530) 529-7900 ext.1.

Tehama County Environmental Health Code Enforcement Department is responsible for the investigation of complaints of ongoing and aggravated noise which may be from an unauthorized animal (rooster) or an unauthorized event (paid promotional event). While a temporary and/or reoccurring increase in sound from a neighbor to a level that warrant attention (All Agricultural related activities are exempt) would be the responsibility of the Tehama County Sheriff's Office.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What should neighbors do?

A noisy neighbor may create a disturbance by playing loud music, having an out-of-control party or using loud equipment too late or too early in the day.

- When noise gets too loud from a neighbor's property, and you are able to and feel comfortable doing so, call the occupant and ask nicely to have them keep the noise down. Surprisingly, asking nicely is often effective.
- If you do not know who to call, consider calling the landlord if it is a rental unit.

- If the problem persists and you have documented it adequately, you may be able to institute legal action for damages. Contact the property owner with a written notice that a problem has occurred and ask for their assistance in preventing a recurrence. In cases of persistent problems, your documentation may be the basis for a private suit for deprivation of the quiet enjoyment of your property. Keep a chronological diary with dates, times, addresses and a description of the incident. Solicit neighbors to do the same.
- To request a law enforcement response to noise problems in the unincorporated areas of Tehama County, please call the Tehama County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency Dispatch at Sheriff's Line (530) 529-7900 ext.1.

### **What can I do about barking dogs in my neighborhood?**

- Complaints about barking dogs are often difficult, and each case is handled a little differently depending upon the situation. The Tehama County Sheriff's Office Animal Care and Regulation Department has the following information:

Talk to the Dog Owner:

- If possible and you feel comfortable, speak to the dog owner about the noise. Often people are unaware that there is a problem.
- If other neighbors share your concerns, try talking to the dog owner as a group, or sending a letter outlining the neighborhood's concerns.
- Keep a written log, documenting the times and duration of the barking. This will help your case should you consider civil action against the dog owner. It may take several complaints and/or interactions with your neighbor to see a difference; persistence and patience will be the key to finding a good resolution.
- To request a law enforcement response to noise problems in the unincorporated areas of Tehama County, please call the Tehama County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency Dispatch at Sheriff's Line (530) 529-7900 ext.1 and request an Animal Regulation Officer.

### **What can I do about crowing fowl, such as roosters or peacocks?**

- Chickens and/or roosters can disturb the peace and quiet of a neighborhood and strain relationships with neighbors. They can cause noise, odors, and attract flies and other nuisance insects. They make it difficult for neighbors to spend time in their yards, noise can disturb their sleep, odors force people to keep windows closed, and interferes with the enjoyment of their homes. The Tehama County Zoning Code determines if you can keep chickens or roosters on your property in the unincorporated areas of Tehama County.
- According to the Tehama County Code, certain areas of the county are zoned for agricultural use and other areas of the county are zoned for a combined residential/animal keeping uses; noise from a legally permitted agricultural and/or animal keeping related use are exempt from any type of enforcement action.

For concerns or questions about noise related to a potentially unauthorized animal such as roosters or excessive noise related to a special event venue contact the Tehama County Environmental Health Code Enforcement Department at (530) 527-8080 or email: Officer Keith Curl at [KCurl@co.tehama.ca.us](mailto:KCurl@co.tehama.ca.us) or, Officer Clint Weston at [CWeston@co.tehama.ca.us](mailto:CWeston@co.tehama.ca.us)