

**Mono County
Community Development Department**

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**PREAPPLICATION
REVIEW REQUEST**

DATE 6/16/2020 DATE RECEIVED BY CDD _____

PROJECT NAME High Sierra Heritage Farm small-scale chicken breeding

ANTICIPATED PERMIT OR APPLICATION: General Plan Amendment Specific Plan

Conditional Use Permit Director Review Other _____

REPRESENTATIVE Jessica Holle

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REVIEW REQUEST: A preapplication review by the Mono County Land Development Technical Advisory Committee (LDTAC) is requested for the following project. Briefly describe below the type of project, units, square footage, etc. Please attach expanded narrative if available.

Acquisition of roosters (2 roosters) to use in a small-scale breeding program and live chick operation. Breeding Black Copper Marans and Olive Eggers.

Please see the attached documents:

"In Regard to Roosters"

"My Coop"

"Chicken Keeping Area" (map)

PLEASE PROVIDE: Maps, drawings, illustrations and narrative that may be useful for staff review.

In Regard to Roosters

Proposal

Roosters kept for the sake of a small chicken breeding program are most likely less, and definitely not more invasive to surrounding residences than a kennel might be. I further propose that I will keep my flock, including roosters, in an insulated coop from sundown to no earlier than sunrise.

My Coop (see attached info on my coop)

My chicken coop is a non-permanent structure and was designed and built by Amish-trained craftsmen. It has sides, roof AND floor made of varying insulating materials. It is fully enclosed which considerably dampens sound. Any additional coops I intend to buy or build will be of the same or better quality.

Roosters vs Dog Kennels

Both dogs and chickens/roosters require outside time. Even if a kennel operates primarily indoors in an acceptable facility, dogs still need to frequently access outdoors for play time, walking/exercise and to go to the bathroom. A typical kennel does not operate 100% indoors. A healthy, humanely raised flock of chickens (including rooster) also requires outside time. They go into a secure, insulated coop at sundown, and after sunrise, go outside to pursue their natural foraging instincts.

¹A dog's bark is 90 decibels and a dog kennel can reach 115 decibels. ²A rooster's crow is 90 decibels. Furthermore, a dog kennel can create a sustained noise as a dog can continuously bark for many minutes or even hours on end. An average rooster's crow does not last more than 5 seconds. While it is true that some breeds of rooster can crow voraciously and many times per day, I intend to breed and keep only chicken breeds that are laidback and docile in temperament for the average backyard farmer or homesteader. Crowing will of course happen, but not in excess.

In Regard to Roosters

Sound Levels

These sound levels were calculated using the ³Inverse Square Law. This is the standard formula for calculating decibel levels over a distance.

The indoor vs outdoor house/coop decibel levels were calculated in reference to ⁴an article in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, based on the neighbor's windows being closed. These were estimated to the best of my knowledge as it is impossible for me to know the exact insulation/other factors used in my neighbor's homes.

These are all the neighbors within 300 ft of our property line:

475 Mule Deer Rd

Residence is 210 ft from our chicken-keeping area

What they might hear when our roosters crow outside:

53 decibels (moderate rainfall) - When standing outside their residence

25 decibels (leaves rustling or whispers) - When inside their residence

What they might hear when our roosters crow while cooped:

25 decibels (leaves rustling or whispers) - When standing outside their residence

0 decibels (silence) - When inside their residence

559 Mule Deer Rd (unoccupied the majority of the year)

Residence is 250 ft from our chicken-keeping area

What they might hear when our roosters crow outside:

51 decibels (moderate rainfall) - When standing outside their residence

23 decibels (leaves rustling) - When inside their residence

What they might hear when our roosters crow while cooped:

23 decibels (leaves rustling) - When standing outside their residence

0 decibels (silence) - When inside their residence

545 Mule Deer Rd

Residence is 585 ft from our chicken-keeping area

What they might hear when our roosters crow outside:

44 decibels (quiet library or moderate rainfall) - When standing outside their residence

16 decibels (less than leaves rustling) - When inside their residence

What they might hear when our roosters crow while cooped:

16 decibels (less than leaves rustling) - When standing outside their residence

0 decibels (silence) - When inside their residence

Conclusion

The sound level data supports my proposal that roosters kept as part of a chicken breeding program are most likely less, and definitely not more invasive to surrounding residences than a kennel might be. The maximum decibel from a rooster's 5 second crow that may reach my neighbor's residence will be 53 decibels, if said neighbor is outside, during daylight hours only. 53 decibels is comparable to moderate rainfall, a normal conversation, or a dishwasher.

Decibel levels

²Rooster's crow – approx. 90 decibels

¹Dog barking – approx. 90 decibels

¹Kennel – approx. 115 decibels

LEVELS OF NOISE In decibels (dB)

PAINFUL & DANGEROUS		
Use hearing protection or avoid	140	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fireworks • Gun shots • Custom car stereos (at full volume)
	130	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackhammers • Ambulances
UNCOMFORTABLE		
Dangerous over 30 seconds	120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jet planes (during take off)
VERY LOUD		
Dangerous over 30 minutes	110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerts (any genre of music) • Car horns • Sporting events
	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowmobiles • MP3 players (at full volume)
	90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawnmowers • Power tools • Blenders • Hair dryers
Over 85 dB for extended periods can cause permanent hearing loss.		
LOUD		
	80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alarm clocks
	70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic • Vacuums
MODERATE		
	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal conversation • Dishwashers
	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate rainfall
SOFT		
	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet library
	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whisper
FAINT		
	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves rustling

Sources

¹ <https://www.ishn.com/articles/95001-inside-a-kennel-chorus-of-barking-dogs-can-reach-115-decibels>

² http://www.nnpstl.com/_ccLib/attachments/pages/Urban+Chicken+Info_7+False+Myths+About+Urban+Chickens_110214.pdf

³ <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/Forces/isq.html>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5800248/>

My Coop

My Coop is a non-permanent structure that sits off the ground. It is made with insulating materials and has a floor.

Coop dimensions: 74" L x 60" W x 72.5" H

Coop photos are pulled from the manufacturer's website:





