

ORDINANCE NO. **3507**

AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 7.18 ESTABLISHING  
UNREASONABLE NOISE REGULATIONS

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, does ordain as follows:

SECTION I: That Chapter 7.18 is hereby added to the San Luis Obispo County Code as follows:

**Chapter 7.18: Unreasonable Noises.**

**7.18.010 – Unreasonable Noises Prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful within the unincorporated area of the County of San Luis Obispo to make, assist in making, permit, continue, create, or cause to be made, any loud and unreasonable noise, music, percussion or other sound which is broadcast outside of any residence or building by means of any amplified musical instrument, drum, or similar device, or by means of any radio, loudspeaker, sound amplifier or phonograph, or by means of or employing any similar device which amplifies and produces, reproduces or broadcasts sound, or any yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, or singing between the hours of 10:00 P.M. of such day and 7:00 A.M. Within such time periods, and for the purposes of this chapter, a loud and unreasonable sound shall include any sound created by means prohibited above which is clearly discernable at a distance of one hundred feet from the property line of the property upon which it is broadcast.

**7.18.020 – Exceptions.**

The provisions of this chapter are not intended to affect and shall not apply to:

- (1) Bells, chimes, and similar devices while being used for religious purposes, or in conjunction with religious services, or for celebrations of public holidays; or
- (2) Outdoor gatherings, public dances, shows and sporting and entertaining events, provided such gathering, dance or event is conducted pursuant to a valid land use permit or outdoor commercial entertainment license and being done pursuant to applicable rules, regulations and zoning restrictions, and in compliance with all permits or licenses issued by a public agency relative to the staging of the gathering, dance or event; or

- (3) Commercial agricultural operations, not including activities at farm-related housing.

**7.18.030-Liability of Property Owner.**

When a peace officer or code enforcement officer has determined that a violation of this Chapter has occurred, and either the noise violation was done by a person or persons other than the property owner or responding personnel are unable to determine whether the property owner was the host of any incident when the violation occurred, the Sheriff's Office or County Code Enforcement shall mail a notice to the owner of the property where the noise violation occurred. The notice shall advise the property owner(s) that any subsequent violation of this chapter at the same property may result in the property owner being subject to administrative action and penalties. The property owner shall thereafter be severally liable for any further violations of this Chapter for a period of one year after receiving the notice, regardless of whether the property owner is the host of any incident in which the violation occurs.

SECTION II: If any section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portion of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION III: This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force on and after 30 days from the date of its passage hereof. Before the expiration of 15 days after the adoption of this ordinance, a summary shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, together with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the ordinance.

SECTION IV: The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the adoption of this ordinance is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), in that it can be seen with certainty that the adoption of the ordinance is not a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.

SECTION XV: In accordance with Government Code Section 25131, after reading the title of this Ordinance, further reading of the Ordinance in full is waived.


INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors held on the 12th day of March, 2024, and PASSED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, on the 9th day of April, 2024, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors Jimmy Paulding, Bruce S. Gibson, John Peschong,  
Dawn Ortiz-Legg and Chairperson Debbie Arnold

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None



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Debbie Arnold  
Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors  
of the County of San Luis Obispo  
State of California

ATTEST:

Rebecca Campbell

Acting County Administrative Officer and  
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Niki Martin  
Deputy Clerk