


# MEMORANDUM

## Public Works Department Engineering Division

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**Through:** Peter Weiss, City Manager  
**From:** Scott O. Smith, City Engineer   
**Date:** October 10, 2007  
**Subject:** Quiet Zone Assessment District Survey

The Engineering Division has collected and analyzed survey data that represents property owner interest level regarding participation in a quiet zone assessment district. The survey target area included those Oceanside properties located west of Interstate 5 (I-5). Based upon an evaluation of train horn noise intensity vs. distance, those properties located west of I-5 were identified with the most potential to receive a direct benefit. Determination for final or true benefits would ultimately vary from property to property and require a thorough analysis by an assessment engineer. However, for this preliminary survey, the established boundary was intended to simply gauge a level of interest and willingness for participation. In an effort to facilitate a comprehensive response, three alternatives for reply were provided. The options included:

- 1) Three community meetings, which were held in the months of July and August 2007
- 2) An internet survey form located on the Engineering Division web page
- 3) A postage free post card that was sent with a survey notification mailing

The results of the subject survey are as follows:

Description	Count	% of Total	% of Response
Approximate number of properties located west of I-5	6,200	100	-
Total responses	2,005	32	100
Do not support Quiet Zone	1,339	22	67
Support Quiet Zone, but not financially	322	5	16
Support Quiet Zone, with an individual financial commitment	344	6	17

Based upon the responses received, there does not appear to be a consensus to support the creation of a City of Oceanside quiet zone assessment district. A "Quiet Zone Survey Map" that displays the results of the survey is posted on the internet at the following address [www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/engineering](http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/engineering).

The "Final Rule" on the use of locomotive horns at highway-rail grade crossings permits a minimum quiet zone length of one-half mile. As an option, staff is assessing the improvements necessary to implement a quiet zone in the core downtown area. Therefore, City staff recommends the next step to be a search for alternate funding sources, examine the various possible configurations, and evaluate the possibility of implementing a phased approach.

It is anticipated that a status report may be provided to council during the first quarter of 2008.

cc: file