



I-405 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Soundwall General Information

1. How does a soundwall work?

Soundwalls reduce, but do not eliminate, the level of freeway noise that enters a community by reflecting it back across the highway or forcing it to take a longer path over and around the barrier. To protect a community, a soundwall must be tall enough and long enough to block the view of a highway. Soundwalls are designed to provide at least a 5 decibel noise reduction at the impacted receptors.

2. How did my area qualify for a soundwall?

According to the Caltrans and Federal requirements, the predicted future peak hour average traffic noise level has to be 66 decibels (A-weighted) or higher for an area to be considered impacted. If an area is considered impacted, noise abatement measures must be considered. If soundwalls are determined to reduce noise by at least 5 decibels and to have a reasonable cost, then they are constructed unless they are opposed by the majority of the benefited property owners.

3. How will the height of the soundwall be determined?

Soundwall heights are identified that provide at least 5 decibel noise reduction to the impacted receptors in the Noise Study Report. If different heights provide 5 decibels of reduction and have a reasonable cost, the soundwall height is based on input received from benefited property owners. If more than 50% of the benefited homeowners are opposed to the soundwall, it will not be built.

4. What happens if all benefited residents vote to support the construction of the proposed wall, but one wall height does not receive a majority vote?

The wall height recommended in the Noise Abatement Decision Report will be used. To obtain a copy of the Noise Study Report or the Noise Abatement Decision Report please contact Christina Byrne, Community Outreach Manager, at (714) 560-5717 or cbyrne@octa.net

5. How will I know which soundwall height is ultimately selected?

Following completion of the soundwall survey of property owners, OCTA and Caltrans will prepare a report summarizing the results. When completed, the report will be available on both the Caltrans website and OCTA project website www.octa.net/405improvement. Wall heights and locations are subject to change during final project design.

6. Who can I contact for information about soundwalls and/or the project in general?

Please contact Christina Byrne, Community Outreach Manager, at (714) 560-5717 or cbyrne@octa.net

This is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to give a complete statement of State or federal laws, regulations, requirements or guidelines pertaining to noise abatement/sound study protocols; design and construction of soundwalls; technical or legal definitions; or any form of legal advice.