

Respondent

## NOTICE OF APPEAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on August 07, 2014, the above named appellant(s) filed an appeal with the Board of Appeals of the City and County of San Francisco from the decision or order of the above named department(s), commission, or officer.

The substance or effect of the decision or order appealed from is the ISSUANCE on July 23, 2014, to Roostertail Restaurant, Noise Variance (regarding rooftop fan noise from mechanical exhaust system/equipment) at 1963 Sutter Street.

FOR HEARING ON October 08, 2014

Address of Appellant(s):
Michiko Yamada, Appellant 1959 Sutter Street \#B San Francisco, CA 94115

Address of Other Parties:
Roostertail Restaurant, Variance Holder 1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

## CITY \& COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF APPEALS

## PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF APPEAL

1/We, Michiko Yamada, hereby appeal the following departmental action: ISSUANCE of Noise Variance by the Department of Public Health which was issued or became effective on: July 23, 2014, to: Roostertail

Restaurant, for the property located at: 1963 Sutter Street.

## BRIEFING SCHEDULE:

The Appellant may, but is not required to, submit a one page (double-spaced) supplementary statement with this Preliminary Statement of Appeal. No exhibits or other submissions are allowed at this time.

Appellant's Brief is due on or before: September 18, 2014, (no later than three (3) Thursdays prior to the hearing date), up to 12 pages in length, double-spaced, with unlimited exhibits, with an original and 10 copies delivered to the Board office by 4:30 p.m., and with additional copies delivered to the other parties the same day.

Respondent's and Other Parties' Briefs are due on or before: October 02, 2014, (no later than one (1) Thursday prior to hearing date), up to 12 pages in length, doubled-spaced, with unlimited exhibits, with an original and 10 copies delivered to the Board office by 4:30 p.m., and with additional copies delivered to the other parties the same day.

Only photographs and drawings may be submitted by the parties at hearing.
Hearing Date: Wednesday, October 08, 2014, 5:00 p.m., City Hall, Room 416, One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place.
All parties to this appeal must adhere to the briefing schedule above, however if the hearing date is changed, the briefing schedule MAY also be changed. Written notice will be provided of any change to the briefing schedule.

In order to have their documents sent to the Board members prior to hearing, members of the public should submit an original and 10 copies of all documents of support/opposition no later than one (1) Thursday prior to hearing date by 4:30 p.m. Please note that names and contact information included in submittals from members of the public will become part of the public record. Submittals from members of the public may be made anonymously.

Please note that in addition to the parties' briefs, any materials that the Board receives relevant to this appeal, including letters of support/opposition from members of the public, are distributed to Board members prior to hearing. All such materials are available for inspection at the Board's office. You may also request a copy of the packet of materials that are provided to Board members at a cost of 10 cents per page, per S.F. Admin. Code Ch. 67.28.

## If you have any questions please call the Board of Appeals at 415-575-6880

The reasons for this appeal are as follows:
See attachment to the Preliminary Statement of Appeal.

Appellant or Agent (Circle One):
 Print Name: Michiko Yamada

I am appealing the Noise Variance granted to Roostertail Restaurant (1963 Sutter Street), on July 23, 2014, by the Department of Public Health. I live next door to Roostertail and their fan equipment is affecting my health and living conditions. The fan is installed between our light wells and is a source of continuous noise from 8:30 am to $10: 30 \mathrm{pm}$. The equipment consists of multiple ducts. Only one duct was required by DPH to be wrapped with lagging material. There was no change in the noise levels. On July 31, 2014, measurements taken by an acoustical professional from Charles Salter confirmed the equipment is still exceeding the Noise Ordinance.

## Reasons for the Appeal

1. My health and lifestyle is being affected. Since December, 2011, when Roostertail installed their fan, I cannot open my hallway window for ventilation due to the noise. My walls, cabinets vibrate; my home, particularly my kitchen area, is filled with a tonal noise like an airplane engine.
2. At the May 22, 2013, Board of Appeals hearing, Roostertail Restaurant vs. DPH (Case \# 13-035), the Board voted unanimously 5-0 to deny Roostertail Restaurant's appeal for a Noise Variance.
3. The Noise Variance granted by Director Richard Lee contradicts Dr. Rajiv Bhatia, the former Director's decision denying the Noise Variance on March 14, 2013.
4. A Permit to Operate should never have been issued to Roostertail. As a condition of permit approval, in July, 2011, Inspector Channing Wong stipulated compliance to the Noise Ordinance and wrote "equipment must be less than 53 dBA ." Roostertail has never been in compliance since they opened in December, 2011. DPH is aware of this and yet granted a Noise Variance.

## Resolution/Remedy

1. Deny the Noise Variance and ensure compliance to the Noise Ordinance as soon as possible.
2. Ensure noise emissions are less than 53 dBA and meet the conditions in The Application for Building Permit stipulated by Inspector Wong. ("All newly installed compressors and exhaust systems shall comply with the S.F. Noise Ordinance. Provide vibration isolators for rooftop mechanical equipment. Blowers are to comply with the Noise Ordinance").
3. Ensure DPH upholds and enforces the Noise Ordinance as soon as possible. Thank you.

July 23, 2014
Gerard Dacian, Owner
Roostertail
1963 Suttee Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
RE: 1963 Stutter Street -Noise Violation Abatement Work

BOARD OF APPEALS
AUG 072014


Dear Mr. Darin:
At the Abatement Conference Hearing on July 8, 2014, it was determined that the work necessary to abate the violation of the San Francisco Noise Ordinance (Police Code, Article 29) was not complete. In accordance with staff recommendations, I granted an extension of 15 business days resulting in the deadline for completion of July 28, 2014.

On July 18, 2014, Inspector Piakis confirmed that the abatement work, consistent with the third-party acoustical consultant's recommendations, had been completed (see figures below). Therefore, the violation is abated and the mechanical exhaust system in use at 1963 Sutter Street (Roostertail Restaurant) is considered to be in compliance with City noise limits. No further action is required at this time.


Abatement woof connoting of the installation of acoustical duct lagging along the entirety of the mechanical exhangt system's external dacherls

Our letter dated April 26, 2014 explained that if the remainder of the external ductwork was wrapped to decrease the noise closest to the residential receptor, a variance would be considered for the rooftop fan noise. Environmental Health has reviewed the noise variance application filed on July 18, 2014 and supporting materials detailing abatement costs of approximately $\$ 8000$. We have found that your request has sufficient merit and therefore grant Roostertail Restaurant (1963 Sutter Street) a noise variance under the conditions set forth below. Failure to implement the following conditions may result in revocation of this variance and the institution of enforcement penalties:

- Continue to perform routine, regular maintenance of the mechanical equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
- Inform Environmental Health staff prior to the addition, relocation, substitution, or any other alteration of rooftop mechanical equipment.

This variance applies only to the mechanical exhaust systean and equipment configuration as of July 23, 2014. The variance will be effective upon receipt of a signed copy of this letter and subject to any appeals filed in the 15 days following. At our discretion, Environmental Health may rescind this variance if it is determined that Roostertail Restaurant has violated the above terms. Please direct any questions or concerns to Jonathan Piakis (Jonethqu. Piqkis@sfdph,org).

Sincerely,


Richard J. Lee, MPH, CHH, REHS
Acting Environmental Health Director

## Roostertail Restaurant maderatasida and agrees to conaply with the terms of this variance.



## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

My name is Michiko Yamada. I reside at 1959 Sutter Street and am the appellant in Case \# 14-141, Yamada vs. Department of Public Health. I am seeking the support of the Board of Appeals and requesting (1) to reverse the Noise Variance issued on July 23, 2014, to Roostertail Restaurant (Roostertail), located next door at 1963 Sutter Street, and (2) to direct Roostertail to comply with the Department of Public Health (DPH) 2012-2013 orders, unanimously upheld by this Board on June 4 last year, that required Roostertail to abate and remedy its violations of the City's Noise Ordinance (SF Police Code Article 29).

During this long process, the City has affirmed that enforcement of noise violations is critical to our quality of life. In violation of the City's Noise Ordinance, I have been subjected to excessive noise on a daily basis ever since Roostertail opened in December 2011, when they installed their exhaust fan ducts in between our light well. The $2-1 / 2$ year history of this case shows DPH's uneven application and reversal of positions in enforcing the Noise Ordinance. Allowing Roostertail to avoid abating its ongoing noise violations, and contravening the Board of Appeals June 4, 2013, decision denying a Noise Variance, makes no sense and should be reversed.

## II. SUMMARY OF THE CASE:

## A. Background

My family has owned the property at 1959 Sutter Street, adjacent to Roostertail, for 28 years, and my parents ran a small Japanese confectionery store for 36 years. They were immigrants; English was not their first language, but through dedicated hard work and sacrifice, they were able to purchase this building. I grew up in the Fillmore/Japantown/Western Addition and consider this neighborhood to be my home. I have lived here for the past 8 years.

Over the years, we developed long-standing relationships with our neighbors based on honesty, trust, decency and mutual respect. My family and I have a demonstrated history of
contribution and involvement in our community, and of being good neighbors. We do not like to complain and be in conflict. This is the first time we have had a serious dispute with a neighbor.

We have tried to work with Mr. Darian and Ms. Green, Roostertail's owners, but have been unsuccessful. So far, they have not acknowledged they are a source of noise pollution. We have tried to contact Gerard Dowd, one of the property owners, but have received no response.

These $2+$ years of trying to resolve the noise issue have been stressful and challenging. It is stressful having to live with excessive noise on a daily basis. It is stressful dealing with a hostile neighbor who makes derogatory remarks when we meet. And it is stressful having to deal with a City agency that should be stewards and guardians of the Noise Ordinance but have chosen not to enforce it through its recent inconsistent and arbitrary decisions. All I want is to live in our home in peace and quiet, the way I used to before Roostertail took over their space. I am not asking DPH or Roostertail to break the law; I am asking them to uphold it.

## B. Statement Of Facts

December 2011: Before Roostertail, Café Kati was at the 1963 Sutter location for 20 years, but its exhaust fans, also installed in the light well between the properties, never presented noise problems. Upon opening, however, Roostertail installed three commercial-grade exhaust fan ducts in same the light well. (Exhibit A: Permit to Operate (Dec. 2011); Final Inspection Report (Arthur Duque 12-5-2011); Photos of the Fan). Since then, we have been subjected to excessive noise and vibrations on a daily basis from about 8:30 in the morning to 10:30 at night.

On December 14, 2011, residents living above Roostertail complained to DPH that the fan noise was "loud and vibrates the building" but nothing was done to mitigate the situation at that time. (Exhibit B: Complaint Data Sheet).

June 2012: In June 2012, we informed Mr. Darian, Roostertail's co-owner, that as good neighbors we had installed four double-pane windows in our residence to reduce the noise from
their fan. Despite this effort, our walls and cabinets continued to vibrate. My rooms were filled with a pervasive tonal humming noise similar to an airplane engine. I cannot open my hallway window for ventilation due to the noise while Roostertail's fans are in operation. We asked Mr. Darian if he could help by seeking a remedy to the noise problem. Mr. Darian's response was an emphatic "No. We're in compliance. There is no problem." He made no effort to investigate or even acknowledge the possibility that the restaurant fans may be a source of noise pollution. As shown below, Roostertail was, and still is, in violation of the Noise Ordinance.

September 2012: After we filed a noise complaint, DPH inspectors took interior noise readings but failed to take exterior readings required by DPH's Guidance for Implementing the Noise Control Ordinance. (Exhibit C: Zachary Parsons' Declaration in Support of DPH's Reply Brief; Guidance for Implementing the Noise Control Ordinance (11-10-2011); Procedures for Evaluation and Management of Noise in Regulated Food Facilities (5-25-2011).)

October 2012: We hired acoustical expert Charles M. Salter Associates (Salter) to take exterior noise readings. Results showed that the noise level in the light well and on the roof significantly exceeded the Noise Ordinance limits. (Exhibit D: Charles Salter Associates Noise Measurement Report (10-18-2012).)

December 2012: On December 5, 2012, DPH took exterior readings and confirmed that Roostertail was not in compliance with the Noise Ordinance. (Exhibit E: DPH Notice of Violation to Roostertail (12-5-2012).) DPH issued a Notice of Violation giving Roostertail 30 days to produce a noise reduction plan. Instead, Roostertail applied for a Noise Variance.

March 2013: DPH denied Roostertail's application for a Variance and required compliance with the Noise Ordinance. (Exhibit F: Variance Denial Letter (3-14-2013).)

May 2013: Roostertail appealed to this Board DPH's denial of its application. On May 16, 2013, the City Attorney's Office filed a brief arguing that DPH's decision denying the variance must
be upheld in order to comply with applicable law and to protect the public health. (Exhibit G : City Attorney's Brief (5-16-2013).) On May 22, 2013, this Board held a hearing in Roostertail Restaurant vs. Department of Public Health, Case \# 13-035.

June 2013: On June 4, 2013, this Board unanimously upheld DPH's denial of a Variance, directing Roostertail to comply with the Noise Ordinance within six months. (Exhibit H : Board of Appeals Decision, Roostertail vs. DPH, Case \# 13-035 (5-22-2013).)

August 2013: DPH notified Roostertail that it had to submit a compliance plan no later than September 13, 2013, stating it would suspend Roostertail's operation permit if it failed to do so. (Exhibit I: DPH's Letter to Roostertail re: compliance plan (8-12-2013).) Roostertail has never produced the required plan. DPH took no further enforcement action until April, 2014.

April 2014: DPH held an Abatement Conference on April 22, 2014. Shortly afterwards, DPH denied Roostertail's Variance request but promised a Variance if Roostertail complied with either Option A (reduce noise levels to comply with the Noise Ordinance) or Option B (extend the "acoustical duct wrapping to the full length of the ductwork (up to the fan)"). DPH advised Roostertail that a noise inspection would take place under Option A but not if it elected Option B. (Exhibit J: DPH Letter to Roostertail re: Variance request (4-26-2014).)

June 2014: Roostertail elected to proceed with Option B. Although a full year had passed since this Board's June 2013 decision, Roostertail has still not complied with the Noise Ordinance. DPH directed Roostertail to "install additional acoustical duct wrapping around the full length of the ductwork" no later than July 1, 2014. (Exhibit K: DPH Letter to Roostertail directing additional acoustical duct wrapping (6-4-2014).)

July 2014: DPH determined at an Abatement Conference on July 8, 2014, that Roostertail had still not performed the abatement work necessary to comply with the Noise Ordinance, but allowed Roostertail additional time. On July 18, 2014, the DPH inspector stated that Roostertail
had performed $\$ 8,000$ in noise abatement work. But in fact, Roostertail had wrapped only a part of one of the three ducts, all mandated by DPH for noise mitigation wrapping work. Nonetheless, without taking any noise readings, internal or external, DPH deemed Roostertail "in compliance with City noise limits" and granted the Variance. (Exhibit L: DPH Letter to Roostertail granting Noise Variance (7-23-2014).)

On July 31, 2014, at our request, an acoustical professional from Salter took exterior noise readings, which showed that noise levels in the light well and on the roof still exceeded the Noise Ordinance limits. "The noise levels remain relatively unchanged after wrapping only one of the three ducts." (Exhibit M: Charles Salter Associates Noise Measurement Report (8-23-2014).)

August 2014: We appealed DPH's decision granting Roostertail a Noise Variance.

## III. ARGUMENT:

a) Roostertail Has Never Been In Compliance With the City Noise Ordinance. Repeated noise readings taken from September 2012 to July 2014 by Salter and DPH Noise Control staff confirm that the fan equipment exceeds the Noise Ordinance and has not met either the allowable daytime or nighttime levels since December 2011. The validity of the noise readings are not in dispute. (Exhibit N: Charles Salter Associates Noise Measurement Report with DPH (5-2-2014).)

During these 2-1/2 years, Mr. Darian and Ms. Green have never submitted acoustical documentation to validate their claim that their equipment is in compliance. Since 2013, DPH has sent multiple letters notifying them that they are in violation of the Noise Ordinance, each time granting them an extension to comply. However, despite DPH's repeated warnings of, "Failure to comply shall result in the suspension of your Health Permit to Operate as a Food Facility," they have not complied nor has DPH enforced this language.

Mr. Darian and Ms. Green have repeatedly cited financial hardship as a reason for not fixing their equipment. However, Roostertail had a 1-year warranty in effect at the time of our complaint,
but failed to take advantage of this option to remedy the noise problem with minimal expense. (Exhibit O: Roostertail 1-Year Warranty).

Because of this case, we have incurred expenses of approximately $\$ 10,000$ to date, and we anticipate this figure will continue to rise if this noise problem remains unresolved.
b) DPH records show many inconsistencies and discrepancies in its handling of this case. First, DPH should never have issued a Permit to Operate to Roostertail in December 2011, since they were not in compliance with the Noise Ordinance. On the Building Permit Application, Inspector Channing Wong wrote on July 5, 2011, and again on October 12, 2011:
"All newly installed compressors and exhaust systems shall comply with the S.F. Noise Ordinance. Must be less than 53 dBA or submit acoustical report for review. Blowers are to comply with Noise Ordinance. Rooftop equipment may be required to be on vibration isolators." (Exhibit P: Application for Building Permit Additions, Alterations or Repairs). Furthermore, during the Board of Appeals hearing on May 22, 2013, Case \# 13-035, Mr. Darian and Ms. Green testified under oath that:
"Inspector Channing Wong did the final inspection and we have complied with everything we 're supposed to do and passed...complied all the way through with the City at every point." (Review Board of Appeals Hearing, May 22, 2013, Case \# 13-035).

If this were the case, the fan equipment should reflect readings of 53 dBA or below but they do not, and never have, as measured by both Salter AND the DPH. The most recent readings taken on July 31,2014 , indicate $60 / 59 \mathrm{dBA}$ and $75 / 71 \mathrm{dBC}$ levels, as much as $41 \%$ higher than the maximum allowed by the code. (Exhibit M: Charles Salter Associates Noise Measurement Report 8-23-2014).)

Inspector Duque's final Food Inspection Report of December 5, 2011, shows no evidence of noise readings taken verifying Roostertail's equipment was at 53 dBA or less, nor was an acoustical
report submitted for review. (Exhibit A: Exhibit A: Permit to Operate (Dec. 2011); Final Inspection Report (Arthur Duque 12-5-2011); Photos of the Fan).

In addition, neither DPH nor DBI fully investigated the noise and vibration complaint by the resident living above the restaurant when Roostertail opened in December 2011. The DBI Complaint Data Sheet, \# 201176714, shows Inspector Patrick McManus conducted an inspection. (Exhibit B: Complaint Data Sheet). However, no noise readings were taken; we were never contacted about this inspection, even though the fan equipment is located in our shared light wells; and neither DPH nor DBI followed-up or took any action on this complaint.

The majority of the residents currently living above Roostertail are short-term month-tomonth tenants with heavy turnover, who lack an investment in the quality of the neighborhood. Mr. Darian, Ms. Green, and the 1963 Sutter property owners do not reside in this building and are not affected by the fan noise. For us, this neighborhood is our home, not a temporary living arrangement. As property owners and residents who live in this neighborhood long-term, we are greatly affected by the excessive noise.
c) DPH Inspectors investigating my noise complaint only took interior (not exterior) noise readings. On September 19, 2012, when Inspectors Parsons and Freschet conducted a noise inspection, indoor readings were taken in my home. However, Inspectors Parsons and Freschet did not take the required readings for the outdoor noise or evaluate the outdoor noise standard for commercial use. According to the DPH procedures and guidelines for investigating noise complaints, Inspectors Parsons and Freschet should have investigated the outdoor noise standard for commercial use. (Exhibit C: Zachary Parsons' Declaration in Support of DPH's Reply Brief; Guidance for Implementing the Noise Control Ordinance (11-10-2011); Procedures for Evaluation and Management of Noise in Regulated Food Facilities (5-25-2011).)
d) Inconsistent DPH interpretation of measuring noise. On October 15, 2012, an acoustical professional from Salter took noise readings both in the light well and on the roof. These readings documented that Roostertail's equipment was not in compliance. (Exhibit D: Charles Salter Associates Noise Measurement Report (10-18-2012).)

On December 5, 2012, DPH Inspector Michael Harris took noise readings in the light well but took no readings on the roof, even though I requested that he do so in order to duplicate the procedure taken by our acoustical professional. Inspector Harris' readings taken in the light well confirmed that Roostertail's equipment exceeded the Noise Ordinance and, based on these readings, issued a Notice of Violation.

During the May 22, 2013, Board of Appeals hearing, the DPH's Director of Environmental Health (DEH) explained that he decided to have:
"staff take measurements in the light well because it was the closest place to the property boundary. DPH has guidelines for taking measurements and staff followed those appropriate guidelines." (Review Board of Appeals Hearing, May 22, 2013, Case \# 13035).

The current Noise Control Officer, DPH Inspector Jonathan Piakis, in his letter to Roostertail dated March 18, 2014, chose not to cite readings taken in the light well but only used readings taken on the roof. (Exhibit Q; DPH Letter and Notice of Violation (3-18-2014).)

Inspector Piakis' decision to deem readings taken in the light well as unenforceable contradicts the DEH's earlier testimony. It also contradicts the readings taken by DPH Inspector Harris, the former Noise Control Officer, and the readings taken by Salter's acoustical professional. DPH guidelines, section 2.3 states: "Outdoor measures to evaluate Sections 2909 (a) (1) and 2909 (b) should be taken at the property plane." (Exhibit C: Zachary Parsons' Declaration in Support of DPH's Reply Brief; Guidance for Implementing the Noise Control Ordinance (11-10-2011);

Procedures for Evaluation and Management of Noise in Regulated Food Facilities (5-25-2011).) If DPH were to take this position, in order to be consistent, they must effectively rule out all readings taken in light wells in San Francisco as being unacceptable.
e) The Noise Variance granted to Roostertail Restaurant contradicts the City Attorney's position that DPH correctly denied Roostertail's request for a Noise Variance. (Exhibit G: City Attorney's Brief (5-16-2013).) which states:
"Granting a variance in this case would undermine the policy purpose of the City's noise law and the effectiveness of the standard. The Department has a long history of enforcing the same noise standard in the same way for dozens of similar businesses, and wants to remain consistent with the principle of maintaining a level playing field for businesses. The Department has not granted any variances for commercial noise in residential or mixed residential commercial areas."

## f) The Noise Variance granted to Roostertail Restaurant contradicts the DEH's earlier <br> testimony before the Board of Appeals. (Review Board of Appeals Hearing, May 22, 2013, Case \# 13-035). During the May 22, 2013, Board of Appeals hearing, the DEH emphasized several facts:

1. In his 15 years with the Department, he never granted a Noise Variance in a mixed use area with residences and where there are feasible preventative measures.
2. In the case of a restaurant in a residential area, he would not support a variance.
3. The Noise Ordinance was revised in 2008 to deal with mixed use zoning. The standards are clear, unambiguous and objectively quantifiable, and the purpose is to a) keep ambient noise down since San Francisco is a noisy city and b) protect neighbors and neighborhoods.

The DEH's e-mail to DPH staff further illustrates his argument and reasoning. (Exhibit R: DEH Letter and DPH Staff E-Mail Chain).

In contrast, since being appointed Acting Director of Environmental Health (AD) in January 2014, the AD has granted 2 Noise Variances in mixed use areas, thereby creating a discrepancy and inconsistency in the enforcement of the Noise Ordinance. The DEH earlier determined that the noise standards derived from World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines should be maintained; the integrity of these standards should not be compromised since that would erode the efficacy and usefulness of the Ordinance. However, the AD has taken a different approach. His granting of Noise Variances implies that the Noise Ordinance standards are flexible and can be manipulated.

The population of San Francisco is growing. Noise levels will continue to increase due to dense living conditions. DPH's mission statement is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans. The AD, by his actions, appears to have chosen to waive the mission of his own department and to ignore the intent of the Noise Ordinance which is to "prohibit unwanted, excessive and avoidable noise." (Exhibit S: SF Police Code Article 29: Regulation of Noise, Section 2900(c), Declaration of Policy).
g) The Noise Variance granted to Roostertail Restaurant contradicts last year's Board of Appeals Notice of Decision and Order, dated June 4, 2013. At the May 22, 2013 Board of the Appeals hearing, the Board voted unanimously 5-0 to uphold the DPH's denial of Roostertail's request for a variance. (Exhibit H: Board of Appeals Decision, Roostertail vs. DPH, Case \# 13-035 (5-22-2013).). This decision was not upheld or enforced by DPH and Roostertail continues to remain in violation.
h) The Noise Variance granted by the DPH Acting Director (AD) is flawed; its terms and conditions are illogical and arbitrary. Roostertail's fan equipment consists of three ducts. All three ducts operate in concert as a part of the fan equipment. In his letter dated April 26, 2014, the AD "denied" a Variance but gave Roostertail two options to get a Variance:
"Option A: Reduce the noise level such that the operating sound level is within 8 dBA of both the daytime and nighttime ambient sound level as measured from the roof of the adjacent property.

Option B: Perform additional abatement work in the light well by extending the acoustical duct wrapping to the full length of the ductwork (up to the fan).

If you choose Option A, we will schedule a re-inspection of the property for May 28, 2014, to verify if the sound level at the roof is within 8 dBA of the daytime ambient. If you choose Option B, we will schedule a re-inspection of the property for May 28, 2014, to verify installation of the duct wrapping to the full length of the ductwork." (Exhibit J: DPH Letter to Roostertail (4-26-2014).)

Roostertail chose Option B. Since the AD's letter said "ductwork," we assumed that all three ducts were to be wrapped with acoustical material. However, DPH required only one duct to be wrapped, and the AD has now agreed to grant a Noise Variance without requiring readings to confirm whether the excessive noise had been eliminated.

The focus of this case has been about noise abatement. Under the terms outlined in the paragraph above, the fan equipment could (and still does, as it always has) generate noise levels higher than the code allows. The AD's ruling, however, essentially says that this violation is acceptable as long as one duct is partially wrapped. This makes no sense.

Noise readings taken by a Salter acoustical professional on July 31, 2014, show that the excessive noise levels have not been abated and that the situation remains unchanged since December 2011. One of the Noise Variance Process criteria looks to "whether or not reasonable efforts have been made to mitigate the source of noise." (Exhibit T: DPH Noise Variance Process). We believe that an ineffective approach does not provide a real solution.
i) If allowed to stand, this Noise Variance will set a precedent. This level of noise will become the accepted standard and we (and other San Franciscans) will have no further recourse. As the adjacent property owner, we can only mitigate the noise to a certain degree since we are not the source generating it. (Exhibit U: Letters of Support from JCCCNC and Lori Matoba).

## IV. REMEDY:

a) The Board of Appeals should instruct the DPH to require Roostertail to comply with the Noise Ordinance forthwith by reducing their fan equipment noise emissions to 53 dBA or less, as intended by the original Permit to Operate. I understand that Roostertail may have contacted Salter asking them to prepare a noise abatement plan. Such a plan must be implemented and overseen by Salter expeditiously. Should this timeline not be met, the Board of Appeals should direct the suspension or revocation of Roostertail's Permit to Operate until the noise abatement project is completed and readings reflect compliance.
b) The Board of Appeals should see that DPH timely enforces the Noise Ordinance against Roostertail. Further extensions for Roostertail's compliance should not be granted since this case has been ongoing for $2-1 / 2+$ years and Roostertail has been shown to be uncooperative. We would like to see Dr. Tomas Aragon, Health Officer, or DPH Director Barbara Garcia involved to ensure Roostertail's compliance.

## V. CONCLUSION:

Reverse DPH's decision granting a Noise Variance to Roostertail and direct DPH to require Roostertail to comply with the Noise Ordinance effective October 8, 2014.

## TABLE OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A: Permit to Operate (Dec. 2011); Final Inspection Report (Arthur Duque 12-5-2011);
Photos of the Fan Exhibit A
Complaint Data Sheet ..... Exhibit B
Zachary Parsons' Declaration in Support of DPH's Reply Brief;.....Guidance for Implementing the Noise Control Ordinance (11-10-2011); and Procedures for Evaluation;and Management of Noise in Regulated Food Facilities (5-25-2011) ..............................................
Charles Salter Associates Noise Measurement Report (10-18-2012) ..... Exhibit D
DPH Notice of Violation to Roostertail (12-5-2012) Exhibit E
Variance Denial Letter (3-14-2013) ..... Exhibit F
City Attorney's Brief (5-16-2013) ..... Exhibit G
Board of Appeals Decision, Roostertail vs. DPH, Case \# 13-035 (5-22-2013) ..... Exhibit H
DPH's Letter to Roostertail re: compliance plan (8-12-2013) ..... Exhibit I
DPH Letter to Roostertail re: Variance request (4-26-2014) ..... Exhibit J
DPH Letter to Roostertail directing additional acoustical duct wrapping (6-4-2014) ..... Exhibit K
DPH Letter to Roostertail granting Noise Variance (7-23-2014). ..... Exhibit L
Charles Salter Associates Noise Measurement Report (8-23-2014) ..... Exhibit M
Charles Salter Associates Noise Measurement Report with DPH (5-2-2014) ..... Exhibit N
Roostertail 1-Year Warranty Exhibit O
Application for Building Permit Additions, Alterations or Repairs ..... Exhibit P
DPH Letter and Notice of Violation (3-18-2014) Exhibit Q
DEH Letter and DPH Staff E-Mail Chain ..... Exhibit R
S.F. Police Code Article 29: Regulation of Noise, Section 2900(c), Declaration of Policy ..... Exhibit S
DPH Noise Variance Process. ..... Exhibit T
Letters of Support from JCCCNC and Lori Matoba. ..... Exhibit U

## EXHIBIT A

Issued according to provisions of the San Francisco Health Code
AUTHORIZING conduct of the following class of FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT


Valid only when accompanied by a receipt of current license fee. THIS PERMIT TO, SUSPENDED FOR CAUSE AND ISNOT OWNERSHIP must be reported int, stately.) NSKRABLE. CHANGE OF

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Bureau of Environmental Health City and County of San Francisco


Director of Environmental Health


## A PERIVII


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 Valid only wee-
of current licen
SUSPENDED
OWNERSHIP $\overline{\text { inspector }}$


## r vartment of Public Health

## Health Permit Application Zoning Referral



False or misleading information may result in denial of the application.

1. NAME OF BUSINESS: RODS 1 ER TAIL
2. BUSINESS STREET ADDRESS: 1963 SUTLER TRET SF CA 94115 What floors) will the business occupy? Check appropriate floors) below.

3. IS THE BUSINESS A RETAIL CHAIN? Does the establishment have eleven or more locations throughout the U.S. per Planning Code Section 703.3 \& 703.4?

YES $\square \quad$ NO 区
Existing Use of This Space: RESTAURKMT
MB H 1101838 Special Note: If any other room or building is to be used in connection with this application: OR, if any part of the proposed operation is not located within or connected to address above, please attach an explanation sheet.

Applicant's Name: GERARD DARAAN \& TEACY GREEN

) City: SANFRAN(15CO LEL Zip Code: 94118
Applicant's Daytime phone: ( 416 ) 939-5406 62(415)876-288 t when Floor Plans and Explanation Sheet attached? X_Yes No


[^0]FF D INSPECTION REPORT SAN FRANCIULO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION 1390 Market Street, Suite 210, San Francisco, CA 94102 www. sidph,org/eh (415) 252-3800

| Date: | $12-5-2011$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Time In: | $10: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| Time Out: | $11: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ |

Page 1 of



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The marked violations are Cextionia food Code violetione and muet be coricctad is followe:
Final

Zoning Dept. Referral Approved for A "Full Service Restaurant" On $11 / 2812011$

$$
\text { Fire Dept. Clearance Granted on } 11 / 281
$$ 2011.

Your Application for A Niw Healtu Permit to operate As a food Preparation \& Service FACILITY HAS BEEN APPROVED WITH TAE Following Conditions "Cooking Allowed"

Pay annual license fee to The S.f. tax COLEctors Office Upon Notification.





## EXHIBIT B

## Permits, Complaints and Boiler PTO Inquiry COMPLAINT DATA SHEET



## EXHIBIT C

DENNIS J. HERRERA, State Bar \#139669
City Attorney
ALEETA M. VAN RUNKLE, State Bar \#124563
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Attorneys for Respondent
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

BOARD OF APPEALS
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

ROOSTERTAIL RESTAURANT,
Appellant,
vs.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Respondent.

I, Zachary Parsons, declare as follows:

1. I am an Environmental Health Inspector with the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH). I have been a Registered Environmental Health Specialist since 2006, and started my employment with SFDPH in 2009. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein. If called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently to these facts.
2. Prior to operation of the business, Roostertail restaurant, the Department conducted an inspection on October 12, 2011, which included rooftop measures of noise. At that time the noise
measures were compliant with the noise standards as set forth in S.F. Police Code Article 29. (See, Attachment 1.)
3. The Department conducted an indoor noise inspection inside a neighbor's property on September 19, 2012, in response to a complaint from this neighbor. The investigation concluded that noise in the interior sleeping and living of the neighbor's dwelling was in compliance with the indoor noise standard described in S.F. Police Code $\S 2909$ (d). However, the Department's investigation on September 19, 2012, did not measure outdoor noise or evaluate the outdoor noise standard for a commercial use. (See, Attachment 2.)
4. On December 5, 2012, the Department, following a noise measurement provided by an acoustical professional that showed lack of compliance with the outdoor noise standard (see, Attachment 3), the Department conducted additional outdoor noise measures and found the business to be in violation of SFPC $\$ 2909$ (b) which is the standard applicable to mechanical noise source from a commercial use (see, Attachment 4). The measures were conducted in conformance with S.F. Police Code Article 2900, and the Guidelines for Noise Control Ordinance Monitoring and Enforcement, November 10, 2011 (see, Attachment 5) . Appellant had 30 days or correct the problem or apply for a variance.
5. On February 1, 2013, the Department issued a citation to an Abatement Conference to allow Appellant to show how he was going to mitigate the noise violation, or to complete a request for a variance. (See, Attachment 6.)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document was executed on the 16th day of May 2013 in San Francisco, California.


2

# Guidance for Implementing the Noise Control Ordinance San Francisco Department of Public Health—Environmental Health November 10, 2011 

## 1. Noise Measures

1.1. The Decibel is a unit of relative sound pressure levels. The decibel level is computed from the ratio of the measured sound pressure level to a reference level
1.1.1. Sound level $(\mathrm{dB})=20 \log _{10}\left(\mathrm{p}_{\text {measured }} / \mathrm{p}_{\text {ref }}\right)$ ref $=20$ micropascals.
1.2. For the purpose of evaluating compliance, the noise level is the maximum continuous sound level or repetitive peak sound level, produced by a source or group of sources as measured with a sound level meter
1.3. . "Noise level" means the maximum continuous sound level or repetitive peak sound level, produced by a source or group of sources as measured with a sound level meter (SLM).
1.3.1.Survey and screening measurements may be taken with a type 2 SLM. However, a type 1 meter must be used when accuracy greater than + or -0.5 dB is required for enforcement of violations.
1.4. The settings on the SLM should be slow response for continuous noise sources and fast response for noises with rapid onset and decline.
1.5. For most circumstances, compliance with noise standards is assessed only based the A-weighted relative sound pressure level
1.6. Only for places of entertainment, compliance is assessed using both the A-weighted and the Cweighted relative sound pressure levels. Relative to A-weighted levels, C-weighted levels include more lower-frequency sounds.
1.7. Sound levels attributed to a particular noise source may be estimated for multiple distances from a single measurements
1.7.1.Damping with distance formula: $L_{2}=L_{1}-20 \log _{10}\left(r_{2} / r_{1}\right)$ where, $L_{1}$ is the noise level at reference distance $r_{1}$ and $L_{2}$ is the level at another distance $r_{2}$. A helpful website to understand and implement this calculation is http://www.sengpielaudio.com/calculator-distance.htm

## 2. Measurement Location

2.1. Indoor noise measurements to evaluate Section 2909 (a)(2) should be taken in the dwelling unit of the sensitive receptor at 3 feet from the wall ceiling or floor adjacent to the noise source.
2.2. Indoor noise measurements to evaluate Section 2909 (d) should be taken in all sleeping and living areas of the dwelling of the sensitive receptor with windows open except where building ventilation is achieved through mechanical systems that allow windows to remain closed. Windows should be opened to at least $25 \%$ of their maximum opening.
2.3. Outdoor measures to evaluate Sections 2909 (a)(1) and 2909(b) should be taken at the property plane.
2.3.1. Measures taken beyond the threshold distance for a particular standard (e.g. the property plane) can serve to demonstrate non-compliance with the standards if greater than the allowable noise tolerance.
2.3.2. Measures beyond the threshold distance for a particular standard less than the allowable noise tolerance do not demonstrate compliance.
2.3.3. Measures taken within the threshold distance for a particular standard property plane and in the free field can serve to demonstrate compliance if less than the allowable noise tolerance
2.3.4. Measurement of an elevated source should be taken at a level that intercepts the line of sight from the source to an existing sensitive human receptor.
2.4. Outdoor measures to evaluate Sections 2909(c) should be taken 25 feet or more from the source(s).
2.5. Measurements should always be taken at a location safe for the inspector
2.5.1.Telescoping pole extensions of the microphone and preamp can be used when direct access to the property plane is hazardous.
2.6. Measures either closer or further away from a property plane and in the free field can be used to compute the noise level at the property plane using the damping with distance formula (see above).

## 3. Measurement Time

3.1. In most scenarios, evaluation of mechanical noise sources relative noise standards can be adequately conducted with measurements taken during usual working hours.
3.2. Staff are not required to conduct measures at the exact time of a noise complaint
4. Application of Standards There are five distinct standards under 2909 applying to a particular noise sources and protecting different ambient conditions. (See Table Below)
4.1. Section 2909(a)(1), Residential Property Noise Limits This section applies to noise generated from a source(s) located on a residential property or within a residential use in a mixed use property. The standard in Section 2909(a)(1), five dBA above the ambient at any point outside of the property plane, is the maximum allowable cumulative level of exterior noise produced from any combination of mechanical device(s) and implied sound systems(s) originating from an exclusively residential property or from a residential use in a mixed use property.
4.2. Section 2909(a)(2), Residential Property Noise Limits This section applies to the transmission of noise between dwelling units in the same building. The standard in Section 2909(a)(2), five dBA above the local ambient three feet from any wall, floor, or ceiling, is the maximum allowable cumulative noise produced by any combination of mechanical device(s) and amplified sound systems(s) that can be transmitted between any two residential dwelling units in a multi-unit residential property.
4.3. Section 2909(b) Commercial and Industrial Property Noise Limits. This section applies to noise generated from a source located on a commercial or industrial property or within a commercial use in a mixed use property. The standard in Section 2909(b), eight dBA above the ambient at any point outside of the property plane, is the maximum allowable cumulative level of exterior noise, produced from any combination of mechanical device(s) and implied sound systems(s) originating from an exclusively commercial or industrial property or from a commercial use located within a mixed use property. For place of entertainment, this standard applies to both A-weighted and C-weighted measures.
4.4. Section 2909(c) Public Property Noise Limits. This section applies to noise generated from a source located on public property, such as a park or public plaza. The standard in Section 2909(c), ten dBA
above the ambient at a distance greater than 25 feet [from the noise source], is the maximum allowable cumulative level of noise, produced from any combination of mechanical device(s) and implied sound systems(s) originating on a public property. Motor vehicles on local roads, construction equipment, refuse collection equipment, and other noise sources under the control of the City or serving to maintain public property are exempt from the standard.
4.5. Section 2909 (d) Fixed Residential Interior Noise Limits. This section sets the maximum allowable interior noise within a dwelling unit. The standards in Section 2909(d), 45 dBA between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and 55 dBA between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00p.m are the absolute maximum allowable level of interior noise, produced from any combination of mechanical device(s) and audio systems(s) originating from outside the dwelling unit.

## 5. Determination of Ambient

5.1. "Ambient" means the lowest sound level repeating itself during a minimum ten-minute period
5.2. The minimum sound level shall be determined with the noise source at issue silent, and in the same location as the measurement of the noise level of the source or sources at issue. Generally, inspectors should not need to compute mathematical averages of sound levels to assess the ambient level; however, if there is no single lowest repeating measure, then the ambient should be recorded as the average of the 2 lowest measures.
5.3. Under most conditions, the L90 (the level exceeded by $90 \%$ of measurements) is an adequate representation of the ambient
5.4. Thirty-five $d B A$ is minimum ambient level for use in evaluation of interior residential noise under Section 2909 (a)(2)
5.5. Forty-five dBA is minimum ambient level for use in evaluation of exterior noise under Sections 2909 (a)(1),2909(b) and 2909(c)
5.6. Measurement of ambient should be made with all mechanical noise sources physically within and in the control of the operator of the use silent.
5.7. The measurement of the ambient does not require all potential noise sources located at adjacent or nearby uses or properties to be non-operational.

## Summary of Standards and Enforcement Implementation

| k=4 <br>  | Control of noise transmission among one or more dwelling units in the same residential property | Control of noise sources affecting sleeping or living areas in a residential dwelling unit. | Control of noise sources emanating from residential uses | Control of noise sources emanating from commercial uses (e.g. industrial equipment) | Control of noise sources on public property |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  <br> xts.stist | 2909(a)(2) | 2909 (d) | 2909(a)(1) | 2909(b) | 2909(c) |
|  <br>  | Any dwelling unit in the same multiunit property | Any use or property outside the affected dwelling unit | Any residential use on a residential or mixed use property | Any industrial or commercial use within a commercial or mixed-use property | Any non-traffic source on public property |
|  <br>  <br>  <br>  | Three feet from any wall, floor or ceiling | Interior living or Sleeping Area | Outdoors, at the exterior property plane of the origin of noise source | Outdoors, at the exterior property plane of the origin of noise source | Outdoors, 25 feet or more from the noise source |
|  <br>  | Sound from mechanical or electromechanical equipment (e.g., fans, pumps) | Sound from mechanical or electromechanical equipment | Sound from mechanical or electromechanical equipment | Sound from mechanical or electromechanical equipment | Sound from mechanical or electromechanical equipment |
|  | 5dBA over the ambient | Maximum 55dBA day evening; 45 dBA night | 5dBA over the ambient | 8dBA over the ambient | 10dBA over the ambient |
|  <br> 4.z3sus | $\begin{aligned} & 35 \mathrm{dBA} \\ & 45 \mathrm{dBC} \end{aligned}$ | N/A | $\begin{aligned} & 45 \mathrm{dBA} \\ & 55 \mathrm{dBC} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 45 \mathrm{dBA} \\ & 55 \mathrm{dBC} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 45 \mathrm{dBA} \\ & 55 \mathrm{dBC} \end{aligned}$ |
| \& 4 納 <br> s | Noise caused by activities subject to permits from the City are exempt. The Police Department regulates noise from electronic audiovisual sources under this standard. |  | The Police Department regulates noise from electronic audiovisual sources under this standard. | The <br> Entertainment Commission or the Police Department regulates noise from electronic audiovisual sources under this standard. | Machinery serving public space are exempt. |

# Procedures for Evaluation and Management of Noise in Regulated Food Facilities 

Effective Date: May 25, 2011

## I BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE



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 Wemanemof impomentes the San Francises Noise Control Ordinance (Article 29 of the
 somers.

Restaurants permitted by the Department of Public Health are frequently cited as a source of urban noise. The following procedures provide guidance to staff involved in the permitting of restaurants and evaluating noise complaints associated with restaurants. The procedures include steps to take during the oversight of restaurant construction or remodeling to pro-actively ensure compliance with the noise limits set by city laws at all hours of operations. The procedures include expectations for restaurants regarding managing waste and recycling and outdoor cleaning activities. Staff may at times need to modify these procedures based on experience and field circumstances.

## II REGULATORY AUTHORITY

## San Francisco Police Code

SEC. 2909. NOISE LIMITS.

## (b) Commercial And Industrial Property Noise Limits.

No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine or device, music or entertainment or any combination of same, on commercial or industrial property over which the person has ownership or control, a noise level more than eight dBA above the local ambient at any point outside of the property plane. With respect to noise generated from a licensed Place of Entertainment, in addition to the above dBA criteria a secondary low frequency dBC criteria shall apply to the definition above. No noise or music associated with a licensed Place of Entertainment shall exceed the low frequency ambient noise level defined in Section 2901(f) by more than 8 dBC .
(d) Fixed Residential Interior Noise Limits.

In order to prevent sleep disturbance, protect public health and prevent the acoustical environment from progressive deterioration due to the increasing use and influence of mechanical equipment, no fixed noise source may cause the noise level measured inside any sleeping or living room in any dwelling unit located on residential property to exceed 45 dBA between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. or 55 dBA between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00p.m. with windows open except where building ventilation is achieved through mechanical systems that allow windows to remain closed.

## SEC. 2920. AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The Director of Public Health may issue and amend rules, regulations, standards, guidelines, or conditions to implement and enforce this Article. (Added by Ord. 278-08, File No. 081119, App. 11/25/2008)

## IV PROCEDURES FOR FOOD FACILITY PLAN CHECK FOR NEW OR REMODELED FACILITIES

In the course of plan check and physical inspections of new or remodeled facilities, staff shall verify the following:

1. All newly installed mechanical ventilation and refrigeration systems shall be designed and installed to generate less than 53 dBA at the nearest property plane and no more than 45 dBA in the interior of any residential dwelling.

## OR

The applicant shall submit an acoustical report prepared by a person with experience in acoustical consulting which determines that the installation complies with Article 29, Regulation of Noise, San Francisco Police Code. The report shall include both an estimation of the noise levels from the use of the proposed mechanical equipment at the nearest property plane and a 24 hour measurement of ambient noise levels at the same plane.
2. All newly installed mechanical equipment must be equipped with vibration isolation capable of preventing the transmission of vibration into residential dwelling that results in noise levels greater than those described in Section 2909 (d), SF Police Code.
3. The installation of any walkin refrigeration box, food storage room, self contained refrigeration, mop sinks, food processing equipment, or laundry equipment on the exterior of any restaurant or market may not take place without the specific written permission of the Director of Environmental Health for Regulatory Affairs and include restrictions with respect to time and manner of use.

## V GENERAL OPERATIONAL REQUREMENTS FOR FOOD FACILITIES

The operator of the food facility to abide by the following requirements and restrictions.

1. All mechanical equipment must be installed, operated, and maintained so that it will not generate noise greater than 8 dB over ambient levels at the closest neighboring property plane for which there is a clearly identifiable sensitive receiver having line of site to the source. (Section 2909, SF Police Code)
2. All newly installed mechanical equipment must be equipped with vibration isolation capable of preventing the transmission of vibration into
residential dwelling that results in noise levels greater than those described in Section 2909 (d), SF Police Code.
3. Recycling and management of glass bottles, cans, compostables may not take place between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am unless the operation is completely enclosed within the facility. (Sec. 2904, SF Police Code)
4. The consolidation and dumping of garbage into exterior containers may not take place between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am . In all cases the dumping must take place in a manner to produce the least amount of noise. (Sec. 2904, SF Police Code)
5. The mechanical pressurized steam cleaning of restaurant ventilation equipment, floors, sidewalks, and carpets may not take place between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am . Unless the mechanical system is completely enclosed within the building structure. (Section 2909, SF Police Code)
6. The use of any existing exterior refrigeration, mop sinks, processing sinks, and other food processing and storage related equipment may not take place between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am without the specific written permission of the Department of Public Health. (Section 2909, SF Police Code)

## VI PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Staff will respond to complaints of noise related to any fixed mechanical equipment as well as noise complaints related to waste recycling and disposal and facility cleaning.
2. Staff shall notify the owner or his designee of the alleged violation including type of noise, duration, and time of activity within two business days, providing general guidance on actions needed to evaluate and mitigate noise. This notification may take place by telephone or electronic mail and does not require a specific visit to the site.
3. Noise complaints directly related to conditional use including; exterior dining, background music, and times of operation shall be referred to the Planning Department complaint division.
4. Complaints associated with human speech shall be referred to either the Planning Department when they are permitted by conditional use or to the Police Department for investigation as a public nuisance.
5. Noise complaints related to improper installation of mechanical equipment shall be referred to the Department of Building Inspection.
6. When complaints related to fixed mechanical equipment waste management or facility cleaning recur after notification of the business owner, staff shall conduct physical site inspections and provide a written notification of applicable noise laws, required operating procedures, and recommendations for noise mitigation.
7. For complaints related to fixed mechanical equipment, staff should take noise measurements during an inspection and evaluate the existence of noise violation pursuant to the San Francisco Noise Ordinance.
8. When needed to manage either routine or complex complaints, staff should seek advice and technical assistance from the DPH Manager of Air Pollution, Noise and Radiation Programs
9. Where violations of the noise code are documented to be repeated and persistent, staff may refer the unresolved complaint to a Hearing of the Director of Public Health and may consider sanctions including suspension or revocation of food facility permit.

## VII RECORDKEEPING

1. All noise measurements taken by staff in the course of investigations shall be recorded and included in facility files
2. Reports with noise measurements taken by licensed acoustical consultants shall be maintained in facility files
3. Requirements of conditional use permits issued by the Department of City Planning related to noise provided shall be maintained in all permitted facility files.

## EXHIBIT D

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ASSOC:ATES INE.

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18 October 2012

Michiko Yamada
Via e-mail: michiko_yamada@sbcglobal.net

Subject: 1959 Sutter: Roostertail Exhaust Fan Noise Evaluation CSA Project No. 12-0478

130:Sitter Sroe:
Poors.
Sxa Fronciber, CA 94104
T415.3970442
F-91437704\%
wrucmolisetom

Dear Michiko:
At your request, we have prepared this report comparing ambient noise at your property with and without rooftop equipment from the adjacent restaurant, Roostertail (1963 Sutter Street), in operation. The purpose of the acoustical measurements was to evaluate compliance with the San Francisco Noise Ordinance. This letter summarizes our findings.

## SUMMARY

Acoustical measurements taken in the light well and on the rooftop of 1959 Sutter Street indicate that rooftop equipment from 1963 Sutter Street is not currently in compliance with the noise limits of the San Francisco Noise Ordinance.

## ACOUSTICAL CRITERIA

Section 2909 of the San Francisco Police Code addresses noise relevant to the project as follows:

- Part (b): No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine or device, music or entertainment on commercial property over which the person has ownership or control, a noise level more than eight dBA ${ }^{1}$ above the local ambient at any point outside the property plane.
- "Ambient" is defined in Section 2901.a as the lowest sound level repeating itself during a minimum ten-minute period in the same location as the measurement of the noise level of the source at issue. ${ }^{2}$ It shall be measured with a sound level meter using slow response and " $A$ " weighting. In addition, for the purposes of the Ordinance, it states that the exterior ambient shall not be considered to be less than 45 dBA .
- "Noise level" is defined as the maximum continuous sound level or repetitive peak sound level, produced by a source or group of sources as measured with a sound level meter.
- "Fixed source" means a machine or device capable of creating a noise level at the property upon which it is regularly located, including but not limited to: industrial and commercial process machinery and equipment, pumps, fans, air-conditioning apparatus or refrigeration machines.

[^1]
## SETTING

1959 Sutter Street is a residence located adjacent to the Roostertail restaurant．The exhaust fans serving the restaurant are located on the roof of 1963 Sutter Street，adjacent to 1959 Sutter Street．

## ACOUSTICAL MEASUREMENTS

In order to evaluate compliance with the San Francisco Noise Ordinance，we conducted acoustical measurements at exterior spaces located in the 1959 Sutter Street property plane：at the top floor of the lightwell and at the roof．Acoustical measurements were conducted with the exhaust fans in operation（at approximately 10：15pm on 15 October 2012）and with exhaust fans off（at approximately 11：00pm on 15 October 2012）．The table below summarizes the measured noise levels．

Table 1：Measured Noise Levels（dBA）at 1959 Sutter Street

| Location | Ambient（Fans Off） | Allowable Noise Level <br> Per SF Noise <br> Ordinance | Measured Noise <br> Level with Fans <br> On | Exceedance of SF <br> Noise Ordinance <br> Limits |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Roof | 46 | 54 | 60 | 6 |
| Lightwell | $45^{3}$ | 53 | 59 | 6 |

Based on the collected acoustical data，the acoustical criteria for exterior noise levels at the property plane was established to be 54 dBA and 53dBA（ambient +8 dBA allowable above the ambient）．

## PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

The exhaust fans serving the Roostertail restaurant are located on the roof of 1963 Sutter Street．In order to reduce noise at the property plane by 6 dBA and achieve compliance with the San Francisco Noise Ordinance，an acoustical screen should be engineered and installed around the exhaust fans to reduce equipment noise．
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Please contact us if you have any questions about our report．

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Exussity

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アヵめ
T．43．357．4842
F－4353070454
wevensexercmi

Sincerely，
CHARLES M．SALTER ASSOCIATES，INC．


Cristina L．Miyar
Vice President
$20120 \mathrm{ct17} 1959$ Sutter Street Noise Ordinance Compliance Analysis

[^2]
## EXHIBIT E

F．D INSPECTION REPORT
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
1390 Market Street，Suite 210，San Francisco，CA 94102
www．sfdiph．org／eh（415）252－3800


$\square$ Permit Posted $\square$ inspection Report Posted
Person In Charge：Conrad
SECTION 1：High Fisk Violations（HRV） 7 Pis Each HRV disqualifies Symbol of Excellence EMPLOYEE HEALTH／HYGIENE
1 Communicable disease－reporting， restrictions \＆exclusions
PREVENT CONTAMINATION BY HANDS
2 Hands not clean／improperly washed／ gloves improperly used
TIME \＆TEMPERATURE RELATIONSHIPS
3 Improper hot／cold holding temperatures
4 Time as a public health control－
Procedures and／or records needed
5 Improper cooling methods
6 improper cooking time／temperatures
7 Improper Reheating
PROTECTION FROM CONTAMINATION
8 Food in poor condition－unsafe／adulterated
9 Food contact surfaces not cleaned／sanitized FOOD FROM APPROVED SOURCES
10 Food obtained from an unapproved source HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE POPULATIONS
11 Licensed health care facilities／public \＆ private schools／prohibited foods offered WATER／HOT WATER
12 No Hot Water／No Water LiQUID WASTE DISPOSAL
13 Sewage／Wastewater Disposal Inopeartive VERMIN
14 Rodents／Roaches／Flies／Other Animals 15 OTHER（Specified in report）
JECTION 2：Moderate Risk Violations 4 Pts Each DEMONSTRATION OF KNOWLEDGE
16 Lack of food safety knowledge／no food safety certification
EMPLOYEE HEALTH／HYGIENE
17 Discharge from eyes／nose／mouth
18 Employee Practices：tobacco／eating／other PREVENT CONTAMINATION BY HANDS
is inadequate／Inaccessible handwashing facilites \＆supplies
TIME \＆TEMPERATURE RELATIONSHIPS
20 improper hot／cold holding temperatures
21 Time as a public health control－ Procedures／records needed PROTECTION FROM CONTAMINATION
22 Retumed／reservice of food
：3 Food in poor condition／unsafe／adulterated
24 Food contact surfaces not clean／sanitized FOOD FROM APPROVED SOURCES
35 Non－Compliance with shell stock tags／$]$ condition／display

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Cert．Food Handler：

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$\square$ Reinspection Fee Applicable For Violations No．Thin 15
All Food Preparation \＆Service Facilities Must Post This inspection Report．
Failure to Comply May Result In A Citation And／Or Fines．
$\frac{P}{P}$
REHS（PRint）：
zr

Signature：
Received by：

## EXHIBIT F

improving enviromments protecting heatif

Edwin M. Lee
March 14, 2013
Barbara Garcia MPA
Director of Heoth
Rajiv Bhatia MD. MPH
Director of Enironmental Heallh


1390 Market Street Suite 822
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone 415.252.3931
Fax 415.252 .3818
www.sfenvironmentalhealth.org

Roostertail Restaurant
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA
Re: Application for Noise Limit Variance
Dear Mr. Darien:
I reviewed Roostertail Restaurant's Variance Application dated December 26, 2012.
As you know, the San Francisco Police Code (Article 29) limits the noise levels generated by equipment at a commercial use to no more than 8 dBA above the ambient noise levels measured at any point outside of the property plane. For this location the ambient level is 45 dBA . Our measurements which were taken on January 5, 2013 outdoors at 1959 Sutter Street documented equipment noise levels of 56 dBA . Other measurements taken at this location by a licensed acoustical professional have been similar. This measurement is 11 dB above the ambient noise level and is an unambiguous violation of the city's noise standard.

Many parts of San Francisco have outdoor noise levels that exceed optimal levels for community health. The outdoor standard is intended to both prevent noise impacts on neighbors as well as reduce contributions to cumulative noise levels. The Department generally has not granted variances for noise in residential or mixed-residential commercial areas where available alternative equipment or equipment installation would avoid a noise violation. Your variance application noted the fact of a significant recent renovation of your business that included the new equipment that contributes to the noise at issue. San Francisco's current noise standard has been in place since 2008. It is unclear why professionals guiding this renovation did not select and install the equipment to be compliance with the current applicable laws.

For these reasons, I must reject your request for a variance. Please direct questions about the timeline for compliance to your district inspector. Under San Francisco Police Code Section 2910, you may appeal this decision to the Board of Appeals; appeals must be filed within 15 calendar days from the date of issuance of this decision.

Sincerely,


Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH
Director, Environmental Health

## EXHIBIT G

DENNIS J. HERRERA, State Bar \#139669
City Attorney
ALEETA M. VAN RUNKLE, State Bar \#124563
Lead Attorney, Health and Human Services Team
VIRGINIA DARIO ELIZONDO, State Bar \#13477!
Deputy City Attorney
1390 Market Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California 94102-5408
Telephone: (415) 554-3808
Facsimile: (415) 557-6747
E-Mail: virginia.dario.elizondo@sfgov.org
BOARD OF APPEALS


## BOARD OF APPEALS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

ROOSTERTALL RESTAURANT,
Appellant,
vs.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Respondent.

Case No. 13-035

RESPONDENT SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S BRIEF

Hearing Date: $\quad$ May 22, 2013
Time: 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 416

## INTRODUCTION

Appellant Gerard Darian dba ROOSTERTAIL RESTAURANT appeals the denial of noise limit variance by the San Francisco Department of Public Health ("Department"). Appellant acknowledges in his May 2, 2013, letter to the Board of Appeals, that he needs a noise limit variance between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. in order to comply with the applicable noise standard set forth in S.F. Police Code §2909(b). Citing financial hardship, he requested this variance on December 26, 2012 (see, Exhibit A.) On March 14, 2013, the Department denied a noise limit variance (see, Exhibit B).

## FACTS

Prior to operation of the business, a restaurant, the Department conducted an inspection on October 12, 2011, which included rooftop measures of noise. At that time, the inspector concluded that the noise measures were compliant with the noise standards as set forth in S.F. Police Code Article 29. (See, Decl. of Zack Parsons, Attachment 1.) However, these noise measures were taken during the daytime. Noise compliance from a onetime measurement does not confer compliance for all future times. Technically and legally, the permissible noise standard is relative to the ambient (or contextual) level of noise which can vary substantially by time of day. The noise level of the source may also vary due to the power level and other factors. Thus, equipment noise that may be in compliance at one time may not be in compliance during other times.

The Department conducted an indoor noise inspection inside a neighbor's property on September 19, 2012, in response to a complaint from this neighbor. The investigation concluded that noise in the interior sleeping and living of the neighbor's dwelling was in compliance with the indoor noise standard described in S.F. Police Code §2909(d). However, the Department's investigation on September 19,2012 , did not measure outdoor noise or evaluate the outdoor noise standard for a commercial use. (See, Decl. of Zack Parsons, Attachment 2.)

On December 5, 2012, the Department, following a noise measurement provided by an acoustical professional that demonstrated lack of compliance with the outdoor noise standard (see, Decl. of Zack Parsons, Attachment 3), the Department conducted additional outdoor noise measures and found the business to be in violation of SFPC §2909(b) which is the standard applicable to mechanical noise source from a commercial use (see, Decl. of Zack Parsons, Attachment 4). The measures were conducted in conformance with S.F. Police Code Article 2900, and the Guidelines for Noise Control Ordinance Monitoring and Enforcement, November 10, 2011 (see, Decl. of Zack Parsons, Attachment 5). Appellant had 30 days or correct the problem or apply for a variance.

On February 1, 2013, the Department issued a citation to an Abatement Conference to allow Appellant to show how he was going to mitigate the noise violation, (See, Decl. of Zack Parsons, Attachment 6.)

The Abatement Conference was held on February 12, 2013, during which Appellant was once again advised of the noise violation. The Department noted that it expected a proposal to mitigate the noise, but received a letter stating that it would be too costly to do so. The Department requested more information regarding the need for a variance. (See, Letter from Richard Lee to Gerard Darian, dated February 12, 2013, attached as Exhibit C.) Appellant completed his application for a variance on December 26, 2012 (see, Exhibit A.), which was denied on March 14, 2013 (see, Exhibit B).

## LEGAL STANDARD

S.F. Police Code §2909(b) provides:

Commercial And Industrial Property Noise Limits. No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine or device, music or entertainment or any combination of same, on commercial or industrial property over which the person has ownership or control, a noise level more than eight dBA above the local ambient at any point outside of the property plane. With respect to noise generated from a licensed Place of Entertainment or licensed Limited Live Performance Locale, in addition to the above dBA criteria a secondary low frequency dBC criteria shall apply to the definition above. No noise or music associated with a licensed Place of Entertainment or licensed Limited Live Performance Locale shall exceed the low frequency ambient noise level defined in Section 2901(f) by more than 8 dBC .
"Ambient" is defined in Section 2901(a) as:
the lowest sound level repeating itself during a minimum ten-minute period as measured with a type 1, precision sound level meter, using slow response and "A " weighting. The minimum sound level shall be determined with the noise source at issue silent, and in the same location as the measurement of the noise level of the source or sources at issue. However, for purposes of this chapter, in no case shall the ambient be considered or determined to be less than: (1) Thirty-five dBA for interior residential noise, and (2) Forty-five dBA in all other locations. If a significant portion of the ambient is produced by one or more individual identifiable sources of noise that contribute cumulatively to the sound level and may be operating continuously during the minimum ten-minute measurement period, determination of the ambient shall be accomplished with these separate identifiable noise sources silent or otherwise removed or subtracted from the measured ambient sound level.
S.F. Police Code $\S 2910$ states the Director of Public Health may grant variances to the noise regulations set forth in Section 2909, and that the grant or denial of such variance is appealable to the Board of Appeals.

## ARGUMENT

S. F. Police Code Article 29 limits the noise levels generated by equipment at a commercial use to no more than 8 dBA above the ambient noise levels measured at any point outside of the property plane. The outdoor standard is intended to both prevent noise impacts on neighbors as well as reduce contributions to cumulative noise levels in the City neighborhoods.

For this location, the ambient noise level is 45 dBA . The Department's measurements taken on December 5, 2012, outdoors at 1959 Sutter Street documented equipment noise levels of 56 dBA . This measurement is 11 dBA above the ambient noise level and is an unambiguous violation of the City's noise standard.

Many parts of San Francisco have outdoor noise levels that exceed the levels determined to be protective of health as enumerated in the World Health Organization community noise guidelines. These levels are high enough to seriously harm health and the quality of life, challenge hearing, speech, and sleep, and potentially cause physiological and psychological stress, heart disease, and high blood pressure. In order to protect public health, San Francisco enacted S.F. Police Code Article 29 "... to prohibit unwanted, excessive, and avoidable noise." Further, it is the policy of San Francisco "... to maintain noise levels in areas with existing healthful and acceptable levels of noise and to reduce noise levels, through all practicable means, in those areas of San Francisco where noise levels are above acceptable levels as defined by the World Health Organization's Guidelines on Community Noise." (S.F. Police C. §2900(c).) A map of background noise levels in San Francisco is attached as Exhibit C.

The Department found Appellant's business in violation of permissible noise levels based on an objective measurement and a quantitative environmental standard. The objective standard exists so inspectors do not use their discretion in determining whether the measured level is in violation of the quantitative standard.

Appellant argues his request for a variance is justified because the business recently completed a significant renovation which included the equipment that is now the source of the noise
at issue. Professionals guiding this renovation could have selected and installed equipment to be compliance with the current applicable noise laws.

Granting a variance in this case would undermine the policy purpose of the City's noise law and the effectiveness of the standard. The Department has a long history of enforcing the same noise standard in the same way for dozens of similar businesses, and wants to remain consistent with the principle of maintaining a level playing field for businesses. The Department has not granted any variances for commercial noise in residential or mixed-residential commercial areas.

The Appellant provided a viable proposal to mitigate the noise violation which we encourage him to implement. The Department has been flexible in working with Appellant, and in the letter of March 14, 2013, denying the variance, asked Appellant to contact his district inspector to set a timeline for compliance (see, Exhibit B). While the Appellant claims financial hardship with regards to the cost of compliance with the law, the Department does not consider financial hardship as a factor justifying exemptions to laws designed to protect the public health.

## CONCLUSION

The Department of Public Health respectfully requests that the Board deny Appellant's appeal and uphold the denial of Appellant's request for a variance from the commercial noise limits established to protect the public health.

Dated: May 16, 2013
Respectfully submitted,

DENNIS J. HERRERA
City Attorney


## EXHIBIT H



Respondent

## NOTICE OF APPEAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on $\qquad$ March 28, 2013 $\qquad$ the above named appellant(s) filed an appeal with the Board of Appeals of the City and County of San Francisco from the decision or order of the above named department(s), commission, or officer.

The substance or effect of the decision or order appealed from is the denial on March 14, 2013, of Noise Limit Variance at 1963 Sutter Street.

FOR HEARING ON $\qquad$

Address \& Tel. of Appellant(s):
Address \& Tel. of Other Parties:

| Gerard Darian | N/A |
| :--- | :--- |
| dba "Roostertail Restaurant", Appellant |  |
| 1963 Sutter Street |  |
| San Francisco, CA 94115 |  |

## NOTICE OF DECISION \& ORDER

The aforementioned matter came on regularly for hearing before the Board of Appeals of the City \& County of San Francisco on May 22, 2013.

PURSUANT TO § 4.106 of the Chater of the City \& County of San Francisco and Article 1, $\S 14$ of the Business \& Tax Regulations Code of the said City: \& County, and the action above stated, the Board of Appeals hereby DENIES THE APPEAL AND ORDERS
that the denial of the subject variance by the Department of Public Health (DPH) is UPHELD on the basis of the findings in the DPH Order.

BOARD OF APPEALS


Crifis Hwang, President

Last Day to Request Rehearing: June 03, 2013
Request for Rehearing: None
Rehearing: None


If this decision is subject to review under Code of Civil Procedure $\S 1094.5$, then the time within which judicial review must be sought is governed by California Code of Civil Procedure $\S 1094.6$.

## AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

Gerard Parian<br>doa "Roostertail Restaurant", Appellant<br>1963 Gutter Street<br>San Francisco, CA 94115

I, Victor F. Pacheco, Legal Assistant for the Board of Appeals, hereby certify that on this $4 f$ day of June, 2013, I served the attached Notices) of Decision \& Order for Appeal Nos). $\qquad$ $\frac{\text { "Rovsertail Restaurant" }}{1963 \text { Snit Street }}$ $\qquad$ subject property at , on the appellants) by mailing a copy via U.S. mail, first class, to the address above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco, California.


cc: Dept. of Public Health - Occupational / Environmental Health Section

OTHER PARTIES
OR CONCERNED CITIZENS:

Dept. of Public Health, Respondent coo Aleeta Van Rankle, Attorney for Respondent 1390 Market Street, $7^{\text {th }}$ Floor


## EXHIBIT I

August 12, 2013
Tracy Green and Gerard Dorian
Rooster Tail
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Subject: Noise Complaint
Rooster Tail
1963 Sitter Street, San Francisco
Dear Ms. Green and Mr. Darien:
The San Francisco Board of Appeals "Affidavit of Service", dated June 4, 2013, denies your appeal regarding a variance from the San Francisco Police Code, Article 29, Regulation of Noise. Ambient noise measurements taken at the property plane were found to be 45 dBA . Equipment noise levels from your facility were found to be $56 \mathrm{dBA}, 11 \mathrm{dbA}$ above the allowable 8 dBA . Other measurements taken at 1959 Sutter Street by an acoustical professional were similar.

Based on the above information, within 30 days you must submit a plan to address noise emanating from exhaust and heating and ventilation systems. Upon approval by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Protection, Equity and Sustainability, you will have 30 days to implement your plan to decrease noise.

No later than September 13, 2013, a plan that addresses the excess noise shall be submitted. Failure to comply shall result in the suspension of your Health Permit to Operate as a Food Facility.

Should you have any questions, please contact Inspector Zachary Parsons, at (415) 252-3848.
Sincerely,


Richard J. Lee, MPH, CIH, REHS
Directer y of Env.H\&arth Regulatory Programs


Barbara Garcia, MPH
Director of San Francisco Department of Public Health

City and County or San Francisco DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## CITATION TO APPEAR AT HEARING ON: $2 / 12 / 13$

| Premises address: 1963 Sutter St | DBA: Rooster Tail |
| :--- | :--- |
| Owner/Operator: |  |

## Chronology of events leading to issuance of citation:

| Date | Code Section | Current Violation(s) | Action Taken |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9/19/12 |  | Noise complaint joint inspection w Inspector Freschet (Indoor). | None. In compliance |
| 12/5/12 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Article } \\ & 29 \end{aligned}$ | Noise complaint (outdoor) joint inspection w Inspector Harris. Facility found to be 3 dB over allowable limit. | Facility given 30 days to correct problem or apply for variance. |
| 12/26/12 |  | Facility submits incomplete variance | Facility asked to submit further information |
| 2/1/13 |  | No other information submitted by facility. Joint site visit w Inspector Harris | Citation for abatement conference issued |
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| Inspector: $\quad \mathrm{Z}$ Parsons |  |  |  |
| APPROVED: stamun KO Cl |  |  |  |
| Recommended 3 dB ovel amblepr, requew Action: |  |  |  |

This form to be submitted to Central Office along with a copy of each citation

## EXHIBIT J

April 26, 2014
Gerard Darien, Owner
Roostertail Restaurant
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Re: Exhaust Fan/Ductwork Poise Complaints at 1963 Sutter Street
Dear Ms. Barien:
The Department of Public Health reviewed the Roostertail Restaurant's Variance Application received on March 28, 2014 and discussed at the Apri 22, 2014 Environmental Nealkh Eranch Abatement Conference. San Francisco Police Code Article 29 governs the noise standards in San Francisco. Article 29, Section $2909\{b\}$ \{Commercial and industrial Property Noise Limits) sets the nolse standard for mixed residential and industrial uses at 8 dBA over ambient: "No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine or device, music or entertainment or any combination of same, on commercial or industrial property over which the person has ownershis or control, a noise level more than eight dBA above the local ambient at any point outside of the property plane." Article 29. Section 2901 (a) defines the applicable ambient standards; for this location the minimum arnbient level is 45 dBA .

I understand that in response to earker violation, abatement work was completed in mid-january, 2034 and consisted of wrapping the exhaust systern duct in the adjacent bghtwell with acoustical duct lagging. As we wroke in our February 13,2014 fatter to you, our followup investigation determined that the abatement work had reduced the sound to 57.7 dBA in the lightwell and to 59.1 dBA at the roof. As we wrote in that letter, and as we ciscussed at the Abatement Conference, the lightwell is not an enforceable focation for sound level measurements because it does not meet the standard set in Article 29, section 2902. In addition, while there remains a violation on the roof, there is no receptor at this location and hence no public health hazard; as the distance from the sound source increases, the sound level resulting from the source decreases and wouk be insignificant upon reaching any buman receptor.

## Based on the facts presersted at the Abatement Conference, the variance is denied and you ase

 required to bring the reoftop noise to compliance with Arsicle 29, as described in Option A helow. While this varlance ts dienfet, in the wuent of future compiaines a varfance for compliance on the roof will be granted tiv you pertorm adizutional ahatement work in the kghtwell as described in Option B below.Option A-Reduce the noige level such that the operating sound level is within 8 dBA of both the daytime and nighttime ambient sound level as measured from the roof of the adjacent property.

Option B-Perform additional abatement work in the lightwell by extending the acoustical duct wrapping to the full length of the ductwork (up to the fan\}.
ff you choose Option $A$, we will schedue a re-inspection of the properfy for May $2 \mathbb{2} 2015$ to verify ff the sound level at the roof is within 8 dBA of the daytime ambient; we will also schedule an inspection for the evening to verify if the sound leval at the roof is within 8 dBA of the nighttime amblent. If you choose Option B, we will schedule a re-inspection of the property for May 202014 to verify installasion of the duat wrapping to the full length of the ductwark.

Failure to comply whth this orter will be subject to penalties as described in Article 29, Section 2917 of the San Francisco Police Code.

Under San Francisco Police Code Section 2910, you may appeal this decision within 35 days to the Board of Appeais.

Sincerely,


Pichard i. Lee, MPH, CIH, REHS
Acting Environmental Health Director

## EXHIBIT K

June 4, 2014

Gerard Darien, Owner
Roostertail Restaurant
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Re: Exhaust Fan/Ductwork Noise Complaints at 1963 Sutter Streat

Dear Mr. Darien:

Shorty after an abatement conference on April 22, 2014, your application for variance from the San Francisco Noise Ordimance (Article 29, Section 2909\} was denied. In a letter dated Apri\} 26, 2014, Environmental Heath ilustrated specific options for compliance. The option you pursued is as follows:

Option 8 - Perform additional abotement work in the fightwell by extending the acoustical duct wropping to the full length of the ductwork (up to the fon).

The date for comphance set by Environmental Health was March 28, 2014. it is ous understanding that, currently, the requirements in the option above have not been met due to complications with material manufacturing and availability. Because of this, you are now subject to the following absolute deadine and requirements;
 aroundithe full fench of the ducwork. Failure to comply by this date shall result in the suspensimn of your parmit to operate until the abatement work is complated and verified by Environmental Heath staff.

Sl\}ould you have any questions, please contant \{ndustrial Hygienist Jonathan Piakis at (415) 2523913.

Sincerely,


Eichard I. Gee, MPW, CIH, REHS
Acting Environmental Heath Director

## EXHIBIT L

July 23, 2014
Gerard Darian, Owner
Roostertail
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
RE: 1963 Sutter Street - Noise Violation Abatement Work
Dear Mr. Darian:
At the Abatement Conference Hearing on July 8, 2014, it was determined that the work necessary to abate the violation of the San Francisco Noise Ordinance (Police Code, Article 29) was not complete. In accordance with staff recommendations, I granted an extension of 15 business days resulting in the deadline for completion of July 28, 2014.

On July 18, 2014, Inspector Piakis confirmed that the abatement work, consistent with the third-party acoustical consultant's recommendations, had been completed (see figures below). Therefore, the violation is abated and the mechanical exhaust system in use at 1963 Sutter Street (Roostertail Restaurant) is considered to be in compliance with City noise limits. No further action is required at this time.


Abatement worlk consisting of the installation of acoustical duct lagging along the entirety of the mechanical exhaust system's external ductwork

Our letter dated April 26, 2014 explained that if the remainder of the external ductwork was wrapped to decrease the noise closest to the residential receptor, a variance would be considered for the rooftop fan noise. Environmental Health has reviewed the noise variance application filed on July 18, 2014 and supporting materials detailing abatement costs of approximately $\$ 8000$. We have found that your request has sufficient merit and therefore grant Roostertail Restaurant (1963 Sutter Street) a noise variance under the conditions set forth below. Failure to implement the following conditions may result in revocation of this variance and the institution of enforcement penalties:

- Continue to perform routine, regular maintenance of the mechanical equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
- Inform Environmental Health staff prior to the addition, relocation, substitution, or any other alteration of rooftop mechanical equipment.

This variance applies only to the mechanical exhaust system and equipment configuration as of July $23,2014$. The variance will be effective upon receipt of a signed copy of this letter and subject to any appeals filed in the 15 days following. At our discretion, Environmental Health may rescind this variance if it is determined that Roostertail Restaurant has violated the above terms. Please direct any questions or concerns to Jonathan Piakis (Jonathan.Piakis@sfdph.org).

Sincerely,


Richard J. Lee, MPH, CIH, REHS
Acting Environmental Health Director

Roostertail Restaurant understands and agrees to comply with the terms of this variance.


## EXHIBIT M

## Chones M Saltar



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 Erect Grombust fe
 Thosson A. Schandera: PE Antiony P. Prutite Crishos i. Ahyor :osm Refury PE
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23 August 2014
Michiko Yamada
1959 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA

30 Suder Strevi Fioer 5
San Froncseo, CA
94004
r Al5.307.04A2
F 415377 Ca 54
wu,wimenifoream

Subject: 1959 Sutter Street Noise Ordinance Compliance, San Francisco Restaurant Fan Noise Measurements
CSA Project: 12-0478
Dear Michiko:
On 31 July 2014, we visited your home to measure the noise from Roostertail Restaurant rooftop exhaust fan. Previously all three ducts were exposed sheet metal and running vertically in the common light well between your unit and the restaurant. The City required that Roostertail implement noise reducing measures. As a response to the City's direction, Roostertail wrapped one of the three ducts in the light well. This letter summarizes the results of our measurements.

## MEASUREMENTS

Using a type I sound level meter, Larson Davis model 824, set to a "slow response", we measured the noise from the fan exhaust fans in the light well and on the roof. These locations are consistent with the City health officer measurements. Table 1 below lists the results of our most recent measurements. We provided both A-weighting and C-weighting, as requested.

Table 1 - Measurement Summary

| Location | Noise Level |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | dBA | dBC |
| Inside the Light Well | 60 dBA | 75 dBC |
| On the Roof | 59 dBA | 71 dBC |

## ANALYSIS

The noise levels remain relatively unchanged after wrapping only one of the three ducts. The noise at these locations is the sum of all three fans and their ductwork. It is possible that the wrapped ductwork was not the loudest duct. Further study would be required to determine which duct(s) controls the noise at these locations. Without a detailed analysis, all ducts must be wrapped with the mass-loaded vinyl material. In addition, we also recommend that the restaurant verify that the proper vibration isolation was installed correctly. Improperly isolated fans could impart structural vibration, which reradiates as noise.

This concludes our current comments on the subject project. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
CHARLES M. SALTER ASSOCIATES, INC.


Eric A. Yee Principal Consultant

2014-08-22 1959 Sutter Street Fan Noise Measurements

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## EXHIBIT N

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2 May 2014
Michiko Yamada
Email：michiko＿yamada＠sbcglobal．net
Subject： 1959 Sutter：Roostertail Exhaust Fan Noise Evaluation CSA Project：12－0478

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## Dear Michiko：

At your request，we visited your home at 1959 Sutter on 30 April 2014 to meet with the San Francisco Department of Health inspectors．We have prepared this report comparing ambient noise on the roof your property with and without rooftop equipment from the adjacent restaurant，Roostertail（1963 Sutter Street），in operation．The purpose of the acoustical measurements was to evaluate compliance with the San Francisco Noise Ordinance．This letter summarizes our findings．

## SUMMARY

Acoustical measurements taken on the rooftop of 1959 Sutter Street indicate that rooftop equipment from 1963 Sutter Street is not currently in compliance with the noise limits of the San Francisco Noise Ordinance．

## ACOUSTICAL CRITERIA

Section 2909 of the San Francisco Police Code addresses noise relevant to the project as follows：
－Part（b）：No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine or device，music or entertainment on commercial property over which the person has ownership or control，a noise level more than eight dBA ${ }^{1}$ above the local ambient at any point outside the property plane．
－＂Ambient＂is defined in Section 2901．a as the lowest sound level repeating itself during a minimum ten－minute period in the same location as the measurement of the noise level of the source at issue．${ }^{2}$ It shall be measured with a sound level meter using slow response and＂$A$＂ weighting．In addition，for the purposes of the Ordinance，it states that the exterior ambient shall not be considered to be less than 45 dBA ．
－＂Noise level＂is defined as the maximum continuous sound level or repetitive peak sound level， produced by a source or group of sources as measured with a sound level meter．
－＂Fixed source＂means a machine or device capable of creating a noise level at the property upon which it is regularly located，including but not limited to：industrial and commercial process machinery and equipment，pumps，fans，air－conditioning apparatus or refrigeration machines．

[^3]
## SETTING

1959 Sutter Street is a residence located adjacent to the Roostertail restaurant. The exhaust fans serving the restaurant are located on the roof of 1963 Sutter Street, adjacent to 1959 Sutter Street.

## ACOUSTICAL MEASUREMENTS

In order to evaluate compliance with the San Francisco Noise Ordinance, we conducted the simultaneous acoustical measurements as the Department of Health inspectors at approximately 9:15pm on 30 April 2014. Comparison acoustical measurements were taken with the fan off (ambient noise) and the fan on, near the center of the roof. You have expressed concern that the owner has adjusted the speed during noise inspections, but based on conversations during our site visit, we understand that the fan is not variable speed. The table below summarizes the measured noise levels.

| Table 1: Measured Noise Levels (dBA) at 1959 Sutter Street |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Location | Ambient (Fans <br> Off) | Allowable Noise <br> Level Per SF Noise <br> Ordinance | Measured <br> Noise Level <br> with Fans On | Exceedance of <br> SF Noise <br> Ordinance <br> Limits |
| Roof | 47 | 55 | 57 | 2 |

Please contact us if you have any questions about our report.
Sincerely,
CHARLES M. SALTER ASSOCIATES, INC.


Amanda Higbie
Consultant
May02 1959 Sutter Streek Noise Ordinance Complance Anafysis


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## EXHIBIT O

## CONSTRUCTION SUBCONTRACT

To: Air Maze Services, Inc.
933 Rifer Road, Suite A

| Sunnyvale | CA | 94086-5208 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 408738-0333 | 408245-0484 Fax |  |

Job: 110043 RoosterTail Restaurant Remodel 1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco CA 94115

Date: 09/01/2011

Subcontract \#: 110043-1369

Cost Code: 15510.000 New HVAC Units \$ 28,695.00
Cost Code: 15510.000 New HVAC Units \$
Cost Code: 15500.000 HVAC Distribution \$
Cost Code: 15500.000 HVAC Distribution \$
Cost Code: 15500.000 HVAC Distribution \$

ITEM 1. SCOPE.
Subcontractor agrees to furnish all labor, materials, equipment, Permits + Fees (if applicable), other facilities required per plans and specifications listed on Exhibit "A", "B", Clarifications and current City and State Codes, including but not limited to, the following:

1. Furnish and install one (1) RUUD 95AFUE forced air furnace. Model \#RGTC09EZAJS which includes flue venting, plenums, hanging material, low voltage control wiring and thermostat.
2. Furnish and install a complete ductwork system above T-bar with necessary volume dampers, access doors, hangers, supports, smoke detectors, diffusers, registers and grills.
3. Furnish and install grease duct from existing duct at ceiling line to new proposes Type $1 \mathrm{Hood}(\mathrm{H}-1)$
4. Furnish and install one (1) new Type II exhaust fan on roof. (EF-2)
5. Furnish and install all ducting from Kitchen Supplier installed Typell Hood. (H-2) All ducting will start at Type Il hood outlet and then travel out and up the existing light well and connect to new exhaust fan (EF-2). Secure all ductwork on outside light well wall.
6. Furnish and install one (1) outdoor make-up unit (MUA-1) on roof which includes the following: Furnish and install one (1) roof
curb on customer provided platform. All framing, platform, roofing and structural by others. All ducting will start at Type I hood Perforated Supply Plenums (3) and then travel out and up the existing light well. Ducting will terminate at new make-up air unit on roof.Secure all ductwork on outside light well wall.
7. Furnish and install one (1) ceiling mount exhaust fan for unisex bathroom and all ducting.
8. Furnish one (1) neutralizer kit and installed by plumber.
9. Furnish crane and all rigging to place make-up air unit and exhaust fan on roof.
10. Air balance for make-up air, Type I and Type II hood with full written report.
11. One (1) year warranty. $\checkmark$


## Total



## EXHIBIT P

San Francisco Department of Public Health - Environmental Health Section

District Number: $\qquad$
-Address: $\qquad$ Food Inspection Report

General Ino. \# 25:-3800
Inspector Number: $\qquad$ Telephone Number: $\qquad$ -



CONDITIONS AND STIPULATIONS



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STORAGE CALCULATION
REQUIRED: 96 LI.
PROVIDED: 108 L.F.

 Environmental Health Aranogument, Pion Che sk Section
Approval is contingent upon the following reata s:

1. 7 Provide approved flooring caved up the walls at last 4 inches with proper radius at the juncture for an food service ames, via air gap to gap to a floor sink.
2. Provide effective sneeze guards or food shields where necessary to protect exposed foods and food preparation surfaces.

- Place Mort Sink/uside Food freity

12. All newly installed compressors and exhaust systems shall comply

13. Cooking Hood Exhaust Systems shall comply with all codes and effectively capture and contain heat, fumes and smoke.
Provide Vesention lsacmot Eon Pronfor $\frac{\text { ADJACENT }}{\text { OCCUPANCY }}$ plactartcite Equlomas]



## (E) SIDEWALK





EQUIPMENT SCHEDULE

| NO. | QTY. | DESCRIPTION | DIMS. | MFR. | MODEL | MT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| E-01 | 1 | HAND SiNk | $12^{\prime \prime W} \times 161 / 4^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ |  | - |  |
| E. 02 | 1 | WARMING OVEN | $267 / 46^{* W} \times 3313 \mathrm{H} 6^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ $\times 339 / 16 \% \mathrm{H}$ |  |  |  |
| E-03 | 1 | SALAD STATION | $271 / 2^{2} \mathrm{w}_{3 / 4^{W} H}$ |  |  |  |
| E.04 | 1 | UNDERCOUNTER REFRIGERATOR | $4812^{2} \mathrm{~W} \times 32^{2} \mathrm{D} \times 36^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  |  |
| E-05 | 1. | DOUBLE REFRIGERATOR DRAWER | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline 279 / 16^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 311 / 16^{\circ} \mathrm{D} \\ \times 36^{\circ} \mathrm{H} \end{array}$ |  |  | $\varepsilon$ |
| E-05.1 | 1 | WORKTABLE | $64 . \mathrm{W} \times 38{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | s |
| E-06 | 1 | FOTISSEAIE | $54^{*} \mathrm{~W} \times 400^{\circ} \mathrm{O}$ |  |  | $s$ |
| E-07 | 1 | 6-BURNEA GAS RANGE W/GRIODLE\& (2) OVENS | $59^{*} \mathrm{~W} \times 341 / 2^{\circ} \mathrm{O}$ |  |  | $s$ |
| E-08 | 1 | SALAMANDERBROILEA | $36^{\prime \prime W} \times 18^{\circ} \mathrm{D} \times 21 \mathrm{5} / 8^{\prime \prime}$ |  |  | $s$ |
| E. 09 | - | NOTUSED |  |  |  |  |
| E-10 | 2 | FRYER |  |  | - | S |
| E-11- | 1 | ICE MAKER | T80 |  |  | S |
| E-12. | 2 | REACHHN REFAIGERATOR | $54.12^{2} \mathrm{~W} \times 311^{\circ} \mathrm{O} \times 83^{\prime 2} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | S |
| E-13 | 1 | REACH-IN FREEEER | $27112^{2} \mathrm{~W} \times 3100 \times 833^{4} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | S |
| E-14 | 1 | 1.COMPARTMENT SINK | $39^{2} \mathrm{~W} \times 24^{\circ} \mathrm{D} \times 4418{ }^{2} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | s |
| E-45 | 1 | STAAGGH-DIRTY DISH TABLE | $48 . \mathrm{W} \times 30^{\circ} \mathrm{O} \times 44^{\circ} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | S |
| E-16 | 1 | LOW-TEMP. CORNEE UNIT DISHWASHER | $30^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 30^{\circ} \mathrm{O}$ |  |  | S |
| E-17 | - | NOTUSED |  |  |  |  |
| E-18 | 1 | CLEAN OISH TABLE | - $366^{*} \mathrm{~W} \times 30^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  | s |
| E-19 | 1 | WALL-MNTO. DISH SORTING SHELF | $42^{*} \mathrm{~W} \times 18^{\circ} \mathrm{O} \times 8^{\circ} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | s |
| ${ }^{5} 20$ | 1 | S-COMP. SINK W/ (2) SIDE WASHBOARDS | $900^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 24^{\circ} \mathrm{D} \mathrm{X} 444 \mathrm{t} / 2^{2} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | S |
| ${ }^{+} \mathrm{E}-208$ | 2 | WALL-MNT'D. STORAGE RACK | $12^{\circ} \mathrm{D} \times 72^{*} \mathrm{~W}$ |  |  | S |
| E-21 | 1 | HANGING POT, RACK | $72^{*} \mathrm{~W} \times 24^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  | S |
| E-2\% | 2 | WALL-MNTD. STORAGE RACK | $12^{\circ} \mathrm{D} \times 72^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ |  |  | S |
| E-23 | 1 | POINT-OF-SALESYSTEM |  |  |  | S |
| E. 24 | 2 | UNDERCOUNIER BEVERAGE REFRIGERATOA | $24^{4} \mathrm{~W} \times 24^{\circ} \mathrm{O} \times 34^{4} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | s |
| E-25 | 1 | DROP.INBAASINK | $15^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 15^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  | S |
| E-25.1 | 1 | COUNTEATIOP | $8.93 / 44^{*} \mathrm{~W} \times 26^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  | S |
| E-26 | 1 | SODACO2 CANISTERS | TBD |  |  |  |
| E-27 | 1 | 4-PROOUCT SODA DISPENSING \& AEF. SYSTEM | TED |  |  | s |
| E-28 | 1 | DROP-INICE BIN | $20 . W \times 19^{\circ} 0 \times 12^{\circ} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | s |
| E-29 | 2 | WINE TAP \& COOLER | $\begin{aligned} & 32^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 243 / 44^{\circ} 0 \times 34 \\ & \hline 124^{2} \end{aligned}$ |  |  | 5 |
| E 30 | 1. |  | $\begin{gathered} 96^{\circ} \times 24.3 / 44^{2} \mathrm{D} \times 34 \\ 1 / 24-1 \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $s$ |
| E.31 | 1 | 4 CUP COFFEE DAIP STATION INDIVDUAL CUP EREW) | $\begin{gathered} 27-3 / 8^{2} W \times 8^{4} \mathrm{D} x \\ 12-1 / 4^{1} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | s* |
| E-9t. 1 | 1 | HOT WATER DISPENSER | tro |  |  | s' |
| E-32 | 1 | SOFF-SERVEICECGEAM MAKER | $15^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 283 / 4 / 44^{-} \mathrm{D} \times 35$ |  |  | Si |
| E-39 | 2 | WIRE FOOD STORAGE SHELVES | $36^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 24^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  | c |
| E-34 | 1 | WIRE FOOD STORAGE SHELVES | $80^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 1200$ |  |  | C |
| E-95 | 1 | MOP SINK WISS WALLS \& FLR | TBD |  |  | S1 |
| E-36 | 2 | WIRE FOOD STOPAGE SHEIVES | $48^{\prime} \mathrm{W} \times 1 \mathrm{a}^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  | c |
| E-36.1 | 1 | WIRE FOOD STORAGE SHELVES | $60^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 24^{\circ} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  | c |
| E-37 | 1 | H-EFFICIENCY FORCED AIR FUPNACE |  |  |  |  |
| E-38 | 1. | EXHAUSTHOOD |  |  |  | S1 |
| E-39 | 1 | WALL LINING |  |  |  | S7 |
| E-40 | 1. | EXHAUSTDUCT \& ELOWER |  |  |  |  |
| E-41 | 1. | MAKE-UP AIRDUCT \& FAN |  |  |  |  |
| E-42 | 1 | FRRE SURPESSION SYSTEM |  |  |  |  |
| E-43 | 1 | LOCKER |  |  |  |  |
| E-44 | 1 | HAND SINK |  |  |  | S1 |
| E-45 | 1 | OPEN STOAAGE PAGK (COUNTEATOP) | $60^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 12^{\prime} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  | 57 |
| E-46 | 1 | OPEN STOAAGERACK (COUNTERTOP) | $36^{\circ} \mathrm{W} \times 12^{\circ} \mathrm{O}$ |  |  |  |



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## EXHIBIT Q

March 18, 2014
Gerard Darien, Owner
Roostertail Restaurant
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Re: Exhaust Fan/Ductwork Noise Complaints at 1963 Sutter Street
Dear Mr. Darien:
The San Francisco Board of Appeals "Affidavit of Service", dated June 4, 2013, denied your appeal for a variance of the San Francisco Municipal Police Code, Article 29, Regulation of Noise. Article 29, Section 2909(b), Commercial and Industrial Property Noise Limits states that:
"No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine, or device, music or entertainment or any combination of same, on commercial or industrial property over which the person has ownership or control, a noise level more than eight dBA above the local ambient at any point outside of the property plane..."

In addition, Article 29, Section 2909(d) states that...
"In order to prevent sleep disturbance, protect public health and prevent the acoustical environment from progressive deterioration due to the increasing use and influence of mechanical equipment, no fixed noise source may cause the noise level measured inside any sleeping or living room in any dwelling unit located on residential property to exceed 45 dBA between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. or 55 dBA between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00p.m. with windows open except where building ventilation is achieved through mechanical systems that allow windows to remain closed."

Previous sound level measurements of the equipment in question taken outside the property plane were found to be 56 dBA ; this level is 11 dBA above the ambient sound level of 45 dBA . Measurements taken by an acoustical professional were similar and also resulted in a violation of Article 29.

Abatement work was completed in mid-January, 2014 and consisted of wrapping the exhaust system duct in the adjacent lightwell with acoustical duct lagging (see Figures 1a and 1b). Together with inspectors Zach Parsons and Janine Young, I took sound level measurements at various locations on January 22 and January 30, 2014 to determine compliance with Article 29. The results of the noise investigation can be seen below in Table 1.


Figures $\mathbf{1 a}$ and $\mathbf{1 b}$ - Exhaust system ductwork lined with acoustical lagging material.

| Table 1: Noise Investigation Data |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Date | Measurement <br> Location | Applicable <br> Regulation | Ambient Sound <br> Level (Fan Off) | Operating Sound <br> Level | Violation |  |
| January 22, <br> 2014 | Lightwell $^{1}$ | 2909 (b) | 45.9 dBA | 57.7 dBA | No $^{2}$ |  |
| January 22, <br> 2014 | Complainant <br> Bedroom | 2909 (d) | - | 40.6 dBA | No ( $<55$ dBA daytime <br> and $<45$ nighttime) |  |
| January 22, <br> 2014 | Complainant <br> Living Room | $2909(\mathrm{~d})$ | - | 38.8 dBA | No (<55 dBA daytime <br> and $<45$ nighttime) |  |
| January 30, <br> 2014 | Complainant <br> Roof | $2909(\mathrm{~b})$ | 50.6 dBA | 59.1 dBA | Yes (>8dBA operating <br> over ambient) |  |

${ }^{1}$ The lightwell is not an enforceable location for sound level measurements because it does not meet the standard set in Article 29, Section 2902 that, " $A$ person measuring the outside noise level shall take measurements with the microphone not less than four feet above the ground, at least four and one-half feet distant from walls or similar large reflecting surfaces, and protected from the effects of wind noises and other extraneous sounds by the use of appropriate windscreens..."
${ }^{\mathbf{z}}$ Because this is not an enforceable measurement location, there is no violation shown for the measurements.
${ }^{3}$ Measurements were taken in the middle of the adjacent roof, 7.5 feet from the lightwell and approximately 20 feet from the noise source.

Based on the data above, the exhaust system belonging to 1963 Sutter Street is still not in compliance with the San Francisco Municipal Police Code Article 29. In order to guide your efforts going forward, the Department of Public Health offers two options through which you may achieve compliance with Article 29:

Option 1 - Reduce the noise level such that the operating sound level is within $\mathbf{8 d B A}$ of the ambient sound level as measured from the roof of the adjacent property. Based on the ambient level measured on January 302014 at this location, we will consider the equipment in compliance if the sound level measurement at this location is 58.6 dBA . Please be aware that this is a daytime standard, and any changes to the sound level would also need to ensure that the equipment does not violate the nighttime standard for this location.

Option 2 -Reduce the noise level such that the operating sound level in the lightwell is less than 53 dBA . This represents an alternate abatement option that we believe will provide adequate protection to the public health of nearby receptors. We will consider the equipment in compliance with all relevant portions of Article 29 if we measure sound level in the lightwell at any time of the day or night and find it to be 53dBA or lower.

In order to ensure that noise abatement efforts are adequate to meet the compliance requirements listed above and in Article 29, the Department of Public Heaith recommends enlisting the services of an acoustical consultant.

The Department of Public Health requires that you develop a plan of correction which includes the following:

- Selection of compliance option
- Specific work to be performed and materials used
- Name of the contractor/consultant performing the work
- Estimated date of completion

Please submit to our office the detailed plan of correction by the close of business by Wednesday, April 2, 2014. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Piakis, MPH-HH
SFDPH Industrial Hygienist and Noise Control Officer
(415) 252-3911

Jonathan.Piakis@sfdph.org
cc: Complainant
EH Inspectors
Manager of Air, Water, Noise, Radiation and Smoking Programs
Director of Environmental Health
$\qquad$
 violation of SFMPC, Article 24 for regulation of noise. This form and the letter ofteched from SFDPH Nose Control Officer Jonathon Pickis. serves as a 'Notice of violation'. Facility most comply w/ itmon detailed in letter / submit plan of correction by close of business on wednesday, April 2, 2014. or face Further actions.

Please contact Jonathan Piatis $415-252-3911$ with an questions

REMS:

## EXHIBIT R

# Re: Roostertail Variance Application 


03/11/2013 12:33 PM

Hi Rajiv,
I've finally drafted this.
I didn't include all the detail in your five points below, but I think I included the appropriate points. Let me know if you want me to add more detail or include your other arguments.

I think we should definitely have Zack review this, as I would like to make sure that I've properly represented the January 5 inspection (he wrote in the report that the measurement was taken "in the lightwell located between the facility and the complainant". From looking at the property on Google Earth, it looks the complainant is 1959 Sutter, the Roostertail is 1963 Sutter, and there is one building (1961) in between which shares a wall with both 1959 and 1963. But we'd need to make sure this is correct and that I wrote it correctly.

Thanks,
June

1963 Sutter variance decision.doc


| Fum: | Rajiv Bhatia/DPH/SFGOV |
| :---: | :---: |
| To: | Richard Lee/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV |
| ¢c: | Stephanie Cushing/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Zack Parsons/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, June Weintraub/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Virginia Dario Elizondo/CTYATT@CTYATT, Patrick Fosdahl/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV |
| Dak: | 02/16/2013 09:22 AM |
| Subsex: | Roostertail Variance Application |

Richard:
Thank you for bringing this to my attention. I understand why this is a difficult case and I appreciate your opinions. I am copying June, Patrick and Virginia as they will be involved in the discussion. I would like us to be consistent in our rationales behind variance approval.

I will review and respond. If you would like we can meet together with Stephanie and Zack to review. We can give him more time to comply but here are my current arguements against granting a variance in this case:

1. Our rationale in the lone prior variance was: 1) industrial (non-residential) land area 2 ) noise due to pre-existing uses and operations 3) limited jurisdiction over motor vehicel sources 4) no alternative means of operating the facility without noise sources.
$\sqrt{ }$ 2. The appropriate selection and installation of equipment at the front end would have avoided this problem. This is a recent remodel constructed 3 years after the city's update of noise laws. The owner admits spending 40 K on equpment and engineering that was not constructed in compliance with noise laws. I understand his frustration but consultants, plan reviewers, and building inspectors should have given him some better advice.
2. Using a financial criteria would be perilous in this case as it would with any health and safety regulation. The business can certainly plead financial hardship in their request but this has historically not been a factor in our prior consideration of variances. I would also avoid statements that may be perceived as advocacy for the economic interests of the regulated party. We have never had a financial criteria for the enforcement of any public health and safety regulation that we enforce. As you all know, the cost of regulatory compliance for some businesses can be prohibitive and arguably out of proportion to their responsibility. To set a financial threshold ourselves would be highly discretionary. Are we going to look at the businesss profits?
3. The indoor and outdoor standard have equal standing in this case. I understand that the indoor standard is met. This is more than a tehnical violation As I've mentioned before, the outdoor standard also is intended to reduce a sources contribution to cumulative noise in the area. Nothing in our law states that enforcement of the standard is dependent on the existance of "affected people." We have no objective / consistent way of evaluating "harm" and making this part of our calculus.
4. Final point, discretionary goverment actions that affect the environment (like this variance) are subject to CEQA. We would need legal and administrative review of the variance by the planning department. We may need to hold a hearing. The businesses would pay the cost of that review. The cost of that review could likely trump the cost of the improvements.

Rajiv

## Roostertail Noise Case


05/23/2013 04:53 PM
€: Zack Parsons, Kenny Wong, tomas.aragon.sfdph

The Board of Appeals upheld the department's reasoning and decsion 5-0 yesterday.
I felt very bad for the restaurant owner because multiple city agencies had inspected his new equipment and no one had given him the correct advice about the various indoor and outdoor standards. He also stated (unconfirmed) that DPH staff had urged him to fight the violation and request the variance. I think the appeal added uneeded time and expense to his life.

Our staff should generally not "clear" equipment during pre-operational inspections if the noise level at the property boundry is greater than 53.

We had a reasonable conversation afterwards. I suggested he take $40-45$ days to investigate alternative options for noise mitigation and come back to us.

Rajiv

Rajiv Bhatia, MD | Director | Environmental Health | SFDPH | 4152523931

Re: Fw: Roostertail Noise Case

05/24/2013 01:02 PM
…: Lisa O'Malley, Mary Freschet, Richard Lee, Stephanie Cushing, Patrick
Fosdahi, Janine Young, June Weintraub
thanks for the question
we can meet about this kenny, if needed, so we are all on the same page, i am copying other noise assessors as well here
my primary intent was informing plan check protocols but the recommendation has broader application for the outdoor standard
if a business is operating in the evening and night, one could assume that the ambient during operating hours will be the minimum ambient (45) and the max allowable measure is 53 at the property boundry. If you want to use a daytime measure as a surrogate for night-time compliance, using 53 is a safe bet.

If the investigator (or plan checker or owner) has evidence that the minimum ambient during all operating hours is higher than 45 then the higher ambient would apply. For example, taking an ambient measure at the closing time of the business operating in the evening would offer a reasonable minimum 24 hour applicable ambient.

Make sense??

Rajiv Bhatia, MD | Director | Environmental Health | SFDPH | 4152523931

| Fom: | Kenny Wong/DPH/SFGOV |
| :---: | :---: |
| To: | Rajiv Bhatia/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV |
| \%: | Richard Lee/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Lisa O'Malley/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Stephanie Cushing/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Mary Freschet/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV |
| Qam: | 05/24/2013 08:39 AM |
| Subert | Fw: Roostertail Noise Case |

Rajiv,
To clearly understand your guidance below that "Our staff should generally not "clear" equipment during pre-operational inspections if the noise level at the property boundry is greater than 53 ." What would be the exceptions to the generality so that we are all on the same page? Do you want 53 to apply to existing facilities when there is a noise complaint?

## Kenny

---- Forwarsed by Kenyy Wonglpph/SFGOV on 05/24/2013 D8:0e AM --...

## Re: Fw: Roostertail Noise Case


05/30/2013 11:37 AM
e: Janine Young, June Weintraub, Lisa O'Malley, Mary Freschet, Patrick
Fosdahl, Richard Lee, Stephanie Cushing
kenny
All standards under 2909 always will apply independently ... there may be differences in responsible parties based on the standard and which program needs to be in the lead.

The outdoor noise standard (e.g. 8 db over ambient) applies to the generator of the noise source (in your case the restaurant and its vent system). For the food program, you just need to rule out the restaurant source. If the source of concern is the neighbor's equipment, I would start with the ambient standard then go next to the indoor standard only if there is no ambient violation.

If there is a violation of the short term noise indoor standard, the culprit may vary. It may be a neighboring source or it may be poor construction or it may be a source within the building. If there is an indoor violation without an ambient violation (probably rare), there may also be a need to evaluate the construction quality of the complainants building. Also, seperate from 2909 there is a 24 hour indoor noise standard that DBI is responsible for enforcing.

Overall, if there is no ambient violation and a neighbor's complaint persists, I might just turn over the complaint to the noise program.

June has volunteered to work on a flow chart for us.
Please look at some of the new public information on noise on our website.
Does this provide the clarity you need?

Rajiv

Kenny Wong
W Rame, Yes, thanks for allowne that proens, w
$352 / 20360248 \mathrm{ma}$

| Frm: | Kenny Wong/DPH/SFGOV |
| :--- | :--- |
| \%: | Rajiv Bhatia/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV |
| J: | Janine Young/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, June Weintraub/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Lisa |
|  | O'Malley/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Mary Freschet/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Patrick |
|  | Fosdahl/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Richard Lee/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV, Stephanie |
|  | Cushing/DPH/SFGOV@SFGOV |

## EXHIBIT S

## ARTICLE 29: REGULATION OF NOISE

## SEC. 2900. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

(a) Building on decades of scientific research, the World Health Organization and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have determined that persistent exposure to elevated levels of community noise is responsible for public health problems including, but not limited to: compromised speech, persistent annoyance, sleep disturbance, physiological and psychological stress, heart disease, high blood pressure, colitis, ulcers, depression, and feelings of helplessness.
(b) The General Plan for San Francisco identifies noise as a serious environmental pollutant that must be managed and mitigated through the planning and development process. But given our dense urban environment. San Francisco has a significant challenge in protecting public health from the adverse effects of community noise arising from diverse sources such as transportation, construction, mechanical equipment, entertainment, and human and animal behavior.
(c) In order to protect public health, it is hereby declared to be the policy of San Francisco to prohibit unwanted, excessive, and avoidable noise. It shall be the policy of San Francisco to maintain noise levels in areas with existing healthful and acceptable levels of noise and to reduce noise levels, through all practicable means, in those areas of San Francisco where noise levels are above acceptable levels as defined by the World Health Organization's Guidelines on Community Noise.
(d) It shall be the goal of the noise task force described in this Article to determine if there are additional adverse and avoidable noise sources not covered in this statute that warrant regulation and to report to the Board of Supervisors and recommend amendments to this Article over the next three years. In addition, the noise task force shall develop interdepartmental mechanisms for the efficient disposition and any enforcement required in response to noise complaints.
(Added by Ord. 274-72, App. 9/20/72; Ord. 278-08, File No. 081119, App. 11/25/2008)
SEC. 2901. DEFINITIONS.
(a) "Ambient" means the lowest sound level repeating itself during a minimum tenminute period as measured with a type 1 , precision sound level meter, using slow response and "A " weighting. The minimum sound level shall be determined with the noise source at issue silent, and in the same location as the measurement of the noise level of the source or sources at issue. However, for purposes of this chapter, in no case shall the ambient be considered or determined to be less than: (1) Thirty-five dBA for interior residential noise, and (2) Forty-five dBA in all other locations. If a significant portion of the ambient is produced by one or more individual identifiable sources of noise that contribute cumulatively to the sound level and may be operating continuously during the minimum ten-minute measurement period, determination of the ambient shall be accomplished with these separate identifiable noise sources silent or otherwise removed or subtracted from the measured ambient sound level.
(b) "Director" means the Director or department head of any City department having administrative or enforcement responsibilities under this Article or any other provision of the Municipal Code regarding noise control, as well as his or her designee.

## EXHIBIT T

## Noise Variance Process

## THE PROCESS:

1. The application will be reviewed by the Noise Officer at the San Francisco Department of Public Health. The application will be reviewed for completeness and an initial determination will be made as to which department has regulatory authority.
2. The application is then reviewed by the department with regulatory authority and an initial determination is made regarding disposition of the variance. This review will generally take ten (10) business days or less. Following the review a preliminary decision will be made to approve, deny or approve the variance with conditions. All preliminary decisions may be appealed by requesting an administrative hearing.
3. Once the preliminary decision has been made then the applicant must notify all complainants of record regarding the disposition of the variance. This notification includes the opportunity for any affected residence to request an administrative hearing. A hearing will be scheduled and held within thirty (30) days of receiving a request. A list of the complainants and description of the notification process will be provided to the applicant along with the preliminary decision.
4. If a hearing is requested the administrative hearing officer will take testimony from both the variance applicant and any complainants. Following the hearing, the administrative officer will issue a written statement regarding the disposition of the variance.
5. Any decision made by the administrative hearing officer may be appealed by filing an appeal with the San Francisco Board of Appeals

## CRITERIA OF REVIEW:

All applications will be reviewed considering the following criteria:

1) whether or not reasonable efforts have been made to mitigate the source of noise, 2) times and durations of the sound, 3) physical characteristics and the geography, 4) zone and population density of the affected area, 5) whether the public health, safety and welfare is affected, 6 ) whether the sound source predates the receiver(s) and 7) whether compliance with the standard or provision from which the variance is sought would result in a hardship or cost without equal or greater benefit to the public.

## EXHIBIT U

September 9, 2014
Board of Appeals
City Hall
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
Re: Appeal \#14-141
To Whom It May Concern:
This letter is in support of the property owner at 1959 Sutter Street, who has requested that noise levels from the adjacent restaurant, Roostertail Restaurant, at 1963 Sutter Street meet and comply within the limits of the S.F. Noise Ordinance, of which the maximum required ambient level is 45 dBA .

The owner of the Roostertail Restaurant was advised by the Department of Public Health/Environmental Health letter dated April 26, 2014, that the noise level exceeds the standards, but the department subsequently granted the restaurant a noise variance if they completed "the remainder of wrapping the external ductwork." The adjacent 1959 Stutter Street property owner has appealed the variance from the code requirement, stating that the restaurant has not completed its mitigation work and the noise level has not decreased. Therefore, Roostertail's request for variance should be denied.

We at the JCCCNC are not only looking at the current situation but also the future. If such variances and leniencies are allowed without evidence of a hardship on the part of the recipient, then the overall trend would be for others to apply for and receive the same without cause. Once that happens, there is really no way to bring the standards back to their current levels which have a basis in industry and municipal conventions.

For the above reasons, we are requesting that you support the appeal of the 1959 Sutter Street property owner and deny the request for Roostertail Restaurant to go beyond the current code mandated noise levels.

I appreciate your time. Thank you!
Sincerely,


August 18, 2014
Board of Appeals
City Hall
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Appeal \#14-141
To whom it may concern:
I am writing this second letter in support of the property owner at 1959 Sutter Street who has sent multiple requests to different agencies that noise levels from the adjacent restaurant, Roostertail Restaurant, at 1963 Sutter Street abide by and stay within limits of the required ambient level of 45 dBA .

Although I do not know too much about the technical aspects of noise levels, permits, etc., I do understand a person's right to have appropriate surroundings in their living quarters and that the city Planning Department, Department of Public Health/Environmental Health, and other departments of the City and County of San Francisco have set requirements for businesses to stay within standards they set, so surrounding neighbors can maintain a healthy atmosphere for their quality of life.

Since they opened in 2011, letters and notices to the owner of Roostertail Restaurant show that the noise level continues to exceed the standard and clearly shows that their original permit should have been denied. I am asking that you support this appeal, because the noise level remains an issue and I believe the owner at 1959 Sutter Street is not only looking at the current situation but also the future. If such variances and leniencies are allowed, then the trend would be for others to do the same. Once that happens, there is really no way to bring the standards back down, or to their current levels.

And for these reasons, I request that you support the neighbors in the surrounding area and assure them that the issues stated are finally resolved by the owners of the Roostertail by supporting this appeal so everyone can live healthily and happily.
l appreciate your time.
Thank you!
Sincerely,


Lori Matoba
Resident of 1839 Steiner Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
Born and raised in the Japantown community

DENNIS J. HERRERA, State Bar \#139669
City Attorney
JULIE VAN NOSTERN, State Bar \#

# SAN FRANCISCO 

BOARD OF APPEALS
1650 Mission Street, Room 304
San Francisco, CA 94103

MICHIKO YAMADA,
Appellant,
vs.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Respondent.

Appeal No. 14-141
BRIEF OF RESPONDENT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## INTRODUCTION

Michiko Yamada appeals the decision of the Acting Director of Environmental Health to grant a noise variance to her neighbor, Roostertail Restaurant, for a noise violation on her rooftop that neither she nor any other human receptor can even hear. Sensibly, she does not take the position that this inaudible violation must be mitigated and brought into conformance with the Police Code Article 27 (the "Noise Ordinance"). Rather, she ignores the rooftop violation altogether and rests her opposition to the variance on her objection to noise in a lightwell outside her hallway window. For the
reasons that follow, this Board should uphold the variance granted by the Department of Public Health and end Appellant's attempts to hold her neighbor Roostertail Restaurant hostage to complaints that have no basis in the public health interests the Noise Ordinance is designed to serve.

## BACKGROUND

Paragraphs 3 through 17 of the Declaration of Jonathan Piakis provide the factual background for this Appeal and are hereby incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

## ARGUMENT

## I. DIRECTOR LEE PROPERLY EXERCISED HIS DISCRETION TO GRANT ROOSTERTAIL RESTAURANT A NOISE VARIANCE.

As reflected in its Declaration of Policy, the sole and explicit purpose of the Noise Ordinance is to "protect public health." Police Code § 2900(c). Section 2912(d) vests unique responsibility in the Director of the Department of Public Health to act as "the sole determiner of what constitutes a human health impact with regard to noise." Further, although Section 2909 prescribes standard noise limits in regard to commercial and residential properties, Section 2910 explicitly authorizes DPH to grant variances to those limits as it deems appropriate.

In the circumstances present here, myriad considerations support Director Lee's exercise of discretion to grant Roostertail's request for a variance. Among them:

First, the only violation of the standards in the Noise Ordinance occurs on Appellant's rooftop, which is above the roof levels of nearby buildings. That noise dissipates before reaching human receptors, including Appellant, and has no effect on anyone other than the rare person visiting Appellant's roof. This noise violation is not the type of public health concern that the Noise Ordinance is meant to address.

Second, the noise that Appellant complains of emanates from a kitchen exhaust duct that runs up a narrow lightwell adjacent to her hallway. But this lightwell noise does not violate the Noise Ordinance because it cannot be measured in a way that satisfies the noise level measurement requirements in Section 2902. ${ }^{1}$ That provision requires that outdoor noise be measured "at least four

[^4]and one-half feet distant from walls or similar large reflecting surfaces." The lightwell is too small to permit measurement at that distance.

Third, the low noise levels measured in Appellant's living room and bedroom in the middle of the day, with the window to the lightwell open and Roostertail's kitchen exhaust system in full operation, demonstrate that the noise in the lightwell, while clearly of ongoing subjective concern to Appellant, cannot objectively be considered a public health risk.

Fourth, despite the fact that the only enforceable noise violation is on the rooftop (and largely if not completely inaudible to Appellant), Roostertail has - at a cost of about $\$ 8000$ - now wrapped the entirety of the kitchen exhaust duct in acoustical lagging to address Appellant's concerns about the lightwell. This is the exact mitigation measure that Appellant's third-party acoustical consultant recommended at the April 22 Abatement Conference and that Director Lee imposed as a result. ${ }^{2}$ Now that Roostertail has done what Appellant's consultant recommended, it would be unjust to hold Appellant's dissatisfaction with the result of her consultant's recommendation against Roostertail. At this point, it is unclear whether there is any reasonable mitigation action that Roostertail could take to satisfy Appellant short of shutting down one or more of the intake and exhaust systems it needs to operate as a restaurant. Having received the mitigation measures she asked of Roostertail to address unwanted sound - measures that DPH required of Roostertail even though the unwanted sound neither violates the Noise Ordinance nor poses a risk to public health - DPH does not see Appellant's

[^5]continuing complaints as a justifiable reason to continue to deny Roostertail a very sensible noise variance for a rooftap fan that produces excess noise that no one can hear. ${ }^{3}$

## CONCLUSION

For all of these reasons, the Board should deny this appeal and uphold the Noise Variance as granted by the Director.

Dated: October 2, 2014


Attorneys for Respondent
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

[^6]
## PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Lily Kang, declare as follows:
I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the above-entitled action. I am employed at the City Attorney's Office of San Francisco, Fox Plaza Building, 1390 Market Street, Fifth Floor, San Francịsco, CA 94102.

On October 2, 2014, I served the following document(s):

1) Respondent's Brief;
2) Decl. of Jonathan Piakis in Support Thereof;
3) Decl. of June M Weintraub in Support Thereof; and
4) Decl. of Richard J. Lee in Support Thereof
on the following persons at the locations specified:
Michiko Yamada (Appellant)
(Michiko personally picked up above-stated
pleadings at following location:
Board of Appeals
1650 Mission Street - Lobby
San Francisco, CA 94103
in the manner indicated below:
B BY PERSONAL SERVICE: I sealed true and correct copies of the above documents in addressed envelope(s) and caused such envelope(s) to be delivered by hand at the above locations by a professional messenger service.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed October 2, 2014, at San Francisco, California.


DENNIS J. HERRERA, State Bar \#139669
City Attorney
JULIE VAN NOSTERN, State Bar \#103579
Lead Attorney, Health \& Human Services
SHERRI SOKELAND KAISER, State Bar \#197986
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Attorneys for Respondent,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SAN FRANCISCO<br>BOARD OF APPEALS<br>1650 Mission Street, Room 304<br>San Francisco, California 94103

MICHIKO YAMADA,

## Appellant,

vs.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Respondent.

Appeal No. 14-141
DECLARATION OF RICHARD J. LEE IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

I, RICHARD J. LEE, declare as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, except for those facts set forth on information and belief, which I also believe to be true. If called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently to the matters set forth below.
2. I am the Acting Director of Environmental Health for the San Francisco Department of Public Health ("DPH"). I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bacteriology and a Masters in Public Health, with a specialty in Environmental Health, both from the University of Califormia at Berkeley.

I have been a Certified Industrial Hygienist for the past 29 years, a Certified Safety Professional for 20 years, and a Registered Environmental Health Specialist for the last seven years.
3. I have evaluated numerous noise complaints throughout the 27 years I have been working as an Industrial Hygienist in various capacities at DPH. I held the position of Senior Industrial Hygienist for the first 20 years of my tenure. In 2007, I became the Director of Environmental Health Regulatory Programs, including the Noise Program. In 2013, I became the Acting Director of Environmental Health. For the seven years I have spent in these capacities, I have supervised the DPH inspectors who monitor compliance with the San Francisco Noise Ordinance, codified as Article 29 of the San Francisco Police Code.
4. In my current role as Director of Environmental Health, I serve as the Hearing Officer designated by the Director of Public Health to hear and decide cases of non-compliance with the Noise Ordinance. I am also charged with the discretionary authority to decide whether to grant a variance.
5. On March 14, 2013, my predecessor, Dr. Rajiv Bhatia, denied a request from Gerard Darien, the owner of Roostertail Restaurant, for a variance from outdoor noise limits for commercial sources. See Yamada Exhibit F. Dr. Bhatia denied the variance on the ground that Roostertail had failed to install adequate noise dampening equipment sufficient to ensure compliance with the Noise Ordinance during a recent renovation, noting that the noise standards in the Ordinance predated the renovation by several years and should have been taken into account. Mr. Darien appealed the denial to this Board, which reviewed and upheld the denial. See Yamada Exhibit H.
6. After his March 2013 request for a variance was denied, an enforcement process began during which Mr. Darien undertook two rounds of mitigation projects, DPH took further noise measurements and engaged in additional deliberations, and the parties continued to confer. These events are recited in detail in paragraphs 3-18 of the declaration of DPH Noise Officer Jonathan Piakis, filed concurrently with this declaration. For the sake of brevity, I refer the reader to those paragraphs, which I believe to be a true and correct recitation of events.
7. On July 23, 2014, I granted a renewed application by Mr. Darien for a variance based on the considerations set forth in the procedure governing the DPH Noise Variance Process. See Yamada Exhibit T.
8. I concluded that Mr. Darien had made reasonable efforts to mitigate the source of the complained-of noise in the lightwell outside Ms. Yamada's hallway window. After Mr. Darien was originally denied a variance because no mitigation work was proposed, DPH ordered him to either address the noise at the property plane or address the noise by insulating the ductwork in the lightwell. At first, Mr. Darien only partially insulated the main ductwork. We then required that all of the main ductwork be insulated. That work was completed.
9. I also considered the physical characteristics and geography of the noise violation, and concluded that this factor also weighed in favor of a variance. The rooftop fan responsible for the enforceable noise violation is above the roof levels of nearby buildings, dissipates before reaching human receptors, and therefore has little effect if any on neighbors. Further, the physical characteristics of the lightwell preclude it from being the site of a violation, because the sound level in the small, reflective space cannot be measured in a manner that complies with the measurement requirements in Section 2902 of the Noise Ordinance.
10. I also considered whether the public health, safety and welfare is affected by the noise violation, and concluded that it is not. The primary public health consideration in this case is the residential interior noise levels in Ms. Yamada's living and sleeping space. Those noise levels remain below 45 dBA when measured in the middle of the day, with the kitchen exhaust operating and the window to the lightwell open. These measurements indicate that there is no public health issue in Ms. Yamada's living space, as they remain well below the residential noise limit in Section 2909(d) of 55 dBA from 7:00 am -10:00 pm (when the fan may be operating) and 45dBA from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am (when the fan is not operating).
11. I also considered whether compliance with the provision from which the variance is sought would result in hardship or cost to the owner without equal or greater benefit to the public. I concluded that this factor also weighed strongly in favor of granting the variance. As the only actual violation of the Noise Ordinance occurred on the rooftop, and the excess noise at that location did not reach individual receptors, it made no sense to require Mr . Darien to go to substantial expense to mitigate the rooftop noise. Instead, Mr. Darien complied with our condition for a variance that he install acoustical insulation around the full length of the exhaust duct in the lightwell, despite the fact
that the noise in the lightwell did not violate the Noise Ordinance. Mr. Darien submitted documentation demonstrating that he spent approximately $\$ 8000$ on that project. In my opinion, requiring further investment in mitigating the sound at a location other than the site of the violation would be unduly burdensome. Moreover, as demonstrated by the low interior noise measurements in Ms. Yamada's residence, I concluded that further investment in mitigation measures was not needed to address public health concerns. In sum, requiring additional investment in mitigation would create a financial burden on the owner without providing any further benefit to the public, much less a benefit of corresponding value.
12. For all of these reasons, and with the concurrence of the Manager of the Noise Program and the Noise Officer handling the case, I granted the requested variance. I did not and do not consider myself bound by my predecessor's decision to deny a variance in March 2013 based on different facts and circumstances.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document was executed on the 2nd of October 2014 in San Francisco, California.


DENNIS J. HERRERA, State Bar \#139669
City Attorney
JULIE VAN NOSTERN, State Bar\#103579
Lead Attorney, Health \& Human Services
SHERRI SOKELAND KAISER, State Bar \#197986
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Attorneys for Respondent,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SAN FRANCISCO
BOARD OF APPEALS
1650 Mission Street, Room 304
San Francisco, California 94103

MICHIKO YAMADA,
Appellant,
vs.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Respondent.

Appeal No. 14-141
DECLARATION OF JUNE M. WEINTRAUB IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## I, JUNE M. WEINTRAUB, declare as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, except for those facts set forth on information and belief, which I also believe to be true. If called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently to the matters set forth below.
2. I am Acting Manager of Regulatory Programs for Air, Noise, Smoking, Water, and Radiation in the Environmental Health Branch of the San Francisco Department of Public Health ("DPH"). I received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Environmental Studies from Tufts University College of Engineering, graduating cum laude in 1986. My Master of Science in

Environmental Health was earned from Tufts University in 1995, and my Doctor of Science in Epidemiology, with minors in Environmental Health and Biostatistics, was earned from the Harvard University School of Public Health in 2000.
3. Including my 13 years in the Environmental Health Branch at DPH, I have more than 20 years of professional and academic experience in environmental health from various perspectives, including research, engineering, and policy. My expertise is in environmental epidemiology, and I have significant experience in the development, interpretation and application of laws, policies and regulations relevant to environmental exposures.
4. Since mid-2013, when I assumed management responsibilities for the noise regulatory program, I have worked with Acting Director of Environmental Health Richard Lee, DPH health inspectors, and Noise Control Officer Jonathan Piakis to resolve the ongoing dispute about noise levels at 1963 Sutter Street.
5. With its diverse and active population, proximity of homes to businesses, urban traffic, and construction, San Francisco can be a loud place. This is an inherent characteristic of a dense and vibrant urban environment, and those who wish to live in and enjoy the benefits of that environment will inevitably hear more sound from nearby neighbors, businesses, and passers-by than those who live in environments where there is more distance between noise sources. Proximity between noise sources is a key factor in experiencing sound, because sound is measured by pressure, and the sound emitting from any location is not perceived beyond a given distance away because the pressure dissipates.
6. Noise can have health consequences. Hearing damage may result from prolonged exposure to very loud sounds. For most San Franciscans, the levels of sound in their environment are neither high enough nor persistent enough to damage hearing, but other kinds of sound may also cause health effects. Transient sounds may interrupt sleep, and unwanted sound may be so annoying that it causes a physical stress response or difficulty concentrating, leading to adverse effects on physical health and quality of life. Research shows that physiological effects such as increased blood pressure are mediated by the release of the stress hormone cortisol when certain individuals are exposed to certain sounds. The extent of the health problems that result from exposure to sounds depend on many
factors besides simply loudness-the source, setting, time, place, frequency and subjective qualities or content of the noise all influence how it is perceived by individuals, and underlying health issues may also impact the subjective and objective response to sound.
7. Individual sensitivities and preferences also play a role in how individuals respond to sound. Sound that persistently irritates one person, such as the drone of traffic from a nearby freeway, may fade into the background for another or go entirely unnoticed by the next.
8. Regulating noise in an urban environment requires striking a compromise between different interests. There is no way to eliminate all unwanted sound, and the city would quickly lose some of its most desirable attributes if it tried. The Noise Ordinance balances competing interests by drawing lines at various absolute or relative sound levels, depending on the source of the noise, the time of day, and the potential impact on nearby individuals, or as we call them, "noise receptors."
9. From the public health perspective, the most important limit on noise in the Noise Ordinance is the protection it extends to residential living and sleeping areas. Because of every individual's need for repose and the potential health impact of excessive noise in these sensitive locations, sound levels may not exceed 55 decibels during typical waking hours, or 45 decibels for the hours between 11 pm and 7 am , regardless of the source. In fact, unlike the other noise limits in the Ordinance, Section 2909(d) affirmatively declares that fixed residential interior noise limits "prevent sleep disturbance, protect public health and prevent the acoustical environment from progressive deterioration due to the increasing use and influence of mechanical equipment." S.F. Police Code § 2909(d).
10. In my view, this case is an example of a long-time resident concerned about unwanted noise from a neighboring commercial use that has changed over time from a comparatively quiet tea shop to a noisier rotisserie business. But as explained in the accompanying declaration of DPH Noise Officer Jonathan Piakis, the noise from the kitchen exhaust duct that runs through the lightwell adjacent to Ms. Yamada's residence does not adversely affect the noise levels in her living room or bedroom, where the sound levels remain well below the lower nighttime noise limit, even when measured in the middle of the day with the window to the lightwell open and the kitchen exhaust
system in operation. This means that the complained-of noise in the lightwell is not a public health concern, despite Ms. Yamada's sensitivity to it.
11. Unlike in the interior residential rooms, there is a measurable violation of the Noise Ordinance on the rooftop, because differential between the operating noise level and the ambient sound level on the rooftop exceeded the limit of 8 dBA for a commercial source of noise. Although the rooftop noise is a violation of Section 2909(b) of the Noise Ordinance, it too has no adverse effect on public health. Because of its location on the rooftop, this sound does not travel to Ms. Yamada's residence, nor indeed to any human receptor. For the same reason, it does not increase the overall noise level in the neighborhood.
12. Despite the lack of an interior noise violation caused by noise in the lightwell, and solely on the basis of a rooftop noise violation that no one hears, in our April 26 enforcement letter, we indicated that we would only excuse Darian from mitigating the noise on the rooftop if he undertook additional efforts to mitigate the sound in the lightwell.
13. I am satisfied that Mr. Darian has acted in good faith to mitigate the noise that Ms. Yamada is exposed to in her hallway when the window to the lightwell is open. I am also satisfied that there is no threat to public health posed by any noise emanating from Roostertail's kitchen exhaust duct or its rooftop ventilation equipment at 1963 Sutter.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document was executed on the 2nd of October 2014 in San Francisco, California.


DENNIS J. HERRERA, State Bar \#139669
City Attorney
JULIE VAN NOSTERN, State Bar \#103579
Lead Attorney, Health \& Human Services
SHERRI SOKELAND KAISER, State Bar \#197986
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Attorneys for Respondent
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SAN FRANCISCO
BOARD OF APPEALS
1650 Mission Street, Room 304
San Francisco, California 94103

MICHIKO YAMADA,
Appellant,
vs.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Respondent.

Appeal No. 14-141
DECLARATION OF JONATHAN PIAKIS IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

I, JONATHAN PIAKIS, declare as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, except for those facts set forth on information and belief, which I also believe to be true. If called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently to the matters set forth below.
2. I am the Noise Control Officer for the San Francisco Department of Public Health ("DPH"). I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology (Chemistry Minor) and a Masters of Public Health, Industrial Hygiene Emphasis, both from the University of Arizona. I served as Health/Safety Specialist for the Steward Observatory Mirror Laboratory at the University of Arizona from 2011 to 1
3. I was a National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) Research Award Recipient in 2012-2013 and conducted a year-long, noise-specific research project at multiple mining operations. I have clocked over 375 hours of sound level measurements and dosimetry.
4. I have been an Industrial Hygienist and Noise Control Officer at DPH for approximately one year. During that time, I have handled more than 125 noise cases and complaints. I assumed responsibility for the Roostertail Restaurant matter in January 2014, At that time, I understood from colleagues and my review of the file that Roostertail had been determined to be out of compliance with the commercial noise limits in San Francisco Police Code Article 29 (the "Noise Ordinance"); that the owner had applied for a noise variance in 2013 and the Board of Appeals had upheld the decision of the Director of Environmental Health to deny it; and that Roostertail was required to undertake abatement work to come into compliance.
5. I also understood that Mr. Darian had recently installed acoustical lagging around the kitchen exhaust ductwork that runs up one wall of the shared lightwell between Ms. Yamada's building and Roostertail's building as an abatement measure. On January 22, 2014, I measured sound levels in Ms. Yamada's living room and bedroom, as well as in the lightwell outside her hallway window, to determine whether the abatement work had been sufficient to bring Roostertail into compliance. Section 2909(d) of the Noise Ordinance provides that a fixed noise source, like the Roostertail kitchen exhaust assembly, must not cause sound levels in residential living and sleeping areas to exceed 55 decibels, A-weighted (dBA) during the day or 45 dBA at night ( 10 pm to 7 am ), when measured with the windows open. I made sure the window to the lightwell was open before measuring the sound levels in the living room and bedroom. The sound level in living room was 38.8 , and in the bedroom it was 40.6 dBA . Both of these levels were well below the daytime limits of 55 dBA , and even though it was the middle of the day, the levels were also significantly below the nighttime limits. A true and correct copy of the Noise Inspection Form documenting the measurements I took on January 22, 2014, is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
6. Although I agreed to measure the sound level in the lightwell, which Ms. Yamada identified as the source of the unwanted noise, I first explained to Ms. Yamada that sound levels in the lightwell could not be measured reliably because the structure was too narrow. Section 2902 of the

Noise Ordinance requires outdoor sound measurements to be taken at least 4-1/2 feet away from any walls or reflective surfaces. Given the size of the lightwell, I could not take a measurement that would be a valid basis for finding Roostertail in violation of the Noise Ordinance.
6. With this understanding, I measured the sound level in the lightwell as 57.7 dBA , and the ambient sound level as 45.9 dBA . See Exhibit A. Section 2909(b) of the Noise Ordinance requires that noise from commercial properties that travels outside the property plane remain within 8 dBA of the ambient noise level, or the sound level that remains when the commercial noise source is turned off. The difference between my measurements in the lightwell was 11.8 dBA , which would have been a violation of 2909(b) if measurements in that location were permissible under the Ordinance. But since measurements in the lightwell are invalid under Section 2902, they could not serve as the basis for a finding of violation. Accordingly, my inspection and sound level measurements on January 22, 2014, did not result in a finding that Roostertail Restaurant was in violation of the Noise Ordinance.
7. On January 30, 2014, at Ms. Yamada's invitation, I returned to measure the sound level on the rooftop to see whether noise at that location exceeded the 8 dBA limit in Section 2909(b). I measured the sound level on the rooftop as 59.1 dBA , with an ambient sound level of 50.6 dBA . (See Exhibit A at p. 2.) These measurements demonstrated that the rooftop noise level exceeded the allowable 8 decibel difference between readings by .5 decibels.
8. On March 18, 2014, I sent a letter to Gerard Darian, the owner of Roostertail, informing him that Roostertail remained out of compliance with Section 2909(b) and further abatement measures were required. Attached as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of the March 18 letter.
9. On the second page of the letter, Table 1 summarized the measurement results in the various locations and identified the only violation as the rooftop. Note 1 to the table explained that, despite the 11.8 dBA difference between the operating sound level and the ambient sound level in the lightwell, the lightwell was not an enforceable location for sound level measurement under Article 29 because it was not possible to satisfy the 4-1/2 foot measurement standard in Section 2902.
10. The March 18 letter also offered Mr. Darian two options he could pursue that DPH would consider sufficient to bring Roostertail into compliance. He could reduce the noise level on the
rooftop to within 8 dBA of the ambient sound level as measured from the roof of the adjacent property, or he could take measures to reduce the operating sound measured in the lightwell to less than 53 dBA . See Exhibit B at p. 2. We offered the latter approach as a means of compliance despite the fact that the lightwell was not the source of the violation because it was the primary source of Ms. Yamada's concerns and because it was the source closest to a receptor. Noise dissipates as it travels, and the noise on the rooftop, while in violation of Section 2909(b), was too distant to be received by anyone, including Ms. Yamada, before becoming insignificant. Mr. Darian was given a deadline of April 2 to submit a detailed plan of correction to DPH.
11. Mr. Darian failed to submit a plan of correction by the deadline and instead applied for a variance. I issued a notice to appear at an abatement conference on April 22, where his request for a variance would be heard. A true and correct copy of the Notice to Attend the Abatement Conference is attached as Exhibit C.
12. Richard Lee, Acting Director of Environmental Health, was the Hearing Officer at the April 22 Abatement Conference. I appeared on behalf of DPH along with June Weintraub, the acting manager of the Noise Program. Mr. Darian appeared for Roostertail. As the Complainant, Ms. Yamada was also invited to appear at the Abatement Conference, and she brought Eric Lee, a private acoustical consultant at Charles M. Salter Associates, to help represent her interests.
13. At the April 22 Abatement Conference, I gave a brief overview of the case up to the point of the variance application under consideration. Mr. Darian explained the abatement work and stated that he had wrapped the portion of the exhaust duct nearest the kitchen with acoustical lagging to dampen the sound. Ms. Yamada spoke next, indicating her belief that the noise in the lightwell was unchanged and the work had not been properly performed. Eric Lee explained that the entire duct needs to be wrapped to be effective in reducing the noise. He illustrated his point by analogizing the duct to a long light source, where the whole thing would need to be wrapped to block the light. Director Lee asked Mr. Lee whether, in his professional opinion, performing the additional work needed to wrap the rest of ductwork would substantially reduce the noise, and Mr. Lee responded that he believed it would. Throughout the conference, Mr. Lee and Ms. Yamada spoke only of the single,
kitchen exhaust ductwork and at no time mentioned any other equipment or ductwork in or adjacent to the lightwell.
14. After the parties had presented their views, June Weintraub recommended on behalf of the Noise Program that Director Lee grant the requested variance. Among other things, she noted our shared view that the primary threat to public health is excessive noise in residential living and sleeping spaces. Given the low level of sound I measured in Ms. Yamada's living room and bedroom with the window to the lightwell open and Roostertail's exhaust fan in operation, there was no public health concern in this case. Further, the only enforceable violation was on the rooftop, but that violation had no health impact because the sound dissipated before it reached a noise receptor. She also stated our shared opinion that Mr. Darian had made a good-faith effort at remediation.
15. Director Lee did not rule at the Abatement Conference, stating that he wanted the opportunity to think the matter over. Based on consultant Eric Lee's recommendation and contrary to the recommendation of the Noise Program, Director Lee issued a decision denying the variance application and requiring Mr. Darian to abate the noise violation at the rooftop. But the decision also indicated that a variance for the rooftop noise would be granted in the future if Mr. Darian extended the acoustical duct wrapping in the lightwell the full length of the duct to where it meets the rooftop fan. Attached hereto as Exhibit D is a true and correct copy of the decision issued by Richard Lee on April 26, 2014.
16. By July 18, Mr. Darian had completed the additional duct wrapping, and he again applied for a variance. Attached hereto as Exhibit E is a true and correct copy of the noise variance application and supporting documents indicating total expenditures of approximately $\$ 8000$ for labor and materials to wrap the entire length of the duct in acoustical lagging.
17. On July 23, 2014, based on this additional abatement work in the lightwell as recommended by Eric Lee, the third-party acoustical consultant retained by Ms. Yamada, Director Lee granted a variance for the sole enforceable noise violation on the rooftop. Attached hereto as Exhibit F is a true and correct copy of the variance.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document was executed on the 2nd of October 2014 in San Francisco, California.



| VIolation | Violation | Applicabla standard |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | Residentital Property Nofen Limith. <br> (1)No person shall produca or aliow to be produced by any mechine, or davice, musle or entertalnment or any combination of aama, on residential propety over which the person hes ownerahip or control, a nolsa level mare than five dBA above the embient at any polnt outside of the property plane. <br> (2)No parson shall produce or allow to be practiced by any mechine, or device, numaic or antertainnment or ary combination of same, on multi-unil reabldential property ovar which the person has ownerrhip or control, a noise lovel mora then five dBA above the local amblant thres feal trom any wail, foor, ar calling inside ary dwelling unit on the same propearty, whin the windows and doors of the dwalling unit are closed, except within the dwalling unit in whilch the noise source or sources may be hocated, " |
| - | $\square$ |  of same, on conmercial or Industrial property over which the parson has ownership or control, a noise level more than alght d日A ahove the local ambiant at any point outside of the property plane. |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | Public Property Nolse Limitsa. No person sheil produce or allow to be produced by any machina or device, or any combination of same, on publíe priperty, a noise level more then ten deA above the local emblent at a dalance of twenty-five feat or more, untess the machina or device is beang operated to serve of malntaln the property of as atherwise provided in this Articte, |
| $\square$ | 品 |  due to the incrasesing uss and influence of meschanical aquipment, no fixed noise source may cause the noise level moesurred inside any aleaping or living room in any windows aperi exceapt where buillding ventilation is achioved through machenical systems that allow windows to reniain closed. |
|  |  | , |



Noise Inspection Form



| Vlolation | No Violstion | Appllcabla Standard |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ | $\square .$ | Reaidentlal Property Nolse Lifintis. <br> (1)No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine, or device, music or entertainment or any combination of same, on residential proparty over which the person has ownarship or control, a nolse laval more than five diAA above the amblent al any point outalde of the properity plana. <br> (2)No person shall produca or allow to be produced by any machine, or device, music or entertanment or any combination of same, on multh-unit reaidential property over <br>  |
|  | $\square$ | Commerkial And Induotrin Proparty Nolse Limila. No person shall produce or allow lo be produced by any maahine or device, musico or entertainment or ary combinatlon of serna, on commarcial or industrial proparty over which the person has ownership or control, a nolse level more ihan edght diA above the local amblent at any point autaide of the property plane. |
|  |  |  <br>  |
|  |  |  due to the increasing use end influance of mechenical equipment, no fixed notas acurea may cause the noise laval measured inside any slapping or living room in any twell ng unit located on residentlal property to exceed 45 dBA between the hours of $10: 00 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$, to $7: 00 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. or 55 ciBA between the hours of $7: 00 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. to 10:00p.m. with windows opan excapt where building yentilation is achleved through machenical systems that allow windows to remain closad, |
|  |  | , |

## Inspector Signature

March 18, 2014

Gerard Darien, Owner

Roostertail Restaurant
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Re: Exhaust Fan/Ductwork Noise Complaints at 1963 Sutter Street
Dear Mr. Darien:
The San Francisco Board of Appeals "Affidavit of Service", dated June 4, 2013, denied your appeal for a variance of the San Francisco Münicipal Police Code, Article 29, Regulation of Noise. Article 29, Section 2909(b), Commercial and Industrial Property Noise Limits states that:

> "No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine, or device, music or entertainment or any combination of same, on commerclal or industrial property over which the person has ownership or control, a noise level more than eight dBA above the local ambient at any point outside of the property plane..."

In addition, Article 29, Section 2909(d) states that...

> "In order to prevent sleep disturbance, protect public health and prevent the acoustical environment from progressive deterioration due to the increasing use and influence of mechanical equipment, no fixed noise source may cause the noise level measured inside any sleeping or Ilving room in any dwelling unit located on residential property to exceed 45 dBA between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. or- 55 dBA between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00p.m. with windows open except where building ventilation is achieved through mechanical systems that allow windows to remain closed."

Previous sound level measurements of the equipment in question taken outside the property plane were found to be 56 dBA ; this level is 11 dBA above the ambient sound level of 45 dBA . Measurements taken by an acoustical professional were similar and also resulted in a violation of Article 29.

Abatement work was completed in mid-January, 2014 and consisted of wrapping the exhaust system duct in the adjacent lightwell with acoustical duct lagging (see Figures 1 a and 1 b ). Together with Inspectors Zach Parsons and Janine Young, I took sound level measurements at varíous locations on January 22 and January 30, 2014 to determine compliance with Article 29. The results of the noise investigation can be seen below in Table 1.


In order to ensure that noise abatement efforts are adequate to meet the compliance requirements listed above and in Article 29, the Department of Public Heaith recommends enlisting the services of an acoustical consultant.

The Department of Public Health requires that you develop a plan of correction which includes the following:

- Selection of compliance option
- Specific work to be performed and materials used
- Name of the contractor/consultant performing the work
- Estimated date of completion

Please submit to our office the detailed plan of correction by the close of business by Wednesday, April 2, 2014. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Piakis, MPH-IH
SFDPH Industrial Hygienist and Noise Control Officer
(415) 252-3911

Jonathan.Plakis@sfdph.org
cc: Complainant
EH Inspectors
Manager of Air, Water, Noise, Radiation and Smoking Programs
Director of Environmental Health

San Francisco City and County
Department of Public Health
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Environmental Health

## NOTICE TO ATTEND AN ABATEMENT <br> CONFERENCE ON: April 22, 2014

| Premises address: | 1963 Sutter Street |
| :--- | :--- |
| Owner/Operator: Gerard Darian | DBA: Roostertail |

## Chronology of events leading to issuance of citation:

| Date | Code  <br> Section  <br>   |  | Action Taken |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} 12 / 5 / 12- \\ 1 / 1 / 14 \end{gathered}$ | Art. 29 <br> (2909b) | Violations of Commercia//Industrial Noise Limits | Multiple Actions: <br> - Replace equipment <br> - Noise/vibration controls (platforms, islolators, etc.) <br> - Acoustical wrap/lagging on duct |
| $\begin{gathered} 1 / 22 / 14- \\ 3 / 18 / 14 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Art. } 29 \\ \text { (2909b) } \end{gathered}$ | Violations of Commercial/Industrial Noise Limits: Rooftop noise level 8.5 dBA over ambient during day | Applied for Variance |
| $*$ |  |  |  |
| INSPECTOR: Jonathan Piakis |  |  |  |
| APPROVED: |  |  |  |
| Recommended Action: |  |  |  |

This form to be submitted to Central Office along with a copy of each cit:
Exhibit C

April 26, 2014
Gerard Darien, Owner
Roostertail Restaurant
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Re: Exhaust Fan/Ductwork Noise Complaints at 1963 Sutter Street
Dear Mr. Darien:

The Department of Public Health reviewed the Roostertail Restaurant's Variance Application received on March 28, 2014 and discussed at the April 22, 2014 Environmental Health Branch Abatement Conference. San Francisco Police Code Article 29 governs the noise standards in San Francisco. Article 29, Section 2909 (b) (Commercial and Industrial Property Noise Limits) sets the noise standard for mixed residential and industrial uses at 8 dBA over ambient: "No person shall produce or allow to be produced by any machine or device, music or entertainment or any combination of same, on commercial or industrial property over which the person has ownership or control, a noise level more than eight dBA above the local ambient at any point outside of the property plane." Article. 29, Section 2901 (a) defines the applicable ambient standards; for this location the minimum ambient level is 45 dBA .
I understand that in response to earlier violation, abatement work was completed in mid-January, 2014 and consisted of wrapping the exhaust system duct in the adjacent lightwell with acoustical duct lagging. As we wrote in our February 13, 2014 letter to you, our followup investigation determined that the abatement work had reduced the sound to 57.7 dBA in the lightwell and to 59.1 dBA at the roof. As we wrote in that letter, and as we discussed at the Abatement Conference, the lightwell is not an enforceable location for sound level measurements because it does not meet the standard set in Article 29, Section 2902. In addition, while there remains a violation on the roof, there is no receptor at this location and hence no public health hazard; as the distance from the sound source increases, the sound level resulting from the source decreases and would be insignificant upon reaching any human receptor. Based on the facts presented at the Abatement Conference, the variance is denied and you are required to bring the rooftop noise to compliance with Article 29, as described in Option A below. While this variance is denied, in the event of future complaints a variance for compliance on the roof will be granted if you perform additional abatement work in the lightwell as described in Option B below.

Option A - Reduce the noise level such that the operating sound level is within 8 dBA of both the daytime and nighttime ambient sound level as measured from the roof of the adjacent property.

## Exhibit D

Option B - Perform additional abatement work in the lightwell by extending the acoustical duct wrapping to the full length of the ductwork (up to the fan),

If you choose Option A, we will schedule a re-inspection of the property for May 282014 to verify if the sound level at the roof is within 8 dBA of the daytime ambient; we will also schedule an inspection for the evening to verify if the sound level at the roof is within 8 dBA of the nighttime ambient. If you choose Option B, we will schedule a re-inspection of the property for May 282014 to verify installation of the duct wrapping to the full length of the ductwork.

Failure to comply with this order will be subject to penalties as described in Article 29, Section 2917 of the San Francisco Police Code.

Under San Francisco Police Code Section 2910, you may appeal this decision within 15 days to the Board of Appeals.

Sincerely,


Richard J. Lee, MPH, CIH, REHS
Acting Environmental Health Director

## NOISE VARIANCE APPLICATION

This is an application for variance from the San Francisco Noise Ordinance (Article 29). You should apply for it if your activity will make more noise than the City Code allows. Please read both sides and fill it out carefully, your application will not be considered unless all information and required site plan is provided and legible. Use separate pages if necessary. The request may be approved; denied or approved with conditions. Most applications will be reviewed within ten (10) working days; some may require more time. If you need help, you may call the Environmental. Health office at 415-252-3800.
Applicant Name: Henhouse Productions, LLC do Roostertail
Contact Phone: 415.776 .6783 cellular: 415.939 .5906

Mailing Address: 1963 nutter st
city: Son Francisco State: $\qquad$ Zip Code: $\qquad$ 94115
Name of organization or business: Roostertail

Name the person who will be on site and has the authority to make changes, if required.
GERARD DARLAN

The Directors of Public Health, Public Works, Building Inspection, Entertainment Commission or the Chief of Police may grant variances to the noise regulations over which they have Jurisdiction. Please indicate all types
of activities that apply:
ㅁ. Waste Disposal Services $\square$ Residential Property Noise Commercial Property Noise
$\square$ Construction Private Property $\quad$ C Construction Public Property $\quad$ Licensed Entertainment Provide a description of the activity: ___Rouftap Exhaust hood Fens
 List all sources of noise:
Rooftop Kitchen Exhaust Fen

Have noise measurements been taken? If Yes, specify noise level reading at the property line $\qquad$ dB If No, specify anticipated noise level at the property line. $\qquad$ dB
Provide a detailed description of why a variance from the Noise Ordinance is necessary for this source of noise. This description should include any actions taken to mitigate the source of noise or its impact on people or residences located in the area.

Attach a sketch of the site plan or map that identifies streets and gives distances to neighbors or residences.
Revised: 12/12/2012

Nolse: Suppresestion; Lic 3154 Whlervitent Dr. HHIHEARC OEF 43026 UEA:
Voicer $\quad 614-570-2755$
Fax:
$614-52946757$

Invoice
Invoice Numbers. 1294
Trvoice Dater
Hun 16, 2014
Paget
1

## Sold Tor <br> Rooster Jail

Ship to:
Ronater tall
e/o Jimmy Feteh
240 James ct
Wacarille, CA 9567



# PACIIC SCAFFOLD CO. INC <br> 1540 DAVIDSON AVE SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94124 <br> PHONE (415)333-0224 (650)876-0225 FAX: (415)641-0204 <br> EMAL: PACIFICSCAFFOLD@YAHOOCOM <br> CA LKC \#292509 

Proposal: 1 of 1
Company: Girard
CALK \#292509 $\quad \therefore$ Date7/11/14

Address: $\qquad$ Cty: contact: Girard Phone:
A. Scaffold erection and removal- Proposal and Contract Job address: 1963 Sutter

City: San Francisco, Ca

1) Work scope: Scaffoid erection, removal, and 45 day rental.

Area to be scaffold: Tower in light well foir access to flu
2) Additional products to be installed by Pacific Scaffold co. Inc

Proposal honored for 60 days from date submitted to customer- Price $\$ 2,200.00$
8. Additional fees after initial 45 days of rental. A prorated amount of $25 \%$ per 45 days will occur. $\$ 12.22$ Per day.
C. Slgried return of contract, issue of work order, written request, or verbal request, for delivery and commencement of work, Indicates customers' accentance of Pacific Scaffold Co inc Proposal/ Contract in whole.
D. 1) Scaffold will be erected and dismantied one time only, during daytime hours unless specifled herein,
2) Scaffold will be erected and dismantled in accordance with applicable State and Federal codes (excluding access ladder, toe boards, and debiris netting unless specifled in Additional products to be installed). If not reguested at time of proposal, items are available for additional charge,
3) Any alterations over and above this bid proposal will be charged at the appilcable rates.
E. Customer/ Owner, and/ or contractor agree to indemnify and hold harmless, Pacific Scaffold co. Inc from and against all damage, elaim, losses, fines, citations, injuries, or property damage resulting from scaffold alterations not performed by Pacific Scaffold Co. Inc. Enclósure products not installed by Pacifici Scaffold Co. Inc, fines, citations, or any responsibility stated herein is the responsibility of customer, owiner, and/ or contractor.
F. Agreement of responsibility by Customer, owner and/ or Contractor.

1) Responsible for maintenance, control, and safe use of scaffold.
2) Obtaining any permits that may be required:
3) Obtaining permission for Pacific Scaffold Co. Inc. to erect scaffold from adjoining property if required.
4) Responsible for repairing all holes in the existing structure left as a result of anchors necessary to stabilize the scaffold.
5) Advising Pacific Scaffold Co: Inc. of any intended use of enclosure products (debris netting, shrink wrap, plastic, plywiood, etc.)
6) Arranging title authority for all necessary safe guards.
7) Responsible for any necessary protection for furniture, machlnery, plants, walls, carpeting, floors, tile, brick, decks, and ralilings.
G. Payments for services rendered are due in full upon receipt of invoice. Scaffolding rent and/ or labor is a service, and therefore exempt from retention.

Accepted by (slen):
Print:
Date:
(Customers Authorized Representative)


933 Kifer Road Suite A
Sunnyvale CA 94086-5208
(408) 738-0333 ph (408) 245-0484 fx


Invoice
19067
Date: 04/22/2014

Billed To: Roooster Tall Restaraunt 1963 Sulter Street San Franclsco CA 94115

Project: SC 4/9 Exhuast Not Working 1863 Sutter Sireet
San Francisco CA 94115


| Description |
| :--- |
| Service Call 4.5 hour © $\$ 110.00$ per hour |
| Vehlce Surcharge |

Notes:

A service charge of $10.00 \%$ per annum will be charged on all amounts overdue on regular statement dates.

Thank you for your prompt paymentl
FEIN: 28-4550748

| Non-Taxable Amount: | 520.00 |
| :--- | ---: |
| Taxable Amount: | 0.00 |
| Sales Tax: | 0.00 |
|  |  |
| Amount Dus |  |

July 23, 2014
Gerard Darian, Owner
Roostertail
1963 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
RE: 1963 Sutter Street - Noise Violation Abatement Work
Dear Mr. Darian:

At the Abatement Conference Hearing on July 8, 2014, it was determined that the work necessary to abate the violation of the San Francisco Noise Ordinance (Police Code, Article 29) was not complete. In accordance with staff recommendations, I granted an extension of 15 business days resulting in the deadline for completion of
July 28,2014 .

On July 18, 2014, Inspector Piakis confirmed that the abatement work, consistent with the third-party acoustical consultant's recommendations, had been completed (see figures below). Therefore, the violation is abated and the mechanical exhaust system in use at 1963 Sutter Street (Roostertail Restaurant) is considered to be in compliance with City noise limits. No further action is required at this time.


Abatement work consisting of the installation of aconstical duct lagging along the entirety of the mechanical exhaust
system's external ductwork.
Our letter dated April 26, 2014 explained that if the remainder of the external ductwork was wrapped to decrease the noise closest to the residential receptor, a variance would be considered for the rooftop fan noise. Environmental Health has reviewed the noise variance application filed on July 18, 2014 and supporting materials detailing abatement costs of approximately $\$ 8000$. We have found that your request has sufficient merit and therefore grant Roostertail Restaurant ( 1963 Sutter Street) a noise variance under the conditions set forth below. Failure to implement the following conditions may result in revocation of this variance and the institution of enforcement penalties:

- Continue to perform routine, regular maintenance of the mechanical equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
- Inform Environmental Health staff prior to the addition, relocation, substitution, or any other alteration of rooftop mechanical equipment.

This variance applies only to the mechanical exhaust system and equipment configuration as of July 23, 2014. The variance will be effective upon receipt of a signed copy of this letter and subject to any appeals filed in the 15 days following. At our discretion, Environmental Health may rescind this variance if it is determined that Roostertail Restaurant has violated the above terms. Please direct any questions or concerns to Jonathan Piakis (Jonathan.Piakis@sfdph.org).

Sincerely,


Richard J. Lee, MPH, CIH, REHS
Acting Environmental Health Director

## Roostertail Restaurant understands and agrees to comply with the terms of this variance.



Date
(Fallure To Comply May Result in a Citation and / or Fines)
This fecility has bei shown to be in vidation of SFMPC, titicle 24 for -eg-lation of noise. This form and The letter otteched from StDPH Nose Contal Officen Junthen Pistis, serves as a Notice of visolation. Facility nust comply w/ itans detaled in letter / subinit plan of correction by close of burimess on Wednes da Ap, Apil 2,2014 or face Furthe actions.

Please contact Jurathon PiaEis $415-252-3911$ with ony questions


[^0]:    APPLICANT: THIS IS PAGE 1 OF 2A or 2B -COMPLETE PAGE 2A ONLY IF THE BUSINESS IS A FOOD / BEVERAGE OR OTHER ESTABLISHMENT. COMPLETE PAGE RB ONLY IF THE BUSINESS IS A MASSAGE, ACUPRESSURE, OR REFLEXOLOGY ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR SHOULD THE BUSINESS OFFER MASSAGE, ACUPRESSURE. OR REFLEXOLOGY AS AN ACCESSORY COMPONENT TO A BUSINESS.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ dBA - A-weighted sound pressure level (or noise level) represents the noisiness or loudness of a sound by weighting the amplitudes of various acoustical frequencies to correspond more closely with human hearing sensitivity. A $10-\mathrm{dB}$ (decibel) increase in noise level is generally perceived to be twice as loud. A-weighting is specified by the ISO, U.S. EPA, OSHA and others for use in noise measurements.
    ${ }^{2}$ The San Francisco Department of Public Health has determined that the $L_{x}$ noise level, which is the sound level (in dBA) equaled or exceeded ninety percent of the time, is to be considered the ambient noise level.

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ Measured noise levels in the lightwell were below 45dBA．In accordance with the San Francisco Noise Ordinance，we have assumed 45 dBA to be the minimum ambient noise for the purposes of this analysis．

[^3]:    ${ }^{1}$ dBA－A－weighted sound pressure level（or noise level）represents the noisiness or loudness of a sound by weighting the amplitudes of various acoustical frequencies to correspond more closely with human hearing sensitivity．A 10－dB（decibel） increase in noise level is generally perceived to be twice as loud．A－weighting is specified by the ISO，U．S．EPA，OSHA and others for use in noise measurements．
    ${ }^{2}$ The San Francisco Department of Public Health has determined that the L90 noise level，which is the sound level（in dBA） equaled or exceeded ninety percent of the time，is to be considered the ambient noise level．

[^4]:    ${ }^{1}$ Appellant argues that DPH should ignore the limitation in Section 2902 because other DPH noise inspectors have taken measurements in the lightwell and treated them as valid. To the extent that is the case, those inspectors were mistaken. But such mistakes did not invalidate the law, which DPH remains obligated to follow as written.

[^5]:    ${ }^{2}$ Appellant remains dissatisfied despite the expense and effort required of Roostertail to implement Appellant's own recommended solution. And now, for the very first time, Appellant and Salter consultant Eric Lee (the same consultant who recommended extending the acoustical insulation along the full length of the kitchen exhaust duct to mitigate the lightwell noise) posit that perhaps an air supply duct and maybe a dishwasher exhaust duct, both of which also run through the lightwell and have been there all along, are the real source of the unwanted noise. Whether this new hypothesis is correct or not, Appellant goes too far when she further asserts that all three ducts were at issue during the April 22 Abatement Conference, DPH actually directed Roostertail to wrap all three ducts to qualify for a variance, and DPH has failed to enforce its own directive. This is disingenuous. Until now, Appellant has always focused her complaints on the kitchen exhaust system. That was the only duct with acoustical wrapping as of the April 22 Abatement Conference, and that is the only duct Mr. Lee could plausibly have meant when he recommended wrapping the remaining portion of the duct to mitigate the lightwell noise. And in any event, DPH did not condition Roostertail's variance on wrapping all three ducts. Roostertail has completed the full extent of the mitigation work that DPH required.

[^6]:    ${ }^{3}$ Appellant's remaining arguments are all founded on the idea that DPH is bound by the 2013 decision of a prior Director to deny Roostertail a noise variance and cannot now grant a variance without "contradicting itself." This contention does not bear scrutiny. The decision to grant or deny a noise variance can only be made in relation to the facts before the decisionmaker. Where the facts have changed, it follows that the decision may also change, even if the noise variance request is made by the same party. Moreover, in this case, it appears that the prior decision may rely, at least in part, on the failure to recognize that noise in the lightwell cannot be measured in compliance with § 2902, and therefore cannot be a basis for a noise violation. The failure to enforce a law does not estop the goveriment from subsequently enforcing it. See, e.g., Feduniak v. California Coastal Com'n, 148 Cal. App. 4th 1346, 1369 (6th Dist. 2007).

