

The Specific Plan would permit development on the flatter central and southern portions of the site, while the steeper hillsides in the northern portion of the site would remain undeveloped and continue to be used for agricultural purposes. The proposed regulatory plan from the proposed Specific Plan is provided in **Figure 2, East Area 1 Land Use Plan**. The type and maximum intensity of the land uses that would be permitted by the East Area 1 Specific Plan as proposed are shown in **Table 1, East Area 1 Specific Plan Proposed Land Use Summary**.

The Specific Plan area is approximately 501 acres in size and has historically been used for agricultural purposes. Currently, the site primarily contains citrus and avocado orchards, with a small portion used for row crops. The Specific Plan area also contains some farm structures, including some residences for farm workers, and a packing house building, which is currently used for other purposes. The northernmost portion of the site also contains some small areas of native vegetation (approximately 50 acres) in areas not planted with avocado trees.

Of the 501 acres included in the proposed East Area 1 Specific Plan area, approximately 134 acres located on the northern edge of the site would be designated as open space (agricultural preserve) in the Specific Plan with the existing agricultural production continuing on this portion of the site. Development would be permitted on the remaining 367 acres of the 501-acre site under the proposed Specific Plan.

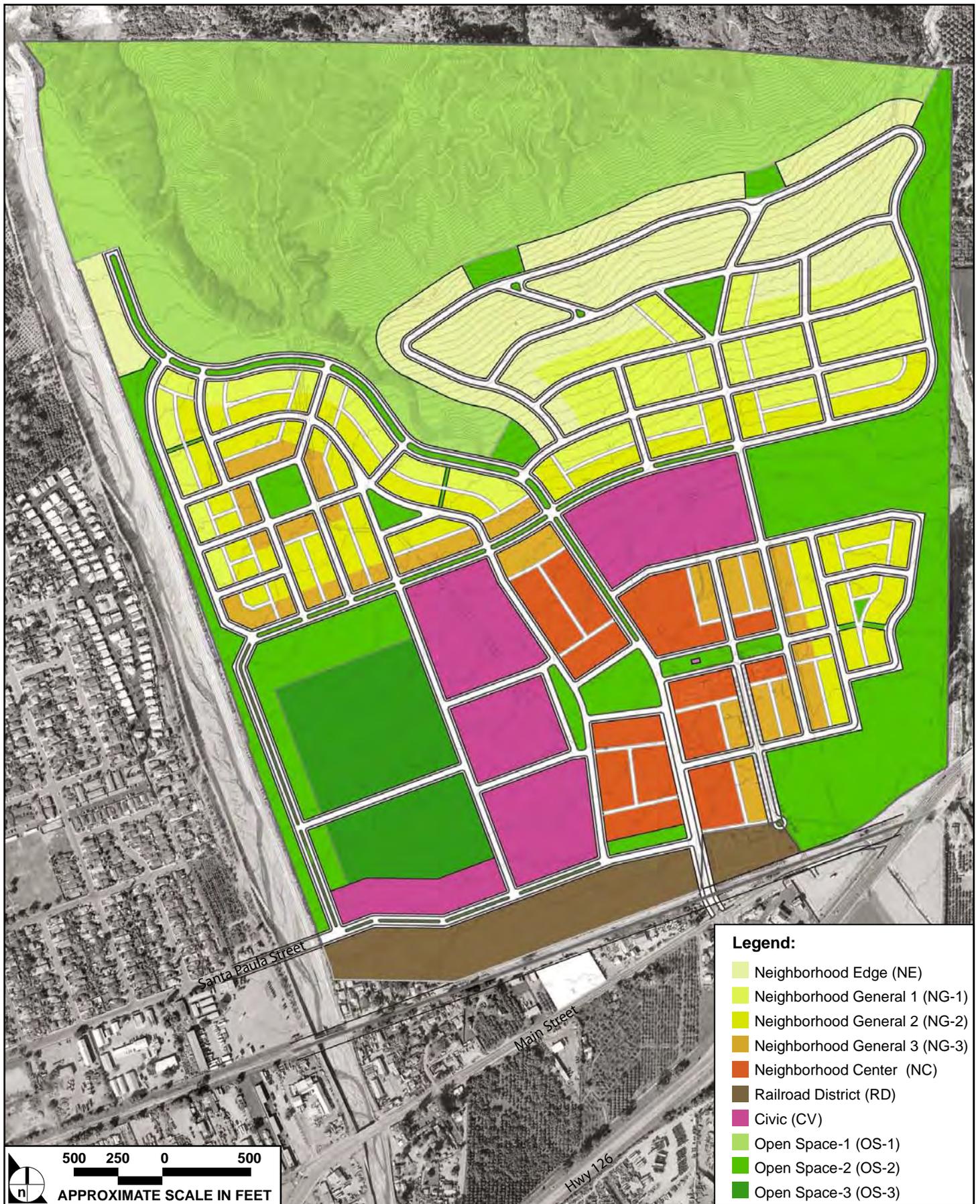
INTRODUCTION TO NOISE AND VIBRATION

Introduction to Noise

Noise is ordinarily described as unwanted sound. Sound is generally undesirable when it interferes with normal activities, causes actual physical harm, or has an adverse effect on health. The definition of noise as unwanted sound implies that it has an adverse effect on, or causes a substantial annoyance to, people and their environment.

Sound pressure level alone is not a reliable indicator of loudness because the human ear does not respond uniformly to sounds at all frequencies. For example, the human ear is less sensitive to low and high frequencies than to the medium frequencies that more closely correspond to human speech. In response to the human ear's sensitivity, or lack thereof, to different frequencies, the A-weighted noise level, referenced in units of dB(A), was developed to better correspond with peoples' subjective judgment of sound levels. In general, changes in a noise level of less than 3 dB(A) are not noticed by the human ear.³

³ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, *Highway Noise Fundamentals*, (Springfield, Virginia: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, September 1980), p. 81.



SOURCE: HDR Town Planning – April 2006, Impact Sciences, Inc. – April 2007

FIGURE 2

East Area 1 Land Use Plan