

# Neighbors of Midtown

Neighbors of the fairgrounds share their vision for the future



Midtown Petaluma, also known as the “Old East Side,” is a charming family-friendly neighborhood that has some of the oldest homes in the city.



Survey:

What is your wish or vision for the future of the fairgrounds?

Outreach to neighbors via email, NextDoor, and flyer posted in Petaluma Library



Photo credit: Terry Hankins/Petaluma Argus-Courier

Responses were received from residents on Payran Street, East D Street, Vallejo Street, and Jefferson Street (marked in red)

18 responses

Small survey but strong opinions!



Photo credit: maps.google.com

“We need more open spaces in Petaluma, and we need more trees. This could be Petaluma's Central Park! “



“It seems like a good, central location for farmers markets, craft fairs, festivals, birthday/family parties, etc. that brings the community together.”



“Recent WildFire/Covid/ Emergency regional support (including space for livestock) really showed the value of having a large meeting and coordination space.”



“...given the stated climate action goals of the City, the fossil-fuel intensive, loud noise generating, air polluting stock car races need to stop.”



“For it to continue as it is with events, fairs, music and all kinds of festivals; also, keep the racetrack”



**(70%) an accessible public park**

**(70%) spaces for events**

**(55%) emergency shelter**

**(39%) no speedway or races**

**(33%) maintain current uses**



“I'd like it to have ample parking but also be very pedestrian friendly to support easy access from the surrounding neighborhoods. “

“Affordable housing is very important, should the space be developed into housing.”

“I don't think this is a good location for significant housing. “

“...the space could have numerous uses: park, event center, affordable housing, city hall, fire station”

“It's time for the city to explore such ideas as using part of the land for public park, part for an event venue, part for some affordable housing, part for a new City Hall, and part for bicycle and/or electric car racing.”

“I'd like it to have ample parking but also be very pedestrian friendly to support easy access from the surrounding neighborhoods. “

## Other ideas:

- bicycle and pedestrian access, and parking (27%)
- community center (22%)
- city government (16%)
- affordable housing (5 in favor, 3 against)
- mixed housing and retail (2 in favor, 1 against)

# What happens at the fairgrounds echoes throughout our neighborhood



As the residents closest to the fairgrounds property, we are most impacted by the noise, pollution, and traffic created by events at the fairgrounds.

# Sound travels freely within the Fairgrounds without barriers or dampening obstructions.

- Flimsy metal and uninsulated walls make up many of the event buildings
- No noise mitigation measures
- Live event vendors use broadcast quality amplification sound systems designed for spaces with better noise containment.

**The result:** Loud noises flooding the neighborhood both day and night into the yards and homes of the thousands of residents in closest proximity to the fairgrounds



With the recent development of the Target strip mall and freeway barrier, sounds from fairground events bounce off of the structures and reflect back into the residential areas. **Sound compliance is 60dB - events need to stay within this limit.**

- If a sound is activated in a room, sound travels radially in all directions. As the sound waves encounter obstacles or surfaces, such as walls, their direction of travel is changed, i.e., they are reflected.
- The diagram shows the reflection of waves from a sound source from a rigid, plane wall surface.

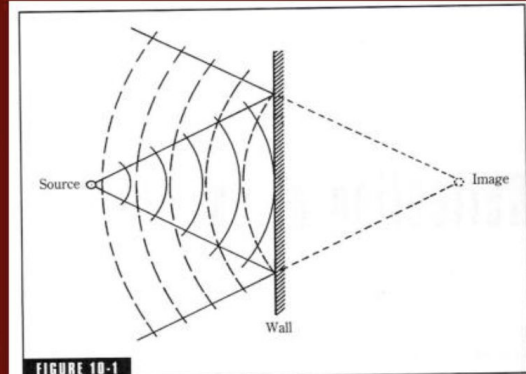
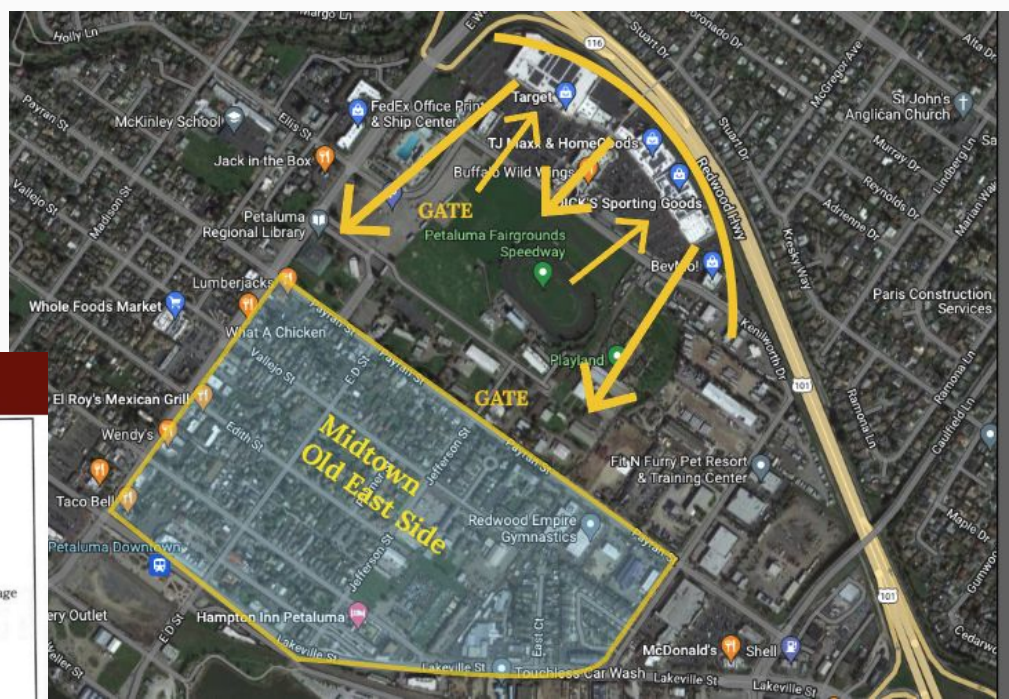


FIGURE 10-1

Reflection of sound from a point source from a flat surface (incident sound, solid lines; reflected sound, broken lines). The reflected sound appears to be from a virtual image source.



Sounds from the fairgrounds have been registered as far west as Helen Putnam Park and Middle Two Rock Rd., and as far east as Lafferty Ranch atop Sonoma Mountain.

# The fairgrounds are not being good neighbors.

- When neighbors feel the impact of the noise in their homes, like on May 8, when music and a show was playing from 1pm - 9pm, their only option is to call the police to complain.
- The fairboard can do better to reduce the number of events and ensure that they stay within city noise regulations.



# Speedway Schedule 2013-2022

Speedway races are noisy.

There is no way to resolve this other than building an amphitheater that is designed to keep the noise inside the walls.

Noise and Pollution need to be addressed.

|                  | 2022  | 2021                                    | 2020   | 2019  | 2018                                    | 2017                                    | 2016                                    | 2015                                    | 2014                                    | 2013  |
|------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>RACE DAYS</b> | <b>28</b>   | <b>22</b>                               | <b>19</b>                                    | <b>21</b>   | <b>21</b>                               | <b>19</b>                               | <b>20</b>                               | <b>23</b>                               | <b>22</b>                               | <b>20</b>   |
| <b>MARCH</b>     | 3/12/22<br>3/19/22<br>3/26/22                     |   | 3/8/20                                       |   | 3/31/18                                 |   | 3/26/16                                 | 3/21/15<br>3/28/15                      |   |   |
| <b>APRIL</b>     | 4/2/22<br>4/9/22<br>4/16/22<br>4/23/22<br>4/30/22 | 4/11/21<br>4/17/21<br>4/24/21           |  | 4/13/19<br>4/20/19<br>4/27/19                     | 4/14/18<br>4/19/18<br>4/28/18           | 4/1/17<br>4/15/17<br>4/22/17            | 4/2/16<br>4/16/16<br>4/23/16<br>4/30/16 | 4/4/15<br>4/18/15                       | 4/19/14                                 | 4/13/13<br>4/20/13<br>4/27/13                     |
| <b>MAY</b>       | 5/7/22<br>5/14/22<br>5/21/22                      | 5/6/21<br>5/15/21<br>5/22/21<br>5/29/21 |  | 5/4/19<br>5/11/19                                 | 5/4/18<br>5/11/18<br>5/19/18            | 5/6/17<br>5/13/17<br>5/20/17            | 5/14/16<br>5/21/16                      | 5/2/15<br>5/9/15<br>5/16/15<br>5/30/15  | 5/3/14<br>5/10/14<br>5/17/14<br>5/31/14 | 5/4/13<br>5/11/13<br>5/18/13                      |
| <b>JUNE</b>      | 6/10/22<br>6/11/22<br>6/18/22<br>6/26/22          | 6/12/21<br>6/19/21                      | 6/12/20<br>6/13/20<br>6/21/20<br>6/28/20     | 6/1/19<br>6/8/19<br>6/14/19<br>6/15/19<br>6/23/19 | 6/2/18<br>6/6/18<br>6/16/18<br>6/23/18  | 6/3/17<br>6/10/17<br>6/17/17<br>6/25/17 | 6/4/16<br>6/11/16<br>6/18/16            | 6/6/15<br>6/13/15<br>6/20/15            | 6/7/14<br>6/14/14<br>6/22/14<br>6/28/14 | 6/1/13<br>6/8/13<br>6/15/13<br>6/23/13<br>6/29/13 |
| <b>JULY</b>      | 7/3/22<br>7/9/22<br>7/16/22<br>7/23/22<br>7/30/22 | 7/3/21<br>7/10/21<br>7/18/21<br>7/31/21 | 7/5/20<br>7/11/20<br>7/18/20<br>7/26/20      | 7/13/19<br>7/20/19<br>7/27/19                     | 7/1/18<br>7/14/18<br>7/21/18<br>7/28/18 | 7/8/17<br>7/15/17<br>7/29/17            | 7/3/16<br>7/9/16<br>7/23/16<br>7/30/16  | 7/3/15<br>7/11/15<br>7/18/15<br>7/25/15 | 7/4/14<br>7/12/14<br>7/19/14<br>7/26/14 | 7/6/13<br>7/13/13<br>7/20/13<br>7/27/13           |
| <b>AUGUST</b>    | 8/13/22<br>8/21/22<br>8/27/22                     | 8/14/21<br>8/21/21<br>8/29/21           | 8/8/20<br>8/11/20<br>8/22/20<br>8/30/20      | 8/10/19<br>8/17/19                                | 8/11/18<br>8/18/18<br>8/25/18           | 8/12/17<br>8/26/17                      | 8/13/16<br>8/27/16                      | 8/8/15<br>8/15/15<br>8/22/15            | 8/9/14<br>8/16/14<br>8/23/14            | 8/10/13<br>8/24/13                                |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | 9/16/22<br>9/17/22<br>9/24/22                     | 9/6/21<br>9/12/21<br>9/25/21            | 9/19/20<br>9/25/20                           | 9/2/19<br>9/7/19<br>9/21/19                       | 9/21/18                                 | 9/4/17<br>9/9/17<br>9/23/17             | 9/5/16<br>9/10/16<br>9/17/16<br>9/24/16 | 9/7/15<br>9/12/15<br>9/19/15<br>9/26/15 | 9/6/14<br>9/13/14<br>9/20/14<br>9/27/14 | 9/7/13<br>9/14/13                                 |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | 10/1/22<br>10/8/22                                | 10/2/21<br>10/9/21<br>10/16/21          | 10/10/20<br>10/17/20<br>10/24/20<br>10/31/20 | 10/5/19<br>10/12/19<br>10/19/19                   | 10/6/18<br>10/13/18                     | 10/7/17                                 |   | 10/10/15                                | 10/4/14<br>10/11/14                     | 10/12/13  |

# Speedway + Concert Schedule March, April, May 2022

The fairgrounds hosts events 4-5 times a week and much of that time is during the warmer months when residents want to enjoy the outdoors.

A full weekend of outdoor events that flood the airwaves and travel well beyond the barriers of the fairgrounds make for a consistently noisy neighbor.

Here is a snapshot of the back to back weekend events in Spring 2022.

|     |         |                |
|-----|---------|----------------|
| Sat | 3/12/22 | Race           |
| Sun | 3/13/22 |                |
| Sat | 3/19/22 | Race           |
| Sun | 3/20/22 | Concert        |
| Sat | 3/26/22 | Race / Concert |
| Sun | 3/27/22 | Concert        |
| Sat | 4/2/22  | Race           |
| Sun | 4/3/22  |                |
| Sat | 4/9/22  | Race           |
| Sun | 4/10/22 | Concert        |
| Sat | 4/16/22 | Race           |
| Sun | 4/17/22 | Concert        |
| Sat | 4/23/22 | Race           |
| Sun | 4/24/22 |                |
| Sat | 4/30/22 | Race           |
| Sun | 5/1/22  |                |
| Sat | 5/7/22  | Race           |
| Sun | 5/8/22  | Concert        |
| Sat | 5/14/22 | Race           |
| Sun | 5/15/22 |                |
| Sat | 5/21/22 | Race           |
| Sun | 5/22/22 | Concert        |
| Sat | 5/28/22 |                |
| Sun | 5/29/22 | Concert        |

# Final point

Let's be good neighbors



# Thanks!

We the neighbors appreciate you considering how this decision impacts our daily lives, our financial investments and our mental health and wellbeing.

All we ask that whatever goes in, being a good neighbor will be a paramount consideration.

