

October 29, 2026

Senior Counsel
Fredric D. Woocher
Bryce Gee
Andrea Sheridan Ordin† Also admitted to practice
in Washington**Re: Nalu Vidu, DIR-2026-3288-CDP**

Dear Land Use and Planning Committee Members:

This firm writes on behalf of a long-time neighborhood resident who has been adversely impacted by noise and activity at Nalu Vida, located at 1 Washington Boulevard, as well as other participants who have been improperly utilizing speakers outdoors in connection with the Al Fresco Ordinance, which prohibits such speakers.¹ This resident has invested significant funds in an effort to sound proof their home of many years and still is burdened by excessive music noise that began only with the Al Fresco Ordinance and the City's consistent failure to enforce its limitations. We request that the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) **recommend denial** the application of Nalu Vida for a Coastal Development Permit for its al fresco dining.

There are numerous reasons that the LUPC should take a position in opposition to Nalu Vida's request: (1) it has repeatedly demonstrated that it does not comply with permits and other legal requirements, including but not limited to the Al Fresco Ordinance, conditions of its ABC license, City of Los Angeles off-site advertising prohibitions, and its current Coastal Development Permit; (2) it consistently hosts live and recorded music events with noise levels that are a disturbance to neighbors and which generate noise in violation of several municipal policies; and (3) the impact of expanding its footprint in the public right of way will negatively impact coastal access and the coastal environment.

The restaurant located at 1 Washington received a Coastal Development Permit in 1992, which expired and was reissued in 1995, allowing a 25-seat outdoor dining area. Today, Nalu Vida seeks an 872 square foot outdoor dining area with 67 seats. This is a significant intensification of use that has never been presented to the Coastal Commission. Nalu Vida states that its application excludes the area previously permitted by the Coastal Commission, which means that it intends to have capacity for 92 outdoor patrons.

Nalu Vida has shown that it does not follow rules. While it claims that it can utilize outdoor speakers because its 1992/1995 approval does not specifically preclude such use, both the Al Fresco Ordinance and its ABC License prohibit outdoor speakers and audible off-property

¹ This letter is not written on behalf of any member of the LUPC or the VNC. This firm has been engaged by existing counsel to a resident who has been disturbed by outdoor music from al fresco dining at a variety of establishments since the program was initiated, and who wishes to avoid being publicly attacked and harassed in the same manner as neighbor David Feige. Our representation is not specific to Nalu Vida.



music. A consistently non-compliant business should not be granted an additional entitlement, particularly where it is demonstrated that the non-compliance has had a detrimental impact on the adjacent community. Because Nalu Vida does not comply with existing legal requirements and conditions, it cannot be trusted to comply with conditions that might be imposed on a Coastal Development Permit.

(1) Documented History of Consistent, Willful Non-Compliance with Applicable Laws and Existing Permits

Nalu Vida operates under both state and local permits; it regularly violates conditions of these permits, even after repeated public complaint. Nalu Vida's operations are also inconsistent with clear requirements of several City ordinances.

Nalu Vida's violations stem largely from its repeated use of its outdoor music system. There are permanent outdoor speakers placed along the Washington Boulevard frontage, as visible in the photos below. In addition, Nalu Vida regularly advertises live music events, a collection of which were found on Instagram and are contained in Exhibit 1 to this letter. As set forth below, none of this activity is permissible at Nalu Vida. An applicant that repeatedly violates City requirements should not be granted any discretionary entitlement.



Nalu Vida July 26, 2026, and October 24, 2026: Speakers Mounted Above Pergola



Outdoor speakers and live music outdoors are expressly prohibited by the Al Fresco ordinance and by the ABC License under which Nalu Vida operates.

(a) Al Fresco Ordinance

The Al Fresco Ordinance prohibits “live music, live entertainment including but not limited to disc jockeys, [and] karaoke.” The City Council debated allowing “background music” but the adopted version of the noise ordinance prohibits “background music and outdoor speakers.” (LAMC § 12.21 A(d)(1)(ii) and (iv).

Nalu Vida has made no effort to confine its outdoor music to the small area that was permitted in its 1992/1995 CDP. The speakers are mounted well above the pergola that is located in an entirely different part of the property, clearly aimed to deliver audio to the portion of the property that is not covered by the prior the permit and operates exclusively under the Al Fresco Ordinance. This continued non-compliance should not be rewarded by issuance of a CDP.

(b) ABC License

Nalu Vida holds a California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control License (Number 657878) that contains specific conditions relevant to noise:

- No noise shall be heard from the exterior of the premises.
- A single jukebox or stereo may be maintained upon the premises; however, the music shall not be audible outside the premises.

Nalu Vida consistently violates both of these provisions, as discussed further in section 2.

(c) Offsite Signage

The premises on which Nalu Vida is located has consistently been displaying unpermitted off-site signage directly facing the bike path and the coast. This image depicts an ad that was still present when visited on Saturday, October 24. LADBS has repeatedly issued orders to comply but new ads replace them.



(d) Coastal Development Permit

The Coastal Development Permit that governs 1 Washington Boulevard limits restaurant seating, inside and out, to 67. That volume has been far exceeded by Nalu Vida. In addition, other requirements of the original CDP for public benches and bicycle racks are no longer being met, with these required improvements completely absent from the property. Moreover, it is clear that “development” has occurred at Nalu Vida without a Coastal Development Permit. There is a large pergola constructed into the public right of way, in an area that was *not* encompassed in the 1992/1995 Coastal Development Permits. The construction of a permanent overhead covering over the public right of way in the Coastal Zone without a CDP is a violation of the Coastal Act.²

² In addition, the City’s permit for this 25-seat outdoor area expressly required a removable awning, and the Coastal Commission was provided a description of the project as containing a removable awning. At some time in the years since the outdoor area was constructed, the awning became a permanent structure.



(2) **Live Music Events Generate Noise Levels in Excess of City Standards**

Residents have repeatedly complained about noise generated by music events at Nalu Vida. LADBS enforcement records alone contain numerous complaints about noise under the Al Fresco dining program. There appear to have been 10 investigations of complaints in 2025 and 2026 regarding noise or nighttime activities at Nalu Vida.

103-5A145-26		
+	Parcel Profile Report:	1
+	Permit Information found:	5
-	Code Enforcement Information:	17
Date Received	Problem Description	Status
1/30/2006	CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS WITHOUT PERMITS OR INSPECTIONS	CLOSED
9/29/2017	BUILDING OR PROPERTY CONVERTED TO ANOTHER USE	CLOSED
11/29/2018	OUTDOOR ADVERTISEMENTS (SIGNS) FOR GOODS OR SERVICES NOT AVAILABLE ON SITE (E.G.	CLOSED
5/10/2019	CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS WITHOUT PERMITS OR INSPECTIONS	CLOSED
10/6/2025	AL FRESCO - OUTDOOR DINING - NOISE	CLOSED
10/25/2025	AL FRESCO - OUTDOOR DINING - NOISE	CLOSED
10/31/2025	OUTDOOR ADVERTISEMENTS (SIGNS) FOR GOODS OR SERVICES NOT AVAILABLE ON SITE (E.G.	CLOSED
12/16/2025	AL FRESCO - OUTDOOR DINING - GENERAL	CLOSED
2/16/2026	AL FRESCO - OUTDOOR DINING - NOISE	CLOSED
3/2/2026	AL FRESCO - OUTDOOR DINING - GENERAL	CLOSED
3/9/2026	ANY PROBLEMS THAT ONLY OCCUR FROM 5:00PM TO 7:00 AM (AT NIGHT) OR ON WEEKENDS	CLOSED
3/14/2026	AL FRESCO - OUTDOOR DINING - NOISE	CLOSED
3/17/2026	AL FRESCO - OUTDOOR DINING - GENERAL	CLOSED
3/22/2026	OUTDOOR ADVERTISEMENTS (SIGNS) FOR GOODS OR SERVICES NOT AVAILABLE ON SITE (E.G.	CLOSED
3/27/2026	ANY PROBLEMS THAT ONLY OCCUR FROM 5:00PM TO 7:00 AM (AT NIGHT) OR ON WEEKENDS	CLOSED
8/5/2026	OUTDOOR ADVERTISEMENTS (SIGNS) FOR GOODS OR SERVICES NOT AVAILABLE ON SITE (E.G.	UNDER INVESTIGATION

To quantify the impacts of Nalu Vida's continual flouting of restrictions on outdoor music, we engaged the services of Wilson Ihrig/RWDI, a consultancy specializing in acoustics, noise, and vibration. Wilson Ihrig has prepared hundreds of noise studies and is extremely well-suited to conduct analysis of noise impacts from outdoor music. On August 8, 2026, an acoustician made calibrated noise measurements of a band playing at Nalu Vida from a number of locations. This analysis is attached as Exhibit 2.

On the date of Wilson Ihrig's visit, a live band was playing outdoors at Nalu Vida, and it was the predominant noise source in the area. At a distance of approximately 25 feet, the average sound level of the live band was 92 dBA, which is comparable to pneumatic jackhammering. Noise levels were as high as 109 dBA at the outset, which is comparable to a loud car horn at 10



feet. Over time the band reduced the volume somewhat but the five minute average at 25 feet was still in the range of 87-89 dBA, which is considered “loud.”

Not only was the band “loud” at 25 feet, it was audible at significant distance from Nalu Vida. Even as far as 330-750 feet from Nalu Vida, music was audible and the acoustician was able to determine with certainty that it was the music from Nalu Vida. Music was audible at 29th and Speedway and at Catamaran and Speedway.

Wilson Ihrig was also able to obtain measurements on a rooftop terrace of a residence located approximately 75 feet from Nalu Vida. In addition, measurements were taken inside the residence with windows closed. On the rooftop terrace, the band increased noise level over the baseline noise just prior to the band starting by 10 to 13 dBA. Inside the house, a 12 dBA increase was observed when the band was playing. Noise levels on the rooftop terrace reached 86 dBA, with a 74-75 dBA five minute average. Inside the house the five minute average was 49 dBA, compared to 37 dBA when the band was not playing – and this is with the windows closed.

As Wilson Ihrig concludes, the noise levels from outdoor live music at Nalu Vida violated City of Los Angeles standards for “special noise sources.” Under Los Angeles Municipal Code section 112.01(b), applicable to “radios, television sets, and similar devices,” any noise level “audible to the human ear” greater than 150 feet from the property line of the noise source, in a residential zone, is a violation. This standard was clearly violated by Nalu Vida where noise was audible to the human ear at over 700 feet from the noise source.

And Los Angeles Municipal Code section 112.01(c) makes it a violation if the noise level from the use of special noise sources raises the ambient noise on any occupied property by more than 5 decibels. Wilson Ihrig’s noise sampling also clearly demonstrates that Nalu Vida’s operations violate this standard.

Similarly, Los Angeles Municipal Code chapter XI, article 5, governing the use of amplified sound, makes it unlawful for any person to utilize sound amplifying equipment without a permit for commercial purposes within 500 feet of any residential zone. Nalu Vida is located well within 500 feet of residentially zoned properties. Moreover, any sound from amplifying equipment may not be audible in excess of 200 feet from the equipment. As Wilson Ihrig’s sampling on August 8 established, the noise from live music at Nalu Vida is audible at well over 200 feet from the noise source.

Nalu Vida’s repeated violations of the terms of its ABC license and the Al Fresco Ordinance by hosting live music and DJ events outdoors, along with the demonstrated violation of objective City noise standards in Wilson Ihrig’s August 8 sampling is clear evidence that the business, when afforded the opportunity to provide dining outdoors, abused that opportunity by hosting unpermitted music events that create sound in excess of permitted levels.



Before any additional entitlement is granted to Nalu Vida, it should be required to demonstrate over an extended period that its operations in violation of the Al Fresco Ordinance, ABC license, and City noise ordinances cease and will not re-occur.

(3) Proposed Expanded Al Fresco Dining Area Will Impede Coastal Access and Create Negative Impact on Coastal Environment

The 1992/1995 Coastal Development Permit that allowed Nalu Vida's predecessor to intensify its operations and utilize the portion of the public right of way for outdoor dining was carefully conditioned to limit the impact of the intensification on coastal access and the coastal environment. The intensive use that Nalu Vida has made of its expanded (and not-yet-permitted) outdoor operations makes clear that granting Nalu Vida a Coastal Development Permit that makes permanent the operations begun under the temporary Al Fresco program would have a significant impact on coastal access and the coastal environment.

When the Coastal Commission considered the requested small outdoor dining patio that was located directly against the building in 1992, it explained that in exchange for remove this portion of the right-of-way from public use, the applicants "are improving part of the right-of-way for public. The mitigation improvements include construction of a new sidewalk, a bike lane extension, a bike rack, replacement of two public metered parking spaces, and three new palm trees. The approval of the proposed project is conditioned to require that the applicants also supply two park benches for the public to sit at in the newly improved right-of-way. The park benches will enable the non-paying public to sit and enjoy the public area just as the paying customers have an opportunity to do in the restaurant." The Commission found that **only** as conditioned would the project not have a negative impact on coastal access.

The proposed layout of the al fresco dining additions to the establishment interferes with coastal access. First, the required two parking spaces have been replaced with a portion of the current al fresco area, reducing available coastal parking. Second, the construction of a pergola over the entire sidewalk area creates the impression that the entire sidewalk is part of the restaurant. The layout also leads to patrons blocking the sidewalk without anywhere else to wait. See photo taken on October 24 in the afternoon.



Without the public benches or the street parking, and with the expanded seating capacity, the prior finding of no impact on coastal access cannot be maintained and merely transferred to this new CDP request.

Moreover, the request necessarily requires amendment to the existing CDP, because the applicant cannot be in compliance with the restriction on seating capacity and the other terms of that CDP, while simultaneously seeking this new CDP for al fresco dining, even if located in a different portion of the same premises. The 1992/1995 permit makes clear that it applies to all future owners and any future improvements require new a CDP. The City cannot now issue a CDP that conflicts with the binding terms of the prior Commission CDP.

In addition, the noise impacts of Nalu Vida's full operations must be considered in full, without omitting consideration whatever Nalu may undertake in its previously permitted 25-seat outdoor dining area. Nothing in Nalu Vida's prior permit indicates that speakers or live music is permitted in the previously permitted area. The fact that the ABC license for this premises specifically requires that music not be audible outside the premises indicates that the premises does not have a history of legally offering live music or DJ set outdoors, and it is these activities that create significant impacts to residential neighbors.



The way that al fresco dining has been conducted at Nalu Vida has significantly impacted the adjacent residential neighborhood. Los Angeles laws do not permit this kind of consistent, outdoor, commercial amplified musical activity. Extending approvals to an operator who has demonstrated such consistent disregard for these restrictions will reward this kind of behavior and send the message to all other operators that legal restrictions do not matter.

Please recommend denial of the Coastal Development Permit until such time as the applicant demonstrates compliance with applicable laws on use of amplified music.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett J. Al'.

STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER LLP

Exhibit 1

Nalu Vida Venice, 1 Washington Blvd., Venice, CA
Instagram posts advertising live music and DJ events, July–October 2026



1. Posted July 10 by @naluvidavenice and @mister_ronan.
DJ: "Sunset Sessions" featuring DJ Yoga Matt, Sat. 7/11, "9 PMish."



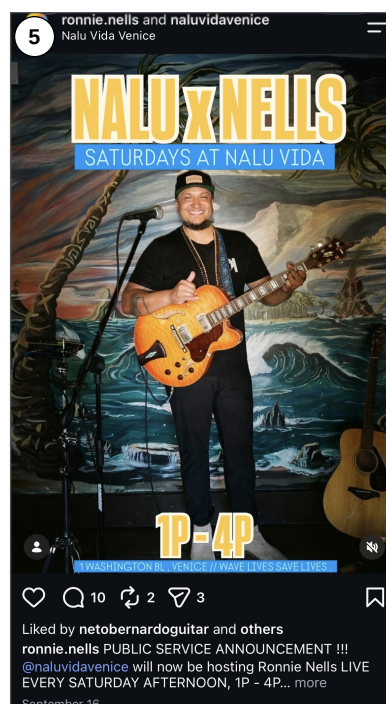
2. Posted July 31 by @naluvidavenice.
DJ: DJ Hyphy Mitch, Sat. 8/1, 10–11 PM. Flyer photo shows the premises' outdoor patio.



3. Posted August 20 by @naluvidavenice.
Live music: Rusty de la Croix (blues), Sat. 8/22, 3–6 PM.



4. Posted by @naluvidavenice and @ronnie.nells
Live music: Ronnie Nells, Sun. 8/30 and Sun. 9/13, 1–4 PM.



5. Posted September 16 by @ronnie.nells and @naluvidavenice.
Live music: announces Ronnie Nells "every Saturday afternoon," 1–4 PM (recurring).

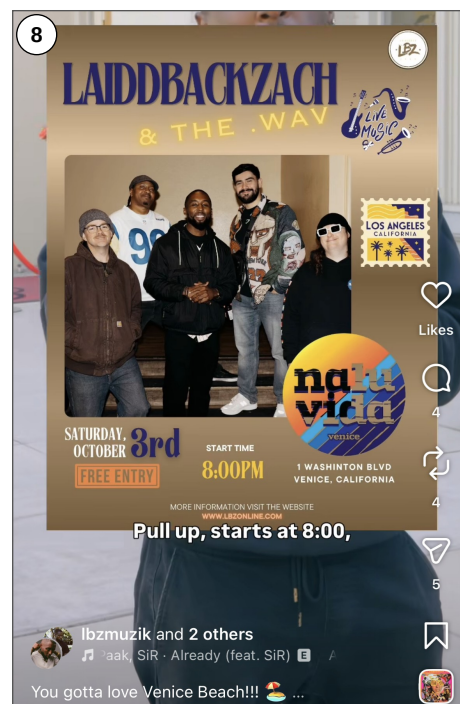
Nalu Vida Venice, 1 Washington Blvd., Venice, CA
Instagram posts advertising live music and DJ events, July–October 2026



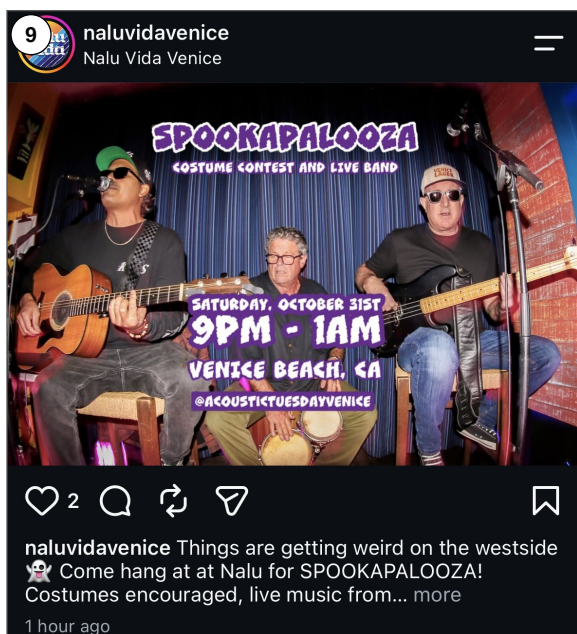
6. Posted September 28 by @naluvidavenice. Live music: Dakota Caden, Wed. 9/30, 7 PM.



7. Posted September 29 by @naluvidavenice and @lbzmuzik. Live music: LaiddBackZach, full band, Sat. 10/3, 8 PM.



8. Reel by @lbzmuzik "and 2 others" (post date not shown). Live music: LaiddBackZach & The .WAV, Sat. 10/3, 8 PM, "Free Entry," 1 Washington Blvd. (same event as No. 7).



9. Posted "1 hour ago" by @naluvidavenice (screenshot captured Oct. 22, 2026, 4:14 PM). Live band: "Spookapalooza" costume contest, Sat. 10/31, 9 PM–1 AM.

Summary of advertised events

No.	Date	Time	Performer / event	Type
1	Sat. 7/11	~9 PM	DJ Yoga Matt (Sunset Sessions)	DJ
2	Sat. 8/1	10–11 PM	DJ Hyphy Mitch	DJ
3	Sat. 8/22	3–6 PM	Rusty de la Croix	Live
4	Sun. 8/30	1–4 PM	Ronnie Nells	Live
4	Sun. 9/13	1–4 PM	Ronnie Nells	Live
5	Saturdays	1–4 PM	Ronnie Nells (weekly)	Live
6	Wed. 9/30	7 PM	Dakota Caden	Live
7, 8	Sat. 10/3	8 PM	LaiddBackZach & The .WAV	Live band
9	Sat. 10/31	9 PM–1 AM	Spookapalooza	Live band

Exhibit 2



NALU VIDA OUTDOOR BAND NOISE ASSESSMENT

VENICE, CALIFORNIA

ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE

RWDI # 2604953

October 4, 2026

SUBMITTED TO

Beverly Grossman Palmer
Attorney
bpalmer@strumwooch.com

Strumwasser & Woocher LLP

1250 6th Street, Suite 205
Santa Monica, CA 90401
T: 310.576.1233

SUBMITTED BY

Derek L. Watry
Technical Director
Derek.Watry@rwdi.com

Wilson Ihrig / RWDI

5900 Hollis Street, Suite T1
Emeryville, CA 94608
T: 510.658.6719



INTRODUCTION

This report provides a noise assessment we have made regarding music from an outdoor band hosted by the restaurant operated by Nalu Vida LLC at 1 Washington Blvd in Venice, a neighborhood and beachfront district of Los Angeles, California.

Wilson Ihrig is a department within RWDI that has practiced exclusively in the field of acoustics since 1966. During our 59 years of operation, we have prepared hundreds of noise studies for Environmental Impact Reports and Statements, we have one of the largest technical laboratories in the acoustical consulting industry, and we utilize industry-standard acoustical programs such as Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), SoundPLAN, and CadnaA. In short, we are well qualified to execute noise studies.

1.1 Project Description

We were asked by Strumwasser & Woocher to address the requirements of both the “Al Fresco Program” and Noise Ordinance of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) and the operating restrictions imposed by the license issued to Nalu Vida by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). The pertinent requirements of each of these are:

LAMC Chapter I, Article 2, Section 12.21, Subsection A, Subdivision 24 *Outdoor Dining Area Regulations for Restaurants (Al Fresco Ordinance)*

- (d)(1)(ii) Background music and speakers are prohibited in Outdoor Dining Areas.
- (d)(1)(iv) Live music, live entertainment including but not limited to disc jockeys, karaoke, dancing, pool tables, billiard tables, and adult entertainment uses are prohibited in Outdoor Dining Areas.

LAMC Chapter XI, Article 2, *Special Noise Sources*, Section 112.01, *Radios, Television Sets, and Similar Devices*

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person within any zone of the City to use or operate any radio, musical instrument, phonograph, television receiver, or other machine or device for the producing, reproducing or amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound, in such a manner, as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of neighbor occupants or any reasonable person residing or working in the area.
- (b) Any noise level caused by such use or operation which is audible to the human ear at a distance in excess of 150 feet from the property line of the noise source, within any residential zone of the City or within 500 feet thereof, shall be a violation of the provisions of this section.
- (c) Any noise level caused by such use or operation which exceeds the ambient noise level on the premises of any other occupied property, or if a condominium, apartment house, duplex, or attached business, within any adjoining unit, by more than five (5) decibels shall be a violation of the provisions of this section.

LAMC Chapter XI, Article 5, *Amplified Sound*, Section 115.02, *Prohibition and Regulations*

It shall be unlawful for any person, other than personnel of law enforcement or governmental agencies, or permittees duly authorized to use the same pursuant to Sec. 103.111 of this Code, to install, use, or operate within the City a loudspeaker or sound amplifying equipment in a fixed or



movable position or mounted upon any sound truck for the purposes of giving instructions, directions, talks, addresses, lectures, or transmitting music to any persons or assemblages of persons in or upon any public street, alley, sidewalk, park or place, or other public property except when installed, used or operated in compliance with the following provisions:

- (a) In all residential zones and within 500 feet thereof, no sound amplifying equipment shall be installed, operated or used for commercial purposes at any time.
- (f) Sound emanating from sound amplifying equipment shall be limited in volume, tone and intensity as follows:
 - 1. The sound shall not be audible at a distance in excess of 200 feet from the sound equipment.

Nalu Vida's Calif Dept of Alcoholic Beverage Control License Number 657878

- No noise shall be heard from the exterior of the premises.
- A single jukebox or stereo may be maintained upon the premises; however, the music shall not be audible outside the premises.

1.2 Site Visit: August 8, 2026

On Saturday, August 8, 2026, one of our acousticians spent time on Washington Blvd to both observe and make calibrated noise measurements of a band playing at Nalu Vida. Our acoustician can attest that no other live bands were playing outdoors at the time, and that the band at Nalu Vida was the predominant noise source in the area during his attended measurements.

Photographs 1 and 2 show the band playing in the outdoor dining ("*al fresco*") area of Nalu Vida. The music was audible "from the exterior of the premises" and "outside the premises".

Noise measurements were made using two Brüel & Kjær Type 2270 Sound Level Meters that were calibrated immediately prior to deployment with a Brüel & Kjær Type 4231 calibrator. One meter was deployed at a fixed location on the rooftop terrace of a nearby residence and the other was operated by the acoustician at various locations throughout the neighborhood. The microphone on the rooftop terrace was approximately 75 feet from where the band at Nalu Vida was playing.

The band began playing at approximately 4:50 p.m. At a distance of approximately 25 feet, the maximum sound level of the band was 109 dBA and the average over 5 minutes was 92 dBA.^{1,2} As seen in the "dBA scale" presented in Figure 1, levels over 100 dBA are comparable to a loud car horn at 10 feet and are characterized as "very noisy", whereas levels over 90 dBA are comparable to pneumatic jackhammering and are characterized as "loud". The band did turn the volume down somewhat once they got into their set. The measured maximum level between

¹ **A-Weighted Sound Level (dBA):** The sound pressure level in decibels using the internationally standardized A-weighting filter. A-weighting de-emphasizes the low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the response of the average human ear. A-weighted sound levels correlate well with subjective reactions of people to noise and are universally used for community noise evaluations.

² **Average Sound Level:** Every "average sound level" reported in this letter is technically the energy average level, the level of a steady noise which would have the same energy as the fluctuating noise level integrated over the given time period. This is also referred to as the *equivalent level*.



5:05 and 5:10 p.m. was 92 dBA and the average over that time was 87 dBA which is still considered “loud”. Later in the day, between 6:50 and 6:55 p.m., the maximum level was 93 dBA and the average was 89 dBA.

When the band took breaks, they played music through their sound system (stand mounted loudspeakers). The decibel levels of this music were not captured cleanly because of other interfering noise sources. However, our acoustician on site can attest that it was on the order of 79 dBA and clearly audible outside the premises.

Further on the matter of audibility beyond the premises, Figure 2 shows a map of the neighborhood with markers that indicate where our acoustician could affirmatively hear music from the band at Nalu Vida. The music was audible at all four locations indicated which were 330 to 750 feet from the band. Audibility at these great distances gives a graphical sense of how loud the music is.



Photograph 1 Drummer of band playing outside Nalu Vida



Photograph 2 Drummer, guitar player, and loudspeaker outside Nalu Vida

dBA	Example	
130	Threshold of pain	Intolerable Extremely Noisy
120	Heavy rock concert	
110	Grinding on steel	Very noisy
100	Loud car horn at 3m	
90	Construction pneumatic hammering	Loud
80	Curbside of busy street	
70	Loud radio or television	Moderate to quiet
60	Department store	
50	General Office	Quiet to very quiet
40	Inside private office	
30	Inside bedroom	Almost silent
20	Recording studio	

Figure 1 Examples and Characterization of dBA Levels

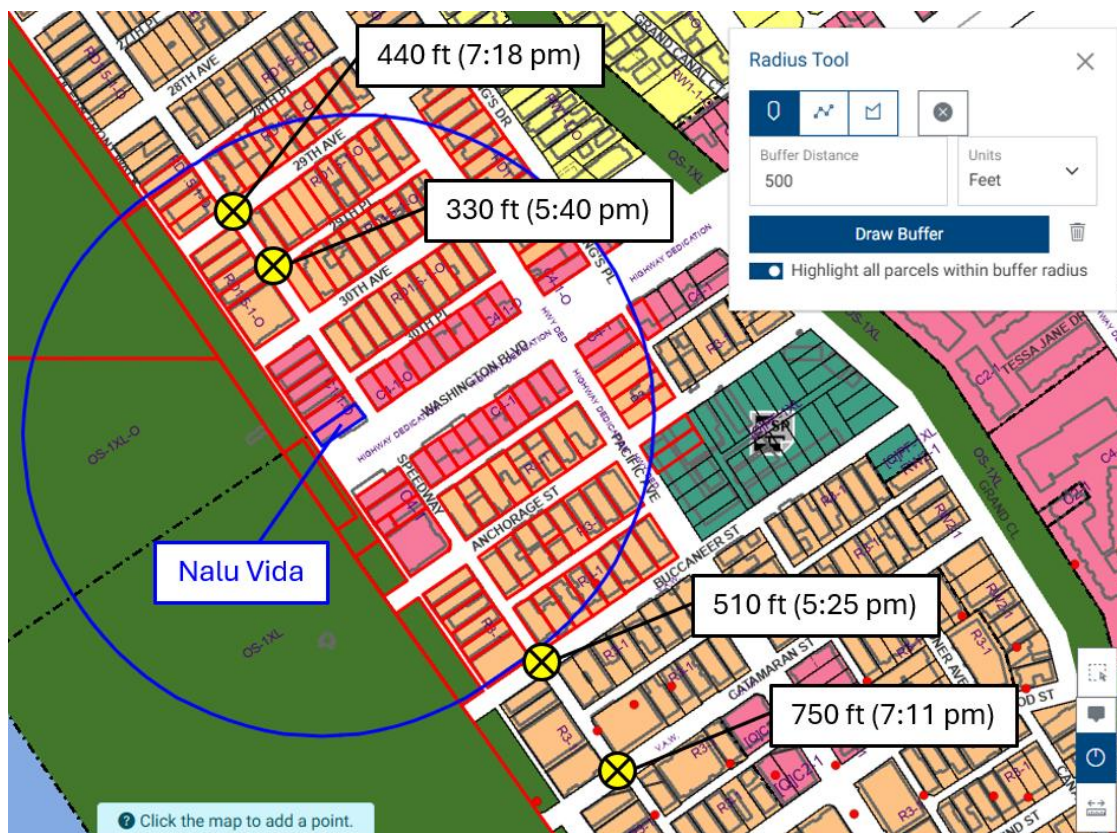


Figure 2 Locations at which the band at Nalu Vida was audible

(Source of base map: <https://zimas.lacity.org/>)

Measurements made at the residence are summarized in Table I. For each of the two measurement locations – one on the terrace and one inside with the windows closed – the table shows the maximum and average sound levels both with and without the band playing. Focusing on the average, on the terrace the band’s music increased the noise level by 10 to 13 dBA, clearly indicating that it was the dominant noise source at the time.³ Inside the residence, the average level of band music was 12 dBA higher than the measurement when no music was playing. Again, this is a clear indication that the music was the dominant noise source inside the residence when it was being played.

Table I Noise Measurements at Nearby Residence

Location	Condition	Date and Time	Maximum	Average
Rooftop Terrace	No band	8/8/26 4:40pm	66 dBA	62 dBA
	Band playing	8/8/26 5:05pm	86 dBA	74 dBA
	Band playing	8/8/26 6:50pm	80 dBA	75 dBA
	No band	8/8/26 8:30pm	69 dBA	64 dBA
	Increase due to music		11 to 20 dBA	10 to 13 dBA
Inside Residence	Band playing	8/8/26 7:34pm	52 dBA	49 dBA
	No band	8/10/26 1:03pm	46 dBA	37 dBA
	Increase due to music		6 dBA	12 dBA

2 ASSESSMENT

In this section, we assess compliance with each of the four applicable regulations/restrictions cited in Section 1.1 of this report in light of the information and data collected on August 8, 2026. For the reader’s convenience, each of the pertinent regulations/restrictions are repeated, followed by the compliance assessment.

2.1 Al Fresco Ordinance

- LAMC Chapter I, Article 2, Section 12.21, Subsection A, Subdivision 24 *Outdoor Dining Area Regulations for Restaurants (Al Fresco Ordinance)*
- (d)(1)(ii)

Background music and speakers are prohibited in Outdoor Dining Areas.
- (d)(1)(iv)

Live music, live entertainment including but not limited to disc jockeys, karaoke, dancing, pool tables, billiard tables, and adult entertainment uses are prohibited in Outdoor Dining Areas.

³ Because the decibel scale is logarithmic, decibel levels do not sum algebraically as most values in life do. If two levels are more than 10 dB apart, then the sum of the two is simply the larger number, i.e., 64 dBA + 74 dBA = 74 dBA. Therefore, any time a new noise source is 10 dB or more above the existing noise source, one may be certain that the new noise source is the dominant one.



As evidenced by Photographs 1 and 2, the second of these two restrictions is obviously being violated. As noted above, when the live band was not playing, music was played through the band's sound system, thereby also violating the first restriction.

2.2 LAMC Chapter XI – Special Noise Sources

LAMC Chapter XI, Article 2, *Special Noise Sources*, Section 112.01, *Radios, Television Sets, and Similar Devices*

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person within any zone of the City to use or operate any radio, musical instrument, phonograph, television receiver, or other machine or device for the producing, reproducing or amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound, in such a manner, as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of neighbor occupants or any reasonable person residing or working in the area.
- (b) Any noise level caused by such use or operation which is audible to the human ear at a distance in excess of 150 feet from the property line of the noise source, within any residential zone of the City or within 500 feet thereof, shall be a violation of the provisions of this section.
- (c) Any noise level caused by such use or operation which exceeds the ambient noise level on the premises of any other occupied property, or if a condominium, apartment house, duplex, or attached business, within any adjoining unit, by more than five (5) decibels shall be a violation of the provisions of this section.

Assessing the whether “the peace, quiet, and comfort of neighbor occupants” is being reasonably or unreasonably disturbed is really a matter for the City of Los Angeles to determine. However, given the neighborhood discontent that has led a coalition of neighbors to commission this report give some indication of the degree to which they are disturbed.

The underlying base map is from the City of Los Angeles’ ZIMAS site which indicates zoning. In Figure 2, all orange parcels are zoned residential, and the blue oval is a 500-foot buffer zone drawn around Nalu Vida. The locations shown in Figure 2 where live music from Nalu Vida was audible on August 8, 2026 are all well beyond 150 feet and all are within residentially zoned areas. Therefore, the second regulation above (“b”) was violated at that time.

As documented in Table I, the noise level from the music at Nalu Vida exceeded the average ambient level in a nearby condominium by 12 dBA and the maximum ambient level by 6 dBA. As such, the music violated the third regulation above (“c”) was violated at the time of the measurement.

2.3 LAMC Chapter XI – Amplified Sound

LAMC Chapter XI, Article 5, *Amplified Sound*, Section 115.02, *Prohibition and Regulations*

It shall be unlawful for any person, other than personnel of law enforcement or governmental agencies, or permittees duly authorized to use the same pursuant to Sec. 103.111 of this Code, to install, use, or operate within the City a loudspeaker or sound amplifying equipment in a fixed or movable position or mounted upon any sound truck for the purposes of giving instructions, directions, talks, addresses, lectures, or transmitting music to any persons or assemblages of persons in or upon any public street, alley, sidewalk, park or place, or other public property except when installed, used or operated in compliance with the following provisions:



- (a) In all residential zones and within 500 feet thereof, no sound amplifying equipment shall be installed, operated or used for commercial purposes at any time.
- (f) Sound emanating from sound amplifying equipment shall be limited in volume, tone and intensity as follows:
 - 1. The sound shall not be audible at a distance in excess of 200 feet from the sound equipment.

As noted above, the blue oval around Nalu Vida in Figure 2 is a 500-foot buffer zone which clearly establishes that Nalu Vida is within 500 feet of a residential zone. As such, per provision 115.02(a) above, no sound amplifying equipment should be used for commercial purposes. The sound system of the band playing at Nalu Vida on August 8, 2026 violated that provision.

The former conclusion notwithstanding, the amplified music from the band at Nalu Vida also violated provision 115.02(f) by being audible at distances greater than 200 feet, once again as evidenced by the locations where the live music was audible indicated in Figure 2.

2.4 Calif Dept of Alcoholic Beverage Control License

Nalu Vida's Calif Dept of Alcoholic Beverage Control License Number 657878

- No noise shall be heard from the exterior of the premises.
- A single jukebox or stereo may be maintained upon the premises; however, the music shall not be audible outside the premises.

As has been established by the information and data in this report, music from both the live band and "background" music played through the band's sound system when the band took breaks was 87 to 93 dBA – levels which are fairly deemed "loud" – outside Nalu Vida's *al fresco* dining area and were, in fact, audible at distances up to 750 feet away. As such, the restrictions imposed by the ABC license were clearly being violated on August 8, 2026.

3 CONCLUSIONS

We were asked to make a technical assessment of whether a band playing at Nalu Vida in their *al fresco* space complied with the L. A. Municipal Code Al Fresco Ordinance, Noise Ordinance, and/or the conditions of Nalu Vida's California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control license. We conclude that the band's music complied with none of these on Saturday, August 8, 2026.

- The Al Fresco Ordinance of the L. A. Municipal Code establishes that "music and speakers are prohibited in Outdoor Dining Areas". Photographs taken by our field personnel substantiate violation of this provision.
- The Special Noise Sources section of the L. A. Municipal Code establishes that amplifying equipment may not produce sound audible in excess of 150 feet from the property line of the source; this was found to be violated by direct observation. It also establishes that amplified sound may not exceed the ambient level in any occupied property by more than 5 dB; this was found to be violated by calibrated sound level measurements.



- The Amplified Sound section of the L. A. Municipal Code establishes that no sound amplifying equipment may be operated for commercial purposes within 500 feet of a residential zone; this was violated *prima facie*. That notwithstanding, it also establishes that sound from amplifying equipment shall not be audible at distances greater than 200 feet from the source; this was found to be violated by direct observation.
- The ABC license requires that “No noise shall be heard from the exterior of the premises”. The band playing outside Nalu Vida was “loud” just outside the premises and audible at distance up to 750 feet.