

# SOUND WALL // Frequently Asked Questions



15

91

## FAST FORWARD

RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



### 1. Will sound walls be built as part of the 91 Project?

Yes. As part of the environmental review process associated with all projects, RCTC and Caltrans evaluated traffic noise impacts. Please refer to the project website for a map of proposed sound walls for the 91 Project.

### 2. Will a sound wall be built next to my property?

RCTC and Caltrans follow state and federal policies and criteria to determine where sound walls are built. The primary technical criteria initially used to determine sound wall eligibility include:

- The noise must meet a minimum level, and the proposed sound wall must be effective in reducing freeway noise.
- Sound walls for each residence must not exceed state and federal mandated cost effectiveness criteria.
- Impacted property owners must support construction of the wall

Other factors considered include engineering challenges, such as driveway access, underground utilities and safety elements and input from the public and public agencies, as well as other social, economic and environmental factors.

### 3. Will sound walls be built along Interstate 15?

One sound wall is proposed to be built on I-15 as part of the 91 Project. Please refer to the project website for a map of proposed sound walls for the 91 Project.

### 4. Will I be able to vote on whether I want a sound wall next to my property?

As part of the environmental review process, RCTC sent surveys in 2011 to the owners of properties who meet noise abatement criteria for the 91 Project or would be impacted directly by a sound wall (such as blocked access, interruption of scenic views, loss of visibility, etc).

State and federal guidelines require that 50 percent of affected property owners must indicate a preference for a sound wall that is proposed to be built on Caltrans right-of-way. For sound walls proposed to be built on private property, 100 percent of the affected property owners must support the sound wall.



**5. How will I be affected during construction of the sound wall?**

In order to build a sound wall, RCTC may need to obtain a Temporary Construction Easement from affected property owners. If needed, this easement allows the construction contractor the access and room required to safely construct the wall.

During the construction process, RCTC will compensate the property owner for the temporary use of the land and restore or provide compensation for any disrupted areas. Any existing side-yard fencing will be reconnected when the sound wall is finished.

**6. What will the sound wall look like?**

Sound walls are expected to range in height from approximately 8 to 14 feet and will likely be built using tan concrete split-face block. Landscaping and any aesthetic treatments will be based upon the Caltrans-approved Freeway Aesthetic Master Plan and finalized during the project design.

**7. Why are sound walls built to protect commercial property in some locations?**

Commercial property in itself is not eligible for sound wall protection. However, when designing a wall in a particular location, safety, aesthetics or continuity will sometimes dictate gap closures, which can result in protecting non-eligible property.