

TOWN of PORTOLA VALLEY

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POLICY GUIDELINES FOR GENERATORS

Generators have become more prevalent in the Town over the past few years and due to their popularity a need for a policy on the location and use of generators has been established to assist the property owners and their contractors.

- You are required to apply for a building permit for the generator.
- If your property is located within a Home Owner's Association, you are required to obtain their approval prior to issuance of building permit.
- Generators are for Emergency Use Only
- Generators shall be located outside of the required front, rear and side yard setback areas.
 - 15M/20M required yard: 20' front; 20' rear; 10' side
 - 1 – 2.5 acre required yard: 50' front; 20' rear and side
 - 3.5 – 7.5 acre required yard: 50' front; 25' rear and side
- The noise spillage off site should be considered when locating the generator pursuant to the Town's General Plan and Noise Ordinance.
- The generator should be located in close proximity to the subject residence and not impact the neighbors.
- Generators shall have mufflers and enclosures in good condition and be appropriate for the generator. Shrubs and trees help to not only screen the generator, but also help soften noise associated with the generator. Generators shall not produce a sound exceeding 65 dBA when measured 22 feet from the generator.
- Testing of the generator may only occur between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, for a duration not exceeding 20 minutes. Generators shall not be tested on holidays or weekends.
- A permanent placard shall be placed on the main electrical panel disconnect stating "CAUTION MAIN ELECTRICAL SERVICE HAS BACKUP GENERATOR POWER SOURCE."

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