

# CHP to Begin Enforcing State's Anti-Noise Law

By EDWIN S. CAPPS  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — The California Highway Patrol is about to start measuring how noisy vehicles are on the highway.

The CHP will be operating under an anti-noise law which took effect Jan. 1. There has been no enforcement up until now because the patrol is trying to work out the bugs in the measuring devices.

The bugs still aren't worked out and this is why the CHP is setting up a pilot study program in Stockton. The patrol now has three of the noise measuring devices and, by the end of the year, will have six more.

Generally, the noise measuring devices would be used in places where there have been reported noise problems.

teachometer, which will register noise in decibels.

The volume of noise prohibited by the state law sets one level at speeds of under 35 miles an hour—this would be tested in zones posted for 35 mph — and another limit for speeds of more than 35 mph.

"This is not going to be the easiest thing to operate," a spokesman for the patrol said. "If the vehicles are too close together, they can't be separated, as far as noise is concerned."

WHEN QUESTIONED, the spokesman said there also would be a problem for a vehicle proceeding in one lane of traffic if a noisy vehicle was abreast of it in the next lane.

There will be different levels of allowable noise for cars, trucks and motorcycles. In addition, there will be levels permitted at certain rates of speed, with the permitted volume higher as the speed is increased.

The CHP said there would not be a great deal of tolerance permitted in the noise from vehicles. The law is

quite exact in stating just how many decibels will be permitted. The allowable noise would include noise in the aggregate — from the motor, body, and tires. Perhaps even a loud radio would make a difference.

"Very often there is something wrong with the car," the CHP spokesman said. "In this case, the driver will be advised either to have this repaired or to stop driving."

"IN SOME cases, the excessive noise may result only when the vehicle is driven at high speeds," he said. "In

such cases, the driver will be warned not to exceed certain speeds."

The CHP test study could be an interesting one. There already has been considerable opposition from the trucking industry, even though trucks are permitted a higher volume of sound.

But the industry people believe it will be impractical to try to measure the speed of one vehicle.

The pilot study in Stockton will involve three officers and is scheduled to last for a six-week period. It could be shortened if the patrol gets the answers sooner than that.

The patrol is hoping that motorists will use a common sense approach to the problem and, if they have an idea their vehicles are too noisy, will take corrective action before they are stopped by the noise measuring devices.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A large part of Heart Association funds comes from memorial gift donations. More than \$130,000 has been donated already this year by county residents.

## County to Continue Road Improvements in Carson

The county will continue its program for the construction and maintenance of streets through 1968 in the new city of Carson, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said today.

A resolution to that effect was adopted Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors.

Hahn noted the resolution provided for a county allocation of \$1,571,460 for this program.

"This is in accordance with a policy adopted by the Board in 1957 to provide financial assistance for road services to newly-incorporated cities," Hahn noted.

"This means," he explained, "the county will continue with its roadway maintenance program, complete budgeted capital expenditures and carry out any current highway commitments for the balance of the calendar year in the same manner as if the area had remained unincorporated."

FOR THE tests, the device must have its microphone placed where it is 50 feet from the lane of traffic and must have a clear area of 100 feet in all directions. If there are buildings, big trees, fences or walls, they might produce echo effects which would distort the noise level.

Presumably, these microphones will be set up along side highways or freeways. The device has a dial like a

## Carson Project Planned

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn reports adoption of a resolution declaring the portion of Carson Street between Main Street and Wilmington Avenue in the city of Carson to be part of the County System of Highways.

Hahn explained jurisdiction is required in order that the county may acquire rights of way and improve this section of highway.

Upon completion of the improvements, jurisdiction will revert to the city.

Improvement of this 2.2-mile section is part of a multi-stage county project for reconstructing a 4-mile stretch of Carson Street between Normandie Avenue and Alameda Street.

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