

12 Noise

Chapter 12 evaluates potential noise impacts from Program implementation on human receptors. Impacts of Program noise on fish and wildlife are addressed in Chapter 4, Biological Resources – Aquatic, and Chapter 5, Biological Resources – Terrestrial. Results of the evaluation are provided at a programmatic level. Section 12.1, Environmental Setting, presents an overview of the physical properties and environmental noise; and contains federal, state, and local ordinances, plans, and regulations that are applicable to the Program. Section 12.2, Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures, presents the following:

- > Environmental concerns and evaluation criteria used to determine whether the Program components would cause significant impacts on noise levels throughout the region
- > Evaluation methods and assumptions
- > Discussion of noise impacts from the existing and future Program activities within the Program components, and recommendations for mitigation, if required, for those impacts
- > A summary of environmental impacts due to noise

Table 2-7 in Section 2.5 presents the District's list of equipment that could generate noise. Handheld equipment is not included in this table. Appendix D, Noise Analysis Technical Report, includes additional detailed information regarding the physical properties of noise; federal, state, and local noise regulations; and equipment use noise generated by each of the Program components. The cumulative impact analysis is contained in Chapter 13, Section 13.10 and focuses on the potential for temporary, sporadic noise impacts from equipment use (existing and proposed).

12.1 Environmental Setting

12.1.1 Overview of Environmental Sound

Noise may be defined as unwanted sound. Noise is usually objectionable because it is disturbing or annoying. Several noise measurement scales are used to describe noise in a particular location. A decibel (dB) is a unit of measurement that indicates the relative amplitude of a sound. The zero on the decibel scale is based on the lowest sound level that the healthy, unimpaired human ear can detect. Sound levels in decibels are calculated on a logarithmic basis. An increase of 10 dB represents a 10-fold increase in acoustic energy, while 20 dB is 100 times more intense, 30 dB is 1,000 times more intense, etc. A relationship exists between the subjective noisiness or loudness of a sound and its intensity. Each 10-dB increase in sound level is perceived as approximately a doubling of loudness over a fairly wide range of intensities.

Several methods are used to characterize sound. The most common is the A-weighted sound level, or dBA. This scale gives greater weight to the frequencies of sound to which the human ear is most sensitive. Because sound levels can vary markedly over a short period of time, a method for describing either the average character of the sound or the statistical behavior of the variations must be utilized. Most commonly, sounds are described in terms of an average level that has the same acoustical energy as the summation of all the time-varying events. This energy-equivalent sound/noise descriptor is called L_{eq} . The most common averaging period is hourly, but L_{eq} can describe any series of noise events of arbitrary duration.

Because the sensitivity to noise increases during the evening and at night—excessive noise interferes with the ability to sleep—24-hour descriptors have been developed that incorporate artificial noise penalties added to quiet-time noise events. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is a measure of the cumulative noise exposure in a community, with a 5-dB penalty added to evening (7:00 pm to 10:00 pm) and a 10-dB addition to nocturnal (10:00 pm to 7:00 am) noise levels. The day/night average

sound level (L_{dn}) is essentially the same as CNEL, with the exception that the evening time period is dropped and all occurrences during this 3-hour period are grouped into the daytime period.

Noise changes both in level and frequency spectrums as it travels from the source to the receiver. The most obvious is the decrease in noise as the distance from the source increases. The manner in which noise is reduced depends on a variety of factors, including the noise source type as well as the region over which the noise source propagates. Noise generated by a point source, such as equipment at a construction site, drops off at a rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance. Traffic noise attenuates, or is reduced, at a different rate. The movement of vehicles makes the noise source appear to emanate from a line as opposed to a single point when viewed over a period of time. Noise levels drop-off at a rate of about 3 dBA per doubling of distance for this type of source near hard surfaces, such as paved areas or waterbodies. However, ground type also plays into how much of a drop off over distance will occur. Surfaces, such as plowed fields, crops, or grass, absorb some of the sound energy as the sound passes over; therefore, noise is reduced by 4.5 dBA for every doubling of the distance in such areas.

12.1.2 Community Noise Levels

Community noise levels depend on the intensity of nearby human activity. Noise levels are generally considered low when ambient levels are below 45 dBA, moderate in the 45- to 60-dBA range, and high above 60 dBA. In rural and undeveloped areas, L_{dn} can fall below 35 dBA. Levels above 75 to 80 dBA are more common near major freeways and airports. Although people often accept the higher levels associated with very noisy urban areas, they nevertheless are considered to be adverse to public health.

Typical noise levels from both mobile and stationary sources are included in Table 12-1.

Table 12-1 Typical Stationary and Mobile Noise Source Sound Levels in dBA

Noise Source	Sound Level in dBA
Sprayer, handheld	10-20
Noise at ear level from rustling leaves	20
Room in a quiet dwelling at midnight	32
Soft whisper at 5 feet	34
Large department store	50 to 65
Room with window air conditioner	55
Leaf blower/vac	55-105
Conversational speech	60 to 75
Pump station equipment with noise abatement	62
Sprayer, powered, truck- or trailer-mounted	65-105
Passenger car at 50 feet	69
Vacuum cleaner in private home at 10 feet	69
Tractor, agricultural	76-110
Ringling alarm at 2 feet	80
Brush/weed cutter	90-97
Roof-top air conditioner	85
Small bulldozer (Cat D3) or excavator (Cat 320)	74-80
Heavy bulldozer at 50 feet	87
All-terrain vehicle (ATV)	87-109

Noise Source	Sound Level in dBA
Heavy city traffic	90
Lawn mower	91-98
Chainsaw	100-120
Jet aircraft at 500 feet overhead	115
Human pain threshold	120
Construction blast	120 to 145 at 50 feet

Sources: Equipment manufacturer specification sheets, Noise Control Reference Handbook, Industrial Acoustics Company

Note:

Bold indicates equipment used in the Program.

12.1.3 Noise Level Acceptance Criteria

The surrounding land uses dictate what noise levels would be considered acceptable or unacceptable. In rural and undeveloped areas away from roads and other human activity, the day-to-night difference is normally small. Because of diurnal activity, nighttime ambient levels in urban environments are about 7 dB lower than the corresponding daytime levels. Nighttime noise is a concern because of the likelihood of disrupting sleep. Noise levels above 45 dBA at night can result in the onset of sleep interference. At 70 dBA, sleep interference effects become considerable (USEPA 1974).

12.1.4 Sensitive Receptors

Some land uses are generally regarded as being more sensitive to noise than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved. The definition of sensitive receptors varies by jurisdiction, but in general sensitive population groups include children and the elderly and sensitive land uses include residential (single- and multifamily, mobile homes, dormitories, and similar uses), guest lodging, parks and outdoor recreation areas, hospitals, nursing homes and other long-term medical care facilities, and educational facilities, including schools, libraries, churches, and places of public assembly.

12.1.5 Regulatory Setting

Federal and state guidelines and local ordinances, plans, and regulations pertaining to environmental noise within the District’s Service Area are cited in this section.

12.1.5.1 Federal Regulations

The federal noise standards or guidelines discussed in this section are relevant to the implementation of Program components. Noise regulations and standards are provided for the following agencies:

- > USEPA
- > Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

12.1.5.1.1 US Environmental Protection Agency

The USEPA has developed guidelines on recommended maximum long-term noise levels to protect public health and welfare (USEPA 1974). The USEPA does not enforce these guidelines, but rather offers them as a planning tool for state and local agencies. Table 12-2 provides examples of protective noise levels recommended by the USEPA. They are applicable to noise generated on federal lands, such as national wildlife refuges.

Table 12-2 USEPA-Designated Long-Term Noise Safety Levels

Effects	Noise Level	Area
Hearing Loss	$L_{eq}(24) < 70$ dB	All areas
Outdoor Activity Interference and Annoyance	$L_{dn} < 55$ dB	Outdoors in residential areas and farms and other outdoor areas where people spend widely varying amounts of time and other places in which quiet is a basis for use.
	$L_{eq}(24) < 55$ dB	Outdoor areas where people spend limited amounts of time, such as schoolyards, playgrounds, etc.
Indoor Activity Interference and Annoyance	$L_{dn} < 45$ dB	Indoor residential areas
	$L_{eq}(24) < 45$ dB	Other indoor areas with human activities such as schools, etc.

Source: USEPA 1974

dB = decibel(s)

$L_{eq}(24)$ = sound energy averaged over a 24-hour period

L_{dn} = L_{eq} with a 10-dB nighttime weighting

12.1.5.1.2 Federal Aviation Administration

The major parts of CFR Title 14: Aeronautics and Space, Chapter I: Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, Subchapter C, for fixed-wing aircraft noise and Subchapter H for helicopter noise, were reviewed for applicability to Program flight operations, specifically:

Part 91: Flight Operations

Portions of Part 91 are provided to describe operational restrictions associated with different aircraft types. Altitude limitations governing agricultural operations are given in Part 137, Agricultural Operations. They are included because the FAA considers aerial spraying to be an agricultural use, even if it is not specifically used for agricultural purposes.

Fixed-wing aircraft not operating under Instrument Flight Rules, emergencies, during takeoff or landing, or Part 137 are required to maintain the altitudes listed in Section 91.119 - Minimum Safe Altitudes: General (a)-(d). Section 91.119 (a), (b), and (c) are provided below.

Except when necessary for takeoff or landing, no person may operate an aircraft below the following altitudes:

- (a) *Anywhere*. An altitude allowing, if a power unit fails, an emergency landing without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface.
- (b) *Over congested areas*. Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft.
- (c) *Over other than congested areas*. An altitude of 500 feet above the surface, except over open water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.

Section 137.49 – Operations over other than Congested Areas

Notwithstanding Part 91 of this chapter, during the actual dispensing operation, including approaches, departures, and turnarounds reasonably necessary for the operation, an aircraft may be operated over other than congested areas below 500 feet above the surface and closer than 500 feet to persons, vessels, vehicles, and structures, if the operations are conducted without creating a hazard to persons or property on the surface.

Section 137.51 – Operation over Congested Areas: General

- (a) Notwithstanding Part 91 of this chapter, an aircraft may be operated over a congested area at altitudes required for the proper accomplishment of the agricultural aircraft operation if the operation is conducted:
- (1) With the maximum safety to persons and property on the surface, consistent with the operation, and
 - (2) In accordance with the requirements of paragraph (i) of this section
 - (i) No person may operate an aircraft over a congested area except in accordance with the requirements of this paragraph.
 - (3) Prior written approval must be obtained from the appropriate official or governing body of the political subdivision over which the operations are conducted.
 - (4) Notice of the intended operation must be given to the public by some effective means, such as daily newspapers, radio, television, or door-to-door notice.
 - (5) A plan for each complete operation must be submitted to, and approved by appropriate personnel of the FAA Flight Standards District Office having jurisdiction over the area where the operation is to be conducted. The plan must include consideration of obstructions to flight, the emergency landing capabilities of the aircraft to be used, and any necessary coordination with air traffic control.
 - (6) Single engine aircraft must be operated as follows:
 - (i) Except for helicopters, no person may take off a loaded aircraft, or make a turnaround over a congested area.
 - (ii) No person may operate an aircraft over a congested area below the altitudes prescribed in Part 91 of this chapter except during the actual dispensing operation, including the approaches and departures necessary for that operation.
 - (iii) No person may operate an aircraft over a congested area during the actual dispensing operation, including the approaches and departures for that operation, unless it is operated in a pattern and at such an altitude that the aircraft can land, in an emergency, without endangering persons or property on the surface.
 - (7) Multiengine aircraft must be operated as follows:
 - (i) No person may take off a multiengine airplane over a congested area except under conditions that will allow the airplane to be brought to a safe stop within the effective length of the runway from any point on takeoff up to the time of attaining, with all engines operating at normal takeoff power, 105 percent of the minimum control speed with the critical engine inoperative in the takeoff configuration or 115 percent of the power-off stall speed in the takeoff configuration, whichever is greater, as shown by the accelerate stop distance data. In applying this requirement, takeoff data is based upon still-air conditions, and no correction is made for any uphill gradient of 1 percent or less when the percentage is measured as the difference between elevations at the end points of the runway divided by the total length. For uphill gradients greater than 1 percent, the effective takeoff length of the runway is reduced 20 percent for each 1 percent grade.
 - (ii) No person may operate a multiengine airplane at a weight greater than the weight that, with the critical engine inoperative, would permit a rate of climb of at least 50 feet per minute at an altitude of at least 1,000 feet above the elevation of the highest ground or obstruction within the area to be worked or at an altitude of 5,000 feet, whichever is

higher. For the purposes of this subdivision, it is assumed that the propeller of the inoperative engine is in the minimum drag position, that the wing flaps and landing gear are in the most favorable positions, and that the remaining engine or engines are operating at the maximum continuous power available.

- (iii) No person may operate any multiengine aircraft over a congested area below the altitudes prescribed in Part 91 of this chapter except during the actual dispensing operation, including the approaches, departures, and turnarounds necessary for that operation.

Section 137.53 – Operation over Congested Areas: Pilots and Aircraft

- (a) General. No person may operate an aircraft over a congested area except in accordance with the pilot and aircraft rules of this section.
- (b) Pilots. Each pilot in command must have at least:
 - (1) 25 hours of pilot-in-command flight time in the make and basic model of the aircraft, at least 10 hours of which must have been acquired within the preceding 12 calendar months.
 - (2) 100 hours of flight experience as pilot in command in dispensing agricultural materials or chemicals.
- (c) Aircraft
 - (1) Each aircraft must:
 - (i) If it is an aircraft not specified in paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, have had within the preceding 100 hours of time in service a 100-hour or annual inspection by a person authorized by Part 65 or 145 of this chapter, or have been inspected under a progressive inspection system.
 - (ii) If it is a large or turbine-powered multiengine civil airplane of US registry, have been inspected in accordance with the applicable inspection program requirements of Section 91.409 of this chapter.
 - (2) If other than a helicopter, it must be equipped with a device capable of jettisoning at least one-half of the aircraft's maximum authorized load of agricultural material within 45 seconds. If the aircraft is equipped with a device for releasing the tank or hopper as a unit, there must be a means to prevent inadvertent release by the pilot or other crewmember.

12.1.5.2 State Regulations

California Government Code Section 65302(f) encourages each local government entity to conduct noise studies and implement a noise element as part of its General Plans. In addition, the California Office of Planning and Research published guidelines for evaluating the compatibility of various land uses as a function of community exposure to permanent or long-term noise sources, and they are listed in Table 12-3. In general, noise levels less than 60-dBA L_{dn} are acceptable for all land uses, including residences, schools, and other noise-sensitive receptors.

Table 12-3 Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environment

Land Use Category	Community Noise Exposure – L _{dn} or CNEL in dBA							
	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	
Residential – Low-Density Single Family, Duplex, Mobile Home	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Red
Residential – Multifamily	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Red
Transient Lodging – Motel, Hotel	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Red
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Red
Auditorium, Concert Hall, Amphitheaters	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Red
Sports Arena, Outdoor Spectator Sports	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Red
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Red
Golf Courses, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Red
Office Buildings, Business Commercial and Professional	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Red
Industrial, Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Red

Legend

	Normally Acceptable: Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements.
	Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features are included in the design.
	Normally Unacceptable: New construction or development should be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirement must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.
	Clearly Unacceptable: New construction or development generally should not be undertaken.

Source: State of California 1998

CNEL = Community Noise Equivalent Level

dBA = A-weighted decibel(s)

L_{dn} = Day-Night Noise Level

12.1.5.3 Local Regulations

The relevant provisions of the San Mateo County Code of Ordinances and selected cities/towns (as examples of local ordinances) in the District Service Area are summarized in Table 12-4. Cities and counties in California are required to include a noise element in their general plans, which include policies intended to achieve noise compatibility between land uses. These policies typically establish average noise levels that are acceptable at different land uses and are usually the same as or similar to those recommended by the state. The standards established in the noise elements for the Service Area are intended to establish land-use compatibility for planning purposes and are not intended to address temporary and sporadic sources of noise such as would be generated by the Proposed Program (IMVMP) addressed in this PEIR. Noise elements are, therefore, not discussed further.

Some jurisdictions within the Service Area specify allowable hours for construction and specify allowable noise levels resulting from construction during certain times of day. Although the District's IMVMP does not include construction per se, some components use construction-type equipment, such as trucks and tractors, and like construction, would cause temporary impacts. Therefore, construction noise standards are used as a method to describe allowable temporary noise. Some jurisdictions have exemptions for certain types of emergency work, but the IMVMP generally does not fall under their definitions of emergency work.

12.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The noise impacts evaluation is provided below. The evaluation qualitatively and quantitatively compares probable noise levels against the impact significance criteria presented in Section 12.2.1.

12.2.1 Evaluation Concerns and Criteria

Temporary noise increases within the Program Area would be associated with the use of vehicles, backpack sprayers and ancillary equipment, sprayers, boats, heavy equipment, and aerial applications similar to current use of this equipment.

For this evaluation, impacts from Program noise sources would be considered significant if noise levels would:

- > Expose people to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. Because of the large number of local jurisdictions involved, the state's long-term land use compatibility guidelines, shown in Table 12-3, are used as a surrogate for land use compatibility standards in local general plans.
- > Result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels above levels existing without the Program.

The CEQA Guidelines, and most cities and counties, do not provide a definition of what constitutes a substantial noise increase for the second bullet point above. A common practice has been to assume that minimally perceptible to clearly noticeable increases of 3 to 5 dBA represent a significant increase in ambient noise levels. A sliding scale is commonly used to identify the significance of noise increases, allowing greater increases at lower absolute sound levels than at higher sound levels. This approach is based on research that relates changes in noise to the percentage of individuals that would be highly annoyed by the change (Federal Interagency Committee on Noise 1992). The significance criteria for changes in noise from Program operations would be a 3-dBA CNEL increase in noise levels if the existing noise level already exceeds the acceptable range for the land use, or a 5-dBA CNEL increase in noise if the existing noise level is in the acceptable range and the resulting level remains within the acceptable range for the land use.

Table 12-4 Summary of Local Noise Standards for the SMCMVCD Service Area

Jurisdiction	Source	Standards	Applicability to Project	URL
San Mateo County	Code of Ordinances Chapter 4.88 Noise Control (2015b)	<p>4.88.360 – EXEMPTIONS:</p> <p>The following activities shall be exempted from the provisions of this chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Activities conducted on parks, public playgrounds and school grounds provided such parks, playgrounds and school grounds are owned and operated by a public entity. d) Any mechanical device, apparatus or equipment used, related to or connected with emergency machinery, vehicle or work. e) Noise sources associated with demolition, construction, repair, remodeling, or grading of any real property, provided said activities do not take place between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. weekdays, 5:00 P.M. and 9:00 A.M. on Saturdays or at any time on Sundays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. h) Mobile noise sources associated with agricultural pest control through pesticide application provided that the application is made in accordance with restricted material permits issued by or regulations enforced by the Agricultural Commissioner. j) Any activity to the extent regulation thereof has been preempted by State or Federal law. 	The proposed operations fall under one or more of the exemptions listed under 4.88.360.	https://www.municode.com/library/ca/san_mateo_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT4SAHE_CH4.88NOCO_4.88.330E_XNOST

Jurisdiction	Source	Standards	Applicability to Project	URL
Pacifica	Municipal Code, Title 5, Public Welfare, Morals, and Conduct, Chapter 10, Loud, Disturbing, Unusual, and Unnecessary Noises (2015)	<p>Sec. 5-10.02. – UNLAWFUL:</p> <p>It shall be unlawful for any person to make or continue, or cause to be made or continued, any loud, disturbing, unnecessary, or unusual noise or any noise which annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, health, repose, peace, or safety of other persons within the City.</p> <p>Noise disturbances listed under this regulation include construction or repairing buildings and excavating.</p>	Proposed operations would be similar to construction activities because they would be temporary and use similar equipment.	https://www.municode.com/library/ca/pacifica/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT5PUWEMOCO_CH10LODIUNUNNO
Redwood City	Municipal Code, Chapter 24, Noise Regulation (2015)	<p>Sec. 24.30. - EXCESSIVE AND UNREASONABLE NOISES:</p> <p>The following are deemed to be excessive and unreasonable noises:</p> <p>(A) Noise levels generated by construction activities, including demolition, alteration, repair or remodeling of or to existing structures and construction of new structures on property within the City, at more than 110 dB measured at any point within a residential district of the City and outside of the plane of said property;</p> <p>(B) Noise levels generated by an individual item of machinery, equipment or device used during construction activities, including demolition, alteration, repair or remodeling of or to existing structures and construction of new structures on property within the City, at more than 110 dB measured within a residential district of the City at a distance of twenty-five feet (25') from said machinery, equipment or device. If said machinery, equipment or device is housed within a structure on the property, then the measurement shall be made at a distance as near to twenty-five feet (25') from said machinery, equipment or device as possible.</p>	Provides authorized construction hours and noise-level limits. Emergency construction work is exempt.	https://www.municode.com/library/ca/redwood_city/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH24NORE

		<p>Sec. 24.31. - PROHIBITED NOISE LEVELS:</p> <p>It shall be unlawful for any person to suffer or allow noise levels to be generated by:</p> <p>(A) Construction activities, including demolition, alteration, repair or remodeling of or to existing structures and construction of new structures on property within the City, at more than 110 dB measured at any point within a residential district of the City and outside of the plane of said property; or</p> <p>(B) An individual item of machinery, equipment or device used during construction activities, including demolition, alteration, repair or remodeling of or to existing structures and construction of new structures on property within the City, at more than 110 dB measured within a residential district of the City at a distance of twenty-five feet (25') from said machinery, equipment or device. If said machinery, equipment or device is housed within a structure on the property, then the measurement shall be made at a distance as near to twenty-five feet (25') from said machinery, equipment or device as possible.</p> <p>Sec. 24.32. - TIME LIMITATIONS:</p> <p>Notwithstanding the provisions in this Division to the contrary, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in construction activities, including demolition, alteration, repair or remodeling of or to existing structures and the construction of new structures on property in a residential district or within five hundred feet (500') of a residential district in the City, between the hours of eight o'clock (8:00) P.M. and seven o'clock (7:00) A.M. the following day, Monday through Friday of any week or at any time on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays</p>		
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Jurisdiction	Source	Standards	Applicability to Project	URL
		<p>if the noise level generated by any such activity exceeds the local ambient measured at any point within the residential district and outside of the plane of said property.</p> <p>Sec. 24.35. - EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>Noise levels generated by construction activities, including demolition, alteration, repair or remodeling of or to existing structures and the construction of new structures on property within the City: a) in the course or within the scope of emergency work; and b) in the course of work performed personally by the owner or resident of a dwelling unit with respect to said unit on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) A.M. and eight o'clock (8:00) P.M. and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays between the hours of nine o'clock (9:00) A.M. and eight o'clock (8:00) P.M., are exempt from the provisions of this Division.</p>		
Woodside	Municipal Code 151.55 Compliance with Regulations Required (1984)	<p>(B) Hours of operation. All site development and building construction operations shall be carried on only between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturdays, unless the Town Engineer finds that work at other times or days would not imperil or inconvenience the public, or create a nuisance, in which case he/she may by written permission, allow the work to proceed during such other hours as may be necessary.</p>	Provides authorized construction hours.	http://www.woodsidesidtown.org/municipalcode/%C2%A7-15155-compliance-regulations-required

Other CEQA Guidelines Appendix G criteria for noise impacts include impacts from permanent increases in noise levels, ground-borne vibration, and impacts from nearby airports and airstrips. With regard to vibration, Program equipment with the highest vibratory potential would include light trucks. While these vehicles may produce vibration, the levels would not be expected to be perceptible over existing vibration from delivery or highway truck traffic, and vibration levels would not reach thresholds for human annoyance or structural damage. With regard to permanent increases in noise levels, noise from the Program would be temporary and would last only for the duration of each activity. No potential exists to produce permanent increases in noise as a result of the Program. Finally, with regard to airports and airstrips, the Program would not result in the location of any new receptors near airports or airstrips. Therefore, these three criteria have been dismissed from the analysis and are not discussed further.

Concerns raised during scoping include:

- > Noise-related impacts on humans, in particular consistency with local noise regulations
- > Noise-related impacts on wildlife

The potential to exceed noise standards and result in substantial temporary noise levels above those existing (and without the Program equipment in use) within the Program Area are evaluated for each Program component. Impacts of Program noise on wildlife are addressed in Chapter 5, Biological Resources—Terrestrial.

12.2.2 Evaluation Methods and Assumptions

The methodology and assumptions of this noise impact evaluation for Program components are provided below.

12.2.2.1 *Methodology*

The methodology used to prepare this programmatic noise impact section is as follows:

- > Reviewed federal, state, and selected county and municipal noise regulations, plans, ordinances, and/or guidelines for general noise issues and issues related to Program-specific noise sources.
- > Obtained source-specific noise data for Program-specific noise sources where available.
- > Estimated noise levels for specific and categorical equipment types proposed for Program operations where specific noise data were not available at 50 feet and 400 feet from point of measure.
- > Compared Proposed Program activities with those that currently occur under existing vector control components (existing conditions).
- > Determined probable noise impacts associated with the components proposed in Chapter 2 based on the above significance thresholds. The impact analysis is based on detailed information regarding equipment and vehicle types and usage, and land uses where the District would use them. Detailed information regarding the noise generated by each type of equipment and vehicles that would be used is shown in Appendix D, Table 4-7.

12.2.2.2 *Assumptions*

The following assumptions were used in the assessment of potential noise impacts from the Program components:

- > Impacts are addressed at a programmatic level based on categories of land use types. Site-specific evaluation of noise sources and potential impacts is beyond the scope of this programmatic evaluation.

Also, the District has committed to implementation of BMPs to avoid and minimize impacts from its Program activities. The analysis of impacts considered the implementation of the following BMPs (from Section 2.7, Table 2-8) that the District uses for operations that generate noise expected to be of concern to the public:

- > Vehicles driving on levees to travel through tidal marsh or to access sloughs or channels for surveillance or treatment activities will travel at speeds no greater than 10 miles per hour to minimize noise and dust disturbance. (BMP A8)
- > Operation of noise-generating equipment (e.g., chainsaws, wood chippers, brush-cutters, pickup trucks) will abide by the time-of-day restrictions established by the applicable local jurisdiction (i.e., City and/or County) if such noise activities would be audible to receptors (e.g., residential land uses, schools, hospitals, places of worship) located in the applicable local jurisdiction. Shut down all motorized equipment when not in use. (BMP A11)
- > For operations that generate noise expected to be of concern to the public, the following measures will be implemented:
 - Measure 1: Provide Advance Notices. A variety of measures are implemented depending on the nature/magnitude of the activities and the District involved, including press releases, social media, District websites, hand-delivered flyers, posted signs, emails, and phone alerts. Public agencies and elected officials also may be notified of the nature and duration of the activities, including the local Board of Supervisors or City Council, environmental health and agricultural agencies, emergency service providers, and airports.
 - Measure 2: Provide Mechanism to Address Complaints. The District staff is available during regular business hours to respond to service calls and may staff phone lines to address concerns during nighttime operations. (BMP A12)
- > Engine idling times will be minimized either by shutting equipment and vehicles off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes. Correct tire inflation will be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications on wheeled equipment and vehicles to prevent excessive rolling resistance. All equipment and vehicles will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment will be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator if visible emissions are apparent to onsite staff. (BMP A14)
- > The District will provide notification to the public (24 to 48 hours in advance if possible) and/or appropriate agency(ies) and the San Mateo County Beekeepers Guild when applying pesticides or herbicides for large-scale treatments (e.g., fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters) that will occur in close proximity to homes, heavily populated, high traffic, and sensitive areas (including beehives). The District applies or participates in the application of herbicides in areas when a joint effort is most effective and/or efficient. (BMP H13)

12.2.3 Surveillance Component

The Surveillance Component would involve both ground surveillance and water surveillance. As shown in Table 12-5, ground surveillance would require the periodic use of light trucks, such as pickup trucks and jeeps, and ATVs and would take place in all land use types. Water surveillance would require the use of ATVs and, occasionally, boats and most frequently would occur in agricultural and open-space areas including wildlife refuges, where noise-sensitive human receptors are typically not located. Table 12-5 also shows the range of noise levels that vehicles and equipment typically would generate at 50- and 400-foot distances from the source. As indicated, noise attenuates, or is reduced, rapidly as the distance from the noise source increases. Detailed information regarding the average number of hours per day and the number of days in a quarter that equipment and vehicles would be used is included in Appendix D. Most

equipment would only be operated a few hours per day for varying periods of time throughout the year at various locations throughout the Service Area.

Table 12-5 Surveillance Component – Primary Equipment Use, Noise Levels, and Land Use Types

Activity	Application Equipment	Predicted Noise Level (dBA) ^b		Land Use Types				
		50 feet	400 feet	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Agricultural	Open Space
Ground Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Light trucks	83	65	•	•	•		•
	ATVs	87	69					•
Water Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Airboat, other boats	75-95	57-77					•

12.2.3.1 Exceedance of Noise Standards

The District BMPs include requiring operation of noise-generating equipment to abide by the time-of-day restrictions established by the applicable local jurisdiction if such noise activities would be audible to receptors located in the applicable local jurisdiction; thus, this component would be consistent with the time-of-day standards established by each of the local jurisdictions.

Most jurisdictions identify noise limits allowed during certain times of day as a result of construction activities. As noted above, the BMPs include requiring operation of noise-generating equipment to abide by the time-of-day restrictions established by the applicable local jurisdiction if such noise activities would be audible to receptors located in the applicable local jurisdiction. Noise from this component would be periodic, limited to brief periods of time spread out over multiple days in multiple locations, minimizing the amount of time any sensitive receptor was exposed to increased noise. The only land-based equipment operated near residential and commercial development would be light trucks, which are commonly used in such areas and would not increase noise levels beyond the established thresholds given that only a few trucks would be used and they would be in proximity to such uses only for a brief period of time.

ATVs primarily would be used in open-space areas, which are typically not considered to be noise-sensitive receptors. No thresholds for open-space land uses have been established by local jurisdictions, and the guidelines USEPA and State of California established are intended to protect human receptors in such areas from long-term sources of noise, not temporary, sporadic sources such as would occur under the Program. Boats would be used in open-space areas. Airboats would be used primarily in areas such as marshes and seasonal wetlands. Given the temporary, sporadic increase in noise at any given location, noise from the Surveillance Component would not exceed regulatory standards.

Impact N-1: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Surveillance Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, and compliance with BMPs. No mitigation is required.

12.2.3.2 Substantial Temporary Increase in Noise Levels

Noise from the use of light trucks generally would not be distinguishable from ambient noise levels because it takes a doubling of traffic to increase noise levels by only 3 dB. The types of light trucks that would be used (e.g., pickup trucks and jeeps) are common, and a limited number of vehicles would be used and would be dispersed over a large area. Water surveillance activities would occur in agricultural and open-space areas, not in proximity to noise-sensitive receptors; moreover, limited numbers of equipment and vehicles would be used for brief periods of time over a large area. Use of ATVs and boats would occur in agricultural and open-space areas; they generally would not be used in proximity to noise-sensitive receptors, although certain types of open-space areas may have increased sensitivity to noise, such as those used by recreational users seeking quiet, and some boats could be used within approximately 100 yards of residential areas. Given the limited numbers of vehicles and boats that would be used sporadically for brief periods of time over a large area and the limited duration that they would be used in any given location, noise levels would not increase by 3- to 5-dBA CNEL in proximity to noise-sensitive receptors. The District also is already implementing the types of activities that are part of this component; thus, this component represents a continuation of existing conditions, and noise levels from Program activities would not increase beyond those that already occur. In addition, BMP A8 requires reduced vehicle speed on levees, reducing noise levels in these areas. Furthermore, BMP 14 requires that all equipment and vehicles will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, not only improving air quality but reducing noise as well. In addition, BMPs A11 and A12-will be implemented as appropriate by providing advance notification of noise-generating activities expected to be of concern to the public and providing a means for registering public complaints about noise, thus further minimizing the potential for public annoyance.

Impact N-2: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Surveillance Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.

12.2.4 Physical Control Component

The Physical Control Component involves a variety of actions, some of which would not directly result in noise; they include educating and advising landowners regarding appropriate methods to control vectors such as rats and mosquitoes. Other activities would require the implementation of maintenance activities within marshes and wetlands, which typically are in undeveloped areas and not in proximity to noise-sensitive receptors. Other activities would take place in more urban areas, such as those including localized vegetation management associated with wastewater treatment facilities.

As shown in Table 12-6, ground management would require the periodic use of light trucks, such as pickup trucks and jeeps, mowers, and a weed eater. For additional ditching as a future activity, heavy equipment could be used (excavator in saline/brackish habitat or a tractor). Water management would require the use of ATVs and, occasionally, boats. In addition to the primary vehicles and equipment that would be used by each District, Table 12-6 also shows the range of noise levels that they typically would generate at 50- and 400-foot distances from the source. This table also shows the land use types where activities would occur.

Table 12-6 Physical Control Component – Primary Equipment Use, Noise Levels, and Land Use Types

Activity	Application Equipment	Predicted Noise Level (dBA)		Land Use Types				
		50 feet	400 feet	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Agricultural	Open Space
Ground Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Light trucks	83	65	•	•	•	•	•
	Mowers	80	58	•	•	•		
	Excavator	87	69					•
	Tractor	76	58				•	•
	Weed eater, chainsaw	67-72	49-54	•	•	•	•	•
Water Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Airboat, other boats	75-95	57-77				•	•
	ATVs	87	69				•	•

12.2.4.1 Exceedance of Noise Standards

The discussion under the Surveillance Component related to the use of light trucks, boats/airboats, and ATVs is applicable to the Physical Control Component because similar types of vehicles and equipment would be used, would generate similar amounts of noise, and would be used for a similar length of time. This component also would require the periodic use of other equipment, which would generate noise that was less than or equal to noise from trucks, airboats, and ATVs. Noise generated by the Physical Control Component would not exceed noise standards due to the sporadic, temporary nature of the impact.

Impact N-3: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Physical Control Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.

12.2.4.2 Substantial Temporary Increase in Noise Levels

The discussion under the Surveillance Component related to the use of light trucks and ATVs is applicable to the Physical Control Component because similar types of vehicles and equipment would be used, would generate similar amounts of noise, and would be used for a similar length of time. The District is already implementing the types of activities that would occur under this component and noise impacts, therefore, would be comparable to those that already occur. In addition, BMPs will be implemented as appropriate by providing advance notification of noise-generating activities expected to be of concern to the public based on the District's knowledge of the area it serves and any complaints or concerns received. The District has received few complaints about noise from everyday control activities. In less than 5 instances over the past 10 years, complaints were received due to gas-powered ULV applications; however, the District has since replaced those gas-powered units with silent electric ones. BMP 12 provides a means for registering public complaints about noise, thus further minimizing the potential for public annoyance.

Impact N-4: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Physical Control Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of

the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.

12.2.5 Vegetation Management Component

Certain elements of the Vegetation Management Component would not directly generate noise, such as providing suggestions to landowners on how to perform vegetation management on their property. At other times, District staff periodically would undertake vegetation management activities, which require the use of hand tools or other mechanical means (i.e., heavy equipment) for vegetation removal, thinning, or trimming and sometimes may apply herbicides (chemical pesticides with specific toxicity to plants) to improve surveillance or reduce vector habitats. Vegetation removal, thinning, or trimming primarily occurs in aquatic habitats to assist with access, surveillance, and the control of mosquitoes and in terrestrial habitats to help with the control of other vectors. To reduce the potential for mosquito breeding associated with water retention and infiltration structures, District staff may systematically clear weeds and other obstructing vegetation in wetlands and retention basins. Otherwise, the District may request the structures' owners to perform this task. In this case, it will be the responsibility of the landowner to determine and comply with all legal requirements necessary to perform the activity. District policy is that with every recommendation, the District also makes it clear to the landowner the requirement for consultation with resource agencies and acquisition of permits that may be needed prior to commencement of any work. Tools ranging from shovels and pruners to chainsaws and weed eaters up to heavy equipment can all be used at times to clear plant matter that either prevents access to mosquito-breeding sites or that fosters good water management practices that would minimize mosquito populations. Generally, however, District "brushing" activities rely almost entirely on hand tools.

As shown in Table 12-7, vegetation management would require the periodic use of light trucks, such as pickup trucks and jeeps, and ATVs, as well as equipment such as mowers, chainsaws, weed eaters, and sprayers under both the current and future programs. In addition, a tractor would be used for approximately 3 days a year, for about 1 hour per day under the future program. Water management would require the use of ATVs and, occasionally, boats. In addition to the vehicles and equipment that the District would use, Table 12-7 shows the range of noise levels that they typically would generate at 50- and 400-foot distances from the source and the land uses that typically would be affected. Shovels and other hand tools that generate no noise or minimal noise are not included in this table.

Table 12-7 Vegetation Management Component – Primary Equipment Use, Noise Levels, and Land Use Types

Activity	Application Equipment	Predicted Noise Level (dBA)		Land Use Types				
		50 feet	400 feet	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Agricultural	Open Space
Ground Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Light trucks	83	65	•	•	•	•	•
	ATVs	87	69				•	•
	Tractor, mower	76	58				•	•
	Weed eater, chainsaw	67-72	49-54	•	•	•	•	•
	Sprayer	65	47	•	•	•	•	•
Water Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Airboat, other boats	75-95	57-77				•	•

12.2.5.1 **Exceedance of Noise Standards**

The discussion under the Surveillance Component related to the use of light trucks and ATVs and airboats and other boats is applicable to the Vegetation Management Component because similar types of vehicles would be used, would have comparable noise levels, and also would be used for brief periods of time over multiple locations. The Vegetation Management Component also would require the use of equipment such as mowers, weed eaters, chainsaws, and sprayers, but such equipment would primarily be used in agricultural and open-space areas, which are not considered noise-sensitive receptors. Noise generated would be similar to that which already occurs and would not exceed noise standards.

Impact N-5: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Vegetation Management Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.

12.2.5.2 **Substantial Temporary Increase in Noise Levels**

The discussion under the Surveillance Component related to the use of light trucks and ATVs, airboats, and other boats is applicable to the Vegetation Management Component because similar types of vehicles would be used, they would have comparable noise, levels, and they also would be used for brief periods of time over multiple locations. Noise generated would be similar to that which already occurs and would not result in a substantial temporary increase in noise levels. The Vegetation Management Component also would require the use of equipment such as mowers, weed eaters, chainsaws, and sprayers under both the current and future programs, as well as a tractor under the future program, but such equipment would primarily be used in agricultural and open-space areas, which are not considered noise-sensitive receptors. In addition, BMPs will be implemented as appropriate by providing advance notification of noise-generating activities expected to be of concern to the public (e.g., recreationists potentially present in open-space areas) and providing a means for registering public complaints about noise, thus further minimizing the potential for public annoyance.

Impact N-6: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Vegetation Management Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.

12.2.6 **Biological Control Component**

The Biological Control Component involves the use of mosquito pathogens, parasites, and predators (i.e., mosquitofish). The parasites are not commercially available at present. The other options would generate noise, from the periodic use of light trucks (for distribution of mosquitofish at artificial waterbodies only), and occasionally, ATVs, boats, and sprayers (for the pathogens, which are discussed under the Chemical Control Component). Examples of bacteria pathogenic to mosquitoes are Bs, the several strains of Bti, and *Saccharopolyspora spinosa* (or spinosad). However, only the distribution of mosquitofish using light trucks is covered here.

The number and type of vehicles and equipment required are shown in Table 12-8, which also shows the range of noise levels that they typically would generate at 50- and 400-foot distances from the source and the land uses that would be affected.

Table 12-8 Biological Control – Primary Equipment Use, Noise Levels, and Land Use Types

Activity	Application Equipment	Predicted Noise Level (dBA)*			Land Use Types				
		50 feet	400 feet	500 feet	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Agricultural	Open Space
Ground Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Light trucks	83	65	—	•	•	•		•

12.2.6.1 Exceedance of Noise Standards

The discussion under the Surveillance Component related to the use of light trucks is applicable to the Biological Control Component because similar types of vehicles would be used, with similar noise levels, and they also would be used for brief periods of time over multiple locations. Trucks would be used for limited periods of time at any given location, within the hours allowed by the local jurisdictions, as required by the BMPs and, thus, would not exceed noise standards.

Impact N-7: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Biological Control Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.

12.2.6.2 Substantial Temporary Increase in Noise Levels

The discussion under the Surveillance Component related to the use of light trucks generally is applicable to the Biological Control Component because similar types of vehicles and equipment would be used, or they would have similar noise levels and also would be used for brief periods of time over multiple locations for impacts in other areas.

Impact N-8: Use of vehicles under the Biological Control Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.

12.2.7 Chemical Control Component

A variety of activities would be implemented under the Chemical Control Component. Some activities, such as baiting, would not result in noise impacts, other than from the use of vehicles to access the bait treatment sites. Others would require more extensive use of vehicles and equipment. Noise associated with applications of biological pathogens as larvicides is discussed here.

The District would use a variety of techniques and equipment to apply mosquito larvicides, including handheld sprayers, backpack sprayers and blowers, truck- or ATV-mounted spray rigs, and helicopters under the current and future program and other fixed-wing aircraft for adulticiding under future operations. The District uses conventional pickup trucks and ATVs as larvicide vehicles. Equipment used in ground applications of liquid formulations include handheld sprayers (handcans or spray bottles), and backpack sprayers and blowers. Handheld sprayers (handcans) are standard 1- or 2- or 3-gallon garden style pump-up sprayers used to treat very small isolated areas. Backpack sprayers are either hand pump-up for liquid applications and have a 2.5/3 to 5-gallon tank or are gas powered. When large areas are simultaneously producing mosquito larvae at densities exceeding District treatment thresholds, then the District may use helicopters to apply larvicides. Aerial application of larvicides is a relatively infrequent

activity for the District, typically occurring only a few times each year, with each application covering approximately 400 acres or less (the smaller acreage sites are typically problematic and contain dense and abundant vegetation). Aerial application of liquid larvicides typically occurs during daylight hours and at an altitude above the treatment site of less than 40 feet. Granular applications would occur during daylight hours at a less-than-50-foot altitude.

The most common form of adulticide application is via the use of ULV methods and equipment mounted on trucks, ATVs, golf carts, and watercraft or handheld for ground applications, applying the materials at very low dosage rates.

Aerial applications of mosquito larvicides and adulticides from helicopters (and, potentially, fixed-wing aircraft for adulticides in the future) are used to obtain effective control in expansive areas or areas in which access is especially difficult and/or impediments to applying larvicides (and adulticides) from the ground exist, such as a dense canopy cover of invasive vegetation. The flight parameters differ by the stage of mosquito development and technique. Some helicopter and fixed-wing operations fly during hours of daylight (for larvicides), so their applications begin either at morning's first light or before sunset and work into twilight. The aircraft can be flown at a less than 200-foot altitude, which may make it easier to hit the target area. Other operations (adulticiding) may be conducted in the dark of the night, typically after twilight or early in the morning before dawn. The aircraft typically are flown between 200- and 300-foot altitudes. Swath widths vary from operation to operation but are normally set somewhere between 400 and -1,200 feet. Aerial applications may be conducted over, but are not limited to, the following land uses within the Program Area: salt marsh, diked marsh, seasonal wetlands; evaporation ponds and wastewater ponds; and agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, and recreation areas. Urban or suburban areas would only be treated with adulticides in the event of a severe risk of disease transmission or high densities of West Nile virus positive mosquitoes over a large area.

The type of vehicles and equipment required is shown in Table 12-9, which also shows the range of noise levels that they typically would generate at 50- and 400-foot distances from the source and the land uses that would be affected. Noise from helicopters also is shown at a 500-foot distance. All land use types potentially could be treated through aerial applications.

Table 12-9 Chemical Control Component – Primary Equipment Use, Noise Levels, and Land Use Types

Activity	Application Equipment	Predicted Noise Level (dBA)*			Land Use Types				
		50 feet	400 feet	500 feet	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Agricultural	Open Space
Ground Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Light trucks, water trucks	75-88	57-70	—	•	•	•	•	•
	ATVs	87	69					•	•
	Foggers	50-75	32-57		•	•	•	•	•
	Sprayers	65-75	47-57		•	•	•	•	•
Water Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Airboats, other boats	75-95	57-77	—				•	•
	Sprayers	65	47					•	•
Aerial Applications	Helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft			84-89	•	•	•	•	•

Note:

* Noise from fixed-wing aircraft used for agricultural operations, such as those expected to be used for aerial adulticide applications, is not regulated by the FAA and, therefore, no noise information is available. Noise likely would be comparable to that of helicopters.

12.2.7.1 Exceedance of Noise Standards

The discussion under the Surveillance Component related to the use of light trucks and ATVs, airboats, and other boats is applicable to the Chemical Control Component because similar types of vehicles and equipment would be used, they would have comparable noise levels, and they also would be used for brief periods of time over multiple locations. The use of foggers would generate less noise than sprayers. Their use would result in a temporary noise increase at any given location, which would not exceed noise standards. Helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft would be used under this component; however, they would be used only briefly in any given area and generally would operate in open-space or agricultural areas, although other land use types could be affected as well. The brief increase in noise from the periodic use of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft and other vehicles and equipment would not exceed noise standards.

Impact N-9: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Chemical Control Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.

Impact N-10: Helicopter/aircraft use under the Chemical Control Component would temporarily increase noise levels during operations but would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.

12.2.7.2 Substantial Temporary Increase in Noise Levels

The discussion under the Surveillance Component related to the use of light trucks and ATVs, airboats, and other boats is applicable to the Chemical Control Component because similar types of vehicles and equipment would be used, they would have similar noise levels, and they also would be used for brief periods of time over multiple locations. Foggers would generate less noise than sprayers; thus, their periodic use would not result in a substantial increase in noise levels. As discussed in the preceding section, helicopters/fixed-wing aircraft also would be used, but only for brief periods up to several times a year, and they would affect any given area only briefly. Noise from helicopter/aircraft use immediately after twilight would not be expected to result in sleep disturbance. While noise from helicopters/aircraft operating during nighttime hours could result in sleep disturbance for those in the immediate vicinity, most of this activity would take place over open-space areas that are not populated. Although some of the helicopters/aircraft could operate over all land-use types, the impacts on any one location would be minimized because they would move continuously to new areas. In addition, BMPs will be implemented as appropriate by providing advance notification of noise-generating activities expected to be of concern to the public and providing a means for registering public complaints about noise, thus further minimizing the potential for public annoyance.

Impact N-11: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Chemical Control Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.

Impact N-12: Helicopter/aircraft/airboat use under the Chemical Control Component would temporarily increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not be substantial. This impact is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.

12.2.8 Other Nonchemical Control/Trapping Component

This component primarily includes the trapping of rodents and/or yellow jackets that pose a threat to public health and welfare; light trucks, ATVs, and boats would be used to access sites. The number and type of vehicles and equipment required, as shown in Table 12-10, which also shows the range of noise levels that they typically would generate at 50- and 400-foot distances from the source and the land uses that would be affected. This equipment use would be supplemented with the use of traps should the District need to engage in live trapping of raccoons and skunks in the future.

Table 12-10 Other Nonchemical Control/Trapping Component – Primary Equipment Use, Noise Levels, and Land Use Types

Activity	Application Equipment	Predicted Noise Level (dBA)		Land Uses Types				
		50 feet	400 feet	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Agricultural	Open Space
Ground Surveillance & Application/Mgt	Light trucks	83	65	•	•	•		•
Water Surveillance & Application/Mgt	ATVs	87	69					•
	Airboats, other boats	75-95	57-77					

12.2.8.1 Exceedance of Noise Standards

The only land-based equipment operated near residential and commercial development would be light trucks, which are commonly used in such areas and would not increase noise levels beyond the established thresholds given that only a few trucks would be used and they would be in proximity to such uses only for a brief period of time. ATVs could be used in open space areas, and airboats/boats could be used in the Bay, potentially in close proximity to some water-oriented commercial and residential development (such as Redwood Shores) and near the San Francisco International Airport during normal business hours. Noise generated would be similar to that which already occurs and would not exceed noise standards.

Impact N-13: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Other Nonchemical Control/Trapping Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.

12.2.8.2 Substantial Temporary Increase in Noise Levels

Noise from the use of light trucks generally would not be distinguishable from ambient noise levels because it takes a doubling of traffic to increase noise levels by only 3 dB. The types of light trucks that would be used (e.g., pickup trucks and jeeps) are common and represent the major type of equipment use under this component, and a limited number of vehicles would be used and would be dispersed over a large area. Thus, their use would not result in a substantial temporary increase in noise levels. Airboats also would be required to operate only in certain permitted areas, minimizing the potential for impacts in other areas.

Impact N-14: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Other Nonchemical Control/Trapping Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is **less than significant** based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.

12.2.9 Public Education

Public education activities under the Existing Program would continue into the future under the Proposed Program with existing trucks that would not substantially affect noise levels as perceived by people. Therefore, there is no impact to applicable plans, policies, or regulations for noise from public outreach activities.

12.2.10 Environmental Impacts Summary

Table 12-11 is a summary of all of the potential noise impacts associated with the Comprehensive Program technical components (excluding public education) in comparison to existing conditions. The number of each statement correlates to its number in the text. When the Existing Program activities are combined with future activities involving additional equipment use, the less-than-significant impacts presented are for the entire/comprehensive Proposed Program.

The incremental changes associated with the expanded activities and additional equipment proposed for future use under the Physical Control, Vegetation Management, Chemical Control, and Nonchemical Control/Trapping Components are not substantial and do not result in any significant impacts.

Table 12-11 Summary of Noise Impacts by Technical Component

Impact Statement	Surveillance	Physical Control	Vegetation Management	Biological Control	Chemical Control	Other Nonchemical/ Trapping
Effects on Noise						
<p>Impact N-1: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Surveillance Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, and compliance with BMPs. No mitigation is required.</p>	LS	na	na	na	na	na
<p>Impact N-2: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Surveillance Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.</p>	LS	na	na	na	na	na
<p>Impact N-3: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Physical Control Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	LS	na	na	na	na
<p>Impact N-4: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Physical Control Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	LS	na	na	na	na

Table 12-11 Summary of Noise Impacts by Technical Component

Impact Statement	Surveillance	Physical Control	Vegetation Management	Biological Control	Chemical Control	Other Nonchemical/ Trapping
<p>Impact N-5: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Vegetation Management Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	LS	na	na	na
<p>Impact N-6: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Vegetation Management Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	LS	na	na	na
<p>Impact N-7: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Biological Control Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	na	LS	na	na
<p>Impact N-8: Use of vehicles under the Biological Control Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	na	LS	na	na

Table 12-11 Summary of Noise Impacts by Technical Component

Impact Statement	Surveillance	Physical Control	Vegetation Management	Biological Control	Chemical Control	Other Nonchemical/ Trapping
<p>Impact N-9: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Chemical Control Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	na	na	LS	na
<p>Impact N-10: Helicopter/aircraft use under the Chemical Control Component would temporarily increase noise levels during operations but would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	na	na	LS	na
<p>Impact N-11: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Chemical Control Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	na	na	LS	na
<p>Impact N-12: Helicopter/aircraft/airboat use under the Chemical Control Component would temporarily increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not be substantial. This impact is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	na	na	LS	na

Table 12-11 Summary of Noise Impacts by Technical Component

Impact Statement	Surveillance	Physical Control	Vegetation Management	Biological Control	Chemical Control	Other Nonchemical/ Trapping
<p>Impact N-13: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Other Nonchemical Control/Trapping Component would increase noise levels during operations, but this increase would not exceed regulatory thresholds. This impact is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity and resulting noise levels. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	na	na	na	LS
<p>Impact N-14: Use of equipment and vehicles under the Other Nonchemical Control/Trapping Component would cause a temporary increase in noise levels during operations. This increase would not be substantial and, therefore, is less than significant based on the frequency and duration of the activity, resulting noise levels, comparability to noise resulting from existing activities, and implementation of BMPs. No mitigation is required.</p>	na	na	na	na	na	LS

LS = Less-than-significant impact

N = No impact

na = Not applicable

SM = Potentially significant but mitigable impact

SU = Significant and unavoidable impact

12.2.11 Mitigation and Monitoring

No mitigation measures or monitoring are required to address both existing and future Program activities because no significant impacts were identified.

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