APPENDIX C: NOISE DATA

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Fundamentals of Noise

NOISE

Noise is most often defined as unwanted sound; whether it is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or otherwise undesirable. Although sound can be easily measured, the perception of noise and the physical response to sound complicate the analysis of its impact on people. People judge the relative magnitude of sound sensation in subjective terms such as "noisiness" or "loudness."

Noise Descriptors

The following are brief definitions of terminology used in this chapter:

- Sound. A disturbance created by a vibrating object, which, when transmitted by pressure waves through a medium such as air, is capable of being detected by a receiving mechanism, such as the human ear or a microphone.
- **Noise.** Sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or otherwise undesirable.
- **Decibel (dB).** A unitless measure of sound, expressed on a logarithmic scale and with respect to a defined reference sound pressure. The standard reference pressure is 20 micropascals (20 μPa).
- Vibration Decibel (VdB). A unitless measure of vibration, expressed on a logarithmic scale and with respect to a defined reference vibration velocity. In the U.S., the standard reference velocity is 1 microinch per second (1x10-6 in/sec).
- A-Weighted Decibel (dBA). An overall frequency-weighted sound level in decibels that approximates
 the frequency response of the human ear.
- Equivalent Continuous Noise Level (L_{eq}); also called the Energy-Equivalent Noise Level. The value of an equivalent, steady sound level which, in a stated time period (often over an hour) and at a stated location, has the same A-weighted sound energy as the time-varying sound. Thus, the L_{eq} metric is a single numerical value that represents the equivalent amount of variable sound energy received by a receptor over the specified duration.
- Statistical Sound Level (L_n). The sound level that is exceeded "n" percent of time during a given sample period. For example, the L₅₀ level is the statistical indicator of the time-varying noise signal that is exceeded 50 percent of the time (during each sampling period); that is, half of the sampling time, the changing noise levels are above this value and half of the time they are below it. This is called the "median sound level." The L₁₀ level, likewise, is the value that is exceeded 10 percent of the time (i.e., near the maximum) and this is often known as the "intrusive sound level." The L₉₀ is the sound level

exceeded 90 percent of the time and is often considered the "effective background level" or "residual noise level."

- Day-Night Sound Level (L_{dn} or DNL). The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM.
- Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). The energy average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 5 dB added from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM and 10 dB from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM. NOTE: For general community/environmental noise, CNEL and L_{dn} values rarely differ by more than 1 dB (with the CNEL being only slightly more restrictive that is, higher than the L_{dn} value). As a matter of practice, L_{dn} and CNEL values are interchangeable and are treated as equivalent in this assessment.
- Sensitive Receptor. Noise- and vibration-sensitive receptors include land uses where quiet environments are necessary for enjoyment and public health and safety. Residences, schools, motels and hotels, libraries, religious institutions, hospitals, and nursing homes are examples.

Characteristics of Sound

When an object vibrates, it radiates part of its energy in the form of a pressure wave. Sound is that pressure wave transmitted through the air. Technically, airborne sound is a rapid fluctuation or oscillation of air pressure above and below atmospheric pressure that creates sound waves.

Sound can be described in terms of amplitude (loudness), frequency (pitch), or duration (time). Loudness or amplitude is measured in dB, frequency or pitch is measured in Hertz [Hz] or cycles per second, and duration or time variations is measured in seconds or minutes.

Amplitude

Unlike linear units such as inches or pounds, decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale. Because of the physical characteristics of noise transmission and perception, the relative loudness of sound does not closely match the actual amounts of sound energy. Table 1 presents the subjective effect of changes in sound pressure levels. Ambient sounds generally range from 30 dBA (very quiet) to 100 dBA (very loud). Changes of 1 to 3 dB are detectable under quiet, controlled conditions, and changes of less than 1 dB are usually not discernible (even under ideal conditions). A 3 dB change in noise levels is considered the minimum change that is detectable with human hearing in outside environments. A change of 5 dB is readily discernible to most people in an exterior environment, and a 10 dB change is perceived as a doubling (or halving) of the sound.

	Table 1 Nois	se Perceptibility	
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Change in dB	Noise Level
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± 3 dB	Threshold of human perceptibility			
± 5 dB	Clearly noticeable change in noise level			
± 10 dB	Half or twice as loud			
± 20 dB	Much quieter or louder			
Source: Bies, David A. and Colin H. Hansen. 2009. <i>Engineering Noise Control: Theory and Practice</i> . 4th ed. New York: Spon Press.				

Frequency

The human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies. Sound waves below 16 Hz are not heard at all, but are "felt" more as a vibration. Similarly, though people with extremely sensitive hearing can hear sounds as high as 20,000 Hz, most people cannot hear above 15,000 Hz. In all cases, hearing acuity falls off rapidly above about 10,000 Hz and below about 200 Hz.

When describing sound and its effect on a human population, A-weighted (dBA) sound levels are typically used to approximate the response of the human ear. The A-weighted noise level has been found to correlate well with people's judgments of the "noisiness" of different sounds and has been used for many years as a measure of community and industrial noise. Although the A-weighted scale and the energy-equivalent metric are commonly used to quantify the range of human response to individual events or general community sound levels, the degree of annoyance or other response also depends on several other perceptibility factors, including:

- Ambient (background) sound level
- General nature of the existing conditions (e.g., quiet rural or busy urban)
- Difference between the magnitude of the sound event level and the ambient condition
- Duration of the sound event
- Number of event occurrences and their repetitiveness
- Time of day that the event occurs

Duration

Time variation in noise exposure is typically expressed in terms of a steady-state energy level equal to the energy content of the time varying period (called L_{eq}), or alternately, as a statistical description of the sound level that is exceeded over some fraction of a given observation period. For example, the L₅₀ noise level represents the noise level that is exceeded 50 percent of the time; half the time the noise level exceeds this level and half the time the noise level is less than this level. This level is also representative of the level that is exceeded 30 minutes in an hour. Similarly, the L₂, L₈ and L₂₅ values represent the noise levels that are exceeded 2, 8, and 25 percent of the time or 1, 5, and 15 minutes per hour, respectively. These "n" values are typically used to demonstrate compliance for stationary noise sources with many cities' noise ordinances. Other values typically noted during a noise survey are the L_{min} and L_{max}. These values represent the minimum and maximum root-mean-square noise levels obtained over the measurement period, respectively.

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during the evening and at night, state law and many local jurisdictions use an adjusted 24-hour noise descriptor called the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) or Day-Night Noise Level (L_{dn}). The CNEL descriptor requires that an artificial increment (or "penalty") of 5 dBA be added to the actual noise level for the hours from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM and 10 dBA for the hours from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM. The L_{dn} descriptor uses the same methodology

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except that there is no artificial increment added to the hours between 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM. Both descriptors give roughly the same 24-hour level, with the CNEL being only slightly more restrictive (i.e., higher). The CNEL or L_{dn} metrics are commonly applied to the assessment of roadway and airport-related noise sources.

Sound Propagation

Sound dissipates exponentially with distance from the noise source. This phenomenon is known as "spreading loss." For a single-point source, sound levels decrease by approximately 6 dB for each doubling of distance from the source (conservatively neglecting ground attenuation effects, air absorption factors, and barrier shielding). For example, if a backhoe at 50 feet generates 84 dBA, at 100 feet the noise level would be 79 dBA, and at 200 feet it would be 73 dBA. This drop-off rate is appropriate for noise generated by on-site operations from stationary equipment or activity at a project site. If noise is produced by a line source, such as highway traffic, the sound decreases by 3 dB for each doubling of distance over a reflective ("hard site") surface such as concrete or asphalt. Line source noise in a relatively flat environment with ground-level absorptive vegetation decreases by an additional 1.5 dB for each doubling of distance.

Psychological and Physiological Effects of Noise

Physical damage to human hearing begins at prolonged exposure to noise levels higher than 85 dBA. Exposure to high noise levels affects the entire system, with prolonged noise exposure in excess of 75 dBA increasing body tensions, thereby affecting blood pressure and functions of the heart and the nervous system. Extended periods of noise exposure above 90 dBA results in permanent cell damage, which is the main driver for employee hearing protection regulations in the workplace. For community environments, the ambient or background noise problem is widespread, through generally worse in urban areas than in outlying, less-developed areas. Elevated ambient noise levels can result in noise interference (e.g., speech interruption/masking, sleep disturbance, disturbance of concentration) and cause annoyance. Since most people do not routinely work with decibels or A-weighted sound levels, it is often difficult to appreciate what a given sound pressure level number means. To help relate noise level values to common experience, Table 2 shows typical noise levels from familiar sources.

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Table 2 Typical Noise Levels

Common Outdoor Activities	Noise Level (dBA)	Common Indoor Activities
Onset of physical discomfort	120+	
	110	Rock Band (near amplification system)
Jet Flyover at 1,000 feet		
	100	
Gas Lawn Mower at three feet		
	90	
Diesel Truck at 50 feet, at 50 mph		Food Blender at 3 feet
	80	Garbage Disposal at 3 feet
Noisy Urban Area, Daytime		
	70	Vacuum Cleaner at 10 feet
Commercial Area		Normal speech at 3 feet
Heavy Traffic at 300 feet	60	
		Large Business Office
Quiet Urban Daytime	50	Dishwasher Next Room
Quiet Urban Nighttime	40	Theater, Large Conference Room (background)
Quiet Suburban Nighttime		
	30	Library
Quiet Rural Nighttime		Bedroom at Night, Concert Hall (background)
	20	
		Broadcast/Recording Studio
	10	
Lowest Threshold of Human Hearing	0	Lowest Threshold of Human Hearing

Vibration Fundamentals

Vibration is an oscillatory motion through a solid medium in which the motion's amplitude can be described in terms of displacement, velocity, or acceleration. Vibration is normally associated with activities stemming from operations of railroads or vibration-intensive stationary sources, but can also be associated with construction equipment such as jackhammers, pile drivers, and hydraulic hammers. As with noise, vibration can be described by both its amplitude and frequency. Vibration displacement is the distance that a point on a surface moves away from its original static position; velocity is the instantaneous speed that a point on a surface moves; and acceleration is the rate of change of the speed. Each of these descriptors can be used to correlate vibration to human response, building damage, and acceptable equipment vibration levels. During construction, the operation of construction equipment can cause groundborne vibration. During the operational phase of a project, receptors may be subject to levels of vibration that can cause annoyance due to noise generated from vibration of a structure or items within a structure.

Vibration amplitudes are usually described in terms of either the peak particle velocity (PPV) or the root mean square (RMS) velocity. PPV is the maximum instantaneous peak of the vibration signal and RMS is the

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square root of the average of the squared amplitude of the signal. PPV is more appropriate for evaluating potential building damage and RMS is typically more suitable for evaluating human response.

As with airborne sound, annoyance with vibrational energy is a subjective measure, depending on the level of activity and the sensitivity of the individual. To sensitive individuals, vibrations approaching the threshold of perception can be annoying. Persons accustomed to elevated ambient vibration levels, such as in an urban environment, may tolerate higher vibration levels. Table 3 displays the human response and the effects on buildings resulting from continuous vibration (in terms of various levels of PPV).

Table 3 Human Reaction to Typical Vibration Levels

Vibration Level, PPV (in/sec)	Human Reaction	Effect on Buildings
0.006-0.019	Threshold of perception, possibility of intrusion	Vibrations unlikely to cause damage of any type
0.08	Vibrations readily perceptible	Recommended upper level of vibration to which ruins and ancient monuments should be subjected
0.10	Level at which continuous vibration begins to annoy people	Virtually no risk of "architectural" (i.e. not structural) damage to normal buildings
0.20	Vibrations annoying to people in buildings	Threshold at which there is a risk to "architectural" damage to normal dwelling – houses with plastered walls and ceilings
0.4–0.6	Vibrations considered unpleasant by people subjected to continuous vibrations and unacceptable to some people walking on bridges	Vibrations at a greater level than normally expected from traffic, but would cause "architectural" damage and possibly minor structural damage

Source: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2004, June. Transportation- and Construction-Induced Vibration Guidance Manual. Prepared by ICF International.

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CONSTRUCTION NOISE MODELING OUTPUT

Bldg Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date:

07/11/2018

Case Description:

**** Receptor #1 ****

			Baselines	(dBA)
Description	Land Use	Daytime	Evening	Night
1	Residential	50.0	50.0	50.0

Equipment

-----Spec Actual Estimated Receptor Impact Usage Distance Shielding Lmax Lmax Description Device (%) (dBA) (dBA) (feet) (dBA) ---------Crane No 16 80.6 125.0 0.0 Man Lift 20 No 74.7 125.0 0.0 Tractor No 40 84.0 125.0 0.0

> Results -----

> > Noise Limits (dBA)

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

Night		Day	Calculate	d (dBA) Evening	Da N	ny light 	Eveni	ng 	
Equipment Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax Lmax	Leq Leq	Lmax Lmax	Leq Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax
Crane			72.6	64.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Man Lift			66.7	59.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Tractor			76.0	72.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
	Tot	tal	76.0	73.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			

Demo Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 07/11/2018

Case Description: Demo

**** Receptor #1 ****

				Baselin	ies (dBA)	
Description	Land Use	<u> </u>	Daytime	Evening	Night	
1	Resident	ial	50.0	50.0	50.0	
			Equ	uipment		
			Spec	Actual	Receptor	Estimated
	Impact	Usage	Lmax	Lmax	Distance	Shielding
Description	Device	(%)	(dBA)	(dBA)	(feet)	(dBA)
Concrete Saw	No	20		89.6	125.0	0.0
Excavator	No	40		80.7	125.0	0.0
Tractor	No	40	84.0		125.0	0.0

Results

Noise Limits (dBA)

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

Calculated (dBA) Day Evening Night Night Day Evening Equipment Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Leq ---------------Concrete Saw 81.6 74.6 N/A Excavator 72.8 N/A N/A N/A 68.8 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A Tractor 76.0 72.1 N/A Total 77.2 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 81.6 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

Grading Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 07/11/2018 Case Description: Grading

**** Receptor #1 ****

5			5	Baselir	, ,	
Description	Land Use	<u>)</u>	Daytime	Evening	Night	
1	Resident	ial	50.0	50.0	50.0	
			Equ	uipment		
			Spec	Actual	Receptor	Estimated
	Impact	Usage	Lmax	Lmax	Distance	Shielding
Description	Device	(%)	(dBA)	(dBA)	(feet)	(dBA)
Concrete Saw	No	20		89.6	125.0	0.0
Excavator	No	40		80.7	125.0	0.0
Tractor	No	40	84.0		125.0	0.0

Results

Noise Limits (dBA)

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

Calculated (dBA) Day Evening Night Evening Night Day Equipment Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Leq ---------------Concrete Saw 81.6 74.6 N/A Excavator 72.8 68.8 N/A Tractor 76.0 72.1 N/A Total 77.2 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 81.6 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

Paving Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 07/11/2018
Case Description: Paving

**** Receptor #1 ****

Description 1	Land Uso Residen	-	Daytime 50.0	Baseli Evening 50.0	Night	
			Ec	quipment		
Daganintian	Impact	Usage	Spec Lmax	Actual Lmax	Receptor Distance	Estimated Shielding
Description	Device	(%)	(dBA)	(dBA)	(feet)	(dBA)
Paver Roller	No No	50 20		77.2 80.0	125.0 125.0	0.0 0.0
Tractor	No	40	84.0		125.0	0.0

Results

Noise Limits (dBA)

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

Calculated (dBA) Day Evening Night Evening Night Day Equipment Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Leq --------------------69.3 66.3 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A Paver N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A Roller 72.0 65.1 N/A Tractor 76.0 72.1 N/A Total 76.0 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 73.7 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

Ref Levels_25 feet Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date:

07/11/2018

Case Description:

**** Receptor #1 ****

			Baselines	(dBA)
Description	Land Use	Daytime	Evening	Night
ref 25 feet	Residential	50.0	50.0	50.0

Equipment

Description	Impact Device	Usage (%)	Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)				
Concrete Saw	No	20		89.6	25.0	0.0				
Excavator	No	40		80.7	25.0	0.0				
Tractor	No	40	84.0		25.0	0.0				
Grader	No	40	85.0		25.0	0.0				
Scraper	No	40		83.6	25.0	0.0				
Crane	No	16		80.6	25.0	0.0				
Man Lift	No	20		74.7	25.0	0.0				
Paver	No	50		77.2	25.0	0.0				
Roller	No	20		80.0	25.0	0.0				
Compressor (air)	No	40		77.7	25.0	0.0				

Results

Noise Limits (dBA)

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

Night		Day	Calculated (dBA) Evening		Day Night		Evening			
Equipment Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax Lmax	Leq Leq	Lmax Lmax	Leq Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	
Concrete S N/A Excavator	aw N/A	N/A	95.6 N/A 86.7	88.6 N/A 82.8	N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	

				Ref Level	.s_25 feet				
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Tractor			90.0	86.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Grader			91.0	87.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Scraper			89.6	85.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Crane			86.6	78.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Man Lift			80.7	73.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Paver			83.2	80.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Roller			86.0	79.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Compressor	(air)		83.7	79.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
	Tot	al	95.6	94.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			

Site Prep Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 07/11/2018 Case Description: Site Prep

**** Receptor #1 ****

Description	Land Us	e	Daytime	Baseli Evening	` '	
1	Residential		50.0	50.0	50.0	
			Eq	uipment 		
Description	Impact Device	Usage (%)	Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
Grader Scraper Tractor	No No No	40 40 40	85.0 84.0	83.6	125.0 125.0 125.0	0.0 0.0 0.0

Results

Noise Limits (dBA)

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

Calculated (dBA) Day Evening Night Evening Night Day Equipment Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Lmax Leq Lmax Leq Lmax Leq ---------------Grader 77.0 73.1 N/A Scraper 75.6 N/A N/A N/A N/A 71.6 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A Tractor 76.0 72.1 N/A Total 77.0 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 77.1 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

TRAFFIC NOISE INCREASE CALCULATIONS

	AM Peak	PM Peak		
Roadway Segment	Hour	Hour	ADT	Noise Incre
Wolfe Road - North of Homestead Road				
Existing Conditions	2,306	2,901	26,000	
Background Conditions	2,809	3,202	30,000	1
Existing + Project Conditions	2,652	3,062	28,500	0.4
Background + Project Conditions	2,833	3,224	30,500	
Future Growth No Project Conditions	2,904	3,312	31,000	
Future Growth Conditions	2,928	3,334	31,500	0.8
Cumulative + Project (*Vallco TIA)	2,926	3,124	30,500	0.7
Wolfe Road - Between Homestead Road & I-280				
Existing Conditions	3,324	4,728	40,500	
Background Conditions	3,649	5,854	47,500	1
Existing + Project Conditions	3,360	4,768	40,500	0.0
Background + Project Conditions	3,685	5,894	48,000	
Future Growth No Project Conditions	3,770	6,026	49,000	
Future Growth Conditions	3,806	6,066	49,500	0.9
Cumulative + Project (*Vallco TIA)	4,369	4,814	46,000	0.6
Wolfe Road - South of I-280				
Existing Conditions	3,034	2,922	30,000	
Background Conditions	3,414	3,322	33,500	Ī
Existing + Project Conditions	3,052	2,938	30,000	0.0
Background + Project Conditions	3,432	3,338	34,000	
Future Growth No Project Conditions	3,526	3,428	35,000	
Future Growth Conditions	3,544	3,444	35,000	0.7
Cumulative + Project (*Vallco TIA)	5,624	5,977	58,000	2.9
Homestead Road - West of Wolfe Road				
Existing Conditions	1,719	2,819	22,500	
Background Conditions	1,866	2,940	24,000	
Existing + Project Conditions	1,724	2,824	22,500	0.0
Background + Project Conditions	1,871	2,945	24,000	
Future Growth No Project Conditions	1,929	3,043	25,000]
Future Growth Conditions	1,934	3,048	25,000	0.5
Cumulative + Project (*Vallco TIA)	2,568	2,868	27,000	0.8
Homestead Road - East of Wolfe Road				
Existing Conditions	2,607	2,370	25,000	1
Background Conditions	2,804	2,574	27,000	
Existing + Project Conditions	2,618	2,381	25,000	0.0
Background + Project Conditions	2,815	2,585	27,000	
Future Growth No Project Conditions	2,899	2,660	28,000	
Future Growth Conditions	2,910	2,671	28,000	0.5
Cumulative + Project (*Vallco TIA)	2,913	3,364	31,500	0.2