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To: <skeeler@energy.state.ca.us>
CC: <CHoffman@energy.state.ca.us>, <Mark.Bastasch@CH2M.com>, <Todd.Eitwood@C...>
Date: 9/21/2010 10:49 AM
Subject: MEP Noise Levels - distance to 60 dBA

Sara,

This e-mail is in response to your inquiry yesterday about near-field noise levels during plant operation. Based on our previous noise modeling, MEP plant noise is expected to be less than 60 dBA at a distance of ¼ mile from the site boundary. This is a conservative estimate and does not account for topographical barriers that exist, since the site is located within a small valley. Hills to the east, and more so to the west, will reduce noise levels in those directions, reducing this distance. Also, you may have noticed in the AFC Noise section that background noise levels can be very high in the area due to wind and wind turbine noise (along with other nearby industrial noise sources such as the PG&E Bethany Compressor Station). Ambient noise levels measured at the site exceeded 60 dBA at times during our background testing. During our surveys this year, nesting sites for SWHA and BUOW were at least a quarter mile away (SWHA was slightly over a quarter mile to the west, but significant noise shielding is present due to the hill immediately west of the site).

Let me know if you have any additional questions.
 Thanks,
 Doug

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