## **APPENDIX F**

**Noise Impact Report**

## SCATTERGOOD GENERATING REPOWERING PROJECT NOISE IMPACT REPORT



Prepared for

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POWER ENGINEERS

Prepared by

TERRY A. HAYES ASSOCIATES INC.



# **SCATTERGOOD GENERATING REPOWERING PROJECT NOISE IMPACT REPORT**

Prepared for

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **Page No.**



#### **APPENDIX**



## **LIST OF TABLES**



#### **LIST OF FIGURES**



#### 1.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Terry A. Hayes Associates Inc. has completed a noise impact analysis for the Scattergood Generating Repowering Project. Key findings are listed below.

- Without mitigation, construction activity would generate noise levels that exceed the significance threshold at residential land uses south of Grand Avenue. Mitigation Measures **N1** through **N5**, shown below, would reduce noise levels, below the applicable significance thresholds. Therefore, construction activity would result in a less-thansignificant impact.
	- **N1** All construction equipment shall be properly maintained and equipped with mufflers and other suitable noise attenuation devices.
	- **N2** Grading and construction contractors shall endeavor to use quieter equipment as opposed to noisier equipment (such as rubber-tired equipment rather than track equipment).
	- **N3** The construction contractor shall ensure that all stockpiling and vehicle staging areas are located away from noise-sensitive receivers, to the extent feasible.
	- **N4** The construction contractor shall plan work such that activities that generate high noise levels will not be started outside the hours codified in the Los Angeles and El Segundo Municipal Codes, and all reasonable efforts to conclude work in progress prior to the hours listed in these codes will be taken by the construction contractor.
	- **N5** A public liaison for project construction shall be identified who shall be responsible for addressing public concerns about construction activities, including excessive noise. The liaison shall determine the cause of the concern (e.g., starting too early, bad muffler, etc.) and shall be required to implement reasonable measures to address the concern.
- Operational noise impacts would be less than significant under both the General Electric and Siemens options, and no mitigation measures are required.
- Construction and operational vibration impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.
- Cumulative noise and vibration impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

#### **2.1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the potential for noise impacts of the proposed Scattergood Generating Repowering Project. Potential noise levels are analyzed for construction and operation of the proposed project. Mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts are recommended when appropriate to reduce noise and vibration levels.

#### **2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Scattergood Generating Station (SGS) is proposing to undergo a repowering project in several phases to replace aging equipment. SGS, located 12700 Vista Del Mar in the City of Los Angeles, is adjacent to Dockweiler State Beach to the west, a Chevron oil refinery to the south, Hyperion Treatment Plant to the north, and residential neighborhoods to the northeast and east. The terrain is a hillside rising from west to east from sea level to approximately 125 feet in elevation.

The existing facility includes three gas-fired boilers and steam turbine generators. Units 1 and 2 have a rated gross capacity of 185 megawatts (MW) each, are functionally identical, and share the north buildings and north exhaust stack. Unit 3 has a rated gross capacity of 460 MW, is located in the south buildings, and exhausts to the south exhaust stack adjacent to Units 1 and 2.

There are two power generation system scenarios that are currently under consideration and that represent the expected high and low range of generating capacities that could be implemented at SGS. Each scenario would replace Unit 3 with a new generation system. Under Generation Scenario 1, base load would be provided by a new Combined Cycle Generating Systems (CCGS) and peak load would be provided by a Simple Cycle Generating Systems (SCGS) consisting of two separate natural-gas fired combustion turbine generators (CTGs). Under Generation Scenario 2, base load would be provided by a new CCGS similar to Generation Scenario 1. Peak load would be provided by a single additional CCGS unit rather than a SCGS consisting of more than one CTG.

#### 3.0 NOISE AND VIBRATION

This section evaluates noise and vibration levels associated with the implementation of the proposed project. This analysis in this section assesses existing noise and vibration conditions at the project site and in its vicinity, as well as short-term construction and long-term operational noise and vibration impacts associated with the proposed project. Mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts are recommended when appropriate to reduce noise and vibration levels.

#### **3.1 NOISE AND VIBRATION CHARACTERISTICS AND EFFECTS**

#### **3.1.1 Noise**

#### **Characteristics of Sound**

Sound is technically described in terms of the loudness (amplitude) and frequency (pitch) of the sound. The standard unit of measurement for sound is the decibel (dB). The human ear is not equally sensitive to sound at all frequencies. The "A-weighted scale," abbreviated dBA, reflects the normal hearing sensitivity range of the human ear. On this scale, the range of human hearing extends from approximately 3 to 140 dBA. **Figure 3-1** provides examples of Aweighted noise levels from common sounds.

#### **Noise Definitions**

This noise analysis discusses sound levels in terms of Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL), Equivalent Noise Level  $(L_{eq})$ , and the noise level exceeded X percent of a specific time period  $(L_x)$ .

**Community Noise Equivalent Level.** CNEL is an average sound level during a 24-hour period. CNEL is a noise measurement scale, which accounts for noise source, distance, single event duration, single event occurrence, frequency, and time of day. Human reaction to sound between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. is as if the sound were actually 5 dBA higher than if it occurred from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. From 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., humans perceive sound as if it were 10 dBA higher due to the lower background level. Hence, the CNEL is obtained by adding an additional 5 dBA to sound levels in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 10 dBA to sound levels in the night from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Because CNEL accounts for human sensitivity to sound, the CNEL 24-hour figure is always a higher number than the actual 24-hour average.

**Equivalent Noise Level.** L<sub>eg</sub> is the average noise level on an energy basis for any specific time period. The  $L_{eq}$  for one hour is the energy average noise level during the hour. The average noise level is based on the energy content (acoustic energy) of the sound.  $L_{eq}$  can be thought of as the level of a continuous noise which has the same energy content as the fluctuating noise level. The equivalent noise level is expressed in units of dBA.

 $L_X$ .  $L_X$  is the noise level exceeded X percent of a specific time period. The value of X is commonly 10 (e.g.,  $L_{10}$ ). Other values such as 50 and 90 are also commonly used.



SOURCE: Cowan, James P., *Handbook of Environmental Acoustics*



*FIGURE 3-1*

A-WEIGHTED DECIBEL SCALE

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#### **Effects of Noise**

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. The degree to which noise can impact the human environment ranges from levels that interfere with speech and sleep (annoyance and nuisance) to levels that cause adverse health effects (hearing loss and psychological effects). Human response to noise is subjective and can vary greatly from person to person. Factors that influence individual response include the intensity, frequency, and pattern of noise, the amount of background noise present before the intruding noise, and the nature of work or human activity that is exposed to the noise source.

#### **Audible Noise Changes**

Studies have shown that the smallest perceptible change in sound level for a person with normal hearing sensitivity is approximately 3 dBA. A change of at least 5 dBA would be noticeable and may evoke a community reaction. A 10-dBA increase is subjectively heard as a doubling in loudness and would likely cause a community response.

Noise levels decrease as the distance from the noise source to the receiver increases. Noise generated by a stationary noise source, or "point source," will decrease by approximately 6 dBA over hard surfaces (e.g., reflective surfaces such as parking lots or smooth bodies of water) and 7.5 dBA over soft surfaces (e.g., absorptive surfaces such as soft dirt, grass, or scattered bushes and trees) for each doubling of the distance. For example, if a noise source produces a noise level of 89 dBA at a reference distance of 50 feet, then the noise level would be 83 dBA at a distance of 100 feet from the noise source, 77 dBA at a distance of 200 feet, and so on, over hard or reflective surfaces. Noise generated by a mobile source will decrease by approximately 3 dBA over hard surfaces and 4.5 dBA over soft surfaces for each doubling of the distance.

Generally, noise is most audible when traveling by direct line-of-sight, which is an unobstructed visual path between the noise source and the noise receptor. Barriers, such as walls, berms, or buildings, that break the line-of-sight between the source and the receiver greatly reduce noise levels from the source since sound can only reach the receiver by bending over the top of the barrier (diffraction). Sound barriers can reduce sound levels by up to 20 dBA. However, if a barrier is not high or long enough to break the line-of-sight from the source to the receiver, its effectiveness is greatly reduced.

#### **Applicable Regulations**

SGS is located on City of Los Angeles property. Adjacent jurisdictions include the City of El Segundo and the County of Los Angeles.

**City of Los Angeles**. The City of Los Angeles has established policies and regulations concerning the generation and control of noise that could adversely affect and noise sensitive land uses. Regarding construction, the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) indicates that no construction or repair work shall be performed before 7:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, since such activities would generate loud noises and disturb persons occupying sleeping quarters in any adjacent dwelling, hotel, apartment or other place of residence. No person, other than an individual home owner shall engaged in the repair or construction of his/her single-family dwelling, shall perform any construction or repair work of any kind or perform such work within 500 feet of land so occupied before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. on any Saturday or on a federal holiday, or at any time on any Sunday. Under certain conditions, the City may grant a waiver to allow limited construction activities to occur outside of the limits described above.

**City of El Segundo**.The City of El Segundo noise policies are defined in Chapter 2 (Noise and Vibration), Title 7 (Nuisances and Offenses) of the Municipal Code. The Code states that no person should generate noise that causes greater than a 5-decibel increase in ambient noise levels at a residential property. The Code does not state what noise metric should be used to determine compliance with the noise ordinance. Therefore, the noise increase per the City standard is measured against the hourly noise level in this analysis.

Regarding construction noise, the City of El Segundo exempts noise sources associated with or vibration created by construction, repair, or remodeling of any real property, provided that activities do not take place between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, or at any time on Sunday or a Federal holiday, and provided the noise level created by such activities does not exceed the noise standard of 65 dBA as measured on the receptor residential property line and provided any vibration created does not endanger the public health, welfare, or safety.

**County of Los Angeles.** Dockweiler State Beach is operated by the County of Los Angeles. The County has not established noise standards for beach areas.

#### **3.1.2 Vibration**

#### **Characteristics of Vibration**

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 can be a serious concern, causing buildings to shake and rumbling sounds to be heard. In contrast to noise, vibration is not a common environmental problem. It is unusual for vibration from sources such as buses and trucks to be perceptible, even in locations close to major roads. Some common sources of vibration are trains, buses on rough roads, and construction activities, such as blasting, pile driving, and heavy earth-moving equipment.

#### **Vibration Definitions**

There are several different methods that are used to quantify vibration. The peak particle velocity (PPV) is defined as the maximum instantaneous peak of the vibration signal. The PPV is most frequently used to describe vibration impacts to buildings and is usually measured in inches per second. The root mean square (RMS) amplitude is most frequently used to describe the effect of vibration on the human body. The RMS amplitude is defined as the average of the squared amplitude of the signal. Decibel notation (Vdb) is commonly used to measure RMS. The decibel notation acts to compress the range of numbers required to describe vibration.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Effects of Vibration**

High levels of vibration may cause physical personal injury or damage to buildings. However, vibration levels rarely affect human health. Instead, most people consider vibration to be an annoyance that may affect concentration or disturb sleep. In addition, high levels of vibration

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Transit Administration, *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*, May 2006.

may damage fragile buildings or interfere with equipment that is highly sensitive to vibration (e.g., electron microscopes).

#### **Perceptible Vibration Changes**

In contrast to noise, vibration is not a phenomenon that most people experience every day. The background vibration velocity level in residential areas is usually 50 RMS or lower, well below the threshold of perception for humans which is around 65 RMS.<sup>2</sup> Most perceptible indoor vibration is caused by sources within buildings, such as operation of mechanical equipment, movement of people, or slamming of doors. Typical outdoor sources of perceptible vibration are construction equipment, steel-wheeled trains, and traffic on rough roads. If the roadway is smooth, the vibration from traffic is rarely perceptible.

#### **Applicable Regulations**

There are no adopted City of Los Angeles standards for vibration.

Regarding the City of El Segundo, Section 7-2-9 of the Municipal Code states that a person shall not create, maintain or cause any ground vibration which is perceptible, without the use of instruments, to any reasonable person of normal sensitivity at any point on any affected property.

Regarding the County of Los Angeles, Section 12.08.560 of the Code prohibits operating or permitting the operation of any device that creates vibration which is above the vibration perception threshold of any individual at or beyond the property boundary of the source if on private property, or at 150 feet from the source if on a public space or public right-of-way is prohibited. The perception threshold shall be a motion velocity of 0.01 inches per second over the range of 1 to 100 Hertz.

#### **3.2 EXISTING SETTING**

#### **3.2.1 Existing Noise Environment**

The existing noise environment of the project area is characterized by mechanical equipment noise associated with SGS, vehicular traffic along Vista Del Mar and Grand Avenue, and aircraft associated with Los Angeles International Airport. Additional sources of noise are typical of dense urban areas and include sirens and helicopters.

Sound measurements surrounding SGS were taken by ATCO Noise Management using a Brüel & Kjaer 2250 Real Time Analyzers over a 48-hour period from 10:00 a.m. August 10, 2010 to 10:00 a.m. August 12, 2010. These readings were used to establish existing ambient noise conditions and to provide a baseline for evaluating construction and operational noise impacts. Noise monitoring locations (locations 1 through 4) are shown in **Figure 3-2**.

2 *Ibid*.

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- Project Site
- **(1)** Construction Noise Source 1

Dockweiler State Beach

- **(2)** Construction Noise Source 2
- **(3)** Construction Noise Source 3
- **(4)** Construction Noise Source 4
- **(5)** Construction Noise Source 5
- **(6)** Construction Noise Source 6
- SOURCE: Google Earth, 2012 and TAHA, 2012.
- Noise Monitoring Locations  $\boldsymbol{\bm{\omega}}$
- 1**.** Residential
- **2.** Residential
- **3.** Beach
- **4.** Beach
- **5.** Residential



*FIGURE 3-2*

NOISE MONITORING AND SENSITIVE RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

taha 2010-079 POWER ENGINEERS Noise Impact Report

Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project

Monitored noise levels are shown in **Table 3-1**. Existing ambient sound levels range between 55.0 and 60.0 dBA L<sub>eq</sub>. A sound measurement was also taken using a SoundPro DL Sound Level Meter between 11:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on July 26, 2011 to determine existing ambient daytime off-peak noise level for single and multi-family residences south of Grand Avenue (location 5). This location is also shown on **Figure 3-2**. The existing ambient reading was 55.0  $dBA$   $L_{eq}$ 



**3.2.2 Existing Vibration Environment** 

There are no stationary sources of vibration located near the project site. Heavy-duty trucks can generate vibrations that vary depending on vehicle type and weight, and pavement conditions. However, vibration levels from adjacent roadways are not typically perceptible at the project site. In addition, mechanical equipment associated with the existing SGS facility does not generate perceptible vibration past the property line.

#### **3.2.3 Sensitive Receptors**

Noise- and vibration-sensitive land uses are locations where people reside or where the presence of unwanted sound could adversely affect the use of the land. Residences, schools, hospitals, guest lodging, libraries, and some passive recreation areas would be considered noise- and vibration-sensitive and may warrant measures for protection from intruding noise. Sensitive receptor locations are identified in **Figure 3-2** above and included the following areas in jurisdictions adjacent to SGS.

**City of Los Angeles**. No sensitive receptors within the City of Los Angeles are located within one-quarter mile of the project site. Noise levels at sensitive receptors outside this range would not be affected by construction or operational activities.

**City of El Segundo**. Residential land uses are located adjacent and to the east of the project site on the north and south sides of Grand Avenue.

**County of Los Angeles**. Dockweiler State Beach is located approximately 100 feet west of the project site.

#### **3.3 METHODLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA**

#### **3.3.1 Methodology**

**Construction**. The construction analysis presents three scenarios, representing various phases of construction that can be characterized based on their location and type of activity. There are two power generation system options that are currently under consideration that could be implemented at SGS. It was assumed that these options would result in similar construction noise levels.

The first construction scenario represents the beginning of construction activity when the oil tanks south of Grand Avenue will be demolished. It was assumed that this demolition activity would generate a noise level of 85 dBA  $L_{eq}$  at 50 feet, consistent with USEPA source equipment operating standards.

The second scenario is a worst-case scenario when activity would be occurring throughout the project site. The project site was divided into five distinct noise sources. The location of these noise sources is shown in **Figure 3-2**, above. Noise Sources 1 and 2 involve the placement of generating systems and associated mechanical equipment. Noise Source 3 is a paved materials storage area. Noise Source 4 is the Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area laydown area. Noise Source 5 is the parking and construction management area. The noise level associated with Noise Sources 1 and 2 was based on a reference level of 89 dBA  $L_{eq}$  at 50 feet for high intensity construction activity with multiple pieces equipment operating simultaneously.<sup>3</sup> It was assumed that Noise Source 3 would be a laydown area for small pieces of equipment and associated supplies. The noise level in this area would typically not exceed 68 dBA  $L_{eq}$  at 50 feet based on a small truck moving at 15 miles per hour. The Noise Source 4 reference level was 78 dBA Leq at 50 feet based on low intensity construction activity with multiple pieces equipment operating simultaneously. The noise level in the Noise Source 5 parking area is based on a reference level of 58.1 dBA  $L_{eq}$  at 50 feet.

The third construction scenario represents the demolition of Unit 3 (Noise Source 6 as identified on **Figure 3-2**) at the southwest corner of the SGS site. This activity would occur at the end of the construction process and would generate a noise level of approximately 89 dBA  $L_{eq}$  at 50 feet.

Construction noise levels were assessed for the sensitive receptors nearest to the project site on the north and south sides of Grand Avenue. These would be the receptors most affected by construction noise. Construction noise was also estimated at Dockweiler State Beach. The noise level at each receptor location was calculated by (1) making a distance adjustment to the construction source sound level and (2) logarithmically adding the adjusted construction noise source level to the ambient noise level.

**Operations**. The operational noise is based on a report prepared for LADWP by Worley Parsons and ATCO Noise Management (Appendix B). $4$  The methodology is described in detail in the ATCO Noise Management technical report. To summarize, the acoustical modeling was completed using the Cadna/A computer software program from DataKustik GmbH. Atmospheric conditions were based on average conditions. Noise radiating elements were modeled based on their noise emission pattern. Concentrated sources, such as pumps and

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<sup>3</sup>City of Los Angeles, *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide*, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> ATCO Noise Management, *Operational Noise Analysis*, September 28, 2011.

valves were included as point sources, which radiate sound hemi-spherically over ground. The analysis also includes directivity patterns associated with the exhaust stacks. Noise breakout through building walls was entered as area sources, which radiates sound over a much larger area. Pipes were entered as line sources, which radiate sound in a cylindrical pattern. Buildings and other obstacles were modeled as solid barrier elements. Source sound power levels for the SGS generator repowering options were obtained from vendor data or measurement data from similar units compiled from past projects where available. For equipment with no prior vendor or measurement data available, a sound power level for a similar piece of equipment was used with corrections for dimensions and mechanical differences. The following assumptions were used to develop the noise prediction model:

- Noise sources with infrequent operation were not included;
- Equipment was assumed to be in full load steady state operation;
- Units 1 and 2 were assumed to have nearly identical noise emission based on their mechanical similarity;
- The combustion turbine air inlet filter house would have standard silencing; and
- Doors were assumed closed.

#### **3.3.2 Noise Significance Criteria**

#### *Construction Phase Significance Criteria*

The determination of significance at residential receptors is based on standards listed in the El Segundo Municipal Code. Dockweiler State Beach is a recreational land use where general noise compatibility is important. As such, the determination of significance at the beach is based on the State land use compatibility matrix for water recreation as shown in **Table 3-2**. The maximum normally acceptable noise level for water recreation is 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$ , which overlaps with the minimum normally unacceptable noise level of 70 dBA  $L_{dn}$ . However, the maximum normally acceptable noise level is used as the threshold for this analysis given that Dockweiler State Beach is located near several substantial sources of noise including the existing SGS, Hyperion Treatment Plant, the Pacific Coast Highway, and Los Angeles International Airport. For a continuously operating stationary sound source, the  $L_{dn}$  is equivalent to the hourly equivalent sound level plus 6.4 dB. Therefore, the maximum hourly equivalent sound level is 68.6 dBA  $L_{eq}$ . However, it is important to remember that this is only a guideline and not a noise limit, since the County of Los Angeles has not established a noise limit for Dockweiler State Beach.

The proposed project would result in significant construction noise impacts if:

- Construction noise levels at residences in the City of El Segundo would exceed 65 dBA  $\mathsf{L}_{\mathsf{eq}}$ .
- Construction noise levels at Dockweiler State Beach exceed 68.6 dBA Leq.

#### *Operational Phase Significance Criteria*

The determination of significance at residential receptors is based on standards listed in the El Segundo Municipal Code. The determination of significance at Dockweiler Beach is based on the State land use compatibility matrix shown in **Table 3-2**.

The proposed project would result in significant operational impacts if:

- Operational noise levels at residences in the City of El Segundo would exceed the ambient noise level by 5 dBA; and/or
- $\bullet$  Operational noise levels at Dockweiler State Beach exceed 68.6 dBA L<sub>eq</sub>.



#### **3.3.3 Vibration Significance Criteria**

There are no adopted State or local vibration standards. Based on federal guidelines, the proposed project would result in a significant construction or operational vibration impact if:

 The proposed project would expose buildings to the FTA building damage threshold for non-engineered timber and masonry buildings of 0.2 inches per second.

#### **3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

#### **3.4.1 Noise Impacts**

#### **Construction Noise Impacts**

Construction of the proposed project would result in temporary increases in ambient noise levels in the project area on an intermittent basis. Noise levels would fluctuate depending on the construction phase, equipment type and duration of use, distance between the noise source and receptor, and presence or absence of noise attenuation barriers.

Construction activities typically require the use of numerous pieces noise-generating equipment. Typical noise levels from various types of equipment that may be used during construction are listed in **Table 3-3.** The table shows noise levels at distances of 50 and 100 feet from the construction noise source.



**Construction Scenario 1**. The first scenario represents the beginning of construction activity when the oil tanks south of Grand Avenue will be demolished. It was assumed that demolition activity would generate a noise level of 85 dBA Leq at 50 feet. **Figure 3-3** shows the distance from each of the noise sources to the analyzed receptors. **Table 3-4** presents the estimated noise levels during construction activity. Noise levels would exceed the significance threshold at receptor location 5. Therefore, without mitigation, construction scenario 1 would result in a significant impact related to construction noise levels.



**Construction Scenario 2**. Construction scenario 2 represents a worst-case scenario when activity would be occurring throughout the project site. **Figure 3-4** shows the distance from each of the noise sources to the analyzed receptors. **Table 3-5** presents the estimated noise levels at receptors during construction activity. Noise levels would exceed the significance threshold at receptor locations 1, 2, 3, and 5. Therefore, without mitigation, construction scenario 2 would result in a significant impact related to construction noise levels.



**Construction Scenario 3**.Removal of the existing Unit 3 Power Plant would occur after the new generation is completed. This activity would not be concurrent with any other construction activities. **Figure 3-5** shows the distance from each of the noise sources to the analyzed receptors. **Table 3-6** presents the estimated noise levels at receptors during construction activity. Noise levels would exceed the significance threshold at receptor location 4. Therefore, without mitigation, construction scenario 3 would result in a significant impact related to construction noise levels.



#### **Construction Noise Mitigation Measures**

- **N1** All construction equipment shall be properly maintained and equipped with mufflers and other suitable noise attenuation devices.
- **N2** Grading and construction contractors shall endeavor to use quieter equipment as opposed to noisier equipment (such as rubber-tired equipment rather than track equipment).
- **N3** The construction contractor shall ensure that all laydown and vehicle staging areas are located away from noise-sensitive receivers, to the extent feasible.
- **N4** The construction contractor shall plan work such that activities that generate high noise levels will not be started outside the hours codified in the Los Angeles and El Segundo Municipal Codes, and all reasonable efforts to conclude work in progress prior to the hours listed in these codes will be taken by the construction contractor.
- **N5** A public liaison for project construction shall be identified who shall be responsible for addressing public concerns about construction activities, including excessive noise. The liaison shall determine the cause of the concern (e.g., starting too early, bad muffler, etc.) and shall be required to implement reasonable measures to address the concern.

#### **Impacts After Mitigation**

Mitigation Measure **N1** would reduce noise levels by approximately 3 dBA. The other mitigation measures (**N2** through **N5**) would assist in attenuating construction noise levels, but the level of attenuation is non-quantifiable.

**Construction Scenario 1**. **Table 3-7** shows mitigated construction noise levels for Construction Scenario 1. Mitigated noise levels would not exceed the significance threshold at identified receptors. Therefore, Scenario 1 would result in a less-than-significant impact related to construction noise.



**Construction Scenario 2**. **Table 3-8** shows mitigated construction noise levels for construction scenario 2. Mitigated noise levels would not exceed the significance threshold at identified receptors. Therefore, construction scenario 2 would result in a less-than-significant impact related to construction noise.



**Construction Scenario 3**. **Table 3-9** shows mitigated construction noise levels for construction scenario 3. Mitigated noise levels would not exceed the significance threshold at identified receptors. Therefore, construction scenario 3 would result in a less-than-significant impact related to construction noise.





- Project Site
- 



- 1**.** Residential
- **2.** Residential
- **3.** Beach
- **4.** Beach
- **5.** Residential
- SOURCE: Google Earth, 2012 and TAHA, 2012.

Construction Noise Source 4



taha 2010-079 POWER ENGINEERS Noise Impact Report

Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project

Approx. Scale Feet N 0 210 420

*FIGURE 3-3*

NOISE SENSITIVE RECEPTOR LOCATIONS FOR SCENARIO 1



- Project Site
	- Construction Noise Source 1
	- Construction Noise Source 2
	- Construction Noise Source 3
	- Construction Noise Source 4
		- Construction Noise Source 5
- **3** Sensitive Receptor
- 1**.** Residential
- **2.** Residential
- **3.** Beach
- **4.** Beach
- **5.** Residential
- SOURCE: Google Earth, 2012 and TAHA, 2012.



Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project Noise Impact Report

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Approx. Scale Feet N 0 210 420

*FIGURE 3-4*

NOISE SENSITIVE RECEPTORS LOCATIONS FOR SCENARIO 2



- Project Site
- 
- **3** Sensitive Receptor
- 1**.** Residential
- **2.** Residential
- **3.** Beach
- **4.** Beach
- **5.** Residential
- SOURCE: Google Earth, 2012 and TAHA, 2012.

Construction Noise Source 6



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Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project

Approx. Scale Feet N 0 210 420

*FIGURE 3-5*

NOISE SENSITIVE RECEPTOR LOCATIONS FOR SCENARIO 3

#### Operational Phase Noise Impacts

The Scattergood Generating station power plant upgrade currently has two design options, one powered by General Electric equipment and one powered by Siemens equipment. The General Electric (GE) option would consist of one GE Rapid Response combustion turbine/steam turbine power generation trains operating in combined cycle mode with a dry cooling system along with two GE simple cycle power generation trains with dry cooling systems. The Siemens option would consist of one base-load combustion turbine/steam turbine power generation trains and one peak-load combustion turbine/steam turbine power generation trains, both operating in combined cycle mode with dry cooling systems. In addition to gas combustion turbines, the combined cycle trains would use heat recovery steam generators, steam turbine power generation trains, dry air-cooled condenser cooling systems, boiler feed water pumps, and other ancillary equipment.

Operational noise levels were assessed at the receptors closest to the SGS. For example, it was assumed that noise levels at residences located to the south across Grand Avenue (i.e., at Franklin Avenue) and east behind the tanks (i.e., at Loma Vista Street) would be exposed to less noise than the residences on the bluffs facing SGS. In addition, the noise modeling assumed a base case scenario with no noise attenuation beyond that which is inherently included in the generation equipment packages.

**GE Option (Generating Scenario 1)**. The GE Option scenario was modeled for the expected noise emission from the SGS facility under the following operating conditions:

- Units 1 and 2 under full load;
- 7FA 1x1 combined cycle turbine generator system in the north parking lot at full load;
- Two new LMS100 simple cycle turbine generator systems on the east terrace at full load; and
- Unit 3 is not operating (removed from service).

**Siemens Option (Generating Scenario 2)**. The Siemens Option scenario was modeled for the expected noise emission from the SGS facility under the following operating conditions:

- Units 1 and 2 under full load;
- New combined cycle turbine generator system in the north parking lot at full load
- New combined cycle turbine generator system on the east terrace at full load; and
- Unit 3 is not operating (removed from service).

As shown in **Table 3-10** and **Figure 3-6**, noise levels would not exceed the established thresholds. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to GE operational noise levels.

As shown in **Table 3-10** and **Figure 3-7**, noise levels would not exceed the established thresholds. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to Siemens operational noise levels.



#### **Operational Noise Mitigation Measures**

Operational noise impacts would be less-than-significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Impacts After Mitigation**

Not applicable. Operational noise would result in a less-than-significant impact without mitigation.

#### **3.4.2 Vibration Impacts**

#### **Construction Vibration Impacts**

The FTA has published methodology for estimating vibration levels and potential impacts. According to the FTA, standard construction equipment (e.g., a large bulldozer) generates a vibration level of 0.089 inches per second at a distance of 25 feet. It is not anticipated that heavy construction activity would occur within 50 feet of residential buildings. Even at 50 feet, the typical equipment-generated vibration level would be 0.03 inches per second. Vibration levels at these receptors would not exceed the potential building damage threshold of 0.2 inches per second. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to construction vibration.

#### **Construction Vibration Mitigation Measures**

Construction vibration impacts would be less-than-significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Impacts After Mitigation**

Not applicable. Construction vibration impacts would result in a less-than-significant impact without mitigation.



Project Site

- **23** Noise Monitoring Locations
- 1**.** Residential
- **2.** Residential
- **3.** Beach
- **4.** Beach

SOURCE: Worley Parsons, 2011. l



*FIGURE 3-6*

Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project

taha 2010-079 POWER ENGINEERS

Noise Impact Report

GE OPTION NOISE CONTOURS



Project Site

- **2 Noise Monitoring Locations**
- 1**.** Residential
- **2.** Residential
- **3.** Beach
- **4.** Beach

SOURCE: Worley Parsons, 2011. l



Noise Impact Report

Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project



*FIGURE 3-7*

SIEMENS OPTION NOISE CONTOURS

taha 2010-079 POWER ENGINEERS

#### **Operational Vibration Mitigation Measures**

Operational vibration impacts would be less-than-significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Impacts After Mitigation**

Not applicable. Operational vibration would result in a less than significant impact without mitigation.

#### **3.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Cumulative impacts related to noise and vibration would result if the proposed project, in conjunction with other projects in the area, would contribute to a significant increase in ambient noise and vibration levels at nearby sensitive receptors.

#### **Construction Noise Impacts**

Construction activity generates localized noise levels that are generally audible at a maximum distance of 3,000 feet when there is a direct line-of-site from the source to the receptors. Topography and intervening structures typically associated with an urban environment quickly reduce the audible distance of construction noise. No projects have been identified within 3,000 feet of the project site with construction schedules that overlap with the proposed project. However, the proposed project would result in a significant and unavoidable construction noise impact. Therefore, it is anticipated that the proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively considerable construction noise impact.

#### **Operational Noise Impacts**

In addition to project-only noise, the operational noise analysis accounted for monitored ambient noise levels and operations of Units 1 and 2 under full load. This scenario represents a conservative cumulative condition, especially since the generation capacity of Unit 1 would permanently reduced as part of the proposed project. As previously discussed, operational SGS noise levels would not exceed the established significance thresholds. In addition, operation of the proposed project would not add any additional trips to the roadway system and, therefore, would not increase mobile noise in the region. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable operational noise impact.

#### **Construction and Operational Ground-borne Vibration Impacts**

The predominant vibration source at the project site would be construction activity and operation of generator facilities. As previously discussed, the proposed project would not exceed the significance thresholds for vibration during either the construction or operational phases of the SCGS facility. In addition, no project has been identified near the project site that could generate perceptible vibration overlapping with the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable vibration impact.

Appendix A

Construction Noise Calculations

## **Receptor 1 - Residential Unmitigated**

# **Construction Noise 1- Placement of Unit 3 Power Plant**



## **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



## **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



## **Construction Noise 4 at Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



## **Construction Noise 5- Parking and Construction Management Area**







#### **CONSTRUCTION NOISE CALCULATIONS Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project**

## **Receptor 2 - Residential Unmitigated**

## **Construction Noise 1- Placement of Unit 3 Power Plant**



#### **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



## **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



## **Construction Noise 4- Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



## **Construction Noise 5- Parking and Construction Management Area**







## **Receptor 3 - Beach Unmitigated**

## **Construction Noise 1- Placement of Unit 3 Power Plant**



## **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



## **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



## **Construction Noise 4 at Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



## **Construction Noise 5- Parking and Construction Management Area**







#### **CONSTRUCTION NOISE CALCULATIONS Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project**

## **Receptor 4 - Beach Unmitigated**

#### **Construction Noise 1- Placement of Unit 3 Power Plant**



## **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



#### **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



## **Construction Noise 4 at Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



#### **Construction Noise 5 at Parking and Construction Management Area**







#### **CONSTRUCTION NOISE CALCULATIONS Scattergood Generating Station Repowering Project**

## **Receptor 5 - Residential Unmitigated**

## **Construction Noise 1- Placement of Unit 3 Power Plant**



#### **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



## **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



## **Construction Noise 4- Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



## **Construction Noise 5- Parking and Construction Management Area**






# **Construction Scenario 1 - Unmitigated**

# **Construction Noise 4- Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



# **Construction Scenario 3 - Unmitigated Construction Noise 5- Removal of Existing Unit 3 Power Plant**



# **Construction Scenario 1 - Mitigated**

### **Construction Noise 4- Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



#### **Receptor 1 - Residential Mitigated**



#### **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



#### **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



#### **Construction Noise 4 at Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



#### **Construction Noise 5- Parking and Construction Management Area**







### **Receptor 2 - Residential Mitigated**

#### **Construction Noise 1- Placement of Unit 3 Power Plant**



#### **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



#### **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



### **Construction Noise 4- Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



#### **Construction Noise 5- Parking and Construction Management Area**







#### **Receptor 3 - Beach Mitigated**



#### **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



#### **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



#### **Construction Noise 4 at Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



#### **Construction Noise 5- Parking and Construction Management Area**







### **Receptor 4 - Beach Mitigated**

#### **Construction Noise 1- Placement of Unit 3 Power Plant**



#### **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



### **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



#### **Construction Noise 4 at Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



#### **Construction Noise 5 at Parking and Construction Management Area**







### **Receptor 5 - Residential Mitigated**

#### **Construction Noise 1- Placement of Unit 3 Power Plant**



#### **Construction Noise 2- Cooling Tower (CT) Area**



#### **Construction Noise 3- Fuel Unloading (FU) Area**



### **Construction Noise 4- Oil Tank (OT) Farm Area**



#### **Construction Noise 5- Parking and Construction Management Area**







# **Construction Scenario 3 - Mitigated Construction Noise 5- Removal of Existing Unit 3 Power Plant**



Appendix B

ATCO Operational Noise Study

**FINAL**

**Los Angeles, CA Worley Parsons**

**Scattergood Generating Station Re-power Project** 

# **Operational Noise Study**





# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

ATCO Noise management (ATCO) was retained by Worley Parsons to conduct a noise survey and create a noise propagation model of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Scattergood Generating Station (SGS) in Los Angeles, California.

The generating station will undergo a repowering project in several phases to replace aging equipment. Environmental noise is a concern as the facility must meet local regulatory noise criteria. This report contains the results of environmental noise measurements of the existing facility under partial operation and noise propagation modeling for the purpose of determining the existing facility environmental noise level as well as the expected future noise levels upon the installation of new generating equipment and decommissioning of some existing equipment. Two re-power scenarios are investigated using noise emission data for the proposed General Electric and Siemens turbines respectively.

The report also interprets the local noise ordinances for property surrounding the site to determine the permissible sound contribution from the SGS Re-Power Project. The existing sound level at reception points surrounding the facility was found to be between  $L_{eq}$  55 dBA and  $L_{eq}$  60 dBA during the lowest daytime and nighttime periods during SGS operation at part load. Based on these measurements the permissible maximum noise levels including background ambient and noise contribution from SGS Re-Power Project generating equipment were calculated to be between  $L_{eq}$  62 dBA and  $L_{eq}$  68.6 dBA, depending on location.

Two scenarios involving Siemens and GE turbines were evaluated and neither required mitigation to meet the local and state noise regulations.



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**





# **TABLES AND FIGURES**







# <span id="page-50-0"></span>**1. INTRODUCTION**

### <span id="page-50-1"></span>**1.1 Project Background**

ATCO Noise Management was retained by Worley Parsons to conduct an ambient noise survey and noise assessment for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Scattergood Generating Station (SGS) in El Segundo, CA. The generating station will undergo a re-powering project in several phases to replace aging equipment. Environmental noise is a concern for the project as the facility must meet local regulatory noise criteria. The project is subject to local noise ordinances which use the existing ambient noise level to set the permissible noise limit. Equipment currently operating at the generating station can be considered part of the pre-existing ambient noise level as it will be decommissioned. This report contains the results of environmental noise measurements of the existing facility under partial operation and noise propagation modeling for the purpose of determining the existing facility environmental noise level as well as the future sound level for two alternate re-power equipment scenarios and the noise control requirements necessary to meet the established permissible noise limits.

### <span id="page-50-2"></span>**1.2 Objectives**

The objective of this study is to provide a basis for the noise limits applicable to the Scattergood SGS Re-Power project and to determine potential noise abatement measures necessary to comply with the noise limits for two re-power equipment scenarios. In order to achieve this objective ambient noise survey data and noise propagation modeling will be used to assess the existing ambient noise level during full load facility operation. These levels will be applied with ordinance criteria in order to assess the permissible noise limits for the re-power project at locations surrounding the facility. Noise propagation modeling will be used to determine the existing facility full load noise contribution and the expected noise contribution for re-power generating equipment.

### <span id="page-50-3"></span>**1.3 Site Description**

Scattergood Generating Station is located at 12700 Vista Del Mar, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293. The facility is located adjacent to Dockweiler Beach (to the west), a Chevron refinery (to the south), Hyperion Treatment Plant (to the north), and a residential neighborhood (to the east). The terrain is a hillside rising from west to east from sea level to approximately 125' elevation. Sources of sound in the environment include traffic noise; noise from the SGS and other surrounding industrial facilities; aircraft taking off and landing at Los Angeles International Airport, which is located approximately 1 mile north of the facility; and other urban sounds. The unpaved surfaces surrounding the facility are mainly sand covered with low-lying cactuses which form a fire barricade on the facility setback. The predominant wind direction is from the west. An aerial photo of the facility and surrounding area is shown in Figure 1.



Worley Parsons Project 745400 October 5, 2011

The existing facility is comprised of three gas fired boilers and steam turbine generators. Units 1 and 2 are functionally identical and share the north buildings and north exhaust stack. Units 1 and 2 have a rated capacity of 179MW each. Unit 3 is located in the south buildings and exhausts to the south exhaust stack adjacent to Units 1 and 2. Unit 3 has a rated capacity of 460MW.

Ancillary noise generating equipment on the site includes a once through cooling pump station on Dockweiler Beach, transformers located on the west side of the Steam Turbine Generator (STG) buildings, a switchyard on the hillside east of the STG buildings, a pipe rack and metering station on the east hillside, and two wet cooling towers on the west side of the switchyard.



### <span id="page-51-1"></span>**Figure 1: Aerial View**

### <span id="page-51-0"></span>**1.4 Noise Criteria**

The SGS Re-Power project should adhere to the regulatory noise criteria for the surrounding receptors. Although the SGS is located in the City of Los Angeles, receiving property is the State of California as well as the City of Los Angeles and City of El Segundo. Since the surrounding land uses vary, several different permissible noise limits are applicable at various points around the project site. Of primary concern for



the project is the permissible continuous sound level limit which must be achieved at neighboring properties. Restrictions on intermittent, impulsive, and tonal sounds are also addressed by the ordinances. The relevant sections of each ordinance are included below as well as a diagram showing the area governed by each ordinance in Figure 2. Definitions for the sound level terminology used below and throughout the report are included in [APPENDIX A: SOUND LEVEL TERMINOLOGY.](#page-76-0)

# **City of El Segundo**

**Document:** El Segundo, California City Code; Title 7; Chapter 2: Noise and Vibration

**Applicable Noise Limit:** *"No Person shall, at any location within the City, create any noise, nor shall any person allow the creation of any noise within the person's control on public or private property (hereinafter "noise source"), which causes the noise level when measured on any other property (hereinafter "receptor property"), to exceed the applicable noise standard, except as set forth in subsection C1 of this Section.*

- *A. Residential Property: Five (5) dBA above the ambient noise level*
- *B. Commercial Property: Eight (8) dBA above the ambient noise level"*

This statement implies that overall noise level including ambient noise and facility noise contribution may not exceed the stated limit.

**Noise Descriptors Used for Assessment:** Based on the language of the ordinance the lowest hourly equivalent continuous sound level (L<sub>eq 1hr</sub>, dBA) is the descriptor selected to evaluate the ambient noise level for the purpose of determining the applicable noise limit.

# **City of Los Angeles**

**Document:** Los Angeles Municipal Code; Chapter XI: Noise Regulation

**Applicable Noise Limit:** Sound level limits for industrial land uses are not specified by the ordinance.

**Noise Descriptors Used for Assessment:** The ordinance specifies that the lowest 15-minute 90% percentile sound level **(**L90 15mins, dBA) is the descriptor used to assess the ambient noise level where applicable.

# **State of California**

**Document:** Sate of California General Plan Guidelines-2003, Appendix C

**Applicable Noise Limit:** The **w**ater recreation land use category indicates a day-night equivalent  $(L<sub>dn</sub>)$ under 75 dBA is "normally acceptable".



Noise Descriptors Used for Assessment: The document specifies acceptable noise levels in terms of L<sub>dn</sub>. The  $L_{dn}$  is a 24-hour averaging metric which includes a 10 dB penalty for noise generation during nighttime hours (10 pm  $-$  7 am). For a continuously operating stationary sound source, the L<sub>dn</sub> is equivalent to the hourly equivalent sound level ( $L_{eq \text{ 1hr}}$ , dBA) + 6.4 dB. Therefore, the maximum hourly equivalent sound level on state owned property is 68.6 dBA (L<sub>eq 1hr</sub>, dBA).



<span id="page-53-0"></span>**Figure 2: Noise Ordinance Jurisdiction**



# <span id="page-54-0"></span>**2. AMBIENT NOISE SURVEY**

A noise survey was conducted at the facility in order to document the existing ambient noise level including operational noise from SGS. Four locations were selected in the direction of nearby points of reception for residential and noise sensitive areas. Noise measurements were collected over a 48-hour period from 10AM Aug 10 2010 to 10AM Aug 12 2010. Short duration attended measurements were also collected around operating equipment for the purpose of calculating the sound power level of the existing noise generating equipment for noise propagation modeling.

Measurements were conducted using Brüel & Kjaer 2250 Real Time Analyzers. The instruments were field-calibrated before and after the sound measurements. These are Type 1 precision sound level meters that meet the ANSI S1.4, Type 1 Specification. The meters have current laboratory certification. The microphones were fitted with wind screens to minimize measurement contamination from wind induced pseudo-noise. The collected data included the energy equivalent level  $(L_{eq})$  as well as statistical exceedance levels, 1/3 octave band frequency distribution, and other relevant noise descriptors. The long term measurements were logged in 1-minute intervals, using a slow time weighting. The measurements were performed in accordance with ANSI standard S1.13-2005, "Methods for the Measurement of Sound Pressure Levels in Air", and other relevant standards.

Meteorological conditions were logged using a portable weather station located near measurement location R2. Conditions were favorable for outdoor sound measurements and were typical for the area. Logged meteorological data is included in [APPENDIX B: METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.](#page-78-0)

Plant operating conditions were scheduled and logged to obtain noise survey data during full load operation of units 2 and 3. Unit 1 was non-operational for the duration of the noise survey due to maintenance issues. Power output for units 2 and 3 during the noise survey period is shown in [APPENDIX C: GENERATING STATION POWER OUTPUT.](#page-80-0)

### <span id="page-54-1"></span>**2.1 Ambient Noise Survey Results**

This section describes the results of the ambient noise survey during plant operation. Table 1 contains the A-weighted L<sub>eq</sub>, L<sub>50</sub>, and L<sub>90</sub> sound level at each of the 4 measurement locations which will be used to determine the permissible noise limit for the re-power project. The values in Table 1 are the calculated lowest average value during full load plant operation for the descriptor indicated.

Measurement locations are numbered in Figure 1. Logged A-weighted equivalent continuous sound levels as well as several other sound level descriptors for the entire survey period are plotted graphically in APPENDIX D: AMBIENT SURVEY RESULTS.



<span id="page-55-0"></span>

# **Table 1: Ambient Sound Levels at Residential Area Noise Monitoring Locations**



# <span id="page-56-0"></span>**3. NOISE PROPAGATION MODELING**

This section describes the methodology of noise propagation modeling of units 1-3 at the Scattergood Generating Station. The description in this section represents the calculation of noise emission of the three existing units only and does not include modeling of future equipment.

### <span id="page-56-1"></span>**3.1 Prediction Method**

The acoustical modeling for this project was conducted with the Cadna/A computer software program from DataKustik GmbH. The outdoor noise propagation model is based on ISO 9613, *Part 1: "Calculation of the absorption of sound by the atmosphere", (1993) and Part 2: "General method of calculation", (1996).* The results presented in this section are the calculated results using measurements of the source noise emission without any additional design safety factor.

### <span id="page-56-2"></span>**3.2 Prediction Conditions**

Atmospheric conditions were based on average conditions. The ground absorption factor G was set to 0.5, which approximates the terrain. Temperature and humidity affects the atmospheric absorption of sound at all frequencies. Adverse winds can also affect measured sound levels by up to 10 dB. Wind was modeled as a light downwind condition in all directions. Temperature was modeled as  $63^{\circ}$ F, Relative Humidity was modeled as 70% which represent average conditions. The number of reflections for the model was set to two. This means that two reflections from buildings and obstacles were allowed for individual sound propagation rays during sound propagation calculations. In general these conditions are conducive to noise propagation but do not represent an extreme case such as during the presence of a strong temperature inversion.

### <span id="page-56-3"></span>**3.3 Prediction Accuracy**

There are three accuracy factors that can vary when modeling:

- Between Cadna/A and ISO 9613. Cadna/A predictions are accurate to within 1 dB of the propagation standard.
- Between ISO 9613 and actual measurements. For the present site with neutral wind and atmospheric conditions, the difference between the actual outdoor noise propagation and that calculated according to the ISO 9613 standard is within 3 dB for A-weighted results and in most cases yields conservative results.
- Source level uncertainty. The source sound power level uncertainty whether derived from measurements or stated by the equipment manufacturer will be incorporated into modeling uncertainty.

Worley Parsons Project 745400 October 5, 2011



### <span id="page-57-0"></span>**3.4 Modeling Elements**

Noise radiating elements are modeled based on their noise emission pattern. The elements at Scattergood Generating Station have different emission patterns. Concentrated sources, such as pumps and valves are included as point sources which radiate sound hemi-spherically over ground. Directivity patterns associated with the exhaust stacks are included also. Noise breakout through building walls is entered as area sources, which radiate sound over a much larger area. Pipes are entered as line sources which radiate sound in a cylindrical pattern. Sources are expressed by their decibel sound power level  $(L<sub>w</sub>$  dB) in Octave Bands from 31.5Hz to 8000Hz.

Buildings and other obstacles are modeled as solid barrier elements. The reflective characteristic of the structure is quantified by its absorption coefficient, which is specified based on the construction material used. Terrain between the source and the receptor affects noise propagation and is modeled using topographic information from the site.

A 3D view of the sources, receivers, obstacles, and terrain entered into the noise propagation model is shown in Figure 3.

### <span id="page-57-1"></span>**3.5 Source Sound Levels**

Source sound power levels for the existing SGS are shown in Table 2 and Table 3 as they are incorporated into the noise propagation model. Sound power levels in Table 2 are for individual pieces of equipment located outdoors and are calculated using standardized acoustical engineering methods involving sound pressure measurements taken at a specific geometric boundary surface. Sound pressure levels shown in Table 3 are typically interior averages used to quantify building breakout noise; these levels are converted to overall sound power levels by the modeling software based on the area of each building wall and the transmission loss of the corresponding building material.

Source sound power levels for the SGS re-power scenarios were obtained from vendor data or measurement data from similar units compiled from past projects where available. For equipment with no prior vendor or measurement data available, a sound power level for a similar piece of equipment was used with corrections for dimensions and mechanical differences. Sound power levels used to model different re-power generating units are shown in Tables  $4 - 7$ .

### <span id="page-57-2"></span>**3.6 Model Assumptions**

The following are assumptions used to develop the site noise prediction model:

- 1. Noise sources with infrequent operation are not included;
- 2. Equipment is assumed to be in full load steady state operation;
- 3. Units 1 and 2 are assumed to have nearly identical noise emission based on their mechanical similarity;
- 4. The combustion turbine air inlet filter house will have standard silencing resulting in a maximum sound power of 103 dBA for both GE and Siemens equipment.



### 5. Doors are assumed closed.

<span id="page-58-0"></span>

# **Table 2: Existing SGS Source Sound Power Levels (dB re 10-12W)**



<span id="page-59-0"></span>

# **Table 3: Existing SGS Interior Sound Levels (dB re 10-12W)**

**Table 4: Siemens Flex 30 Package Sound Power Levels (dB re 10-12W)**

<span id="page-59-1"></span>

<b>Source</b>	<b>Octave Band Center Frequency, Hz</b>									<b>dBA</b>
	31.5	63	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	8000	
Stack Exit (before directivity)	128	118	125	121	121	110	89	91	76	120
<b>STG</b>	109	109	116	112	110	110	107	104	100	115
Boiler Feed Water Pump	103	108	110	101	106	105	104	99	95	110
<b>GT GSU Transformer</b>	101	106	110	100	110	91	89	81	76	107
<b>Exhaust Diffuser</b>	120	115	108	108	105	101	97	97	79	107
HRSG T-1	120	117	108	110	100	101	94	96	81	107
HRSG T-2	120	117	108	110	100	101	94	96	81	107
<b>SCR Ammonia Skid</b>	104	103	95	97	100	102	98	93	91	105







Worley Parsons Project 745400 October 5, 2011

<span id="page-61-0"></span>

# **Table 5: Flex 10 Package Sound Power Levels (dB re 10-12W)**



Worley Parsons Project 745400 October 5, 2011





<span id="page-63-0"></span>

# **Table 6: 7FA 1x1 Combined Cycle Package Sound Power Levels (dB re 10-12W)**



<span id="page-64-0"></span>

# **Table 7: 7LMS100 Simple Cycle Package Sound Power Levels (dB re 10-12W)**

# Worley Parsons Project 745400 October 5, 2011







<span id="page-66-0"></span>

**Figure 3: 3D Representation of Scattergood Generating Station in CadnaA**



# <span id="page-67-0"></span>**4. NOISE PROPAGATION MODEL RESULTS – EXISTING FACILITY**

This section contains the results of the noise propagation model for Scattergood Generating Station before the Re-power Project. Noise levels specified in this section refer to the noise level contribution from the project noise sources only and should be evaluated with consideration of the background ambient sound level in the environment. The results presented are for a full load steady state operating condition including all stationary, continuous sources of sound. Sound from equipment which operates intermittently or from infrequent operating conditions is not included. Sound from vehicle traffic and maintenance projects on the site is also not included.

Figure 4 shows the characteristic noise propagation of the facility and sound levels at ambient survey receptor locations. The results indicate that the facility sound level contribution is between 51 dBA and 56 dBA at surrounding residences and the nearby beach.





<span id="page-68-0"></span>

**Figure 4: Noise Propagation from Scattergood Generating Station**



# <span id="page-69-0"></span>**5. RE-POWER PROJECT NOISE LIMITS**

Scattergood Generating Station Re-Power Project noise limits can be determined based on the ambient noise survey data, noise propagation model results and noise ordinance specifications. The project noise limits are shown in Figure 5. The sound levels indicated can be interpreted as the maximum allowable noise levels to the corresponding surrounding areas, encompassing both background ambient noise and noise from SGS equipment upon completion of each phase of the re-power project.

For the residential and industrial locations in El Segundo, the ambient survey data was used to determine the permissible noise limit. At the City of El Segundo residential area east of the facility, the maximum permissible noise level is  $57 + 5 = 62$  dBA L<sub>eq</sub>. At the City of El Segundo industrial area south of the facility, the maximum permissible noise level is  $55 + 8 = 63$  dBA L<sub>eq</sub>.

At the State of California Water Recreational Zone on the beach west of the facility, the maximum permissible noise limit is 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$  or 68.6 dBA  $L_{eq}$ .



<span id="page-69-1"></span>**Figure 5: Scattergood Generating Station Re-Power Project Noise Limits**



# <span id="page-70-0"></span>**6. NOISE PROPAGATION MODEL RESULTS – RE-POWER PROJECT SCENARIOS**

This section describes the results of noise propagation models for two re-power project scenarios for comparison to the permissible limits specified in section 5.

### <span id="page-70-1"></span>**6.1 Re-Power Model with Siemens Turbine Generators**

This scenario shows the expected noise emission from the SGS facility under the following operating conditions:

- Units 1 &2 under full load;
- New Flex 30 1x1 combined cycle turbine generator system in the north parking lot at full load
- New Flex 10 1x1 combined cycle turbine generator system on the east terrace at full load;
- Unit 3 is not operating.

This model scenario assumes a base case scenario with no noise attenuation beyond that which is inherently included in the equipment package.

The characteristic noise emission pattern produced by the SGS in this scenario is shown in Figure 6. The "noise limit" indicated on the figure includes contribution from non-facility noise sources (i.e. LAX, vehicles, etc.) whereas the noise contours are from the SGS facility only.

Calculated noise levels from the SGS facility are below the permissible maxima at the four sensitive receptors. As noise is cumulative, the calculated noise levels presented herein should be evaluated with the existing non-facility related noise levels.





<span id="page-71-0"></span>**Figure 6: SGS Re-Power Model Noise Contribution Contours – Siemens Equipment - Base Case**


#### **6.2 Re-Power Model with General Electric Turbine Generators**

This scenario shows the expected noise emission from the SGS facility under the following operating conditions:

- Units 1 &2 under full load;
- 7FA 1x1 combined cycle turbine generator system in the north parking lot at full load
- Two new LMS100 simple cycle turbine generator systems on the east terrace at full load;
- Unit 3 is not operating.

This model scenario assumes a base case scenario with no noise attenuation beyond that which is inherently included in the equipment package.

The characteristic noise emission pattern produced by the SGS in this scenario is shown in [Figure 7](#page-73-0) . The "noise limit" indicated on the figure includes contribution from non-plant noise sources (i.e. LAX, vehicles, etc.) whereas the noise contours are from the SGS facility only.

Calculated noise levels from the SGS facility are below the permissible maxima at the four sensitive receptors. As noise is cumulative, the calculated noise levels presented herein should be evaluated with the existing non-facility related noise levels.







<span id="page-73-0"></span>**Figure 7: SGS Re-Power Model Noise Contribution Contours – General Electric Equipment - Base Case**



#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

The existing Scattergood Generating Station contributes to ambient noise levels in its vicinity. At some locations the calculated contribution from the facility is the dominant source of sound in the environment, and at other locations ambient noise from other sources is dominant. This is mainly due to the relative proximity of Los Angeles International Airport and the Hyperion Treatment Plant as well as the topography and layout of the existing facility. The ambient survey results show that the lowest hourly ambient sound level at selected receptor points in the vicinity of the facility with SGS operating at part load is between L<sub>eq</sub> 55 dBA and L<sub>eq</sub> 60 dBA. These sound levels were used in conjunction with the applicable local ordinance specifications to determine the permissible noise limit for the Scattergood Re-Power Project which will see the replacement of existing power generation equipment with newer generating equipment.

The model results for Siemens and GE turbines re-power scenarios show that additional noise attenuation is not required to meet the permissible noise levels at four predefined sensitive receptors. It is recommended that the noise propagation model be updated with guaranteed vendor noise data specific to this project prior to finalizing the facility design.



#### **8. DISCLAIMER**

This "Noise Study", which is reported in the preceding pages, has been prepared in response to a specific request for service from the Client to whom it is addressed. The information contained in this "Noise Study" is not intended for the use of, nor is it intended to be relied upon, by any person, firm, or corporation other than the Client to whom it is addressed, with the exception of the applicable regulating authority to whom this document may be submitted for planning permission purposes. We deny any liability whatsoever to other parties who may obtain access to the information contained in this "Noise Study" for any damages or injury suffered by such third parties arising from the use of this "Noise Study" by them without the express prior written permission from ATCO and its Client who has commissioned this "Noise Study".

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## **APPENDIX A: SOUND LEVEL TERMINOLOGY**

**Frequency -** the number of cycles per unit interval of time. *Units Hz (Hertz).*

**Bel (B) -** a unit of measure for LEVEL or LEVEL DIFFERENCE (A.G. Bell *1847-1922*). If a quantity is increased by a factor 10<sup>n</sup>, its level goes up by *n* bels.

**Decibel (dB) -** the standard unit of measure, in acoustics, for level or level difference. The decibel scale is based on the ratio  $10^{1/10}$ ; multiplying a power-like quantity (such as sound power or mean square) by this factor increases its level by 1 decibel. If a power-like quantity is increased by a factor  $10^{n/10}$ , its level goes up by *n* decibels. *Unit symbol for dB.*

**Sound Pressure (Pa) -** the difference between the instantaneous pressure at a fixed point in a sound field, and the pressure at the same point with the sound absent. *Units Pa (Pascal).*

**Sound Pressure Level (SPL, L<sub>p</sub>)** - or sound pressure-squared level, at a given point the quantity L<sub>p</sub> defined by  $L_p$  = 10 Log<sub>10</sub>( $P_{rms}/P_{ref}$ )<sup>2</sup> = 20 Log<sub>10</sub>( $P_{rms}/P_{ref}$ ). Here  $P_{rms}$  is the ROOT MEAN SQUARE sound pressure, and  $P_{\text{ref}}$  is the reference rms sound pressure. *Units dB re (20* $\mu$ *Pa)<sup>2</sup>.* 

A-weighted Sound Pressure Level (SPL, L<sub>pA</sub>, L<sub>A</sub>) - the LEVEL of sound pressure signal to which A-WEIGHTING has been applied. *Units dB re (20*µ*Pa)<sup>2</sup> .*

**Sound Power –** the rate of acoustic energy flow across a specified surface, or emitted by a specified sound source. *Units W (Watt).*

**Sound Power Level (PWL, Lw) -** the level of SOUND POWER expressed in decibels relative to a stated reference value. The quantity  $L_w$  is defined by  $L_w = 10 \text{ Log}_{10}(W/W_{\text{ref}})$ . Here  $W_{\text{ref}}$  is the reference sound power. *Units dB re 1<sub>P</sub>W.* 

**A-weighting -** a frequency-weighting procedure, in which the power or energy spectrum of a signal is progressively attenuated towards the high and low ends of the human audible range. Frequency components around 1 kHz - 5 kHz are hardly affected, but the attenuation is large at low frequencies (i.e., 70 dB at 10 Hz).

**Percentile Sound Levels, L<sub>N</sub>** - since the noise levels in a community vary with time in a more or less random manner, the descriptors of these time varying noise levels may be defined in statistical terms. The statistical descriptors are referred to as the percentile sound levels,  $L_N$ ; with  $L_N$  defined as the level exceeded N% of the time. The descriptors often used are:

**L<sub>0</sub>. Highest Level** - this is the highest noise level, also known as L<sub>max</sub>.

**L1, Level of Highly Intrusive Sounds** – the level exceeded 1% of the time, is a measure of the highly intrusive sounds.



**L10, Level of Intrusive Sounds** - The level exceeded 10% of the time, and is used to indicate the average level of the intrusive sounds.

**L50, Median Level** - The level exceeded 50% of the time or the median level. A useful measure of the average noise conditions on a site.

**L90, Background Level** – The level exceeded 90% of the time. It provides a good indication of the steady background noise level on a site.

**Leq, Equivalent Continuous Sound Level** - the prime descriptor used in assessing most types of sounds heard in a community. The  $L_{eq}$  is an average of sounds measured over time. It is strongly influenced by occasional loud, intrusive noises. Because it is able to account for such noises, for example, the Leq is the best descriptor for the intermittent sound levels from construction activities.

L<sub>DN</sub>, The Day-Night Sound Level, derived by applying a 10 dB "penalty" to noise levels that occur at night, between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., thus accounting for increased sensitivity to noise during nighttime hours.

**Ambient sound level** - means background sound level. It is the sound level that is present in the acoustic environment of a defined area. Aircraft flyover and rail noise may be excluded in some jurisdictions.

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Reference: Dictionary of Acoustics, Christopher L Morfey, Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK –Academic Press, 2001.



#### **APPENDIX B: METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

**Measured at Scattergood Generating Station Aug 10 to Aug 12 2010** 









#### **APPENDIX C: GENERATING STATION POWER OUTPUT**



**Figure 8: Unit 2 Load Data Aug 10 to Aug 12 2010**



**Figure 9: Unit 3 Load Data Aug 10 to Aug 12 2010**



# Sound 08:00:00 AM B 80% Both Units 02:00:00 AM  $\frac{100\%}{100\%}$  (Both Units) 08:00:00 PM 02:00:00 PM 100% Unit 3, 80% Unit2 08:00:00 AM LAS90 08:00:00 PM 02:00:00 AM ٣ı  $\frac{100\% \text{ Unit 3, } 30\% \text{ Unit 2}}{100\% \text{ Unit 3, } 30\% \text{ Unit 2}}$ **LAS50** 02:00:00 PM LAeq Exclude Ш  $60 98$ 65  $55$ 50

## **APPENDIX D: AMBIENT SURVEY RESULTS**

**Figure 10: Ambient Survey Data at Location R1 Aug 10 to Aug 12 2010**

Worley Parsons Project 745400 October 5, 2011





**Figure 11: Ambient Survey Data at Location R2 Aug 10 to Aug 12 2010**





**Figure 12: Ambient Survey Data at Location R3 Aug 10 to Aug 12 2010**





**Figure 13: Ambient Survey Data at Location R4 Aug 10 to Aug 12 2010**



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