

Sweet Doggies
Mountain View, California

ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes our environmental noise study for the proposed Sweet Doggies project at 261 Moffett Boulevard in Mountain View, California. The proposed dog daycare and boarding facility will occupy one suite within the building and include fenced outdoor areas for dogs during daytime hours. The purpose of this study is to quantify noise levels at the project site, compare the noise levels with applicable standards, and propose mitigation measures as necessary. Following is a summary of our findings:

1. Measured noise levels at the building are DNL 68 dB and below, which falls into the City's *Normally Acceptable* category for business commercial use. For reference, measured noise levels at the nearby residential single-family residences were DNL 59 dB which falls into the City's *Conditionally Acceptable* category for single-family residences.
2. The estimated contribution to Day/Night Average Sound Levels (DNL¹) from project operations (i.e., dogs barking) is 1 dB or less, which would be considered less-than-significant. Note that occupants on nearby sites should expect to hear occasional noise from dogs barking
3. Operation of the project will need to limit dog barks to be in accordance with Section 5.62 of the Mountain View Municipal Code

DESCRIPTION

We understand the proposed Sweet Doggies project in Mountain View will operate generally similar to their existing Sunnyvale location. The space will provide daycare and boarding for small and large dogs, which are separated into two areas, a "small doggie space" and "big doggie space". The analysis is based on the following:

- Site plan dated 5 June 2025
- Dogs will generally have access to the small dog or big dog area, depending on their size; each area has a fenced outdoor play area, with access between 8 am to 6 pm, located at the rear (east) of the site along Santa Rosa Avenue
- The outdoor play areas are contiguous with the indoor areas and will be accessed through roll-up doors (the doors are currently planned to be 10 feet tall). Roll-up doors will incorporate weathertight seals and be closed between 6 pm and 8 am
- The outdoor play areas will be bordered by 8-foot CMU walls to help shield noise from the dogs to nearby neighbors; it is understood these walls will be solid without cracks or gaps

¹ DNL (Day-Night Average Sound Level) – A descriptor for a 24-hour A-weighted average noise level. DNL accounts for the increased acoustical sensitivity of people to noise during the nighttime hours. DNL penalizes sound levels by 10 dB(A) during the hours from 10 P to 7 AM. For practical purposes, the DNL and CNEL are usually interchangeable. DNL is sometimes written as Ldn.

- The indoor doggie spaces will incorporate sound absorptive ceilings (e.g., ACT) similar to the Sunnyvale site
- Nearby land uses are a combination of residential and commercial uses and include the following:
 - To the south: an auto repair shop, commercial yoga studio, and empty commercial space
 - To the north: a child-care facility at 290 Santa Rosa Avenue to the north
 - To the east: single-family residences across Santa Rosa Avenue

ACOUSTICAL CRITERIA

The Mountain View General Plan and Municipal Code include the following criteria for land use compatibility and acceptable noise levels. Readers less familiar with the fundamental concepts of environmental acoustics should refer to Appendix A attached.

Mountain View 2030 General Plan

- Policy NOI-1.1 of the General Plan provides land use compatibility guidelines for environmental noise as follows: *Use the Outdoor Noise Environment Guidelines as a guide for planning and development decision (Table 7.1).*

Land Use Category	Community Noise Exposure in Decibels (CNEL) Day/Night Average Noise Level in Decibels (Ldn)						
	55	60	65	70	75	80	85
Residential—Single-Family, Duplex, Mobile Homes							
Residential—Multi-Family Transient Lodging—Motels, Hotels							
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes							
Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Amphitheaters, Sports Arenas, Outdoor Spectator Sports							
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks							
Golf Courses, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries							
Office Buildings, Business Commercial and Professional							
Industrial, Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture							

NORMALLY ACCEPTABLE
Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements.

CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTABLE
New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.

NORMALLY UNACCEPTABLE
New construction or development should be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.

CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE
New construction or development clearly should not be undertaken.

- Policy NOI-1.6: Sensitive Uses states the following: *Minimize noise impact on noise-sensitive land uses, such as residential uses, school, hospitals, and child-care facilities.*

Mountain View Municipal Code

Section 5.62 of the Municipal Code (Barking Dogs) includes the following language: *it shall be unlawful for any person to harbor, keep or maintain any dog in the city which disturbs the peace and quiet of one (1) or more persons in the immediate neighborhood by loud barking or making unusual noise. "Loud barking" means barking, howling or baying by day or night continuously and/or incessantly for a period of ten (10) minutes or intermittently for one-half (1/2) hour or more which creates a noise disturbance across a residential or commercial real property line. "Loud barking does not mean barking where a dog is in the act of protecting or resisting trespassers upon its premises. The burden of proof of such an act of protection or resistance to trespassers by a dog is upon the person owning, harboring, controlling, maintaining, possessing or having charge of the dog."*

NOISE MEASUREMENTS

Mountain View Site Environmental Noise

The proposed site is located between Moffett Boulevard and Santa Rosa Avenue and the noise environment at the site most influenced by vehicular traffic along these roads. To quantify the existing noise environment, we conducted two continuous multi-day noise measurements from 25 to 30 June 2025 (Wednesday through Monday). Table 1, below, summarizes measured noise levels and Figure 1, attached, shows the approximate measurement locations. Measured noise levels are provided in terms of Day/Night Average Sound Level (DNL) and hourly average $L_{eq}(h)^2$ levels from 7 am to 7 pm (the expected hours dogs may be outside).

Table 1: Existing Noise Environment³

Monitor	Location	Date/Time	DNL	$L_{eq}(h)$
LT-1	Santa Rosa Avenue Approx. 20' from Santa Rosa Ave centerline	25 to 30 June 2025	60 dB	48 to 69 dB ⁴
LT-2	Moffett Boulevard Approx. 40' from Moffett Blvd centerline	25 to 30 June 2025	71 dB	61 to 70 dB

² $L_{eq}(h)$ – The equivalent steady-state A-weighted sound level that, in an hour, would contain the same acoustic energy as the time-varying sound level during the same hour.

³ The monitors were at a height of approximately 12 feet above grade.

⁴ Landscaping activity 10:00 am hour on 26 June 2025 believed to be near monitor removed from data

Dog-Related Activity Noise at Sunnyvale Location

In order to quantify and document noise levels from dog activity, we conducted measurements at the existing Sunnyvale Sweet Doggies location on 25 and 26 June 2025. The following differences should be noted between the Sunnyvale location and proposed Mountain View location:

- The Sunnyvale location had 86 dogs in-house when measured. The typical maximum capacity at the Mountain View location will be 40 dogs
- The Sunnyvale location allowed dogs access outside between 7 am and 7 pm, and at the Mountain View location dogs will be allowed access the outdoor yard between 8 am and 6 pm
- The Sunnyvale location includes a chain link fence at the outdoor yards, and the Mountain View location will include a 8 foot CMU wall

Following is a summary of our findings from our measurements at the Sunnyvale location:

- Indoor noise levels measured in the “Big Doggie Space” over a period of about 40 minutes. The average noise level for this period was 72 dB⁵, and individual dog barks ranged from 80 to 96 dB at the monitor location. For reference, there were about 20 dog bark events observed during the measurement window, and the events typically only lasted a few seconds
- Noise levels were also measured in the outdoor play yard over a 24-hour period, approximately 6 feet from the building façade. At this location, the average noise level due to dogs barking during daytime hours (7 am to 7 pm) was L_{eq} 61 dB⁶ and events identified as individual dog barks ranged from 70 to 92 dB. It should be noted at the noise levels at the Sunnyvale property line were dominated by vehicle traffic on Central Expressway, and thus the 61 dB noise level measured at the outdoor play yard will be used for this analysis and adjusted for shielding from the CMU wall and distance⁷
- No events identified as dog barks occurred during nighttime hours at the outdoor monitor
- Exterior doors were typically left open during the daytime hours of 7 am to 7 pm⁸, and our observations suggest that noise at the outdoor monitor was primarily influenced by dogs playing indoors as opposed to those playing outdoors

⁵ Measurements based on approximately 40-minute of collected data

⁶ Total average noise at approximately 6-feet from the building façade was 63 dB, however, since measured levels were largely influenced by traffic noise from Central Expressway, we used data from a second monitor to calculate that noise from Sweet Doggies was 61 dB, or lower.

⁷ 6 dB drop-off per doubling of distance (as is the typical drop-off rate for a point source)

⁸ As noted above, at the Mountain View site, the doors would be open from 8 am to 6 pm.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Land Use Compatibility

We estimated existing noise levels at the Mountain View Sweet Doggie building facade based on measured data to be DNL 68 dB and below⁹. This is within the City’s *Normally Acceptable* category for land use compatibility for business commercial projects. For reference, measured noise levels at the nearby residential single-family residences were DNL 59 dB which falls into the City’s *Conditionally Acceptable* category for single-family residences¹⁰.

Estimated Project-Generated Noise Levels at Mountain View Location

Day-Night Average Noise Levels

Project-generated noise levels were estimated using the data from our 25 to 26 June 2025 measurements at the Sunnyvale Sweet Doggie location and assume that dogs in the “small dog” and “big dog” play areas will each have noise levels similar to those measured. They also assume the doors will be open for ten hours per day. Additional details on how noise levels were estimated can be found in Appendix B, attached. Table 2, below, shows estimated noise levels from dogs playing (i.e., barking) in both the indoor and outdoor areas, in terms of DNL, for a receiver standing at the nearest noise-sensitive properties.

While Policy NOI-1.6 of the General Plan does not define what constitutes a noise impact, often for environmental noise studies an increase of 5 dB or more to the DNL when a property is in the “normally acceptable” land-use compatibility category, or 3 dB or more to the DNL when a property is in a “conditionally acceptable” land-use compatibility category, typically defines a significant impact. In this case, since existing noise levels for nearby residences are DNL 59 dB and in the conditionally acceptable category, this analysis uses the 3 dB threshold to define a noise impact.

Table 2: Estimated Operating Noise at Nearest Noise-Sensitive Properties

	DNL Existing	DNL Project-Generated	DNL Combined	Increase in DNL	Potential Impact
290 Santa Rosa Avenue Childcare Facility	59 dB	53 dB	60 dB	1 dB	Less-than-significant
Residences Across Santa Rosa Avenue	59 dB	42 dB	59 dB	0 dB	Less-than-significant

As shown in Table 2, above, noise from dogs at Sweet Doggies is not expected to significantly increase overall day-night noise levels at off-site receivers.

⁹ This is based on the measured noise level at monitor LT-2 (DNL 71 dB) and adjusted for a 3 dB drop-off per doubling of distance (as is the typical drop-off rate for traffic noise).

¹⁰ This is based on the measured noise level at monitor LT-1 (DNL 60 dB) and adjusted for a 3 dB drop-off per doubling of distance (as is the typical drop-off rate for traffic noise).

Additional Analysis

The following are additional comments on estimated noise levels at the site including the impact of the doors being open versus closed, a comparison of average project-generated noise to existing traffic noise, and noise from individual barks.

- East-facing rollup doors are open (i.e., dogs have access to the outdoor play yards)
 - Estimated project-generated hourly average noise levels will be approximately 57 dB at the child care facility at 290 Santa Rosa Avenue, and approximately 45 dB at the nearest residences across Santa Rosa Avenue. This is relatively similar to average hourly levels from traffic at 290 Santa Rosa Avenue, and lower than hourly average levels from traffic at the residences across Santa Rosa Avenue.
 - Noise from individual dog barks is expected to generally be audible and estimates suggest may range from 47 to 81 dB at the child care facility at 290 Santa Rosa Avenue and from approximately 51 to 73 dB at the residences across Santa Rosa Avenue
- East-facing rollup doors are closed (i.e., dogs are entirely indoors):
 - Estimated project-generated hourly average noise levels are below 41 dB at all nearby properties
 - Estimated noise from individual dog barks ranges from approximately 33 to 60 dB at the child care facility at 290 Santa Rosa Avenue and approximately 36 dB to 52 dB at the residences across Santa Rosa, which may sometimes be audible

The project will need to follow Section 5.62 of the Municipal Code, meaning that dogs should not be barking continuously for 10-minutes or intermittently for 30 minutes if it “disturbs the peace and quiet” of a neighbor. As dog barking events at the Sunnyvale location typically only lasted a few seconds, it should be noted this analysis does not consider what was observed at the Sunnyvale location to fit the City of Mountain View’s definition for “loud barking.” We understand there will always be a staff person on-site at the Mountain View location responsible to control dogs from violating the Municipal Code.

Please contact us with any questions.

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APPENDIX A

Fundamental Concepts of Environmental Noise

This section provides background information to aid in understanding the technical aspects of this report.

Three dimensions of environmental noise are important in determining subjective response. These are:

- The intensity or level of the sound
- The frequency spectrum of the sound
- The time-varying character of the sound

Airborne sound is a rapid fluctuation of air pressure above and below atmospheric pressure. Sound levels are usually measured and expressed in decibels (dB(A)), with 0 dB(A) corresponding roughly to the threshold of hearing.

The "frequency" of a sound refers to the number of complete pressure fluctuations per second in the sound. The unit of measurement is the cycle per second (cps) or hertz (Hz). Most of the sounds, which we hear in the environment, do not consist of a single frequency, but of a broad band of frequencies, differing in level. The name of the frequency and level content of a sound is its sound spectrum. A sound spectrum for engineering purposes is typically described in terms of octave bands, which separate the audible frequency range (for human beings, from about 20 to 20,000 Hz) into ten segments.

Many rating methods have been devised to permit comparisons of sounds having quite different spectra. Surprisingly, the simplest method correlates with human response practically as well as the more complex methods. This method consists of evaluating all of the frequencies of a sound in accordance with a weighting that progressively de-emphasizes the importance of frequency components below 1000 Hz and above 5000 Hz. This frequency weighting reflects the fact that human hearing is less sensitive at low frequencies and at extreme high frequencies relative to the mid-range.

The weighting system described above is called "A-weighting", and the level so measured is called the "A-weighted sound level" or "A-weighted noise level." The unit of A-weighted sound level is sometimes abbreviated "dB(A)." In practice, the sound level is conveniently measured using a sound level meter that includes an electrical filter corresponding to the A-weighting characteristic. All noise levels included in this report are A-weighted. All U.S. and international standard sound level meters include such a filter. Typical sound levels found in the environment and in industry are shown in Figure A1.

Although a single sound level value may adequately describe environmental noise at any instant in time, community noise levels vary continuously. Most environmental noise is a conglomeration of distant noise sources, which results in a relatively steady background noise having no identifiable source. These distant sources may include traffic, wind in trees, industrial activities, etc. and are relatively constant from moment to moment. As natural forces change or as human activity follows its daily cycle, the sound level may vary slowly from hour to hour. Superimposed on this slowly varying background is a succession of

identifiable noisy events of brief duration. These may include nearby activities such as single vehicle pass-bys, aircraft flyovers, etc. which cause the environmental noise level to vary from instant to instant.

To describe the time-varying character of environmental noise, statistical noise descriptors were developed. "L10" is the A-weighted sound level equaled or exceeded during 10 percent of a stated time period. The L10 is considered a good measure of the maximum sound levels caused by discrete noise events. "L50" is the A-weighted sound level that is equaled or exceeded 50 percent of a stated time period; it represents the median sound level. The "L90" is the A-weighted sound level equaled or exceeded during 90 percent of a stated time period and is used to describe the background noise.

As it is often cumbersome to quantify the noise environment with a set of statistical descriptors, a single number called the average sound level or " L_{eq} " is now widely used. The term " L_{eq} " originated from the concept of a so-called equivalent sound level which contains the same acoustical energy as a varying sound level during the same time period. In simple but accurate technical language, the L_{eq} is the average A-weighted sound level in a stated time period. The L_{eq} is particularly useful in describing the subjective change in an environment where the source of noise remains the same but there is change in the level of activity. Widening roads and/or increasing traffic are examples of this kind of situation.

In determining the daily measure of environmental noise, it is important to account for the different response of people to daytime and nighttime noise. During the nighttime, exterior background noise levels are generally lower than in the daytime; however, most household noise also decreases at night, thus exterior noise intrusions again become noticeable. Further, most people trying to sleep at night are more sensitive to noise. To account for human sensitivity to nighttime noise levels, a special descriptor was developed. The descriptor is called the DNL or L_{dn} (Day-Night Average Sound Level), which represents the 24-hour average sound level with a penalty for noise occurring at night. The L_{dn} computation divides the 24-hour day into two periods: daytime (7:00 am to 10:00 pm); and nighttime (10:00 pm to 7:00 am). The nighttime sound levels are assigned a 10 dB(A) penalty prior to averaging with daytime hourly sound levels.

For highway noise environments, the average noise level during the peak hour traffic volume is approximately equal to the DNL.

The effects of noise on people can be listed in three general categories:

- Subjective effects of annoyance, nuisance, dissatisfaction
- Interference with activities such as speech, sleep, and learning
- Physiological effects such as startle, hearing loss

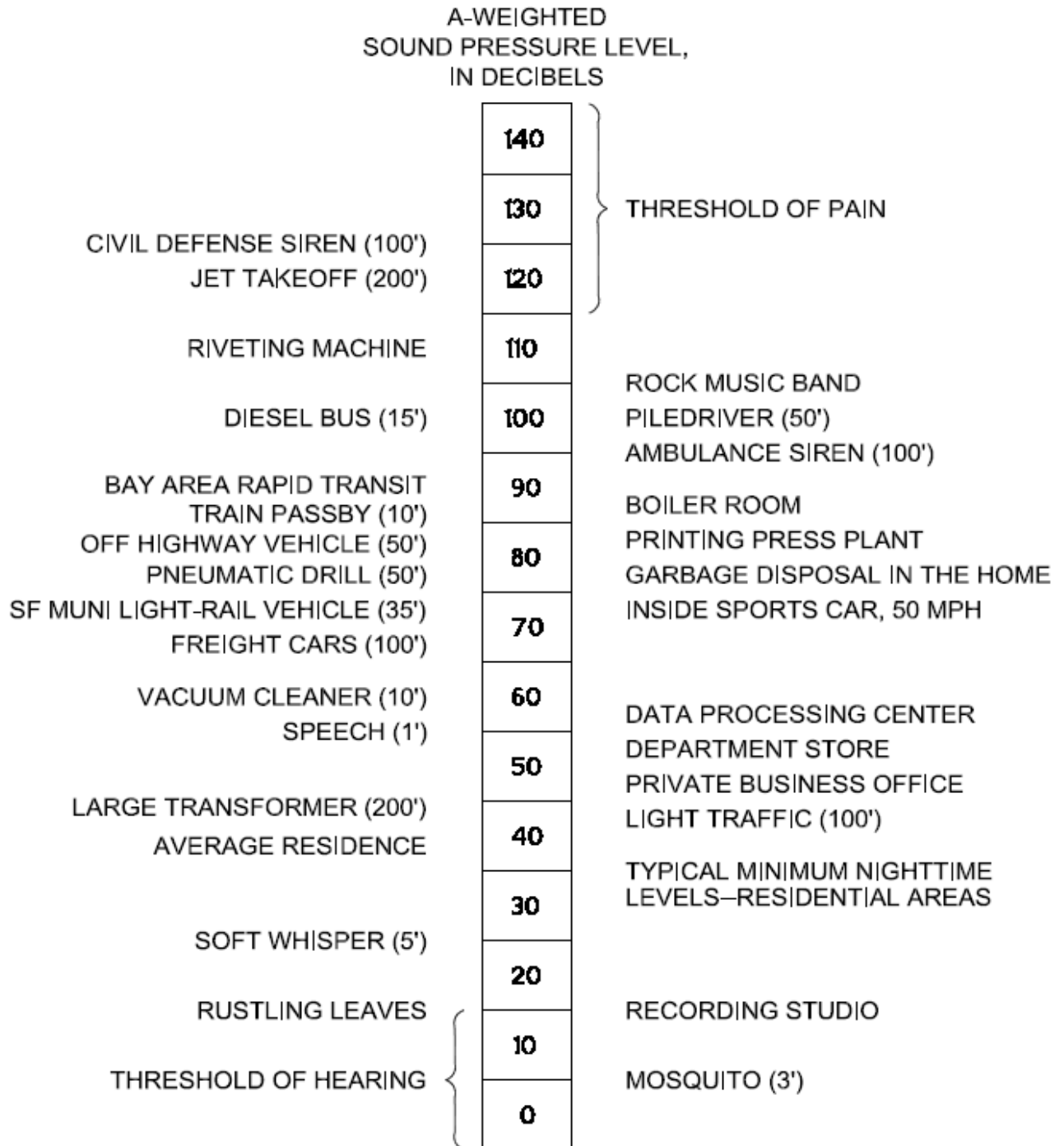
The sound levels associated with environmental noise usually produce effects only in the first two categories. Unfortunately, there has never been a completely predictable measure for the subjective effects of noise nor of the corresponding reactions of annoyance and dissatisfaction. This is primarily because of the wide variation in individual thresholds of annoyance and habituation to noise over time.

Thus, an important factor in assessing a person's subjective reaction is to compare the new noise environment to the existing noise environment. In general, the more a new noise exceeds the existing, the less acceptable the new noise will be judged.

With regard to increases in noise level, knowledge of the following relationships will be helpful in understanding the quantitative sections of this report:

Except in carefully controlled laboratory experiments, a change of only 1 dB(A) in sound level cannot be perceived. Outside of the laboratory, a 3 dB(A) change is considered a just-noticeable difference. A change in level of at least 5 dB(A) is required before any noticeable change in community response would be expected. A 10 dB(A) change is subjectively heard as approximately a doubling in loudness, and would almost certainly cause an adverse community response.





(100') = DISTANCE IN FEET
BETWEEN SOURCE
AND LISTENER

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TYPICAL SOUND LEVELS
MEASURED IN THE
ENVIRONMENT AND INDUSTRY

FIGURE A1

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APPENDIX B

Additional Details of DNL Estimates

These hourly average levels were taken from the measurements at the Sunnyvale location, and then adjusted for having two play areas, a different distance to receiver, shielding (from the CMU wall), and a 3 dB factor of safety. The resulting estimated hourly average noise level combined with the expected hours of dog activity with the doors open/access to the outdoor yards provided the project-generated DNL which was used in Table 2 of the report.

	Reference Hourly Average Noise Level Project- Generated Noise	Reference Distance	Adjust for Two Play Areas, Distance to Receiver, Shielding, and Factor of Safety	Estimated Hourly Average Project- Generated Noise Level at Receiver	Expected Hours Per Day	Estimated Project- Generated DNL at Receiver
290 Santa Rosa Avenue Childcare Facility	61 dB	6 feet	-4 dB	57 dB	10 hours	53 dB
Residences Across Santa Rosa Avenue	61 dB	6 feet	-16 dB	45 dB	10 hours	42 dB



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SWEET DOGGIES APPROXIMATE NOISE MEASUREMENT LOCATIONS AND OUTDOOR DOG AREAS

FIGURE 1

Salter #
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