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Service Change Notice 17-134
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From: Terrance J. Clark
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Subject: Supplemental Low Elevation Angle Implemented due to Urgent Mission Needs at KMUX WSR-88D San Francisco, CA on or about December 26, 2017

The Radar Operations Center, in conjunction with NWS Western Region Headquarters and the Weather Forecast Office San Francisco Bay Area, will implement a supplemental low elevation angle of +0.2 degrees on or about December 26, 2017. This angle is in addition to the standard +0.5 degree angle and will be included in all Volume Coverage Patterns (VCPs).

Due to historic California wildfires and burn scars, there is an urgent need to lower the elevation angle at KMUX for improved detection of precipitation and associated hazards.

KMUX was previously planned for a low elevation angle test in spring 2018. An environmental assessment was completed for the site within the last year and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was determined. The FONSI for KMUX is available here: https://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/SafetyandEnv/EAReports.aspx

The low elevation angle field test will continue as planned for KMUX in spring 2018, with more information provided at a later date. Due to the urgent circumstances associated with the California wildfires, the +0.2 angle will be implemented on or after December 26, 2017 and remain in effect until the start of the field test in spring 2018.

Changes for external users will be similar to those required for the low elevation angle of +0.2 degrees at KLGX Langley Hill, WA.

For questions or comments, please contact:
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National Service Change Notices are online at:

http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm

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