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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-45  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1155 AM EDT Thu Apr 26 2018

To:           Subscribers  
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From:         Terrance J. Clark  
              Director, WSR-88D Radar Operations Center

Subject:      WSR-88D Low Elevation Angle Field Test to begin on  
              or around July 2, 2018 at Medford, OR, and San  
              Francisco, CA

The Radar Operations Center will begin the Low Elevation Angle Field Test at Medford, OR (KMAX) and San Francisco, CA (KMUX) on or around July 2, 2018. The test will continue for approximately one year. During the test period, the radars will operate standard Volume Coverage Patterns (VCPs) using a supplemental low elevation angle of +0.2, 0.0, or -0.2 degrees. Only one supplemental elevation angle will be used at a time. The operators will have the ability to switch between +0.2, 0.0, and -0.2 angles during successive volume patterns. Upon the conclusion of the test, one of the three angles will be chosen as the permanent supplemental angle.

The Supplemental Adaptive Intra-Volume Low-Level Scan (SAILS) feature uses the lowest elevation available, which will be the active supplemental angle (+0.2, 0.0, or -0.2) instead of +0.5. The Mid-Volume Rescan of Low-Level Elevations (MRLE) feature will also use the supplemental low elevation angle, but will still use +0.5 as part of the lowest 2, 3, or 4 elevations.

Since December 2017, KMUX has been operating with an angle of +0.2 degrees: [http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/scn17-134radar\\_ca.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/scn17-134radar_ca.htm)

Environmental assessments have determined a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) at both KMAX and KMUX. These assessments are available online:  
<https://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/SafetyandEnv/EAREports.aspx>

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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