

NOUS41 KWBC 181040 AAA
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-45 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Terrance J. Clark
 Director, WSR-88D Radar Operations Center

Subject: Updated: WSR-88D Low Elevation Angle Field Test to Begin on or around September 17, 2018 at Medford, OR and San Francisco, CA

Updated to reschedule the beginning date of the field test to on or around September 17, 2018.

The Radar Operations Center will begin the Low Elevation Angle Field Test at Medford, OR, (KMAX) and San Francisco, CA, (KMUX) on or around September 17, 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 two, three or four elevations.

Since December 2017, KMUX has been operating with an angle of +0.2 degrees:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn17-134radar_ca.pdf

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:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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