

NOUS41 KWBC 181040 Updated  
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-45 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
640 AM EDT Mon Jun 18 2018

To:           Subscribers  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners and Employees

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 2, 3 or 4 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](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:

Jessica Schultz  
NWS Radar Focal Point

Radar Operations Center  
[Jessica.A.Schultz@noaa.gov](mailto:Jessica.A.Schultz@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

NNNN