

Effects of Terrain and Manmade Structures on Aircraft Noise Prediction

J. Micah Downing, PhD and Matthew F. Calton
Blue Ridge Research and Consulting, LLC, Asheville, NC

Juliet A. Page
Volpe, The National Transportation System Center, Cambridge, MA

Judith L. Rochat, PhD
Cross-Spectrum Acoustics, Pasadena, CA



I. Project Overview

II. Evaluation of Selected Methods

- A. Benchmarking Results
- B. Evaluation of Empirical Datasets
- C. Airport Measurements

III. Blended Method





ACRP 02-79 Project Overview

➤ Develop and Evaluate Noise Propagation Methods

- Aircraft noise reflection and diffraction from terrain and manmade structures
- Both ground and airborne aircraft operations

➤ Recommend Methods for Inclusion into AEDT

- Both the physics and the software integration process
- Influence these methods will have on AEDT's data input requirements, computational load, while considering uncertainty

➤ Provide Recommendations for Potential Additions to the AEDT User Guide

- Influence terrain and manmade structures have on aircraft noise at receivers
- Applications these new methods have for airport noise analyses
- Guidance on when these methods should be employed

ACRP 02-79 Project Results and Status

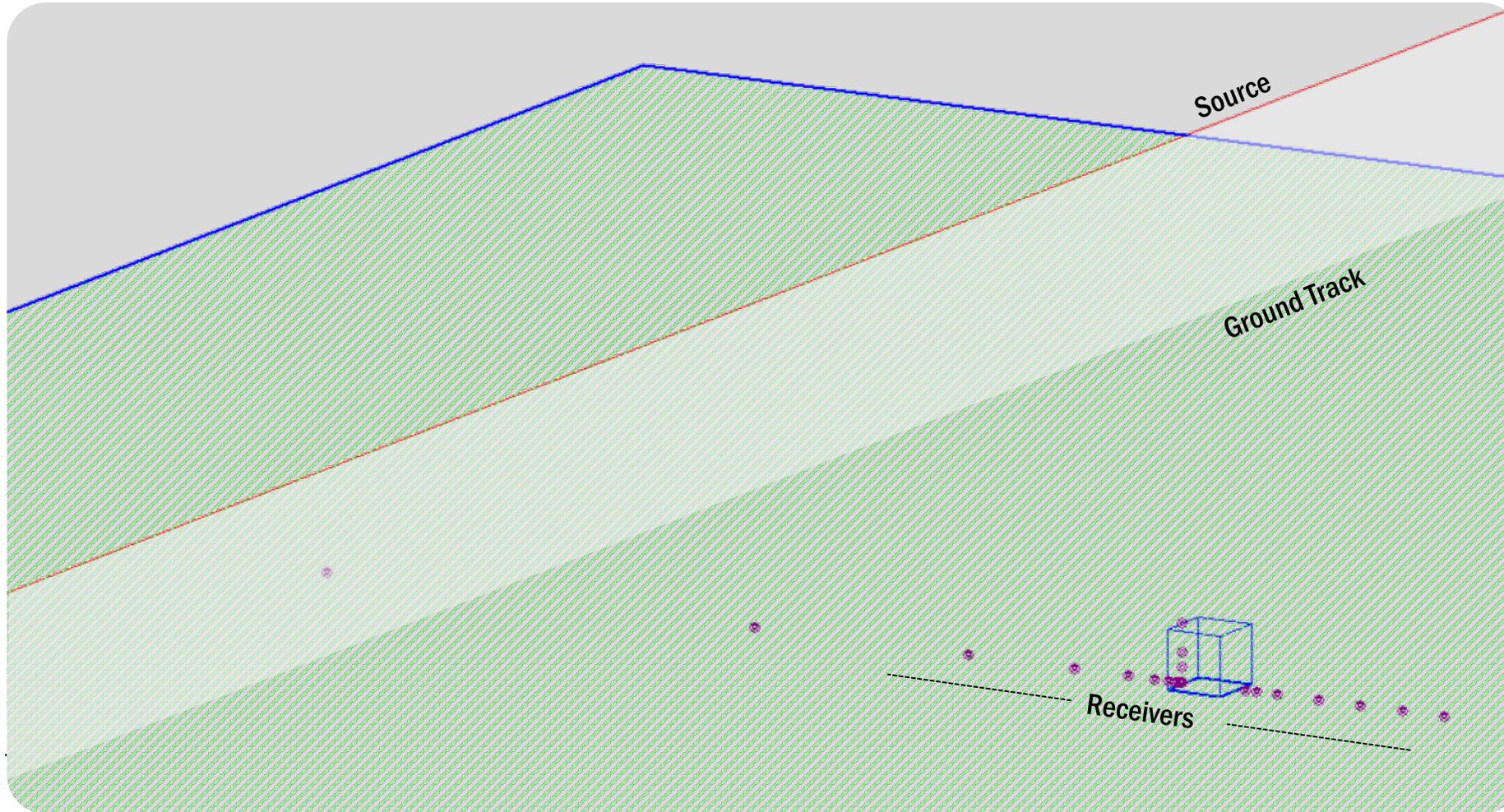
- ✓ **Primary Methods Selected**
- ✓ **Evaluation of Methods Nearing Completion**
 - Benchmarking cases completed
 - Measured datasets
 - Sensitivities
- ✓ **Airport Noise Measurements**
 - LAX & LGB
 - Interesting acoustical observations
 - Excellent database
- ✓ **Designed Blended Method**
 - Balancing physics and computational frameworks
 - AEDT Integration



- I. Project Overview and Status
- II. Evaluation of Selected Methods
 - A. Benchmarking Results
 - B. Evaluation of Empirical Datasets
 - C. Airport Measurements
- III. Coordination Plan for Review



Benchmarking Dataset



Benchmarking Dataset



Source	
Heights (m)	Distance from Façade (m)
1.5	25
12.5	100
50	400
100	2000
400	
800	

Receiver		
Heights (m)	Distance from Façade (m)	Distance from Rear (m)
0	1	12.5
1.5	2	25
	4	50
	8	100
	...	150
	2048	200
		250
		500

Building		
Height (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
8	8	8
8	16	8
8	32	8
8	64	8
64	8	64
64	16	64
64	32	64
64	64	64

Pink Noise: 100 dB/OTOB

Results in ΔdB (With – Without Building)



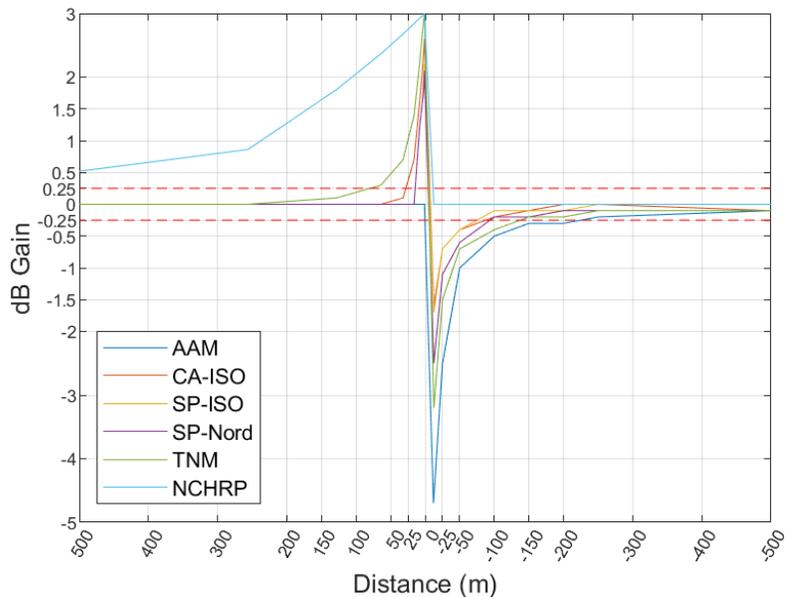
Benchmarking Dataset



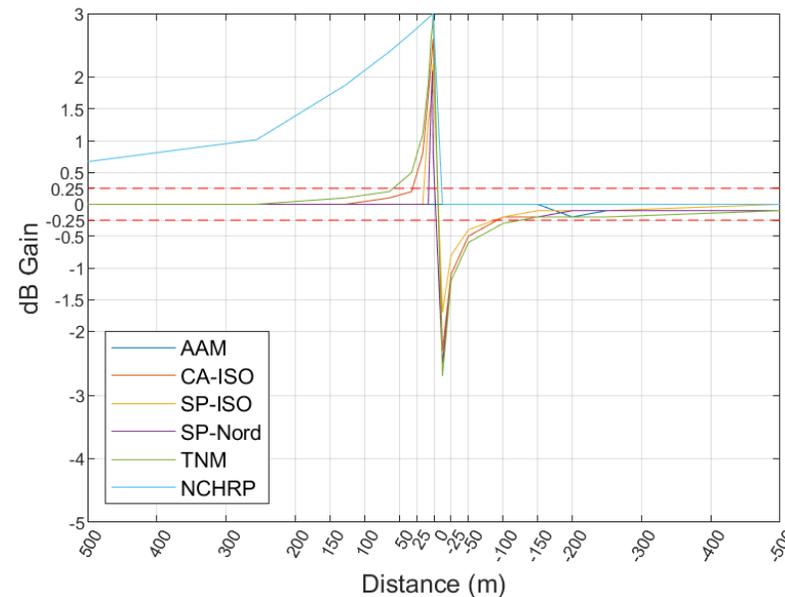
Comparison of Model & Methods Results

Building (64 H x 16 D x 64 W), Source Distance at 400 m

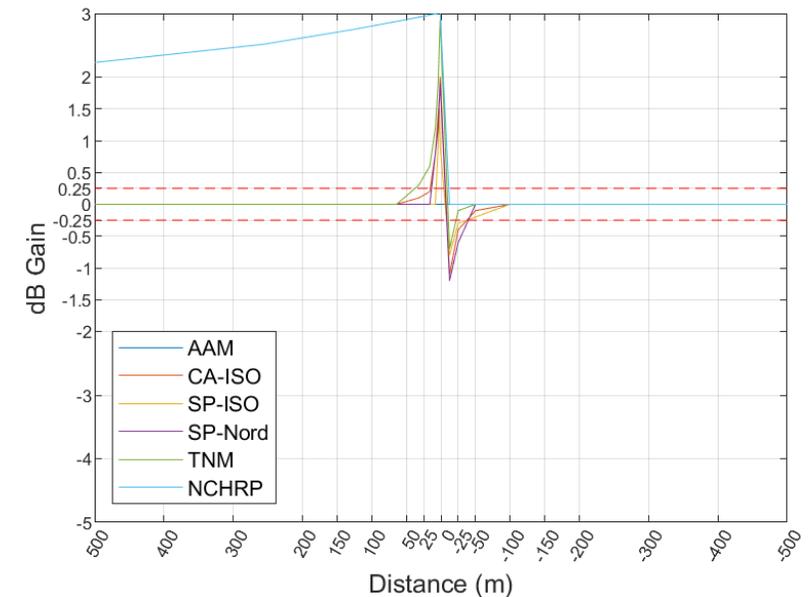
Source Height: 1.5 m



Source Height: 100 m



Source Height: 800 m



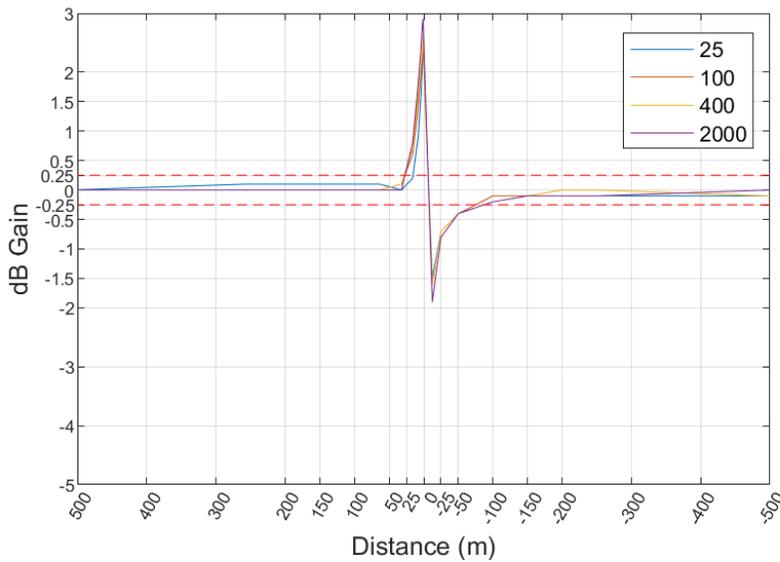
Benchmarking Dataset



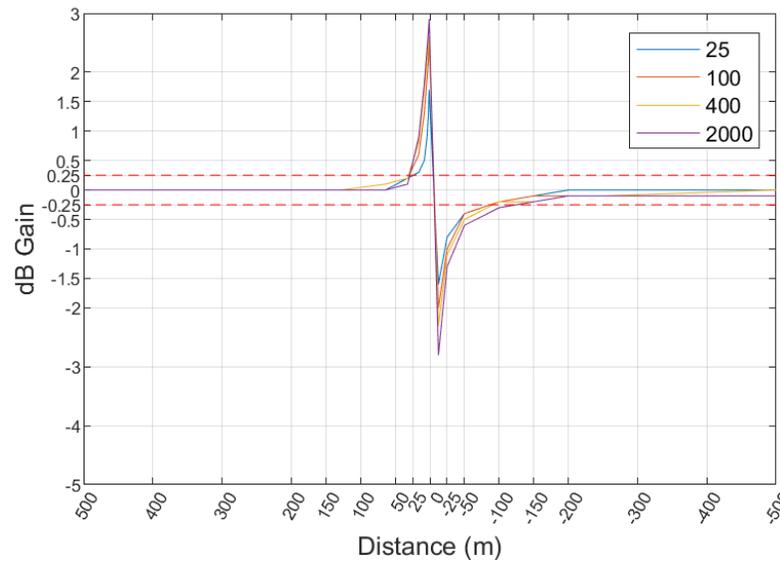
Effect of Source Distance

Building (64 H x 16 D x 64 W), CadnaA ISO 9613-2

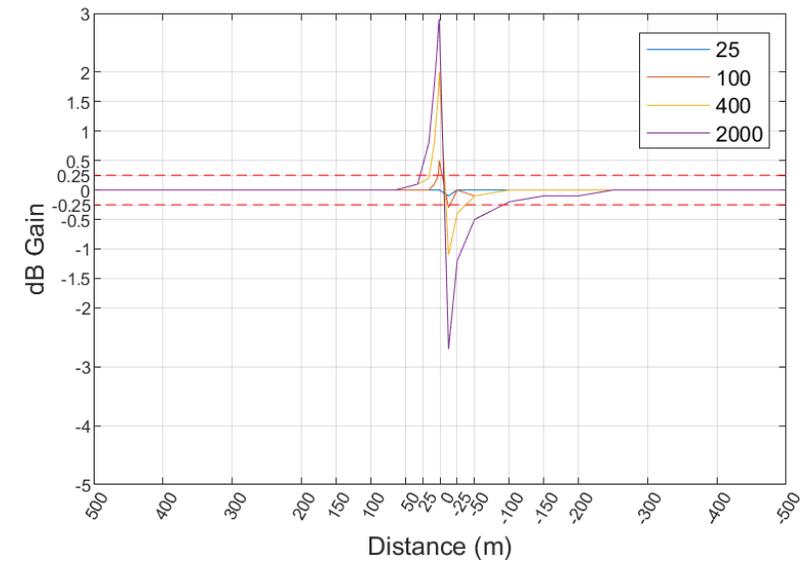
Source Height: 1.5 m



Source Height: 100 m



Source Height: 800 m



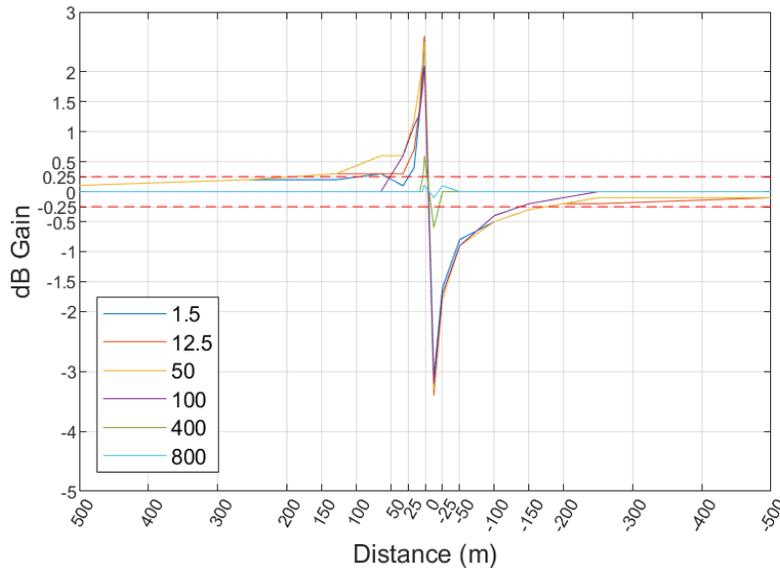
Benchmarking Dataset



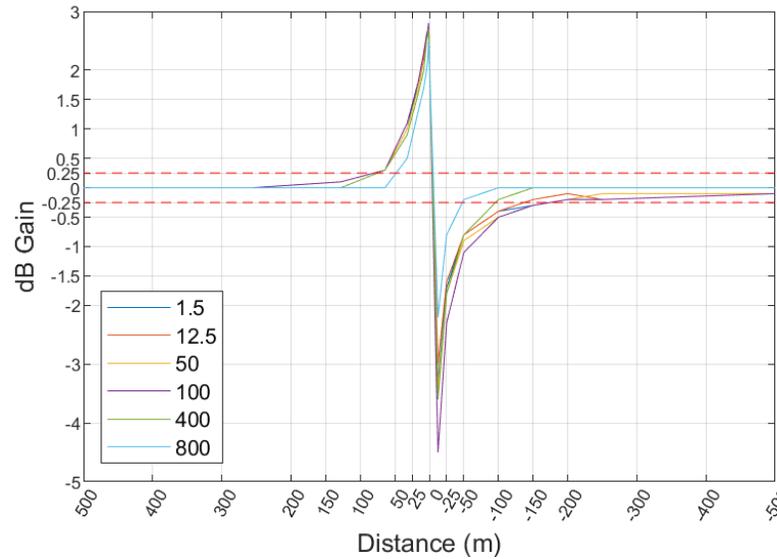
Effect of Source Height

Building (64 H x 16 D x 64 W), CadnaA ISO 9613-2

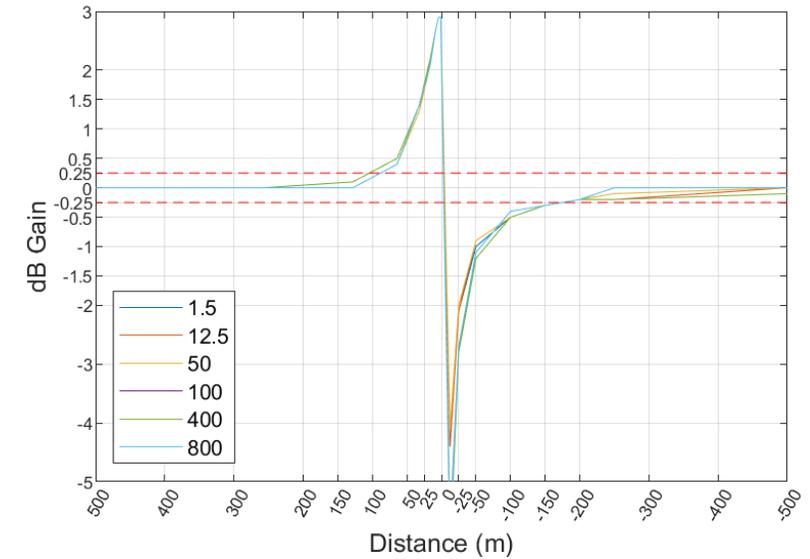
Source Distance: 25 m



Source Distance: 400 m



Source Distance: 2,000 m



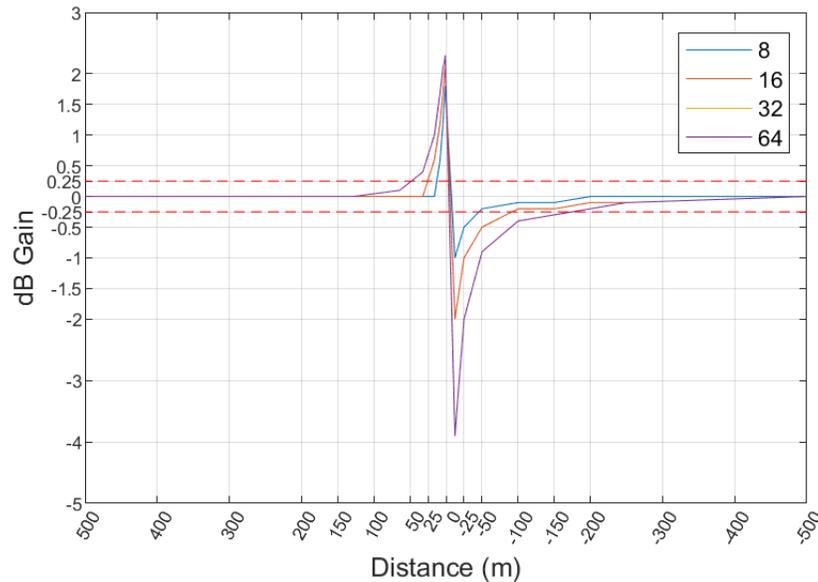
Benchmarking Dataset



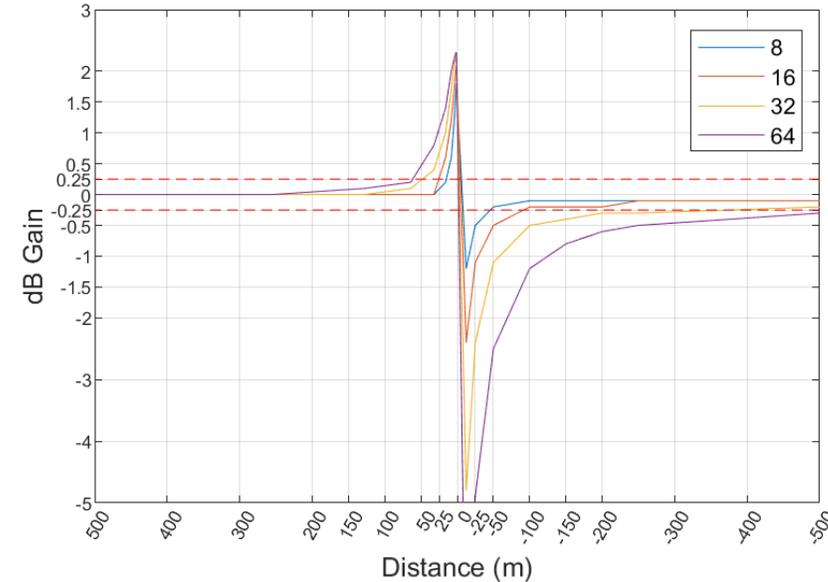
Effect of Building Width

Source at Distance of 100m and at Height of 12.5m, SoundPLAN NORD2000

Building: 8 m H x *W x 8 m D



Building: 64 m H x *W x 64 m D





➤ Summary

- Provides a detailed comparison of models and methods
- Demonstrates general trends
- Provides an initial estimate of the region of influence for buildings
- Will be compared with measured airport data
- Aid in defining the transition regions for the blended method

- I. Project Overview and Status
- II. Evaluation of Selected Methods
 - A. Benchmarking Results
 - B. Evaluation of Empirical Datasets
 - C. Airport Measurements
- III. Coordination Plan for Review





Models/Methods evaluated by comparing predictions to legacy empirical datasets

- Focused on reflection and shielding effects
- Examined with and without effect implemented

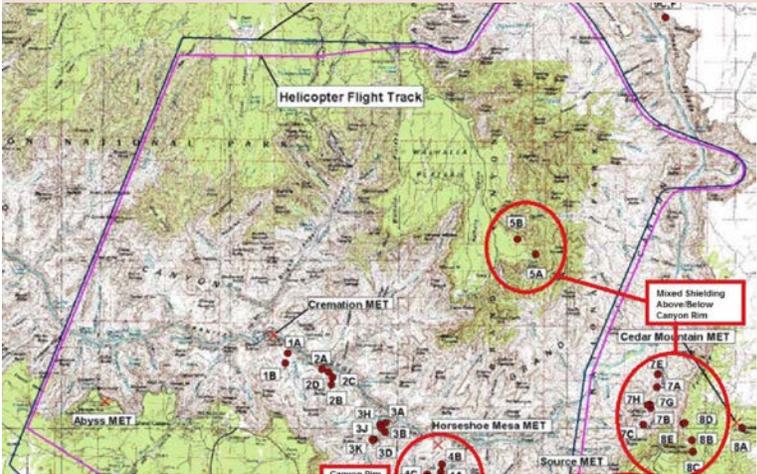


Terrain

Narvik



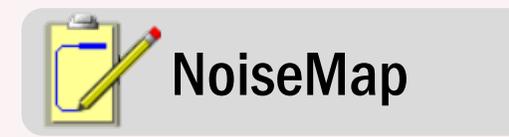
Grand Canyon



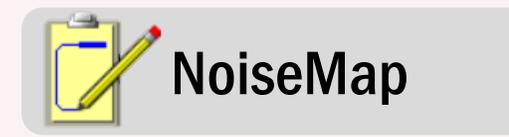


Terrain - Summary

Airborne Elevated Sources:



Ground-To-Ground Propagation:





Manmade Structures and Barriers

NYC Urban Helicopter



NCHRP Highway



TNM Validation





Manmade Structures – Summary

Building Reflection from Distant Source:



Noise Wall Reflection:

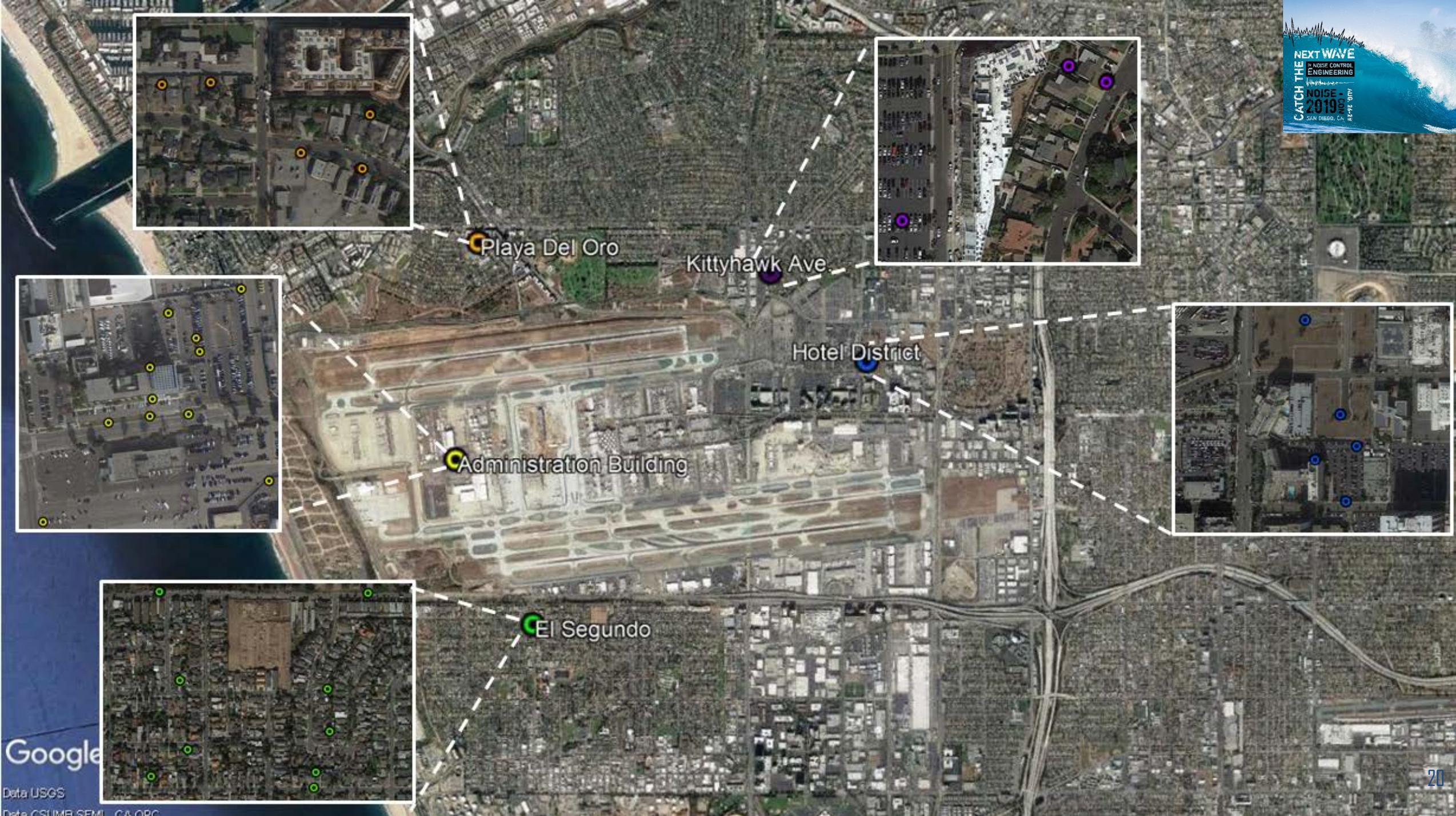


Diffraction Over Noise Walls:



- I. Project Overview and Status
- II. Evaluation of Selected Methods
 - A. Benchmarking Results
 - B. Evaluation of Empirical Datasets
 - C. Airport Measurements
- III. Blended Method





Playa Del Oro

Kittyhawk Ave.

Hotel District

Administration Building

El Segundo

Evaluation of Selected Methods: Airport Measurements



El Segundo



Measurement Notes

Most sites provide shielding and reflections from one-story houses

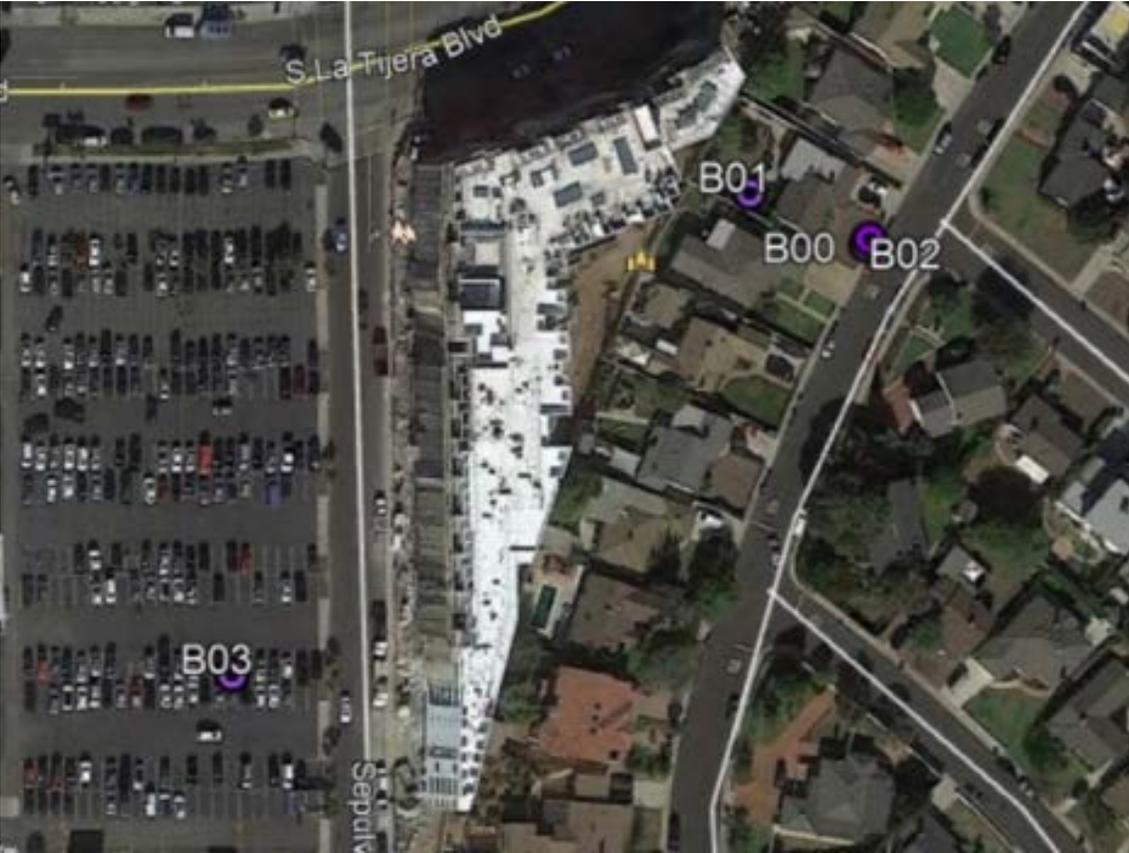
Aircraft were readily localized even when not visible



Evaluation of Selected Methods: Airport Measurements

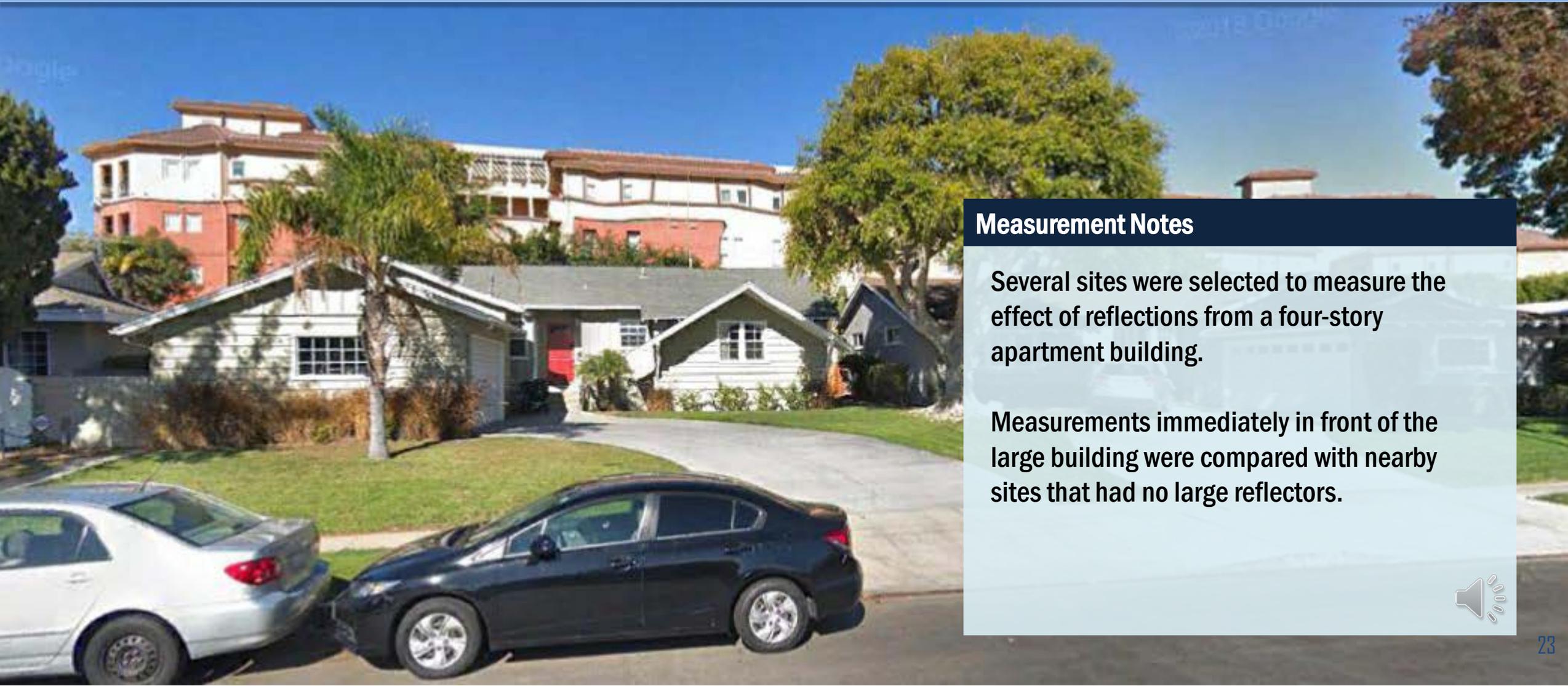


Kittyhawk Ave





Playa del Oro



Measurement Notes

Several sites were selected to measure the effect of reflections from a four-story apartment building.

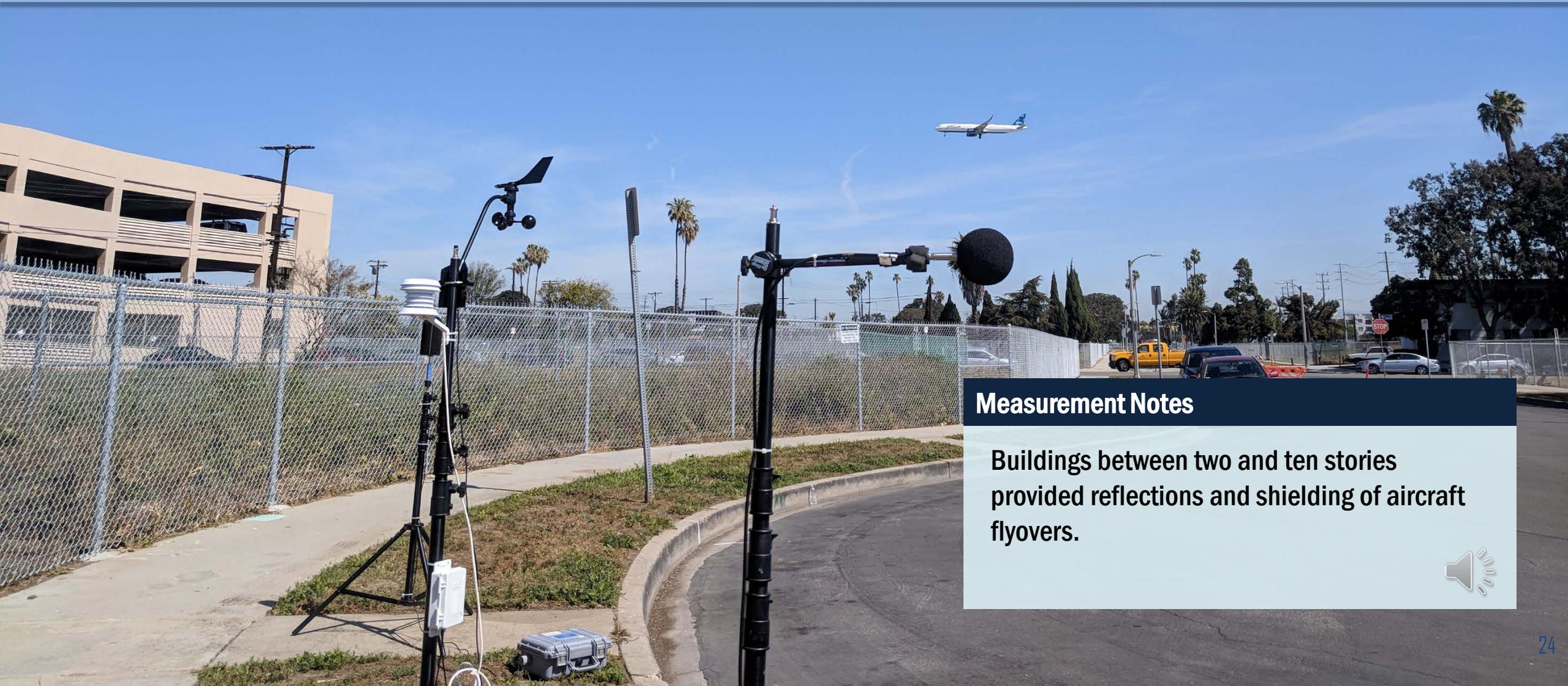
Measurements immediately in front of the large building were compared with nearby sites that had no large reflectors.



Evaluation of Selected Methods: Airport Measurements



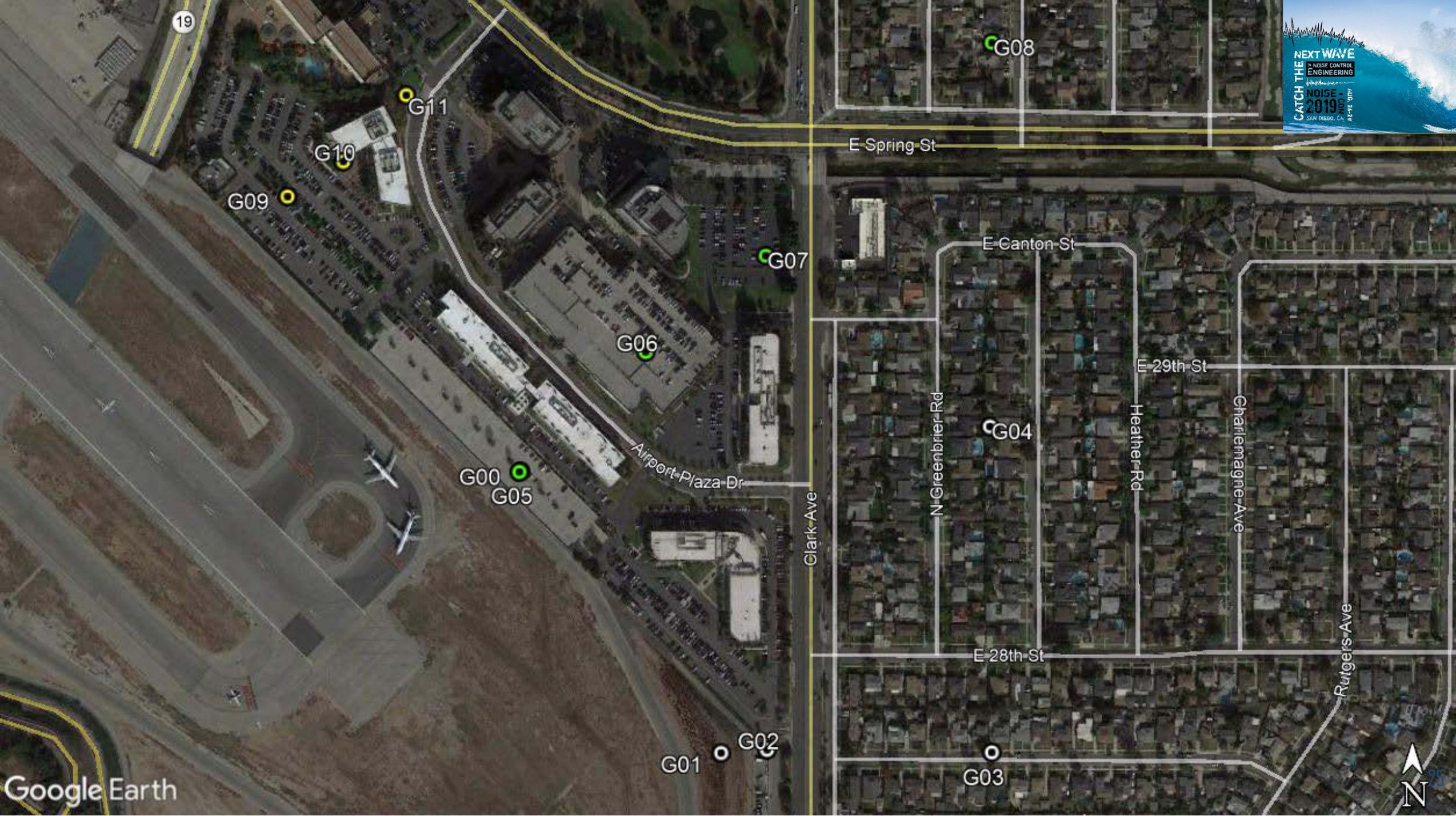
Hotel District



Measurement Notes

Buildings between two and ten stories provided reflections and shielding of aircraft flyovers.







Data Analysis

- Isolated events by aircraft type and airline, where possible
- 566 individual measured SEL events

Site Name	Number of Flights	Number of Sites	Number of Individual Recordings Removed	Total Measured Data Points
LGB	30	11	32	298
El Segundo	20	9	4	176
Kittyhawk	14	3	0	42
Playa del Oro	10	5	0	50

- 46 comparison events on average, grouped by operation type and shielding/reflection effect
- Calculated SEL and L_{Amax} for each event with AEDT
- Calculated difference between average measured values (M_{SEL}) versus predicted (P_{AEDT})
- Compared the calculated Gain/Loss (GL_{BM}) with the differences



Summary of Results

- Overall SEL Comparisons

Operation Type	Measured-AEDT		Offset TNM		Offset ISO 9613-2	
	Ave	St Dev	Ave	St Dev	Ave	St Dev
All	-1.9	4.8	0.9	3.9	0.1	4.4
Arrival	-0.1	2.7	0.2	2.8	-1.2	3.8
Departure	-2.3	4.9	1.4	3.9	0.6	4.2

- Grouped SEL Comparisons

Op Type	Effect	Measured-AEDT		Offset TNM		Offset ISO 9613-2	
		Ave	St Dev	Ave	St Dev	Ave	St Dev
Arrivals	Shielding	-0.9	3.5	-0.3	3.7	-1.8	5.3
	Reflection	0.3	2.3	0.5	2.4	-0.9	3.2
Departures	Shielding	-5.8	4.6	2.0	5.0	2.1	5.2
	Reflection	0.6	3.3	0.6	3.1	-0.6	3.1

- I. Project Overview and Status
- II. Evaluation of Selected Methods
 - A. Benchmarking Results
 - B. Evaluation of Empirical Datasets
 - C. Airport Measurements
- III. Blended Method





Terrain

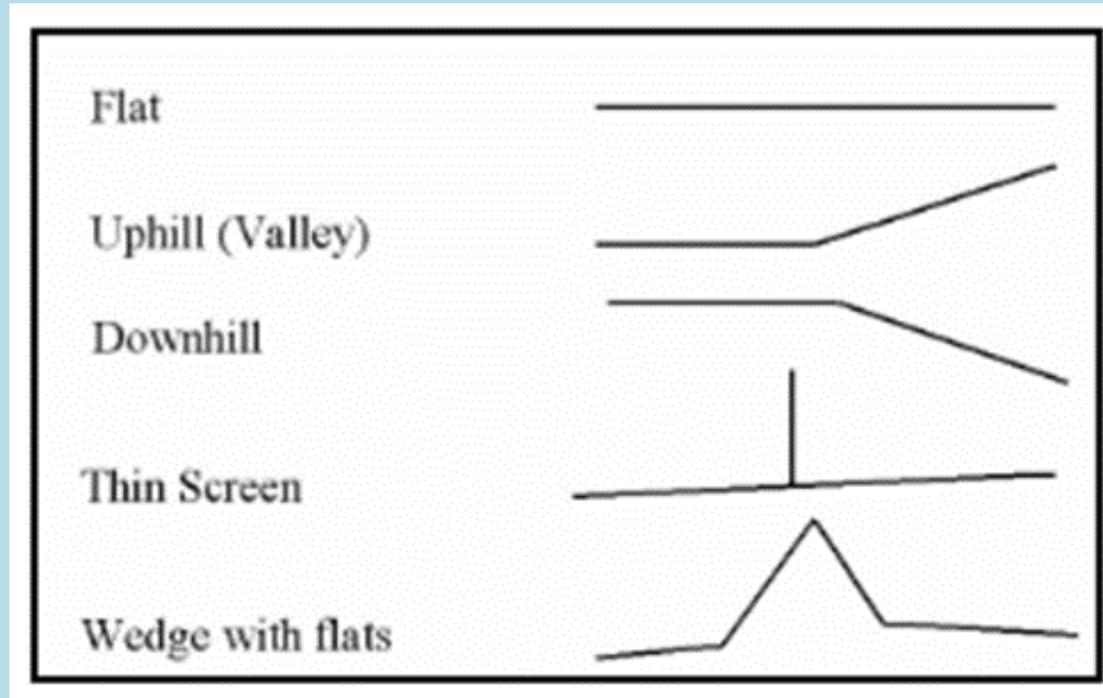


Buildings



Blended Method

➤ AAM Terrain Algorithms



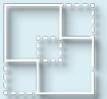
- NoiseMap integration method
- Included over entire calculation region



Terrain



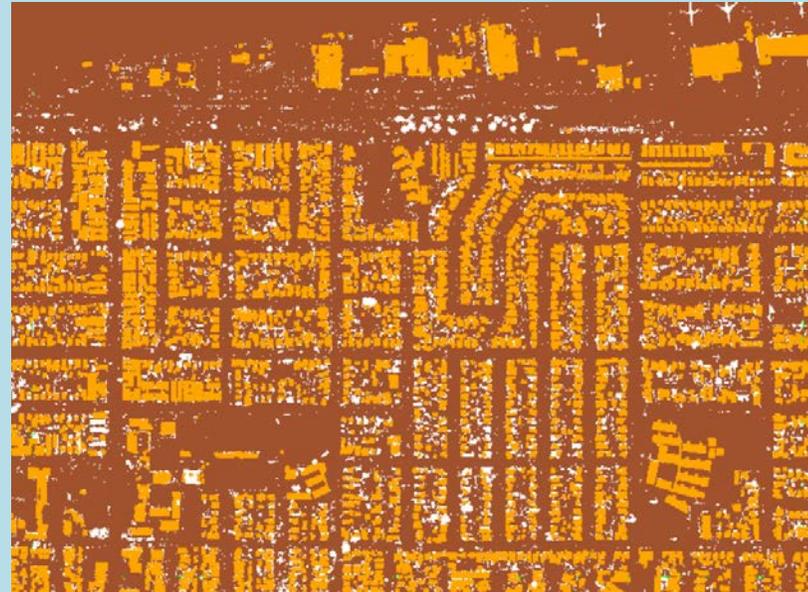
Buildings



Blended Method

➤ TNM 3.0

- Populate with building data



- Each unique trajectory
- Calculate OTOB gain/loss factors
- Dense array



Terrain

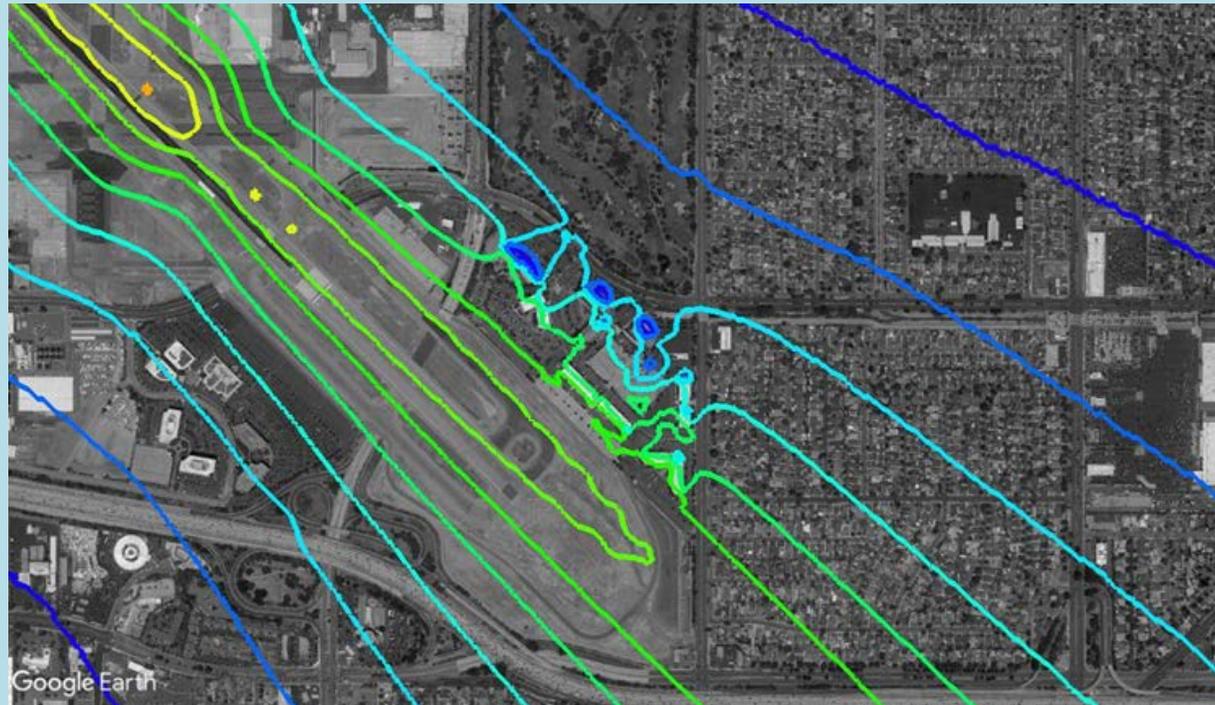


Buildings

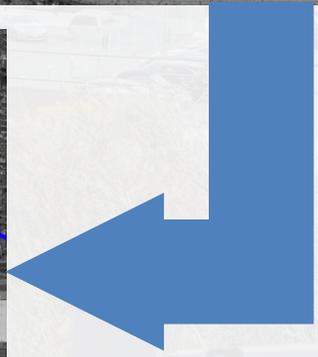
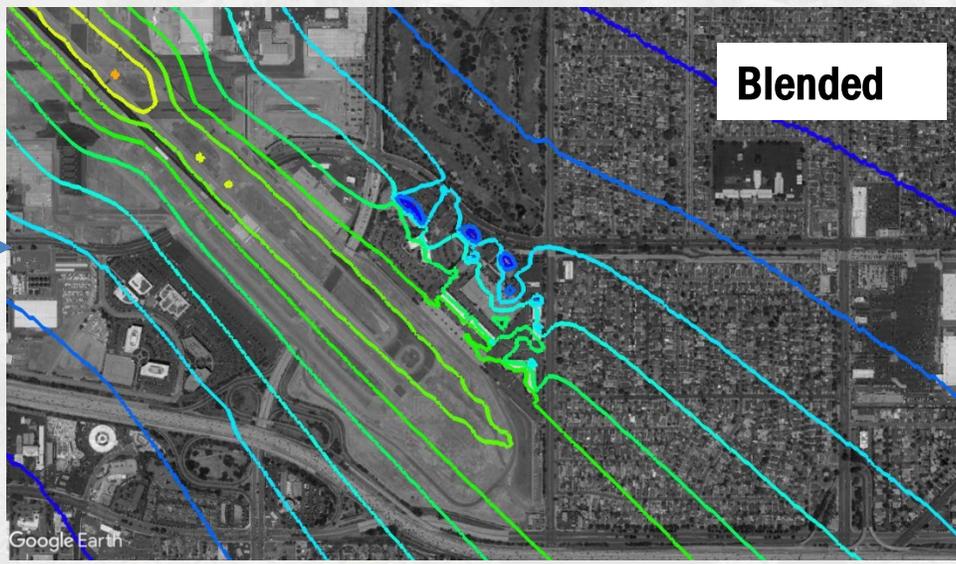
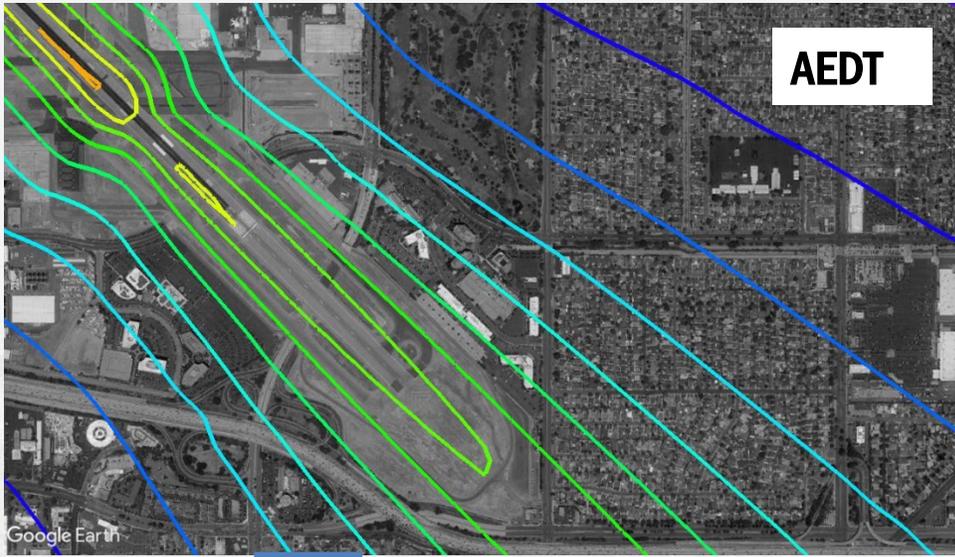


Blended Method

Utilizing linear acoustics, predictions obtained in the existing AEDT integrated framework can be combined with reflection gains and insertion loss from nearby structures



Blended Method Calculation





TNM 3.0



AAM/NoiseMap

Advantages

- One-time calculation of gain/loss on a 1/3-octave band basis
- Develop a library of gain/loss factors that can be applied to AEDT results
- Toggle results on/off
- Provide efficient computations
- Capture localized building effects



➤ Based on Magnitude of Effects

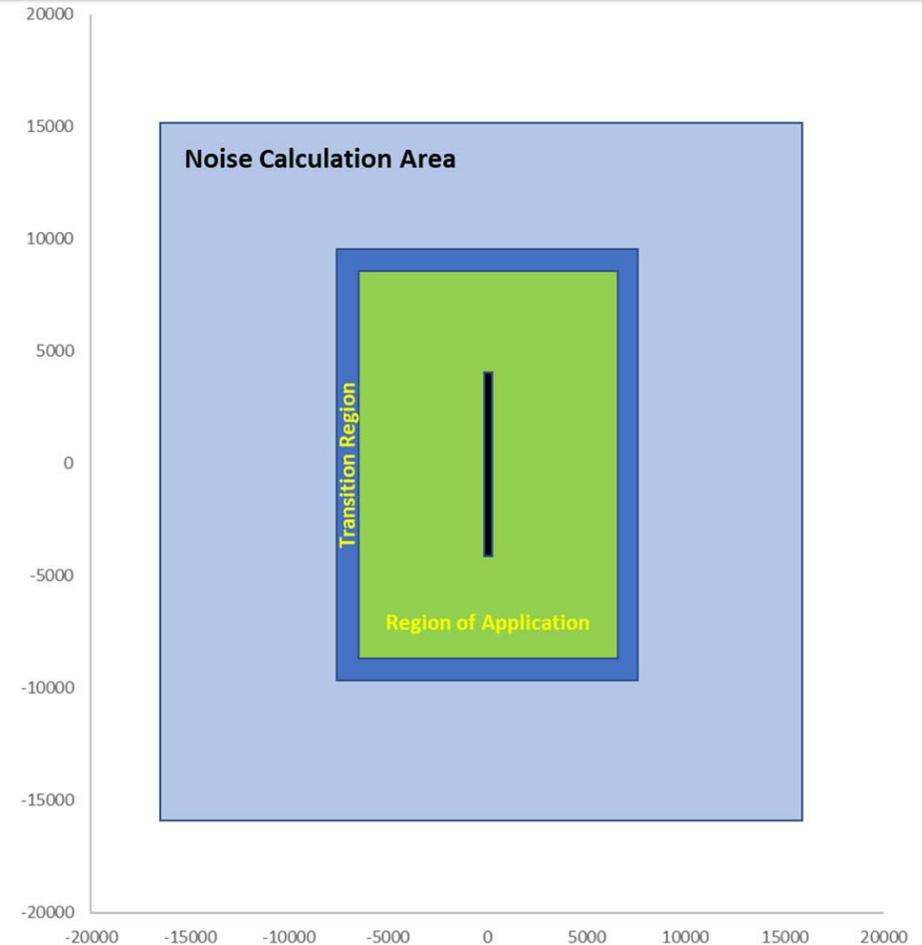
- Driven by shielding loss
- Driven by arrivals

➤ Extent

- Based on <0.5 dBA shielding effect
- Based on 152 m AGL
- 2,621 m along extended runway centerline
- 2,200 m lateral to runway

➤ Transition Region

- Simple linear interpolation
- 1,000 ft distance (<0.5 dBA change)



Questions





- **Interface with AEDT**
 - Operations defined using current AEDT input method
 - Buildings imported via 3D layers and/or direct user input

- **TNM 3.0 (modified) calculates building gain/loss**

- **Returns a library of gain/loss grids to AEDT**

- **AEDT applies gain/loss grids to output to account for building gain/loss (blended method)**