# R.L. BANKS & ASSOCIATES, INC.

### ECONOMICS | ENGINEERING | SERVICE PLANNING

June 30, 2022

City of Newark CA Quiet Zone Study

Prepared by R.L. Banks & Associates, Inc.

**Arlington VA** 

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### WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA OFFICE

# **QUIET ZONES GENERALLY<sup>1</sup>**

Only local governments or public agencies may establish a quiet zone, which must be at least 1/2 mile in length and have at least one public highway-rail grade crossing. Every public grade crossing in a quiet zone must be equipped at minimum with the standard or conventional automatic warning devices (i.e. flashing lights and gates). Communities have the option to establish partial quiet zones restricting locomotive horn sounding during overnight hours between 10:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M.<sup>2</sup>

Local government(s) must work in cooperation with the railroad that owns the track and the appropriate state transportation authority to convene a diagnostic team to assess the risk of collision at each grade crossing where they wish to silence the horn. An objective determination is made about where and what type of additional safety engineering improvements are necessary to effectively reduce the risk associated with silencing the horns based on localized conditions such as highway traffic volumes, train traffic volumes, the accident history and physical characteristics of the crossing, including existing safety measures.

Examples of additional safety engineering improvements that may be necessary to reduce the risk of collisions include: medians on one or both sides of the tracks to prevent a motorist from driving around a lowered gate; a four-quadrant gate system to block all lanes of highway traffic; converting a two-way street into a one-way street; permanent closure of the crossing to highway traffic; or approved variations of these treatments.

As an alternative to quiet zones, communities may also choose to silence locomotive horns through the installation of wayside horns at each crossing (train-activated stationary acoustical devices directed at highway traffic), as a one for one substitute for train horns.

Once all necessary safety engineering improvements are made, the local community must certify to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) that the required level of risk reduction has been achieved. A quiet zone may only take effect after all necessary safety measures are installed and operational.

Notably, in a quiet zone engineers have no legal duty to sound the horn, but may exercise discretion during emergency situations (i.e. the presence of a vehicle or a person on the track). Under federal regulations, engineers must sound the horn to warn railroad maintenance employees or contractors working on the tracks. If a railroad or individual engineer fails to sound the locomotive horn as required or is unnecessarily sounding the horn in an established quiet zone, they are subject to enforcement action by FRA.

# Calculating the Level of Risk<sup>3</sup>

In order to create a quiet zone, one of the following conditions must be met:

1. The Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) with or without additional safety measures such as Supplementary Safety Measures (SSMs) or Alternative Safety Measures (ASMs) described below. The QZRI is the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://railroads.dot.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/fra-locomotive-horn-sounding-and-quiet-zone-establishment</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This is a matter of community option. A nighttime Quiet Zone application is held to the same standards as a 24-hour Quiet Zone

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2020-05/QuietZoneBrochure.pdf</u>

average risk for all public highway-rail crossings in the quiet zone, including the additional risk for absence of train horns and any reduction in risk due to the risk mitigation measures. The NSRT is the level of risk calculated annually by averaging the risk at all of the Nation's public highwayrail grade crossings equipped with flashing lights and gates where train horns are routinely sounded.

2. The Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) is less than or equal to the Risk Index With Horns (RIWH) with additional safety measures such as SSMs or ASMs. The RIWH is the average risk for all public highway-rail crossings in the proposed quiet zone when locomotive horns are routinely sounded.

3. Install SSMs at every public highway-rail crossing. This is the best method to reduce risks in a proposed quiet zone and to enhance safety.

The Quit Zone Risk Index is calculated by using the FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator<sup>4</sup> tool which is preloaded with the values for the crossing as based on the Grade Crossing Inventory System<sup>5</sup> and the Grade Crossing Incident Database<sup>6</sup>. The Calculator allows the user to make correction in the crossing data for purposes of calculation but does not enter these changes in the database. The user enters the proposed Supplementary Safety Measure(s) and the calculator determines the revised Risk Index for the crossing(s). Maps, providing context to the proposed quiet zones are attached as Appendix 1. The Calculator work sheets in connection with the Coast and Niles Subdivisions are attached as Appendix 2.

# FRA Estimated Costs

The Quite Zone Calculator includes an Estimated Total Cost of the improvements which have been entered by the user. These cost figures represent an assumed national average cost and are provided solely to provide a planning baseline. They only represent the material and installation of the selected Supplementary Safety Measure(s) and do not represent the cost of connection to the railroad or highway signal system signal system and any required or incidental track, crossing surface, or highway work. RLBA recommends the informal solicitation of informal quotes before committing to budget figures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>https://railroads.dot.gov/accident-and-incident-reporting/highwayrail-grade-crossing-incidents/highwayrail-grade-crossing</u>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/login.aspx</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>https://railroads.dot.gov/safety-data/crossing-and-inventory-data/crossing-inventory-dashboards-data-downloads</u>

# **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

R L Banks & Associates, Inc. (RLBA) was retained by the City of Newark, California (the City) to perform a feasibility study of establishing one or more railroad crossing quiet zones within the city limits. Federal regulations<sup>7</sup>, known as the 'Train Horn Rule', require that locomotive engineers must begin to sound train horns at least 15 seconds, and no more than 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings. The regulation also allows a local government to apply for a waiver of this requirement where it can show that the likelihood of a train-motor vehicle collision will not be increased due to additional safety measures which have been implemented at the crossing(s) in question. Crossings or groups of crossings where the wavier has been granted are designated as Quiet Zones.

RLBA surveyed the existing crossings within the city limits and compiled an inventory which is enumerated in Table 1 below. The list has been organized by the designated name of the rail line (not the operating railroad) and whether or not, in our opinion, the crossing or group of crossings can qualify for the wavier and designation as Quiet Zones.

FRA	Cal PUC	RR	Туре	Position	Status	Mile	City	RR	Street	Quiet Zone		et Zone	
Crossing #	Crossing #					post		SubDivision		Proposed	Eligible		
749937D	001L-29.10	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	29.10	Newark	Coast Sub	Jarvis Avenue	Р	Y		
749938K	001L-29.30	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	29.31	Newark	Coast Sub	Haley Street	P	Y		
922029U		UP	Private	At Grade	Open	29.58	Newark	Coast Sub	Private	N	A	Coast Subdivision	
749939S	001L-30.00	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	30.05	Newark	Coast Sub	Mayhews Landing Rd	Р	Y	Orist Zona	
749940L	001L-30.40	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	30.42	Newark	Coast Sub	Thornton Avenue	Р	Y	Quiet 2011e	
749941T	001L-30.60	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	30.62	Newark	Coast Sub	Carter Avenue	Р	Y		
749943G	001L-31.10	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	31.12	Newark	Coast Sub	Central Avenue	Р	Y		
450368T		UP	Private	At Grade	Open	31.29	Newark	Coast Sub	Private Crossings in	N	Ν	Frendad	
749944N		UP	Private	At Grade	Open	31.70	Newark	Coast Sub	Yard Limits	N	Ν	Excluded	
749946C	001L-32.20	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	32.25	Newark	Coast Sub	Mowry Avenue	Р	Y	Mourry Oniot Zono	
749950S	001DAB-36.40	UP	Private	At Grade	Open	33.40	Fremont	Coast Sub	Stevenson Blvd	N	A	Mowry Quiet Zone	
750033G	001DAB-38.60	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	33.70	Newark	Niles Sub	Cedar Road	Р	Y	Nilos Subdivision	
750032A	001DAB-37.80	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	34.46	Newark	Niles Sub	Cherry Street	Р	Y	Oriet Zene	
750030L	001DAB-37.50	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	34.77	Newark	Niles Sub	Sycamore Street	P Y		Quiet Zone	
750021M		UP	Public	At Grade	Open	36.42	Newark	Newark Ind Ld	Willow Road	N	N	Newark Industrial	
750024H	001DAB-36.70	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	36.78	Newark	Newark Ind Ld	Spruce Street	N	N	Lood Evoluted	
750028K	001DAB-37.10	UP	Public	At Grade	Open	37.06	Newark	Newark Ind Ld	Ash Street	N	N	Lead Excluded	

For purposes of the study, the seventeen<sup>8</sup> identified grade crossings within Newark were grouped into one freestanding crossing and three corridors. Four private crossings within these corridors were determined not to impact the quiet zone analysis.

The freestanding crossing is Mowry Avenue, GX 749946C which is over a mile from the adjacent crossings and was dealt with in a prior report included as Appendix 3. The three corridors designated for Quiet Zone study are: 1) the Coast Subdivision between Jarvis Avenue GX 749937D and Central Avenue GX 749943G inclusive (six grade crossings); 2) the Niles Subdivision between Cedar Road<sup>9</sup> GX 750033G and Sycamore Street GX 750050L inclusive (three grade crossings); and 3) the Newark Industrial Lead between Willow Road GX 750021M

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 222

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> One additional crossing showed as being in Newark on the Federal Railroad Administration Safety Map <u>https://fragis.fra.dot.gov/GISFRASafety/</u>), however this was determined to be the result of a survey error.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Cedar Boulevard is shown as Cedar Road on the FRA documentation and for the sake of clarity we do so here

and Ash Street GX750028K inclusive (three grade crossings). These are shown on Map 1 below.

RLBA reviewed the FRA Grade Crossing Inventory data and, accompanied by the Assistant City Engineer, conducted an onsite inspection of all the public grade crossings within the city limits to determine their overall condition along with any local factors which would have an impact on the feasibility of establishing a quiet zone. While we were not authorized to either open the control housings or perform any testing, all of the crossing signals, except those on the Newark Industrial Lead, appeared to be in good repair and were observed to be functioning properly. The signals on the Newark Industrial Lead appeared to be out-of-service and therefor unmaintained.



# Map 1. City of Newark Rail-Highway Grade Crossings



# **PROPOSED QUIET ZONES**

# Mowry Avenue Quiet Zone

RLBA's report of January 14, 2022 determined that the potential future improvements at Mowry Avenue, GX 749946C would allow it to qualify as a Quiet Zone. RLBA, therefore, recommends that if the crossing is modified in accordance with the plans provided by the City that the City apply for a Waiver of the train Horn Rule at Mowry Avenue. The report is incorporated herein by reference and a copy is attached hereto as Appendix 3.

# **Coast Subdivision Quiet Zone**

The Coast Subdivision Quiet Zone represents a north/south Union Pacific rail corridor approximately 2.2 miles in length between the City Line in the vicinity of Highway 84 and the junction with the Niles Subdivision in the vicinity of Central Avenue. The line is primarily single-track north of Thornton Avenue and double track plus yard tracks south of Thornton. The line's current traffic count is an average of six trains per day.

There are six crossings at grade in the Coast Subdivision Quiet Zone corridor. It is RLBA's opinion that these six crossings as a group can qualify for a waiver of the Train Horn Rule. This will be discussed in more detail below.





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The six crossings in the Coast Subdivision Quiet Zone are discussed individually below.

- Jarvis Avenue 749937D Jarvis Avenue is four lanes with a median strip. The crossing angle is approximately 45 degrees. Each direction of travel is already equipped with double gates and cantilevered signals, effectively producing the same effect as a four-quadrant gate. While RLBA has used the addition of four-quadrant gate for purposes of calculating the risk index, we believe that the FRA will accept the current configuration.
- Haley Street 749938K Haley Street is four lanes with no median. It is equipped with twoquadrant gates and cantilevered signals. RLBA recommends the installation of four-quadrant gates along with additional center striping and collapsible bollards.
- Mayhews Landing Road 749939S Mayhews Landing Road is two lanes with no median. It is equipped with two-quadrant gates and pedestal<sup>10</sup> signals. RLBA recommends the installation of four-quadrant gates along with at least one cantilever signal, additional center striping and collapsible bollards.
- Thornton Avenue 749940L Thornton Avenue is four lanes with no median. It is equipped with two-quadrant gates and cantilevered signals. The crossing is complicated by the presence of commercial driveways immediately adjacent to the track on the north side of the street. Provision will have to be made to ensure that the track cannot be accessed from either of these properties while the gates are down. RLBA recommends the installation of four-quadrant gates along with cantilever signals, additional center striping and collapsible bollards.

An additional complication is the presence of Alameda County Fire Department Station 28 in the southwest quadrant of the crossing. The apparatus in this station is frequently delayed in its response to much of the City by the presence of a train on the crossing and can be blocked from leaving the station by traffic backed up at the crossing. RLBA suggests that an additional railroad crossing warning signal with a "Do Not Block Fire Station" sign be placed immediately west of the fire station and that the City and the Fire Department discuss the installation of a remote occupancy indicator in the fire station which will allow the fire apparatus to indicate to their dispatcher a delayed response if the station receives an assignment while a train is occupying or approaching the crossing.

- Carter Avenue 749941T Carter Avenue is four lanes with a center median. It is equipped with two-quadrant gates and cantilevered signals. RLBA recommends that each side be double-gated along with the necessary signage and pavement markings. RLBA further recommends that the median on the northbound side be extended to prevent motor vehicles from going around the gate
- Central Avenue 749943G As this crossing is going to be replaced with an overpass, there is no need to budget additional crossing improvements.

The risk values associated with each crossing, with and without the recommended improvements, are shown in Table 2 below. The cumulative risk index with horns of the Coast Subdivision

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> A pedestal signal is one which is mounted on a pedestal or a post on the side of the road and is referred to as such in order to differentiate it from a cantilever signal which is mounted on a bridge structure cantilevered over the roadway.

Corridor if no improvements are made is 51,907.00. This is significantly higher than Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) of 15,488.00. The Quiet Zone Risk Index with all of the improvements and the grade separation of Central Avenue is 1,691.05. The recommended Supplementary Safety Measures lower the risk index at each crossing to a level significantly below the NSRT. In addition, the cumulative risk index associated with the corridor is reduced further by the inclusion of the planned Central Avenue overpass project which completely eliminates the crossing with the highest risk index in the corridor.

FRA	Position	MP	Street	Current	Q Z Risk	ASMs	Approximate
Crossing #				Risk Index	Index	Needed	Cost
749937D	At Grade	29.10	Jarvis Avenue	41,520.01	3,321.60		\$115,000
749938K	At Grade	29.31	Haley Street	20,671.18	1,653.69		\$115,000
749939S	At Grade	30.05	Mayhews Landing Rd	17,952.90	1,436.23		\$115,000
749940L	At Grade	30.42	Thornton Avenue	25,619.86	2,049.59		\$115,000
749941T	At Grade	30.62	Carter Avenue	21,064.72	1,685.18		\$115,000
749943G	At Grade	31.12	Central Avenue	59,637.99	0,000.00	Overpass	\$4,000,000
Quiet Zone	Cumulativ	e Risl	c Index	51,907.00	1,691.05		
Estimated Cost							\$4,575,000

Table 2. Coast Subdivision QZ Analysis

For comparison purposes, Table 3 shows the comparative risk index for No Improvement, Quad Gates Only without the planned grade separation of Central Avenue, and Quad Gates with Separation of Central Avenue scenarios

In the event that the Thornton Avenue crossing is not approved for a Train Horn Rule Waiver then the Carter Avenue crossing will not either as they are in close

Table 3. Comparative Risk Indices - Coast Subdivision

Scenario	NSRT	QZ Risk			
		Index			
No Improvement	15,488.00	31,077.78			
Quad Gates only	15,488.00	2,486.22			
Quad Gates with Separation of Central Ave	15,488.00	1,691.05			
Three Crossings Alternative	15,488.00	3,521.18			

proximity to each other. However, the cumulative Quiet Zone Risk Index associated with the three remaining adjacent crossings is 3,521.18, which is still significantly below Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold of 15,488.00

**Project Cost** The estimated cost in Table 2 is the cost generated by the FRA Quiet Zone Calculator. Removing the FRA's arbitrary \$4,000,000 cost of the Central Avenue Grade Separation Project leaves \$115,000 per crossing as the marginal cost of installing four-quadrant gates at each of the five remaining crossings or a total of \$575,000. As this figure does not include any incidental paving or crossing surface work, or the cost of any necessary changes to the existing railroad or highway signal systems to accommodate the additional equipment, RLBA believes a more accurate figure would be in the vicinity of \$150,000 per crossing. As RLBA has only recommended the installation of additional signals at four of the five crossings, this results in a planning figure of \$600,000 in signal improvement costs in connection with the Coast Subdivision Quiet Zone

# Niles Subdivision Quiet Zone

The Niles Subdivision Quiet Zone corridor represents an east/west Union Pacific rail connector approximately 1.25 miles in length between City Line in the vicinity of Interstate 880 and the junction with the Coast Subdivision in the vicinity of Central Avenue. The line is primarily double-track, with an average of twenty trains per day.

There are three crossings at grade in the Niles Subdivision Quiet Zone corridor. It is RLBA's opinion that the three crossings as a group can qualify for a waiver of the Train Horn Rule. This will be discussed in more detail below.



# Map 3. Niles Subdivision Rail-Highway Grade Crossings

The three crossings in the Niles Subdivision Quiet Zone are discussed individually below.

Cedar Road 750033G - Cedar Road is four lanes with no median. It is equipped with two-quadrant gates and cantilevered signals. RLBA recommends the installation of four-quadrant gates along with additional center striping and collapsible bollards. There is an intersection with St. Isabel Avenue on the north side of Cedar Road adjacent to the west side of the railroad right-of-way. RLBA believes that there is sufficient distance between the crossing and the

intersection to meet the 60-foot separation requirement $^{11}$ .

- Cherry Street 750032A Cherry Street is four lanes with center median. Each direction of travel is already equipped with double-gates and cantilevered signals, effectively producing the same effect as a four-quadrant gate. While RLBA has used the addition of four-quadrant gate for purposes of calculating the risk index, we believe that the FRA will accept the current configuration. However, the intersection with Baine Avenue on the west side of the right-of-way is near enough that the City will need to reconfigure the intersection to meet the 60-foot separation requirement and may need to seek a waiver.
- Sycamore Street 750030L Sycamore Street is three lanes with a center turn lane. It is equipped with two-quadrant gates and cantilevered signals. RLBA recommends the installation of fourquadrant gates along with additional center striping and collapsible bollards

The risk values associated with each crossing, with and without the recommended improvements, are shown in Table 4 below. The cumulative risk index with horns of the Coast Subdivision Corridor if no improvements are made is 47,710.57. This is significantly higher than Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) of 15,488.00. The Quiet Zone Risk Index with all of the improvements and the grade separation of Central Avenue is 6,366.50.

			Table 4. Miles Subdi	VISION QL AI	laiysis			
FRA	Position	MP	Street	Current	Q Z Risk	ASMs	Approximate	
Crossing #				Risk Index	Index	Needed	Cost	
750033G	At Grade	33.70	Cedar Road	160,539.56	12,843.17		\$115,000	
750032A	At Grade	34.46	Cherry Street	52,534.32	4,202.75		\$115,000	
750030L	At Grade	34.77	Sycamore St	25,669.82	2,053.59		\$115,000	
Quiet Zone	Cumulativ	e Risl	k Index	47,710.57	6,366.50			
Estimated Cost								

Table 4. Niles Subdivision QZ Analysis

**Project Cost** The estimated cost in Table 4 is the cost generated by the FRA Quiet Zone Calculator. The total of \$345,000 equals \$115,000 per crossing as the marginal cost of installing four-quadrant gates at each of the three crossings. As this figure does not include any incidental paving or crossing surface work, or the cost of any necessary changes to the existing railroad or highway signal systems to accommodate the additional equipment, RLBA believes a more accurate figure would be in the vicinity of \$150,000 per crossing or a planning figure of \$450,000 in signal improvement costs associated with the Coast Subdivision Quiet Zone. This figure does not include the reconfiguration of the two intersections cited above.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 49CFR222 Appendix A 3 b Medians or channelization devices must extend at least 100 feet from the gate arm, or if there is an intersection within 100 feet of the gate, the median or channelization device must extend at least 60 feet from the gate arm.

# Newark Industrial Lead

The Newark Industrial Lead is not recommended for a wavier of the Train Horn Rule. It is further recommended that the existing, active warning devices be removed in their entirety and replaced with crossbucks as specified by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The Newark Industrial Lead appears to be functionally, though apparently not legally, out of service. The most recent inventory of all three crossings FORM FRA F 6180.71, dated 07/20/2021, Part II, Block 1.c. shows a train count (2019) of two daily switching trains, however Google imagery dated 2020-2021 shows significant amounts of rail removed from two of the three tracks and no connected industrial spurs. This was confirmed by a site visit. As a significant portion of the Dumbarton bridge has been removed, there is no current possibility of through traffic.

# Map 4. Newark Industrial Lead Coast Grade Crossings Not Recommended for Inclusion in Quiet Zone



All three crossings are currently equipped with flashing light and gates. Area residents and frequent users of the three crossings are accustomed to the absence of trains on the line. In the event that a crossing signal does activate it will probably be ignored. RLBA, therefore, recommends that the existing crossing signals be removed and replaced with RAILROAD CROSSING signs (R15-1) combined with YIELD (R1-2) Signs in accordance with Section 8B.04 of the MUTCD *Crossbuck Assemblies with YIELD or STOP Signs at Passive Grade Crossings*.

FRA	Position	MP	Street	Current	Q Z Risk	ASMs	Approximate
Crossing #				Risk Index	Index	Needed	Cost
750021M	At Grade	36.42	Willow Road	NA	NA	None	\$0.00
750024H	At Grade	36.78	Spruce Street	NA	NA		\$0.00
750028K	At Grade	37.06	Ash Street	NA	NA		\$0.00
Quiet Zone	Cumulativ	e Risl	<b>k Index</b>	NA	NA		
Estimated C	Cost						\$0.00

# **Other Excluded Crossings**

Several crossings within Newark City Limits were excluded from the study as they are not on active rail lines, are within yard limits or are not accessible by the general public. Data associated with all of these crossings was confirmed by a site visit.

22029U MP 29.58 Coast Subdivision is a gated private access road used to access the drainage canal. It has no impact on the Quiet Zone Study.

450368T MP 31.29 and 749944N MP 31.7 Coast Subdivision are private crossings within Yard Limits, not on the main line and do not impact the Quiet Zone Study.

749950S MP 33.40 Coast Subdivision Stevenson Boulevard is a private crossing which is located on the city line with Fremont. It does not impact the Quiet Zone Study.

837816X Willow Street (not included in Table 1) was determined to be a survey data recording error. The actual crossing was determined to have been in the City of Alameda.

# **Appendix 1 Maps**







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# Appendix 2 FRA Grade Crossing Calculator Worksheets



# **Coast Subdivision Worksheet**

### 6/24/22, 2:03 PM

#### FRA - Quiet Zone Calculator

Print This Page

#### Change Scenario: COAST SUB \_66520 V Cancel Continue Crossing Street Traffic Warning Device Pre-SSM Risk SSM Create New Zone 749937D JARVIS AVENUE 14688 Gates 13 5 3,321.60 MODIFY Manage Existing Zones 749938K HALEY STREET 4558 Gates 13 5 1,653.69 MODIFY Log Off 7499395 MAYHEWS 3299 0 5 Gates 1,436.23 MODIFY LANDING ROAD 749940L THORNTON 14517 Gates 0 5 2,049.59 MODIFY Step by Step AVENUE Instructions: 749941T CARTER AVENUE 3840 1,685.18 Gates 13 5 MODIFY 749943G CENTRAL AVENUE 12054 Gates 0 3 0 Grade Separated

Step 1: To specify New Warning Device (For Pre-Rule Quiet Zone Only) and/or SSM, click the <u>MODIFY</u> Button

Step 2: Select proposed warning device or SSM. Then click the <u>UPDATE</u> button.To generate a spreadsheet of the values on this page, click on <u>ASM</u> button—This spreadsheet can then be used for ASM calculations.

Step 3: Repeat Step (2) until the SELECT button is shown at the bottom right side of this page. Note that the SELECT button is shown ONLY when the Quiet Zone Risk Index falls below the NSRT or the Risk Index with Horn.

Step 4: To save the scenario and continue, click the SELECT button \* Only Public At Grade Crossings are listed.

ALERT: Quiet Zone qualifies because SSM has been applied in each crossing.

Click for <u>Supplementary Safety Measures</u> [SSM]

Click for ASM spreadsheet: ASM \* Note:The use of ASMs requires an application to and approval from the FRA.

Summary	
Proposed Quiet Zone:	Coast Sub Newark
Type:	New 24-hour QZ
Scenario:	COAST SUB _66520
Estimated Total Cost:	\$4,575,000.00
Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold:	15488.00
Risk Index with Horns:	51907.51
Quiet Zone Risk Index:	1691.05
Selec	t

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# **Niles Subdivision Worksheet**

#### 6/16/22, 10:31 PM

#### FRA - Quiet Zone Calculator

Print This Page

#### Home | Help | Contact | logoff mallen@rlbadc.com Change Scenario: NILES SUB\_66487 Cancel × Continue Crossing Street Traffic Warning Device Pre-SSM Risk SSM Create New Zone 750030L SYCAMORE 7006 Gates 0 5 2,053.59 MODIFY Manage Existing Zones STREET 12370 Gates 750032A CHERRY STREET 4,202.75 0 5 Log Off MODIFY 750033G CEDAR ROAD 15084 Gates 0 5 12,843.17 MODIFY Step by Step Summary Instructions: \* Only Public At Grade Crossings are listed. Proposed Quiet Niles Sub Newark Zone: ALERT: Quiet Zone qualifies because New 24-hour OZ Type: Step 1: To specify New SSM has been applied in each crossing. Warning Device (For Pre-NILES SUB Scenario: Rule Quiet Zone Only) Click for Supplementary Safety Measures 66487 and/or SSM, click the [SSM] Estimated Total MODIFY Button \$345,000.00 Click for ASM spreadsheet: ASM Cost: Step 2: Select proposed Note: The use of ASMs requires an Nationwide warning device or SSM. Significant Risk application to and approval from the FRA. 15488.00 Then click the UPDATE Threshold: button.To generate a **Risk Index with** spreadsheet of the values on 47710.57 Horns: this page, click on ASM button-This spreadsheet Quiet Zone Risk 6366.5 can then be used for ASM Index: calculations. Select Step 3: Repeat Step (2) until the SELECT button is shown at the bottom right side of this page. Note that the SELECT button is shown ONLY when the Quiet Zone Risk Index falls below the NSRT or the Risk Index with

Step 4: To save the scenario and continue, click the SELECT button

Horn.

R.L. Banks & Associates, Inc.

# Appendix 3 Mowry Avenue Quiet Zone Study RLBA, January 14, 2022



City of Newark CA

### 14 January 2022

# City of Newark CA Mowry Avenue Quiet Zone Study

# Prepared by R.L. Banks & Associates, Inc.

# Arlington VA

# Introduction

This Report Responds to the City of Newark's request that R.L. Banks & Associates, Inc. (RLBA) Start work early on the Mowry Avenue at-grade railroad crossing.

# Location

Newark CA is located in Alameda County on the east side of San Francisco Bay, near the South end of the bay, The Coast Subdivision of the Union Pacific Railroad runs north - south (timetable direction) along the west side of the city, parallel to the bay. The Niles Subdivision and the Newark Industrial Lead run east and west respectively from the Coast Subdivision roughly in the center of the city

The Mowry Avenue crossing (GX No. 749946C) is the southernmost (MP 32.325) of seven crossings located within the city limits of Newark, along the Coast Subdivision.

# **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

# **Demographics**

West of the crossing Mowry Avenue provides access to an auto parts yard and several salt ponds. East of the crossing is a community recreation center and some commercial development. These do not generate traffic over the crossing.

Railroad: Union Pacific Coast Subdivision

The railroad is a double track mainline with a single siding. The mainline track is maintained as FRA Class 4. Maximum timetable speed is 79 miles per hour. The average daily train count is 46 including 18 daily passenger trains

# Highway: Mowry Avenue

Mowry Avenue is a two-lane local road which dead ends west of the crossing. The most recent traffic count is less than 1,000 vehicles per day.

There is no sidewalk.

# Crossing Conditions GX No. 749946C

The current crossing protection is lights, gates, and bell with the necessary signage and pavement marking. There are no channelization devices nor are there any traffic lights. A copy of the current Grade Crossing Inventory form is attached as Exhibit A.

The most recent train v motor vehicle collision was in 2006. Prior to this there were a total of 6 in

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12 years. There are no reports of trespasser collisions related to the crossing.

# **POTENTIAL CHANGES**

### **Demographics**

Potential future development west of the crossing could result in increased recreational, commercial, residential or other uses.

# Railroad-None

# Highway

Improvements at this crossing could potentially include widening of Mowry Ave through the crossing, the addition of a sidewalk on the south side and other necessary upgrades to the crossing to allow the crossing to be considered for inclusion in a quiet zone. A drawing showing these improvements is attached as Exhibit B.

# **Quiet Zone Analysis**

49 CFR Part 222 et seq provides the overall regulatory guidance for the establishment of a Quiet Zone. The regulatory process and the requirements are summarized in the Federal railroad administration pamphlet in *Guide to The Quiet Zone Establishment Process*<sup>12</sup>. Appendixes A and B respectively define Supplementary Safety Measures (SSMs) and Alternative Safety Measures (ASMs).

All public highway-rail crossings in the quiet zone must have, at a minimum, an automatic warning system consisting of flashing lights and gates. The warning systems must be equipped with constant warning time devices (except in rare circumstances) and power out indicators.

There are four separate criteria which may be used to determine whether a crossing may be included in a Quiet Zone.

- 1. Every public highway-rail crossing in the proposed quiet zone is equipped with one or more SSMs and or ASMs.
- 2. The Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) of the proposed quiet zone is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) without installing SSMs or ASMs.
- 3. The QZRI of the proposed quiet zone is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) after the installation of SSMs or ASMs.
- 4. The QZRI of the proposed quiet zone is less than or equal to the Risk Index with Horns (RIWH) after the installation of SSMs or ASMs.

Analyzed with each of these sets of criteria the results are as follows:

1. Every public highway-rail crossing in the proposed quiet zone is equipped with one or more SSMs and or ASMs.

The SSMs defined in Appendix A to Part 222. These SSMs are: 1) Medians and/or Channelization devices; 2) One-way streets with gates; 3) Four quadrant gate systems; and 4) Temporary or

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2020-05/QuietZoneBrochure.pdf

permanent closure (of the crossing).

The drawings provided show, in addition to the basic light gate combination, a 6-inch-high median on both sides of the crossing with flexible tubular delineators on the western/southern side of the of the crossing. This median meets the requirement<sup>13</sup> for an additional SSM and the crossing is eligible for inclusion.

2. The Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) of the proposed quiet zone is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) without installing SSMs or ASMs.

The NSRT is 15,488 and the QZRI is 36,301.06. for the unmodified crossing. This does not meet the criteria for inclusion.

3. The QZRI of the proposed quiet zone is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) after the installation of SSMs or ASMs.

The NSRT is 15,488 and the QZRI is 9,075.27 for the crossing with the added SSMs. This qualifies the crossing for inclusion.

4. The QZRI of the proposed quiet zone is less than or equal to the Risk Index with Horns (RIWH) after the installation of SSMs or ASMs.

The RIWH 21,763.23 and the QZRI is 9,075.27 for the crossing with the added SSMs This qualifies the crossing for inclusion.

# Summary

In Summary Mowry Ave may be qualified as a Quiet Zone With the installation of the Supplemental Safety Measure (SSM) two-quadrant gates, given that raised medians are part of the Union Pacific Railroad Improvements Plan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Due to the precise nature of the language used in the Grade Crossing Risk Calculator RLBA recommends the addition of reflective delineators on both sides of the crossing

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# Exhibit A Grade Crossing Inventory Form



# U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

#### OMB No. 2130-0017

Instructions for the initial Form. For private highway	reporting of the -rail grade cross	following typ ings, comple	es of new o te the Heade	r previously u er, Parts I and	nreported ( III, and the Submission	crossi 2 Sub Jofor	ings: For public hig mission Informatio	hway-rail grad n section. For r Private nativ	e crossings, com public pathway	plete the entire inventory grade crossings (including	
Parts I and II, and the Subn	rossings), comple nission Informatio	n section. Fo	er, Parts I an orgrade-sepa	d II, and the : rated highway	v-rail or pati	hway	mation section. For crossings (including	r Private pathy pedestrian st	ation crossings).	complete the Header,	
I, and the Submission Info	ormation section.	For changes	to existing of	iata, complet	e the Head	er, P	art I Items 1-3, and	the Submissi	on Information s	ection, in addition to the	
updated data fields. Note:	For private crossi	ngs only, Par	t I Item 20 an	d Part III Item	2.K. are rec	quire	d unless otherwise r	noted.	An asterisk *	denotes an optional field.	
A. Revision Date	B. Reporting	lgency	C. Rea:	son for Updat	te (Select on	ily on	e) Clored	No Train	C Ouist	D. DOT Crossing	
10 / 14 / 2021	Dis Malif Gad		Data	Cro	ssing		crosed	Traffic	Zone Update	Inventory Number	
	🗆 State	Other	r 🗆 Re-(	Open 🗆 🛙	Date	Change in Primary Admin.				749946C	
				Cha	nge Only	Op	erating RR	Correction			
			Part I: Loo	ation and	Classific	catio	on Informatio	n			
1. Primary Operating Railr Union Pacific Railroad C	oad Company [UP]			2. State CALIF	ORNIA			3. County ALAMEDA			
4. City / Municipality Blin □ Near NEWARK		S. Stree MOW	RY AVENU	E & Block Num	nber    */8	lock	Number)	6. High way T	ype & No.		
7. Do Other Railroads Ope	rate a Separate 1	rack at Cross	sing? 🗆 Yes	No No	8. Do Oth	er Ra	ailroads Operate Ov	er Your Track	at Crossing?	Yes 🗆 No	
If Yes, Specify RR					If Yes, S	specif	fy RR ATK				
9. Railroad Division or Reg	ion	10. Railroad	Subdivision	or District	11.1	Branc	ch or Line Name		12. RR Milepos	2.253	
None NORTHERN		Non e	Coast Sub	1E Decent		one		16 Crows	(prefix) (nnn	n.nnn)   (suffix)	
*	Station	*	table	IS. Parent	кк (у аррп	caure	7	IB. Crossi	UP	incable)	
17. Crossing Type 18	Crossing Purpose	19. Cross	ing Position	20. Publi	c Access		21. Type of Train			22. Average Passenger	
R H	lighway	At Gra	de	(if Private	e Crossing)	[	Freight	Transi	t	Train Count Per Day	
Public P	athway, Ped.	RR Un	der	Ves			Intercity Passeng	er Share	d Use Transit	Less Than One Per Day	
23. Type of Land Use	tation, Peu.		er			1	L Connuter		av otner	I Number Per Day	
Open Space	rm 🗆 Res	idential	Commer	cial 🗆	Industrial		Institutional	Recreati	onal 🗆 R F	R Yard	
24. Is there an Adjacent Co	rossing with a Se	arate Numb	er?	25.0	uiet Zone	(FRA	provided)				
□Yes 🗷 No If Yes. P	rovide Crossing N	umber		IN NO	□ 24 Hr		Partial Chicag	o Excused	Date Establis	hed	
26. HSR Corridor ID	27. Lati	ude in decin	nal degrees		28. Longi	tude	in decimal degrees		29. La	t/Long Source	
			37.5	155950			122	2.0120960			
30.A. Railroad Use *	/A (WGS84	sta: nn.nnn	nnnn)		31.A	. Sta	te Use * CPUC 0	01L-32.20	La Act	ual 🗆 Estimated	
30.B. Railroad Use *					31.8	. Sta	te Use *				
30.C. Railroad Use *					31.0	. Sta	ite Use 🔹				
30.D. Railroad Use *					31.0	). Sta	ate Use 🔹				
32.A. Narrative (Railroad	Use) * Amtrak o	perates Ca	pital Corridor	r	32.8	. Na	rrative (State Use)	•			
33. Emergency Notificatio	n Telephone No.	(posted)	34. Railro	ad Contact (	Telephone N	lo.)		35. State Co	ntact (Telephone No.)		
800-848-8715			402-544	-3721				415-703-37	22		
			F	Part II: Rai	Iroad In	form	nation				
1. Estimated Number of De	ily Train Moveme	ents	na Tanina - I	1.0 Tetral Cont	able a Testa		1.D. Tatal Tara da	Tenine	A.F. Oberhilds	The	
(6 AM to 6 PM) 12	(6 PM 12	to 6 AM)	ru Trains	4	tching I rain	s	1.D. Total Transit	rains	One Movemen	ns nan ht Per Day □	
2. Year of Train Count Data	(1979)	- 1	3. Speed of Tr	ain at Crossin	g				Flow many tra	insper weekr	
0040		3	3.A. Maximun	n Timetable S	peed (mph)	79					
2019		3	3.B. Typical Sp	eed Range O	ver Crossing	(mpi	h) From 35	to 60	-		
<ul> <li>Type and Count of Track</li> </ul>	a .0			0	Ind. Ind.	n					
5. Train Detection (Main Tr	ack only)	Det est int	rransit				lines				
6. Is Track Signaled?	ime 🗆 Motion	Detection	<u>CAPO LI P</u>	A. Event Rec	order		vone		7.B. Remote	Health Monitoring	
🕱 Yes 🗆 No				Ves 🛛	No				🗆 Yes 🛛	NO NO	
FORM FRA F 6180.7	1 (Rev. 08/0	3/2016)		OM	B approv	al ex	xpires 11/30/2	022		Page 1 OF 2	

A. Revision Date (A	Revision Date (MM/DD/YYYY)							PAGE 2 D. Crossing Inventory Number (7 char.)							)	
10/14/2021			Part II	·Highway	or Pat	hway	Traffic	Control D	evice	Info	mation					
1 Are there 2. Types of Passive Traffic Control Devices associated with the Crossing																
Signs or Signals?	2. 19965 011	issive i		D Cime (01.4		WIELD C.	(04.2)	2.0.44			in the shall a		her to all refe			
	2.A. Crossbuc Assemblies k	K (Numt)	Z.B. ST (count)	OP Signs (K1-1	/ 2.C.	YIELD Sig	ins (K1-2)	R W10-1 1 D W10-3 D W10-11						//nt/) L	J None	
Maryes 🗆 No	0	ouniy	0		0			W10-2 W10-4 W10						10-	12	
2.E. Low Ground Cl	learance Sign	2.F.F	avement	Markings	_		2.G. Cha	nnelization			2.H. EXEMP	T Sign	2.1. ENS	SSig	n (I-13)	
(W10-5)							Devices/	Medians			(R15-3)		Display	ed		
Ves (count	)	St St	op Lines		ynamic En	velope	🗆 All Ap	proaches	□ Me	dian	□ Yes		K Yes			
LM NO		DM RF	R Xing Syn	bols 🗆 N	one		One A	pproach	LX Nor	10	LXNO					
2.J. Other MUTCD S	Signs	LK.	Yes LIN	0			2.K. Priv	ate Crossing	2.L.	LED Er	nhanced Signs	(List types	5)			
Specify Type		Co	unt				Signs (y)	private								
Specify Type		Co	ount				🗆 Yes	🗆 No	0							
Specify Type		Co	ount													
3. Types of Train A	ctivated Warni	ng Devi	ces at the	Grade Crossi	ng (specify	count o	f each dev	ice for all tha	rt ap ply	1)						
3.A. Gate Arms	3.B. Gate Cor	figurati	on	3.C. Ca	ntilevered	(or Bridg	ged) Flashi	ng Light	3.D.	. Mast	Mounted Flas	hing Light:	s	3.	. Total C	ount of
(count)	X 2 Quad	D Ful	(Borrier)	Over Tr	affic Lane	0		candescent		ncande	scent			Fie	isning Lig	nt Pairs
Roadway 2	□ 3 Quad	Resist	ance							Back Lig	ts Included	□ Side	Lights	4		
Pedestrian 0	4 Quad	🗆 Me	dian Gate	s Not Ov	er Traffic L	ane 0		ED				Include	ed	7		
2 E Jostaliation Dat	to of Current			2 G Waveld	a Hom				<u> </u>	2 11 1	linhum: Troffi	Signals (	Controllin	~	2 L Boll	ie
Active Warning De	vices: (MM/YW	<b>y</b> )		5.G. Waysiu	enom					Cross	ingnway train ing	c signals v	Jontrollin	8	(count)	2
//	K	Not Re	quired	□ Yes I	nstalled or	n ( <i>MM/Y</i>	(YYY)		-	□ Ye	s 🛯 No				2	
2   Non-Train Acta	Warning			LK NO					1.2 4	Other	Elashina Liaht	e or Maro	ing David		-	
□ Flagging/Flagma	n 🗆 Manually (	Operate	d Signals	Watchmar	Flood	li ghtin g	None		Cou	int 0	Fidening Light	pecify type	e e	62		
4.4. Does nearby H	way 4 B Hwa	Traffic	Signal	A.C. Hwy Tr	ffic Signal	Preemo	tion	5. Highway 1	Fraffic P	Dre-Sig	nals	6 Highw	av Monit	orin	g Device	
Intersection have	Intercon	nection	Signal	High they the	□ Yes I 1				No	16-38	101.3	(Check a	ll that ap	plv)	8 Device.	,
Traffic Signals?	Not I	ntercon	nected								🗆 Yes -	Photo/Vi	ideo	Recordin	Ig	
	For T	raffic Si	gnals	Simultar	taneous Storage Distan			ance *			Yes –	Vehicle I	Pres	ence Det	ection	
∐Yes ⊠KNo	□ For V	Varning	Signs	Advance				Stop Line Distance * None								
					Part IV:	: Physi	ical Cha	racteristic	cs							
1. Traffic Lanes Cro	ssing Railroad	One One	-way Traf	fic	2. Is Roa	adway/P	athway	3. Does T	rack Ru	in Dow	n a Street?	4. Is Cro	ossing III u	min	ated? (St	treet
Number of Longe	2		o-way Tra ided Traff	ffic	Paved?	Var	I No.		Var		No	lights w	ithin appr	OX.	50 feet fr	om
5. Crossing Surface	on Main Trac	k multin	le types a	icowed) Inst	allation D	ate * /M	M/YWY)	1		Wi	dth *	rieurest	Length *			
1 Timber	2 Asphalt	3 Asp	halt and T	imber 🖪 4	Concrete	05	Concrete	and Rubber	0 6	Rubbe	r 🗆 7 Me	tal		-		
8 Unconsolidat	ed 🗆 9 Con	posite	10 C	ther (specify)												
6. Intersecting Roa	dway within 50	0 feet?					7. Smalle	st Crossing A	ngle			8. Is Co	mmercia	I Po	wer Avail	lable? *
Ves 🖬 No	If Yes, Approxi	nate Di	stance (fe	et)			0° - 2	9° 🗆 30°	- 59°	K	60° - 90°		🖬 Yes		No	
				Pa	rt V: Pi	ublic H	lighway	Informat	tion							
1. Highway System			2.	Functional Cla	ssification	n of Road	d at Crossin	Ig	3.	Is Cros	sing on State I	lighway	4.1	ligh	way Spee	d Limit
[] (01) Interes	tata Hisbury O	ut am		(1) Interretat	_i (0) Run	ral DK (	1) Urban	Collector	Sy	stem?	DR No.		35	Bort	M	IPH Intuitoriu
□ (01) Inters	Nat Hwy System	ystem m (NHS)	, 18	(1) Interstate (2) Other Fre	eways an	d Expres	swavs	Collector	5	Linear	LIS INO Referencing St	stem /IR	SRoutell	030	ea 🗆 Si	atutory
(03) Feder	al AID, Not NHS		, 1 <u>0</u>	(3) Other Pri	ncipal Arte	erial 🗆	1 (6) Mino	r Collector	5.	circa	Nere enering 5	ystem (th	Shouten	1		
🖬 (08) Non-F	Federal Aid			(4) Minor An	terial	X	(7) Local		6.	LRS MI	lepost *					
7. Annual Average	Daily Traffic (A	ADT)	8. Estin	nated Percent	Trucks	9. Reg	gul ar ly Use	d by School B	suses?			10.	Emerger	ncys	Services F	loute
Year 2016 AADT 905 30 % Yes IX No Average Number per Day Yes No																
Subm	ission Infor	matic	on - This	informatio	n is used	d for ac	Iministra	tive purpo	ses ar	nd is r	ot availabl	e on the	public	we	bsite.	
Colorada da la				0	la mil la m						Dharra					
submitted by				Organ	ization						Phone		0	ate		
Public reporting bu	rden for this in	or matic	on collection	on is estimate	d to avera	ge 30 mi	nutes per	response, inc	luding t	the tim	e for reviewin	g instruct	ions, sear	chir	g existin	g data
agency may not con	and maintaining	sine da vr. and a	needed	not required	to, nor shi	wewing t all a nore	on be sub-	ect to a neca	ity for i	failure	to comply wit	h, a collect	tion of int	form	ation up	lessit
displays a currently	valid OMB con	trol nun	nber. The	valid OM B co	ntrol num	ber for in	nformation	collection is	2130-0	0017. 5	end commen	ts regardir	ng this bu	rder	estimat	e or any
other aspect of this	s collection, incl	uding fo	r reducing	this burden t	o: Inform	ation Co	lection Of	ficer, Federal	Railroa	ad Adn	ninistration, 12	00 New J	ersey Ave	e. SE	MS-25	
Washington, DC 20	590.															
FORM FRA F 6	180.71 (Rev	. 08/0	03/201	5)		OMB	approva	al expires	11/30	0/202	22				Page	2 OF 2

# U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM

# Exhibit B Union Pacific Railroad Improvements







# Exhibit C Quiet Zone Crossing Eligibility Matrix



Quiet Zone C	rossing Eligibility	Matrix								
Crossing Number	749946C									
Street Name	Mowery Ave									
	SSMs / ASMs	NSRT /	QRZI Without	QRZI With	Qualifying					
	Installed / Proposed	RWIH	SSM / ASM	SSM / ASM						
1 Every public highway-rail crossing in the proposed quiet										
zone is equipped with one or more SSMs and or ASMs										
Supplementary Safety Measures (SSM)										
Medians/ Channelization Devices	Yes				Yes					
One-way Streets with gates										
Four Quadrant gate systems										
Temporary or permanent closures										
Alternative Safety Measures (ASM)										
2 The Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) of the proposed quiet		15,488.00	36,301.06		20,813.06					
zone is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk					No					
Threshold (NSRT) without installing SSMs or ASMs.										
2 The OZPI of the proposed griet zone is less than or agreed		15 / 99 00		0.075.27	6 412 72					
to the Nationwide Significant Pick Thrashold (NSPT) of an		13,488.00		9,075.27	0,412.75					
the installation of SSMs or A SMs					Yes					
ale installation of Johns of ASMS.										
4 The QZRI of the proposed quiet zone is less than or equal		21,763.23		9,075.27	12,687.96					
to the Risk Index with Horns (RIWH) after the installation					Vaa					
of SSMs or ASMs.					res					

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