



VACC Recent Key Projects: Environmental Noise Testing and Construction Site Noise Impact Calaveras Dam Replacement Project Near Milpitas, California

Owner
SFPUC (Water System
Improvement Program)

Project Manager
URS Corporation

Project Value
\$409M

Project Duration
2011 ~ 2015

VACC Project Scope
Construction Noise Evaluation

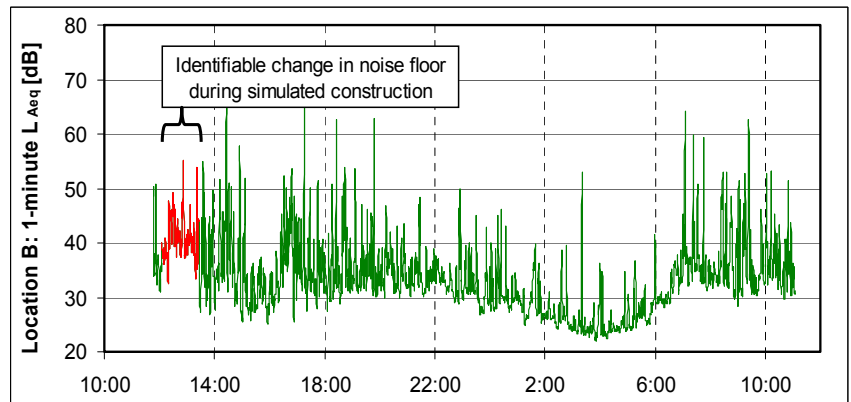
Completion
January 2009



The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) contracted URS Corporation to conduct environmental analysis work on the Calaveras Replacement Dam Project. In support of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), URS was required to estimate the potential noise impact from project construction at nearby residences.

To test **construction noise impact**, URS rented standard construction equipment to operate at the site as a simulation of construction activities. The equipment included loaders, backhoes, and a large truck. During the simulation period, noise data were gathered at the closest residential properties.

SFPUC identified three residential properties near the project construction site. We measured A-weighted noise levels every minute for a 24-hour period. During a subset of this time, construction activities were being simulated.



The simulation was successful in addressing daytime noise impact. Despite the fact that the data were contaminated by background (daytime) noise levels, a signal could be seen in the change in noise floor. This allowed confident scaling of noise levels to account for future additional site equipment. The levels could be compared to the CEQA significance threshold for evaluation.