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March 13, 2020

Dear Harbor Community Residents,

We at the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation share with you the completed "*Port-Related Noise Impact Study for the Community of San Pedro, California.*" This report aligns with HCBF's mission of serving port-impacted communities while researching and understanding the impacts of port-related operations and recommending mitigations for the community. This noise study, along with the complementary studies of noise levels impacting the community of Wilmington and Port-related impacts on surrounding land uses, is intended to help HCBF prioritize grant making and program activities to better target specific community issues and mitigate the environmental impacts on the harbor area resulting from Port-related operations.

We are grateful to the local residents and other stakeholders who participated in the community survey to help inform the San Pedro noise study and also those who provided permission to allow noise monitoring equipment on their property to capture outdoor noise levels.

We would also like to convey our appreciation to the Jones Payne Group and Landrum & Brown, Inc. for their hard work and dedication for conducting the noise monitoring, data analysis, and reporting for both the San Pedro and Wilmington noise impact studies. For this study, noise level samples were collected during daytime and nighttime hours at various sites in San Pedro. Sites were identified through stakeholder input as most likely experiencing the greatest noise impact from port operations during high activity periods. The monitoring results and subsequent analysis identified areas that are more impacted by noise from port operations and suggested mitigation alternatives to reduce noise impact for the areas affected. The analysis also highlighted the areas of San Pedro less impacted by noise from port operations based on established standards.

Similar to any such study, we acknowledge that there are both important strengths and limitations of this noise measurement effort. Strengths include the care taken by study personnel to collect noise measurements, with precision and accuracy using quality instruments, at sites of concern around San Pedro as identified by community resident surveys. Additionally, noise measurements were collected during the day and night to correspond with port operations. Being the first study measuring noise levels in San Pedro, there are suggested improvements for future research. For example, to capture local weather impacts on noise and also to address concerns about seasonal variation in port operations, future studies should consider including field data collection during weekday and weekend times of port activity, multiple and variable-time-of-day measurements, and measure noise levels during different seasons of the year. Additionally, this study did not examine the physiological and other public health impacts associated with noise exposure; therefore, future studies should consider incorporating a sampling design strategy that prioritizes community health impacts by potentially focusing measurements at schools, parks, social areas of congregation, and residences, as opposed to primarily environmental noise assessment at home or work.

Despite noise pollution being a major issue in communities such as San Pedro, Wilmington, and other port-impacted communities, we know that research is limited in this area. There is a need to learn more about indoor and personal noise exposures, noise tolerance, potential consequences of external environmental noise on health and well-being, especially for children and other vulnerable groups, and assess whether our current noise standards are sufficient for protecting public health. We therefore see this study as setting the foundation for further investigation in long-term noise monitoring, assessing health risks and personal exposure, implementing noise mitigation plans to protect communities, and identifying opportunities for action to engage various stakeholders.

Sincerely,



[Gisele L. Fong \(Mar 13, 2020\)](#)

Gisele Fong
Chair, Board of Directors
Harbor Community Benefit Foundation

*The Harbor Community
Benefit Foundation
invests in the quality of
life for communities
impacted by port-
serving industries.*

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