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MEMORANDUM

To:	Karen Sherman, Town Planner Town of Holliston
From:	Christopher Menge, INCE
Date:	January 19, 2023
Subject:	Peer review of noise study for proposed warehouse at 555 Hopping Brook Road, Holliston
Reference:	HMMH Project Number 312210

Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc. (HMMH) has completed our peer review of the noise analysis performed for the proposed warehouse facility at 555 Hopping Brook Road in Holliston, MA. HMMH had reviewed the noise report for a similar proposal submitted in early 2021. The currently proposed warehouse is somewhat smaller than the earlier one but is proposed in a similar location. The current noise study is very much like the previous one, also prepared by Cavanaugh Tocci. We reviewed the report "Proposed Warehouse Sound Analysis" dated December 9, 2022.

We have found the noise study to be comprehensively and conservatively prepared, addressing all pertinent state and local noise regulations and bylaw provisions. Transient noise sources such as truck traffic that is not subject to the noise regulations were also addressed. The noise model that was developed and the modeling approach were sufficiently detailed, and appear to account for all significant noise sources and sound propagation paths to all the nearest homes and property lines.

The proposed project includes a substantial earth berm topped by a noise wall that will serve to block the lines of sight and reduce noise from the warehouse noise sources to even the second floors of the nearest homes. The projected noise levels from the continuous noise sources such as rooftop air handling equipment, warehouse interior equipment emanating from open loading doors, and emergency generators are expected to be up to 6 decibels (dBA) above a quiet nighttime background (L_{90}) sound level of 30 dBA. This level of 36 dBA is 4 decibels below the Holliston Bylaw and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection limits of 40 dBA. This is a reasonable design margin for the continuous noise sources. Continuous sound levels at about half the homes are expected to be 32 dBA or lower. The continuous sound from the facility likely will be audible at times during the quietest periods of the night and day but are not expected to be intrusive.

Transient sounds will be somewhat louder and more audible when they occur, but none are expected to exceed about 50 dBA at the nearest homes. High idle trucks and backup alarm events are expected to be below 42 dBA, and the highest levels from accelerating trucks are expected to reach 41 dBA at only one location, and such trucks are predicted to be 37 dBA or less at all other homes.. For comparison, existing average sound levels in the community vary of course, but on fairly quiet days, hourly average sound levels (L_{eq}) typically range between 35 and 45 dBA. Therefore, it would be fair to say that the sounds from the facility will not be notably louder than the common sounds in the community today.

We would like to see one addition to the noise study report that will enhance its value to the town and residents. We would like the report to include a plan view graphic of the proposed facility and nearby homes that depicts the location of the earth berm and noise wall proposed for noise mitigation and visual screening. The berm is shown in the site plans on the Town's website, but I was not able to find a drawing also showing the proposed 8-foot high noise wall atop the berm. I am

interested in seeing the full extent of the wall on the berm. Including this information in the noise study report will make it more complete and will assure the town and residents with a clear depiction of the project's proposed noise abatement structures.

Sincerely,

Christopher Menge, INCE
Senior Vice President and Principal Consultant