



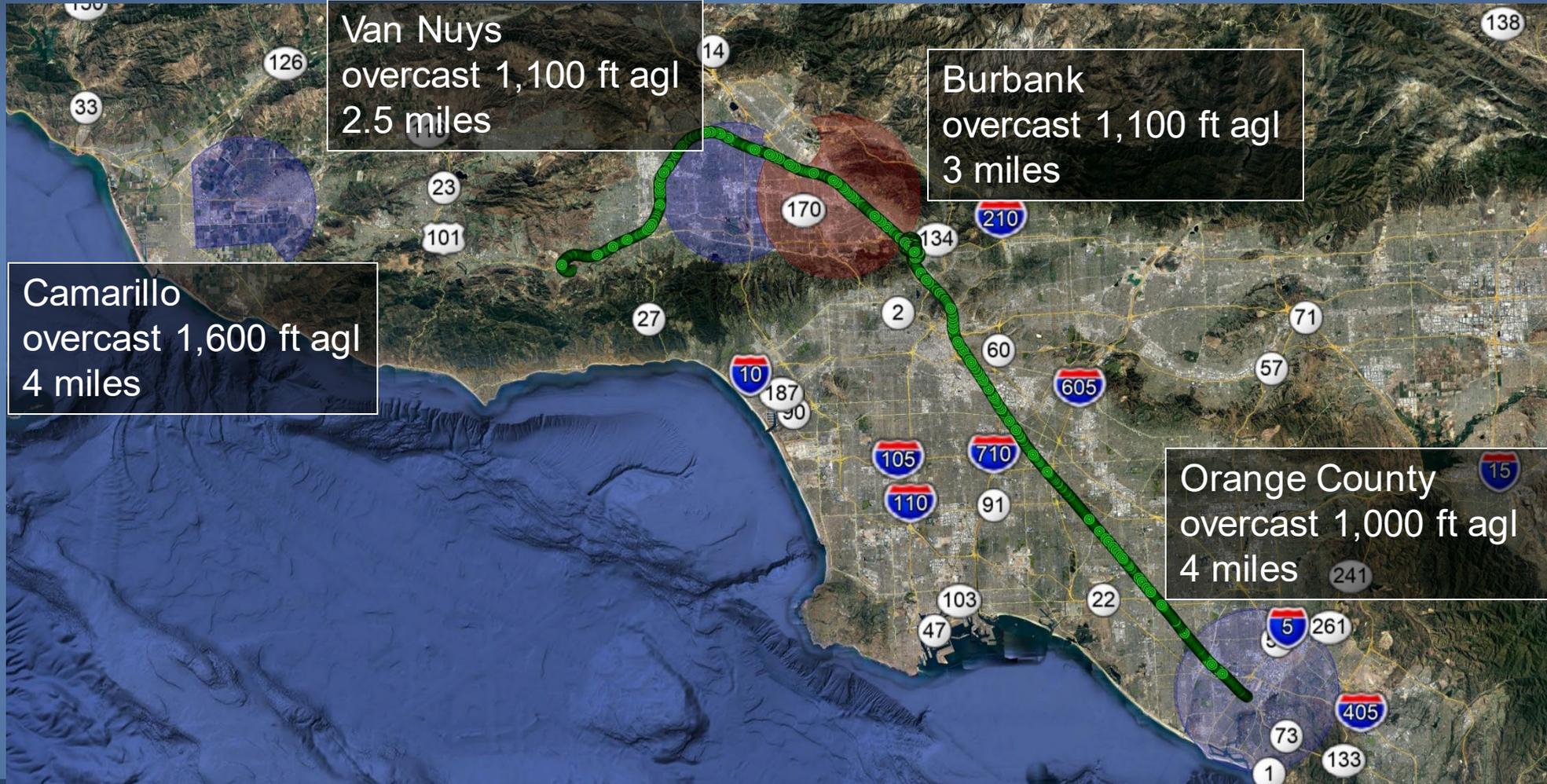
National Transportation Safety Board



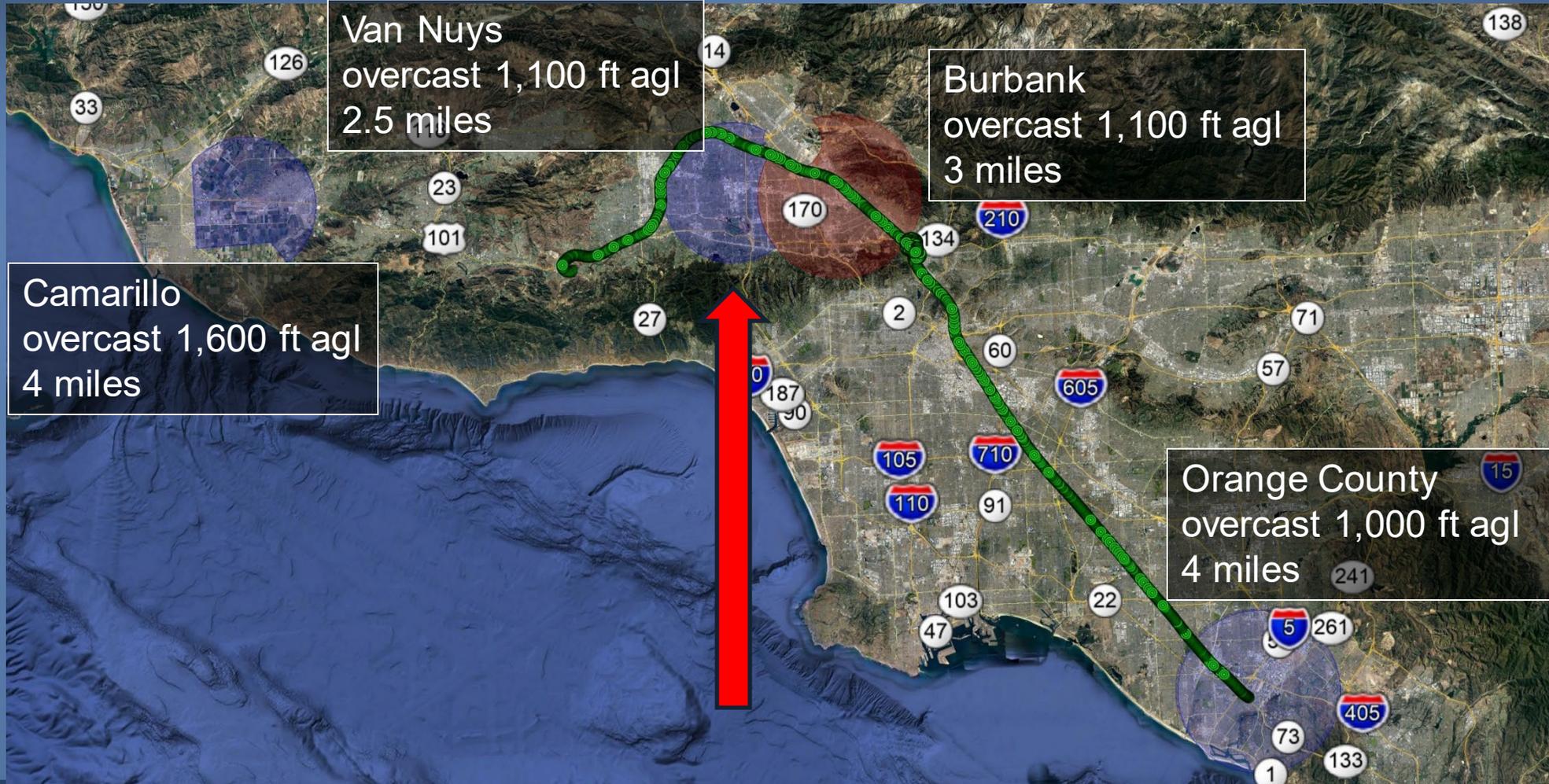
Island Express Helicopters
Sikorsky S-76B, N72EX
Calabasas, CA
January 26, 2020

Meteorology

Weather at Departure Time



Weather at Departure Time



Weather Forecasts

- Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs)
 - Only Van Nuys TAF forecasted ceiling below 1,000 ft agl or visibility below 3 miles
 - Van Nuys TAF forecasted visibility of 2 miles
 - No TAFs valid for accident location
- AIRMETs in effect for “IFR Conditions” and “Mountain Obscuration”

Weather at Accident Time



Lower Cloud Tops



Initial Entry into IMC



CAM 01 2020-01-26 08:44:43

Initial Entry into IMC

Ground Witness

- Helicopter flying “below or at the cloud line”
- “Disappeared into heavy clouds” described as “thick wall”

Climb

- Helicopter began climb from 1,400 ft msl to 2,300 ft msl
- Unknown if intermittent ground contact possible below 2,000 ft msl
- Above 2,000 ft msl, instrument meteorological conditions prevailed



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