



# County of Santa Cruz

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123  
KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

[www.sccoplanning.com](http://www.sccoplanning.com)

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the following project has been reviewed by the County Environmental Coordinator to determine if it has a potential to create significant impacts to the environment and, if so, how such impacts could be solved. A Negative Declaration is prepared in cases where the project is determined not to have any significant environmental impacts. Either a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared for projects that may result in a significant impact to the environment.

Public review periods are provided for these Environmental Determinations according to the requirements of the County Environmental Review Guidelines. The environmental document is available for review at the County Planning Department located at 701 Ocean Street, in Santa Cruz. You may also view the environmental document on the web at [www.sccoplanning.com](http://www.sccoplanning.com) under the Planning Department menu. If you have questions or comments about this Notice of Intent, please contact Matt Johnston of the Environmental Review staff at (831) 454-3201

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you require special assistance in order to review this information, please contact Bernice Romero at (831) 454-3137 (TDD number (831) 454-2123 or (831) 763-8123) to make arrangements.

#### **PROJECT: North Rodeo Gulch 4.75 Stream Bank Stabilization**

**APP #: N/A**

**APN(S): County Right of Way North Rodeo Gulch (Post Mile Marker 4.75)**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Winter 2011 stormwater flows within Rodeo Gulch Gulch Creek eroded the toe of the roadway embankment causing the slope embankment and associated roadway to fall into the stream channel. In order to restore the road embankment and associated roadway back to pre-disaster configuration, the following activities need to be completed: construct a new retaining wall; place Rock Slope Protection (RSP) at the toe of the slope; revegetate restored roadway embankment; place new asphalt pavement and install a new steel guard rail.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project area is located on North Rodeo Gulch Road at Post Mile Marker 4.75.

**EXISTING ZONE DISTRICT: RA-GH**

**APPLICANT: County of Santa Cruz, Department of Public Works**

**OWNER: County of Santa Cruz**

**PROJECT PLANNER: Matt Johnston, (831) 454-3201**

**EMAIL: [Matt.Johnston@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Matt.Johnston@santacruzcounty.us)**

**ACTION: Negative Declaration with Mitigations**

**REVIEW PERIOD: February 10, 2014 through March 11, 2014**

**This project will be considered administratively by the Project Planner at the conclusion of the review period.**



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### MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Project: North Rodeo Gulch 4.75 Stream Bank Stabilization**

**APN(S): County Right of Way N. Rodeo Gulch (Post Mile Marker 4.75)**

**Project Description:** Winter 2011 stormwater flows within Rodeo Gulch Creek eroded the toe of the roadway embankment causing the slope embankment and associated roadway to fail into the stream channel. In order to restore the road embankment and associated roadway back to pre-disaster configuration, the following activities need to be completed: construct a new retaining wall; place Rock Slope Protection (RSP) at the toe of the slope; revegetate restored roadway embankment; place new asphalt pavement and install a new steel guard rail.

**Project Location:** The project area is located on North Rodeo Gulch Road at Post Mile Marker 4.75.

**Owner: County of Santa Cruz**

**Applicant: County of Santa Cruz, Department of Public Works**

**Staff Planner: Matt Johnston, (831) 454-3201**

**Email: [Matt.Johnston@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Matt.Johnston@santacruzcounty.us)**

**This project will be** considered administratively by the Project Planner at the conclusion of the review period.

#### California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration Findings:

Find, that this Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period; and, that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the project applicant would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and, on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Mitigated Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project as revised will have a significant effect on the environment. The expected environmental impacts of the project are documented in the attached Initial Study on file with the County of Santa Cruz Clerk of the Board located at 701 Ocean Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Santa Cruz, California.

Review Period Ends: March 11, 2014

*Note: This Document is considered Draft until it is Adopted by the Appropriate County of Santa Cruz Decision-Making Body*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*2/5/14*  
*Todd Sexauer*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TODD SEXAUER, Environmental Coordinator  
(831) 454-3511

NAME: North Rodeo Gulch 4.75  
A.P.N: County Right of Way

### **NEGATIVE DECLARATION MITIGATIONS**

- A. In order to ensure that the mitigation measures and conditions set forth in the proposed project description are communicated to the various parties responsible for constructing the project, prior to any disturbance on the property the applicant shall convene a pre-construction meeting on the site. The following parties shall attend: The project engineer, project contractor supervisor, Santa Cruz County Environmental Planning staff, and project biologists. Results of pre-construction biotic surveys will be collected at that time and all protection measures shall be inspected.
- B. Suitable nesting habitat for special-status and non-listed, native bird species is present on the study area. Direct removal of vegetation, noise and other disturbance during construction, could adversely impact nesting birds, if present, which could result in nest abandonment. In order to reduce potential impacts to special-status and non-listed, native bird species to less than significant, the following mitigations shall be implemented:
1. If work in any project site area must commence during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction breeding bird survey throughout areas of suitable habitat within 300 feet of the work area within 15 days prior to the onset of any construction activity. If bird nests are observed within a project work area or surrounding buffer, an appropriate buffer zone shall be established around all active nests to protect nesting adults and their young from construction disturbance. The size and configuration of buffer zones shall be determined by a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFG based on the site conditions and the species potentially impacted. Work within the buffer zone shall be postponed until all the young are fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist.
- C. In order to reduce potential impacts from the accidental release of hazardous materials into the riparian corridor, the following mitigation would be implemented: A spill prevention and response plan including all appropriate products will be available at the project site during the course of construction activities, and the staging area(s) will be a minimum of 50 feet from any stream.
1. A concrete spill and containment plan shall be reviewed by Planning staff prior to site disturbance.
  2. Prior to the pour of each pier, concrete amounts required will be estimated. Pouring will stop if the estimated amount is exceeded and the DPW inspector will investigate down gradient from the pier to ensure concrete is not migrating underground and surfacing in the creek channel.



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## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW INITIAL STUDY

**Date:** February 3, 2014

**Staff Planner:** Matt Johnston

### I. OVERVIEW AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**APPLICANT:** County of Santa Cruz  
Department of Public Works

**APN(s):** County Right of Way N. Rodeo  
Gulch (Post Mile Marker 4.75)

**OWNER:** County of Santa Cruz

**SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT:** 1st

#### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

The project area is located on N. Rodeo Gulch Road at Post Mile-Marker 4.75.

#### **SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Winter 2011 stormwater flows within Rodeo Gulch Creek eroded the toe of the roadway embankment causing the slope embankment and associated roadway to fail into the stream channel. In order to restore the road embankment and associated roadway back to pre-disaster configuration, the following activities need to be completed: construct a new retaining wall; place Rock Slope Protection (RSP) at the toe of the slope; revegetate restored roadway embankment; place new asphalt pavement and install a new steel guard rail.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:** All of the following potential environmental impacts are evaluated in this Initial Study. Categories that are marked have been analyzed in greater detail based on project specific information.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Supply/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Resources & Aesthetics                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities & Service Systems        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

**DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL(S) BEING CONSIDERED:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Development Permit    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division          | <input type="checkbox"/> Grading Permit                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rezoning               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riparian Exception |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Permit     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                        |

**NON-LOCAL APPROVALS**


Other agencies that must issue permits or authorizations:

California Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Army Corps of Engineers

**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by the lead agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Johnston  
Environmental Coordinator

2/4/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

Parcel Size: N/A

Existing Land Use: Roadway, Riparian Corridor

Vegetation: Riparian

Slope in area affected by project:  0 - 30%  31 - 100%

Nearby Watercourse: Rodeo Gulch Creek

Distance To: Adjacent

### ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS

Water Supply Watershed: No

Groundwater Recharge: Yes

Timber or Mineral: No

Agricultural Resource: No

Biologically Sensitive Habitat: Yes

Fire Hazard: No

Floodplain: Yes

Erosion: Yes

Landslide: Yes

Liquefaction: No

Fault Zone: No

Scenic Corridor: No

Historic: No

Archaeology: No

Noise Constraint: No

Electric Power Lines: Yes

Solar Access: N/A

Solar Orientation: N/A

Hazardous Materials: No

Other:

### SERVICES

Fire Protection: Central Fire

School District: Soquel Union

Sewage Disposal: N/A

Drainage District: Zone 5

Project Access: Roadway

Water Supply: N/A

### PLANNING POLICIES

Zone District: Residential Agriculture

General Plan: Suburban Residential

Urban Services Line:  Inside

Coastal Zone:  Inside

Special Designation: No

Outside

Outside

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USES:

The project area is located within the county right-of-way along N. Rodeo Gulch Road adjacent to Post Mile Marker 4.75 (Attachment 1). The topography of the site includes a low to moderate gradient stream located within a deeply incised channel and flanked by steep vegetated slopes. Although the area damaged by the slope failure has minimal vegetative cover, the surrounding slopes are covered with well established riparian vegetation: white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), willow (*Salix sp.*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), blackberry (*Rubus sp.*), Poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) and five-finger fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*). A biotic assessment has been completed (Attachment 2) and has determined no special status species would be impacted by this project.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

During winter flood events of 2011, heavy stormwater flows within Rodeo Gulch Creek washed out the toe of the roadway embankment causing total failure of the road embankment and half the road width and shoulder of Rodeo Gulch Road.

## **DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The repair work involved in reestablishing and stabilizing this section of county maintained roadway includes constructing: a steel soldier pile and timber lagging retaining wall (75 linear feet); toe slope protection between the creek channel and the base of the retaining wall (placement of 75 linear feet of Rock Slope Protection (RSP)); reconstruct roadway and shoulder and construct a metal beam guardrail. The construction area is approximately 130 feet long by 50 feet wide. Two construction staging areas will be located along Rodeo Gulch Road (adjacent to the limits of construction). A temporary construction access road will be installed, northwest corner of the construction area, in order to complete the necessary earthwork for the new retaining wall, placement of the RSP and reconstructing the failed roadway and shoulder. The construction access road will be removed upon project completion and appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be implemented to stabilize areas of bare soil. A limited section of stream channel will need to be diverted and dewatered in order to properly install the RSP. The dewatering process will be achieved by utilizing temporary dams, diversion pipe and portable pump(s). The placement of silt fencing, straw wattles and other BMP measures will be employed during construction activities in order to safeguard water quality and federally listed species. The implementation of the Erosion control and Revegetation Plans will provide short-term slope stability for areas disturbed during construction activities and long-term slope stability for the roadway embankment below the new retaining wall.

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
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### III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

#### A. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:   |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
| A. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| B. Strong seismic ground shaking?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| C. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| D. Landslides?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Discussion (A through D):** The project site is located outside of the limits of the State Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone (County of Santa Cruz GIS Mapping, California Division of Mines and Geology, 2001). However, the project site is located approximately 8.5 mile(s) southwest of the San Andreas fault zone, and approximately 5 mile(s) southwest of the of the Corralitos fault zone. While the San Andreas fault is larger and considered more active, each fault is capable of generating moderate to severe ground shaking from a major earthquake. Consequently, large earthquakes can be expected in the future. The October 17, 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake (magnitude 7.1) was the second largest earthquake in central California history.

All of Santa Cruz County is subject to some hazard from earthquakes. However, the project site is not located within or adjacent to a County or state mapped fault zone, therefore the potential for ground surface rupture is low. The project site is likely to be subject to strong seismic shaking during the life of the improvements. The improvements would be designed in accordance with the Uniform Building Code, which should reduce the hazards of seismic shaking and liquefaction to a less than significant level. There is no indication that landsliding is a significant hazard at this site.

All of Santa Cruz County is subject to some hazard from earthquakes. However, the



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project site is not located within or adjacent to a county or state mapped fault zone. A geotechnical investigation for the proposed project was performed by Butano Geotechnical Engineering, January 2013. The report concluded that the proposed design meets the 2010 California Building Code standards which incorporate seismic concerns into the design criteria.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. | Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

The geotechnical report cited above did not identify a significant potential for damage caused by any of these hazards.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. | Develop land with a slope exceeding 30%? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would stabilize a steep slope that supports a County roadway.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4. | Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** Some potential for erosion exists during the construction phase of the project, however, this potential is minimal because ground disturbance is limited to the slipout area and standard erosion controls are a required condition of the project. Prior to County approval, the project must have an approved Erosion Control Plan, which would specify detailed erosion and sedimentation control measures. The plan would include provisions for disturbed areas to be planted with ground cover and to be maintained to minimize surface erosion.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. | Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1802.3.2 of the California Building Code (2007), creating substantial risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The geotechnical report for the project did not identify any elevated risk associated with expansive soils.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. | Place sewage disposal systems in areas dependent upon soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks, leach fields, or alternative waste water disposal systems where | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

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sewers are not available?

**Discussion:** The proposed project is a road stabilization project and does not involve sewage of any kind.

7. Result in coastal cliff erosion?

**Discussion:** The proposed project is not located in the vicinity of a coastal cliff or bluff; and therefore, would not contribute to coastal cliff erosion.

## B. HYDROLOGY, WATER SUPPLY, AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

1. Place development within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

**Discussion:** According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Rate Map, dated May 16, 2012, no portion of the project site lies within a mapped 100-year flood hazard area.

2. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

**Discussion:** The toe of the proposed project will be within the 100-year flood area. The project design includes rock slope protection approximately the same location as the current debris from the slip out, therefore no impacts are anticipated.

3. Be inundated by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

**Discussion:** The proposed project is located over two miles inland and as such is not subject to impacts from a seiche or tsunami. As a structural road feature, the project is designed to withstand a mudflow that may come down the channel.

4. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits

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have been granted)?

**Discussion:** This project would not require nor would it impact ground water or any water supplies.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. | Substantially degrade a public or private water supply? (Including the contribution of urban contaminants, nutrient enrichments, or other agricultural chemicals or seawater intrusion). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** This project is not within a water supply watershed.

- |    |                                    |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. | Degrade septic system functioning? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** There is no indication that existing septic systems in the vicinity would be affected by the project.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7. | Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding, on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project includes some in-channel work but is designed to reestablish the existing active channel prior to the roadway failure.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8. | Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** This project will not create or contribute any runoff water in excess of current levels.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9. | Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** This project will reestablish a major roadway outside of the 100-year flood zone.

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
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10. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

**Discussion:** Implementation of the required erosion control plan and standard BMPs required of all Public Works projects to ensure proper maintenance of equipment and staging areas will ensure that there are no further impacts to water quality.

### C. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

1. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

**Discussion:** A Biotic Report was prepared for this project by Biotic Resources Group, dated June 15, 2013 (Attachment 2). No special status species have been identified on the subject property in either the Biotic Report or in site visits by Planning Department staff.

2. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations (e.g., wetland, native grassland, special forests, intertidal zone, etc.) or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

**Discussion:** The project site is within the riparian corridor and sensitive habitat as defined in the Santa Cruz County Code Sections 16.30 and 16.32, respectively. The proposed project will result in a temporary disturbance of riparian and aquatic habitat by heavy equipment accessing and working within the project area. Riparian and sensitive habitat disturbed during construction are proposed to be revegetated with locally appropriate native species. Two California bay trees (each 24" in diameter) located at the downstream portion of the work area will be cut (within stumps retained) to accommodate the slope repair and construction of the retaining wall. As California bay sprouts readily from the root crown, bole, or stump, re-sprouting of these cut trees is expected; therefore this impact to the riparian woodland is considered temporary. Two small willows (each 3" in diameter) that grow amid the failed slope will be removed as well as herbaceous riparian-associated understory vegetation that grows upstream

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and downstream of the slip-out. A revegetation plan has been created that includes willow staking within the RSP and planting of native riparian species to reestablish the riparian vegetation, and retention of the bay stumps to be removed. Hydroseeding of native grass species and installation of natural fiber biodegradable erosion control fabric are proposed to be applied to all disturbed areas. The potential impacts to the riparian habitat are found to be less than significant.

- |    |   |                          |                                     |                          |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. | Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native or migratory wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** Nesting birds may occur in the riparian vegetation adjacent to the project site. Because most nesting birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the following measures are expected to avoid potentially significant impacts if any are present during construction:

To avoid impacting breeding birds, if present, schedule construction to occur between August 1 and October 15 of any given year, which is outside the bird breeding season. If this is not practical, then have a qualified biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds. If any active bird nests are found within 50 feet of the work area, postpone construction until the biologist has determined that all young have fledged.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. | Produce nighttime lighting that would substantially illuminate wildlife habitats? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project does not involve any night time lighting.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. | Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** Work along the toe of the slope to remove the failed riprap and to placement new riprap will impact two patches of in-channel wetlands located within the work area (collectively encompassing approximately 8 square feet). Due to the dynamic nature of in-stream wetland vegetation, wetland vegetation is expected to re-colonize the work area after construction; therefore, this impact is considered to be temporary, and less than significant.

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
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| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
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- |    |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. | Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources (such as the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance, Riparian and Wetland Protection Ordinance, and the Significant Tree Protection Ordinance)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The Department of Public Works is required to obtain a Riparian Exception prior to site disturbance. Issuance of this exception will ensure the project does not conflict with any ordinance in place for the protection of biological resources.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. | Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** There are no Habitat Conservation Plans in effect that affect the subject location; therefore the project will not conflict with any plan.

#### D. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project site does not contain any lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. In addition, the project does not contain Farmland of Local Importance. Therefore, no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide or Farmland of Local Importance would be converted to a non-agricultural

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
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| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
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use. No impact would occur from project implementation.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project site is riparian habitat, which is not considered to be an agricultural zone. Additionally, the project site's land is not under a Williamson Act Contract. Therefore, the project does not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract. No impact is anticipated.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project would not affect any timber resource or access to harvest of timber resources in the future.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. | Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** No forest land occurs on the project site or in the immediate vicinity. No impact is anticipated.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. | Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project as proposed is to restore a failed roadway. This has no impact on farmland nor does it have the potential to affect the potential conversion of farmland, therefore there is no impact.

## E. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
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**Discussion:** The site does not contain any known mineral resources that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Therefore, no impact is anticipated from project implementation.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project as proposed is to restore a failed roadway. This has no impact on mineral resources, therefore, no potentially significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource of locally important mineral resource recovery (extraction) site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan would occur as a result of this project.

## F. VISUAL RESOURCES AND AESTHETICS

Would the project:

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Have an adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project would not directly impact any public scenic resources, as designated in the County's General Plan (1994), or obstruct any public views of these visual resources.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Substantially damage scenic resources, within a designated scenic corridor or public view shed area including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project site is not located along a County designated scenic road, public viewshed area, scenic corridor, within a designated scenic resource area, or within a state scenic highway. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. | Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings, including substantial change in topography or ground surface relief features, and/or development on a ridgeline? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The existing visual setting is riparian corridor. The proposed project is designed and landscaped so as to fit into this setting.



|   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                           | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:** The project would not create any incremental increase in night lighting; therefore, there will be no impact.

### G. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

|   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** There are no existing structure(s) on the property designated as a historic resource on any federal, state or local inventory.

|  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** No archeological resources have been identified in the project area. Pursuant to County Code Section 16.40.040, if at any time in the preparation for or process of excavating or otherwise disturbing the ground, any human remains of any age, or any artifact or other evidence of a Native American cultural site which reasonably appears to exceed 100 years of age are discovered, the responsible persons shall immediately cease and desist from all further site excavation and comply with the notification procedures given in County Code Chapter 16.40.040.

|  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** Pursuant to Section 16.40.040 of the Santa Cruz County Code, if at any time during site preparation, excavation, or other ground disturbance associated with this project, human remains are discovered, the responsible persons shall immediately cease and desist from all further site excavation and notify the sheriff-coroner and the Planning Director. If the coroner determines that the remains are not of recent origin, a full archeological report shall be prepared and representatives of the local Native California Indian group shall be contacted. Disturbance shall not resume until the significance of the archeological resource is determined and appropriate mitigations to preserve the resource on the site are established.

|  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
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unique geologic feature?

**Discussion:** There is no known unique paleontological resource at the site. The project disturbance consists of removing spoils from the stream channel, constructing a retaining wall, and backfill. No unique geologic features will be directly or indirectly destroyed.

## H. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- |    |  |                          |                                     |                          |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment as a result of the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** This project involves the transportation and pouring of concrete, which can have a detrimental effect on water quality. In order to ensure no impacts occur as a result of an accidental spill of concrete, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented:

1. A concrete spill and containment plan shall be reviewed by Planning staff prior to site disturbance.
2. Work will be conducted in the dry season.
3. Prior to the pour of each pier, concrete amounts required will be estimated. Pouring will stop if the estimated amount is exceeded and the DPW inspector will investigate down gradient from the pier to ensure concrete is not migrating underground and surfacing in the creek channel.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** See H.1. above.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** This project does not involve the use of hazardous materials beyond the concrete discussed above. The project would produce emissions from the use of standard construction equipment but the sites are not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

|  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                           | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:** The project site is not included on the January 21, 2014 list of hazardous sites in Santa Cruz County compiled pursuant to the specified code.

|  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** This project is not within two miles of an airport.

|   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** This project is not within two miles of an airport.

|   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The current roadway is reduced to a single lane. This project will result in restoring the roadway to two lanes and improving emergency access to the community beyond the road failure. This is a beneficial impact.

|  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8. Expose people to electro-magnetic fields associated with electrical transmission lines? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** This project does not include the addition of any electrical transmission lines.

|   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

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urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

**Discussion:** The project will restore a roadway to two lanes and will improve vehicular access to the community beyond the existing failure. This is a beneficial impact.

**I. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

Would the project:

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** There would be no impact because no additional traffic would be generated.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** There will be no impact because no airports are within the project vicinity.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. | Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project will remove a hazardous design feature by restoring the roadway to two lanes.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4. | Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** One lane will remain open at all times. Fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency vehicles will not be blocked from using the road at any time.

- |    |                                     |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. | Cause an increase in parking demand | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

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which cannot be accommodated by existing parking facilities?

**Discussion:** No increase in parking demand will result from this project.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. | Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would comply with current road requirements to prevent potential hazards to motorists, bicyclists, and/or pedestrians by removing a hazardous design feature and restoring the roadway to two lanes.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. | Exceed, either individually (the project alone) or cumulatively (the project combined with other development), a level of service standard established by the County General Plan for designated intersections, roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** See response I-1 above.

**J. NOISE**

Would the project result in:

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** No substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels would be generated as part of the proposed project.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. | Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The piers for this project will be drilled and poured in place and will not be pile driven. There is no expectation of ground-bourn vibrations resulting from this project.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. | Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the General Plan or noise ordinance, or applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
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| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
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standards of other agencies?

**Discussion:** Noise levels generated by the routine construction activities are not expected to exceed County standards. The nearest residence from the proposed project is located on a hill 70 feet above the roadway, and 300 feet away.

4. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

**Discussion:** Noise generated during construction would increase the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas. Construction would be temporary, however, and given the limited duration of this impact it is considered to be less than significant.

5. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

**Discussion:** The proposed project is not within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of an airport or private airstrip.

6. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

**Discussion:** The proposed project is not within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of an airport or private airstrip.

## K. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD) may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

1. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

**Discussion:** The North Central Coast Air Basin does not meet state standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). Therefore, the regional pollutants of concern that would be emitted by the project are ozone precursors (Volatile Organic Compounds [VOCs] and nitrogen oxides [NO<sub>x</sub>]), and dust.

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
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Given the modest size of the disturbance area, the proposed project will not produce sufficient contaminants to be considered a significant impact.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. | Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the regional air quality plan. See K-1 above.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. | Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** The repair is temporary in nature and will not result in any long-term increase in pollutants.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. | Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** Given the nature of the roadway in the project vicinity, along a creek channel with a hillside adjacent, there is no pedestrian access. There are also no substantial pollutant concentrations expected to be produced as a result of this project. Therefore, this project will not have an impact on sensitive receptors.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. | Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The repair of the roadway is not expected to produce any objectionable odors.

## L. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for transportation projects can be divided into those produced during construction and those produced during operations. Construction GHG emissions include emissions produced as a result of material processing, emissions produced by onsite construction equipment, and emissions arising from traffic delays due to construction. These emissions would be produced at

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|

different levels throughout the construction phase; their frequency and occurrence can be reduced through innovations in plans and specifications and by implementing better traffic management during construction phases.

In addition, with innovations such as longer pavement lives, improved traffic management plans, and changes in materials, the GHG emissions produced during construction can be mitigated to some degree by longer intervals between maintenance and rehabilitation events. Measures integrated into the project that help limit/minimize construction-related GHG emissions include reducing traffic delays by developing a Transportation Management Plan.

While construction would result in a slight increase in greenhouse gas emissions during construction, no operational increase in GHG emissions associated with this proposed project is anticipated. However, in the absence of further regulatory or scientific information related to greenhouse gas emissions and California Environmental Quality Act significance, it is too speculative to make a determination on the project's direct impact and its contribution on the cumulative scale to climate change. Nonetheless, the County has strategies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. These measures included in the *County of Santa Cruz Climate Action Strategy* (County of Santa Cruz, 2013) are outlined below.

#### Strategies for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases from Transportation

- Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through County and regional long range planning efforts.
- Increase bicycle ridership and walking through incentive programs and investment in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and safety programs.
- Provide infrastructure to support zero and low emissions vehicles (plug in, hybrid plug-in vehicles).
- Increase employee use of alternative commute modes: bus transit, walking, bicycling, carpooling, etc.
- Reduce County fleet emissions.

#### Strategies for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases from Energy Use

- Develop a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program, if feasible.
- Increase energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and facilities.
- Enhance and expand the Green Business Program.
- Increase local renewable energy generation.
- Public education about climate change and impacts of individual actions.
- Continue to improve the Green Building Program by exceeding the minimum standards of the state green building code (Cal Green).
- Form partnerships and cooperative agreements among local governments, educational institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and private businesses



|                                      |  |                                    |           |
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| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|

as a cost-effective way to facilitate mitigation and adaptation.

- Reduce energy use for water supply through water conservation strategies.

Impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. | Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Discussion:** See the discussion under L-1 above. No impacts are anticipated.

### M. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
| a. | Fire protection?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. | Police protection?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. | Schools?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. | Parks or other recreational activities?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. | Other public facilities; including the maintenance of roads?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion (a through e):** The current state of the roadway is narrowed from two lanes to one, with a stop sign at each end of the slipout. This is potentially a minor constraint on emergency access and public safety that will be alleviated with the completion of the proposed project. This is a beneficial impact.

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|

**N. RECREATION**

Would the project:

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** A road repair project will have no effect on recreational activities.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** A road repair project will have no effect on recreational activities.

**O. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

Would the project:

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** No additional drainage facilities would be required for the proposed project. No impacts are expected to occur from the proposed project.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed bridge repair project would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities, or the expansion of such facilities. No impacts are expected to occur.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would not generate wastewater. No impacts are

| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|

anticipated.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. | Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would only use small amounts of water during construction for dewatering and concrete work. No water use would be required during the operational phase of the project. No impacts are expected to occur from project implementation.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. | Result in determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** Please see discussion under O-2 above. No impact is anticipated.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. | Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would not generate waste during the operational phase of the project. However, construction debris would be generated during demolition and construction, much of which would be recycled. No significant impacts are anticipated.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. | Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** Please see discussion under O-6 above. No impact would occur.

**P. LAND USE AND PLANNING**

Would the project:

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

|                                      |  |                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|

adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

**Discussion:** The proposed project does not conflict with any regulations or policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. No impact would occur.

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The project would not include any element that would physically divide an established community.

#### Q. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would not induce substantial population growth in an area because the project does not propose any physical or regulatory change that would remove a restriction to or encourage population growth in an area. The project proposes only to repair a failed roadway section and would not induce population growth. No impact would occur.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would not displace any existing housing. No impact would occur.

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Discussion:** The proposed project would not displace a substantial number of people since the project is only intended to repair an existing roadway. No impact would

| Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant<br>Impact | No Impact |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|

occur.

**R. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

- |   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation | Less than Significant Impact | No Impact                |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:** The potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in Section III of this Initial Study. Resources that have been evaluated as significant would be potentially impacted by the project, particularly riparian habitat and special-status wildlife species resources. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these effects to a level below significance. This mitigation includes revegetation, measures to protect water quality, and avoidance and minimization efforts. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, significant effects associated with this project would result. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

- |  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation | Less than Significant Impact | No Impact                |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:** In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the projects potential for incremental effects that are cumulatively considerable. As a result of this evaluation, there were determined to be potentially significant cumulative effects related to biological resources. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these cumulative effects to a level below significance. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that there are cumulative effects associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

- |   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation | Less than Significant Impact | No Impact                |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:** In the evaluation of environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse direct or indirect impacts to human beings were considered in the response to specific questions in Section III. As a result of this evaluation, there were determined to be potentially significant effects to human beings related to hazardous materials. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these effects to a level below significance. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, there are adverse effects to human beings associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

**IV. REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL  
REVIEW INITIAL STUDY**

County of Santa Cruz 1994.

*1994 General Plan and Local Coastal Program for the County of Santa Cruz, California.* Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on May 24, 1994, and certified by the California Coastal Commission on December 15, 1994.

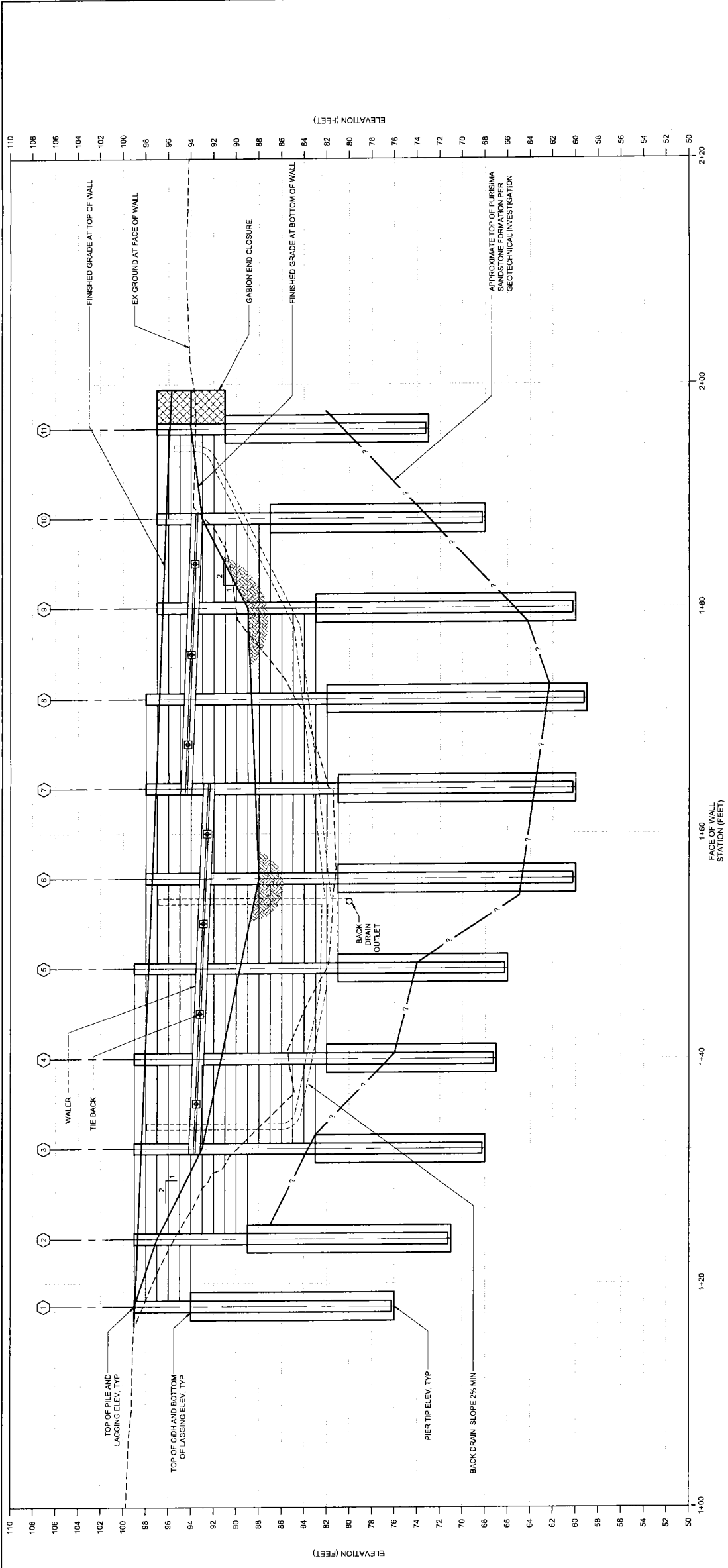
**VI. ATTACHMENTS**

1. Project Plans
2. Biotic Report, prepared by Biotic Resources Group, dated June 5, 2013









**WALL PROFILE**  
 SCALE: 1" = 5'

**MATERIAL PROPERTIES**

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| REINFORCED CONCRETE                     | F <sub>c</sub> = 3,000 psi    |
| STRUCTURAL STEEL SHAPES                 | F <sub>y</sub> = 50,000 psi   |
| STRUCTURAL STEEL PLATES                 | F <sub>y</sub> = 36,000 psi   |
| TREATED TIMBER DOUGLAS FIR #1 (MINIMUM) | F <sub>b</sub> = 1,350 psi    |
| SOLID ROD TIE-BACKS                     | F <sub>y</sub> = 150,000 psi  |
| TENDON TIE-BACKS                        | 270 KSI LOW RELAXATION STRAND |

**WALL DATA**

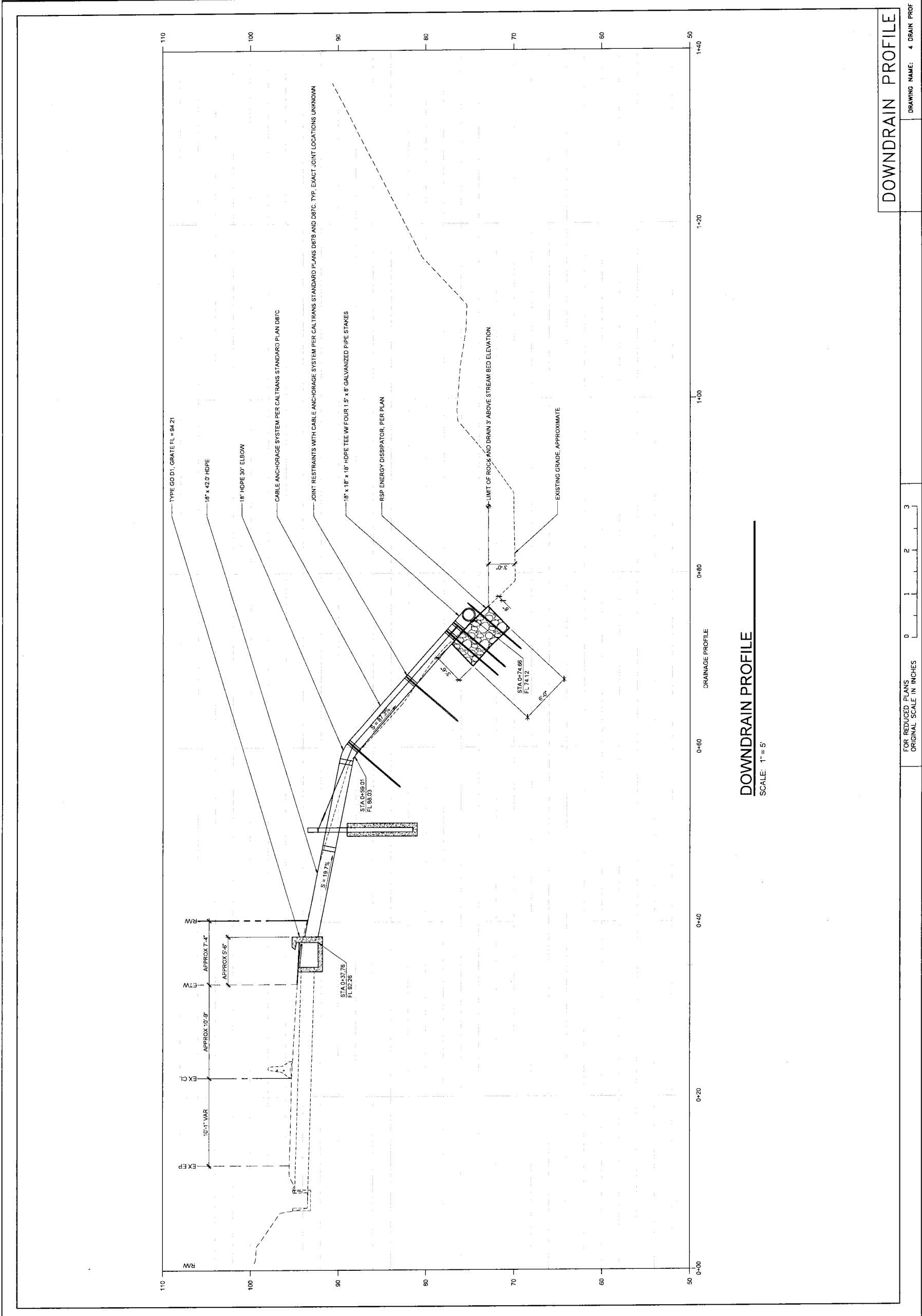
| PILE   | PILE NUMBER | 1      | 2          | 3          | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      | 10     | 11     |
|--|-------------|--------|------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| TOP OF PILE ELEV (FT)                          | 98          | 99     | 99         | 99         | 98     | 98     | 98     | 98     | 98     | 97     | 97     | 97     |
| PILE LENGTH (FT)                               | 22.75       | 27.75  | 30.75      | 31.75      | 37.75  | 37.75  | 37.75  | 37.75  | 38.75  | 38.75  | 28.75  | 23.75  |
| PILE SHAPE                                     | WT-482      | WT-482 | WT-481     | WT-481     | WT-481 | WT-481 | WT-481 | WT-481 | WT-481 | WT-481 | WT-481 | WT-482 |
| TIEBACK ELEVATION (FT)                         | -           | -      | 93.53      | 93.22      | 92.91  | 92.80  | 94.79  | 93.97  | 93.68  | -      | -      | -      |
| CABLE ROD DIAMETER (IN)                        | -           | -      | 1.38       | 1.14       | 1.14   | 1.14   | 1.14   | 1.14   | 1.14   | -      | -      | -      |
| MINIMUM UNBONDED LENGTH (FT)                   | -           | -      | 20         | 20         | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     |
| ESTIMATED BONDED LENGTH 6" DIAMETER GROUT (FT) | -           | -      | XXX        | XXX        | XXX    | XXX    | XXX    | XXX    | XXX    | XXX    | XXX    | XXX    |
| ESTIMATED BONDED LENGTH 8" DIAMETER GROUT (FT) | -           | -      | 20         | 20         | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     |
| DESIGN TENSION (KIPS)                          | -           | -      | 117        | 89         | 94     | 88     | 76     | 67     | 63     | -      | -      | -      |
| TEST TENSION (KIPS)                            | -           | -      | 156        | 118        | 125    | 119    | 104    | 86     | 84     | -      | -      | -      |
| WALER  | -           | -      | (2) C15x40 | (2) C15x40 | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| PIER DIAMETER (IN)                             | 30          | 30     | 30         | 30         | 30     | 30     | 30     | 30     | 30     | 30     | 30     | 30     |
| TOP OF COH ELEVATION (FT)                      | 94          | 89     | 83         | 82         | 81     | 81     | 81     | 81     | 82     | 83     | 87     | 91     |
| PIER TIP ELEVATION (FT)                        | 76          | 71     | 68         | 67         | 66     | 60     | 60     | 59     | 60     | 60     | 68     | 73     |
| NUMBER OF LAGGING MEMBERS (LEFT/RIGHT)         | 0/5         | 5/10   | 10/16      | 16/17      | 17/17  | 17/17  | 17/16  | 16/14  | 14/10  | 10/6   | 10/6   | 6      |

THE ABOVE SPECIFIED TIEBACK BONDED LENGTHS HAVE BEEN CALCULATED AND ARE THE ESTIMATED MINIMUM LENGTHS. ACTUAL BONDED LENGTHS WILL BE BASED ON PULL-OUT TEST RESULTS AT THE SITE DURING INSTALLATION. LOCK-OFF TENSION SHALL BE A MINIMUM 80% OF THE DESIGN TENSION. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL TIEROD DEFLECTION SHALL BE < 2.5" FROM THE DESIGN ALIGNMENT OF THE TIEBACK TO FACE OF WALL UNDER A PERFORMANCE TEST. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING THE BONDED ZONE AND REQUIRED BONDED LENGTH. THE COUNTY DESIGN ENGINEER SHALL BE NOTIFIED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE AND BE ON SITE DURING TIEBACK PERFORMANCE TESTING. AS DETERMINED BY INSTALLER/MANUFACTURER.

**WALL PROFILE**

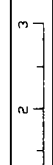
DRAWING NAME: 3 PROFILE

FOR REDUCED PLANS ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES 0 1 2 3

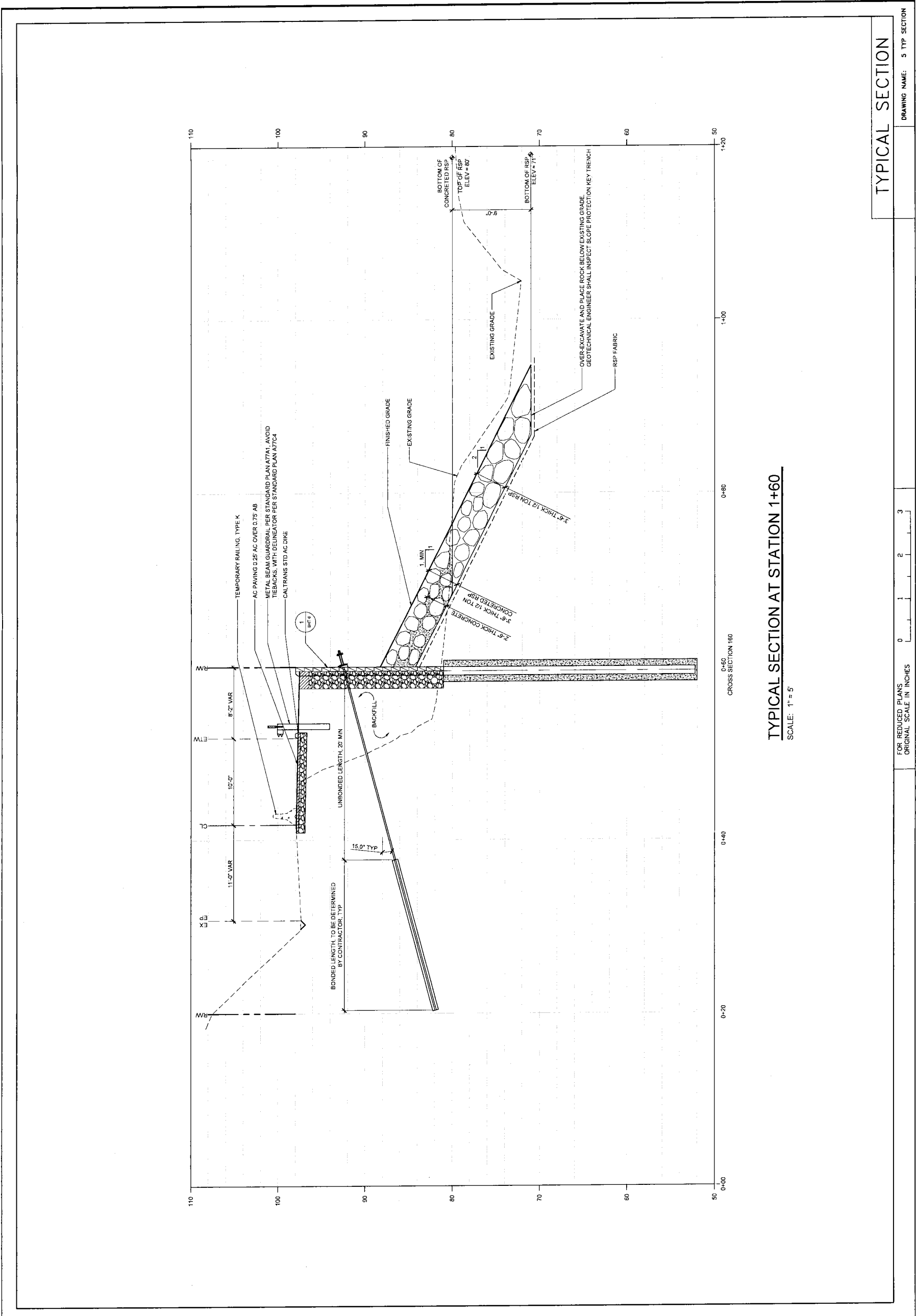


**DOWNDRAIN PROFILE**  
SCALE: 1" = 5'

FOR REDUCED PLANS  
ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES



**DOWNDRAIN PROFILE**  
DRAWING NAME: 4 DRAIN PROF

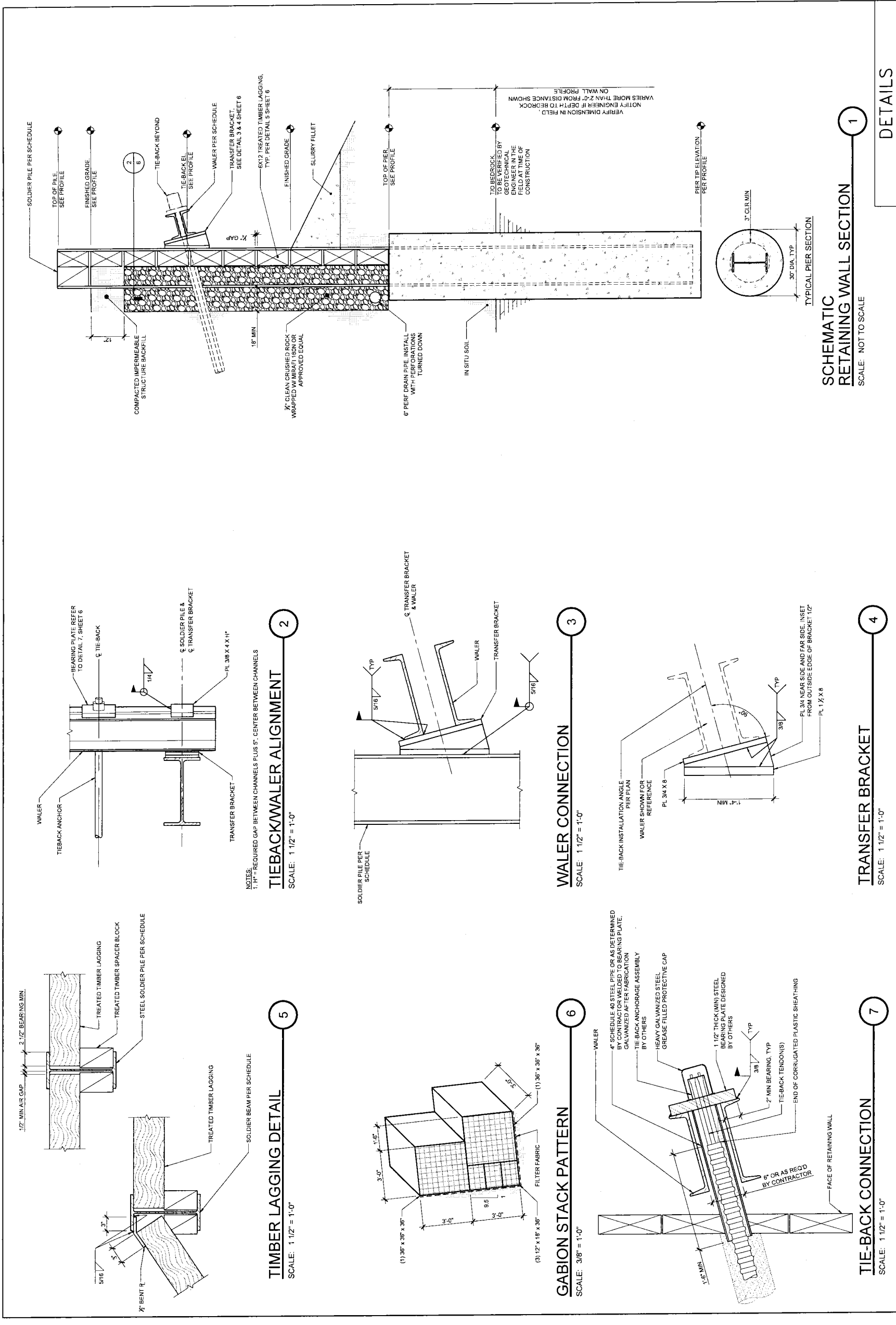


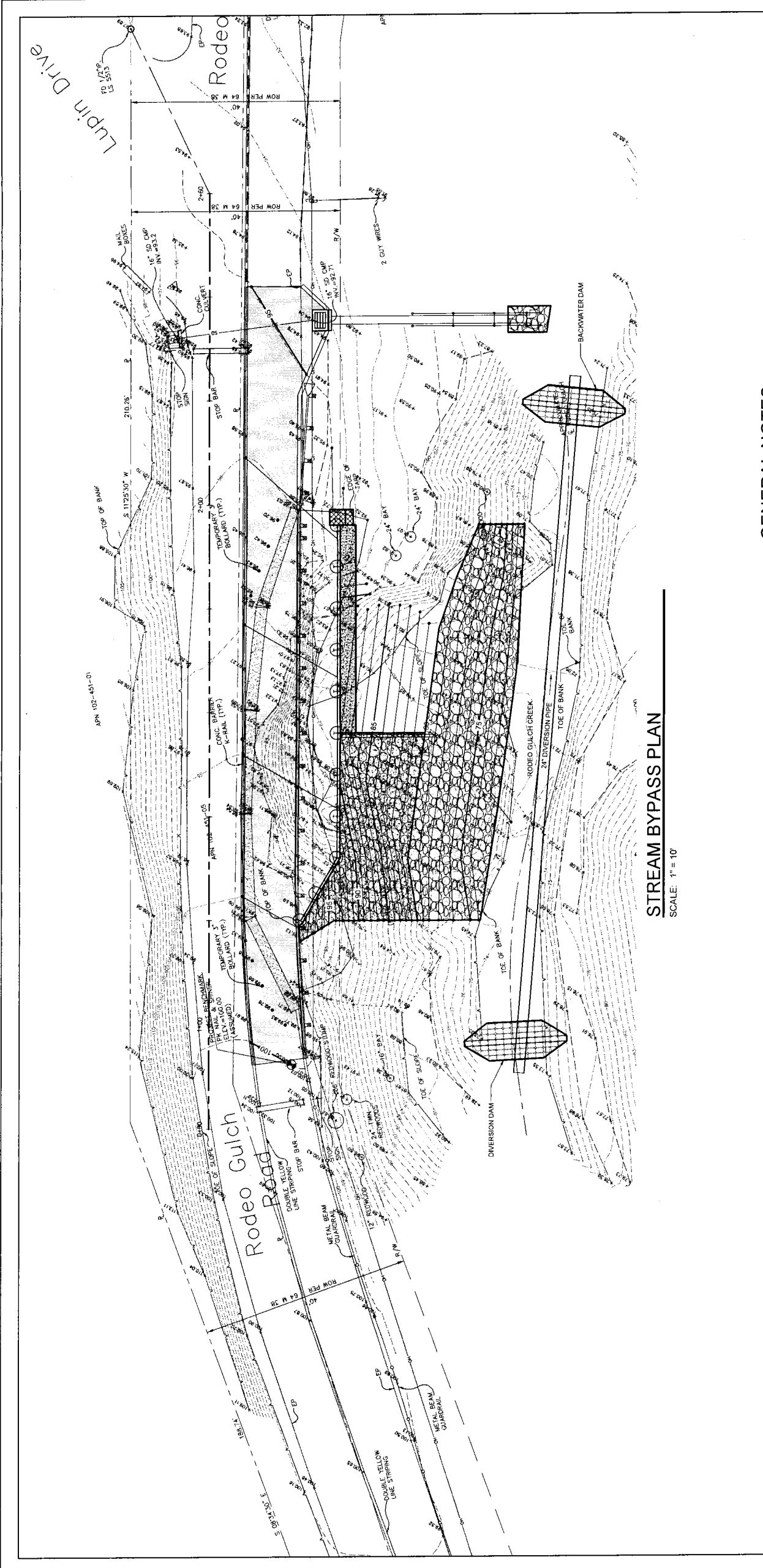
TYPICAL SECTION AT STATION 1+60  
 SCALE: 1" = 5'

TYPICAL SECTION  
 DRAWING NAME: 5 TYP SECTION

FOR REDUCED PLANS  
 ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES

| DATE | REVISION | BY |
|------|----------|----|
|      |          |    |

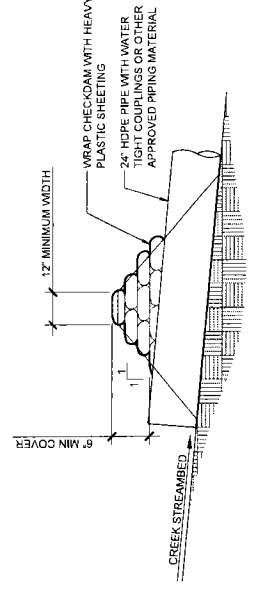
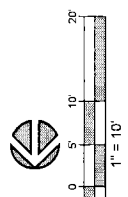




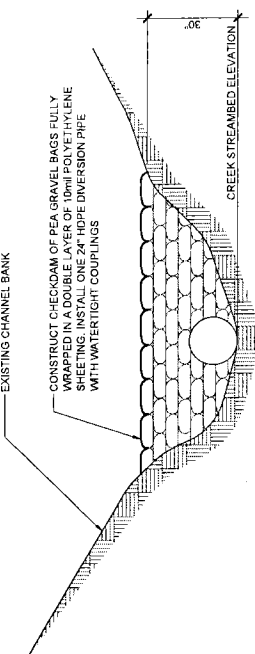
**STREAM BYPASS PLAN**  
 SCALE: 1" = 10'

**GENERAL NOTES**

1. THIS DIVERSION PLAN IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE CONTRACTOR WHEN WATER IS FLOWING IN THE CREEK BETWEEN JULY 1ST AND OCTOBER 31ST. THESE ARE THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE CONTRACTOR'S SITE DEWATERING PLAN AS SPECIFIED IN THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS.
2. CONTRACTOR SHALL SUBMIT TO THE ENGINEER FOR APPROVAL WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT AND NO LATER THAN THE MANDATORY PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING HIS SITE DEWATERING PLAN FOR THIS PROJECT AS REQUIRED BY THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS. THE CONTRACTOR'S SITE DEWATERING PLAN SHALL DETAIL EXACTLY HOW THE CONTRACTOR INTENDS TO DEWATER THE CONSTRUCTION SITE. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE A DETAILED PLAN OF THE DIVERSION STRUCTURE AND THE TEMPORARY SUMP. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE ACTUAL FLOODS DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. THE CONTRACTOR MAY ELECT TO TEMPORARILY INSTALL A PRESSURE DRIVEN DIVERSION SYSTEM TO EFFICIENTLY BYPASS THE AREA.
3. ALL WATER PUMPS TO BE UTILIZED BY THE CONTRACTOR WILL REQUIRE A SUMP DISCHARGE SITE. THE PLANNED SUMP DISCHARGE SITE MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER AND SHALL REQUIRE A METHOD OF DESTROYING ALL WATER PUMPED FROM THE CREEK INTO THE SUMP. A MINIMUM SUMP DISCHARGE SITE SHALL REQUIRE FILTER FABRIC CONTAINMENT FACILITIES. DISCHARGE SITE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE ENGINEER.
4. THE SUMP DISCHARGE SITE SHALL BE REVEGETATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONTRACTOR'S APPROVED SITE DEWATERING PLAN AND AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.
5. LIMIT IN-STREAM WORK AND DEWATERING OF PROJECT SEGMENT OF THE CREEK TO THE PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 1ST AND OCTOBER 15TH.
6. REMOVE STREAM DIVERSION DAMS AT THE END OF THE PROJECT AND RESTORE STREAM CHANNEL TO PRECONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS.



**STREAM DIVERSION DETAIL 1**  
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 FOR REDUCED PLANS  
 ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES



**STREAM DIVERSION DETAIL 2**  
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 FOR REDUCED PLANS  
 ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES



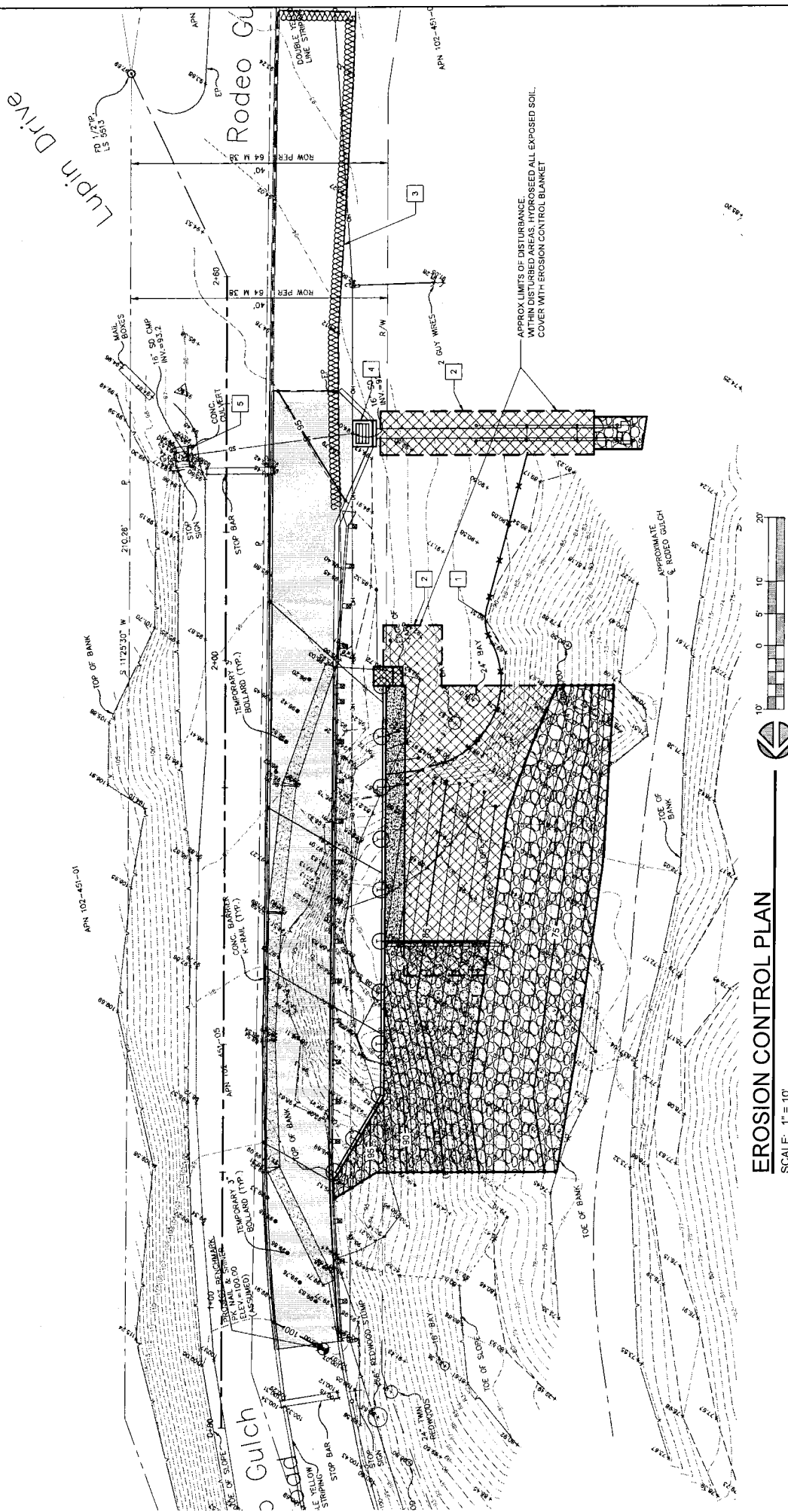
## EROSION CONTROL

Appropriate best management practices shall be implemented during construction to prevent erosion, sedimentation, and the discharge of pollutants during construction. In accordance with the California Storm Water Best Management Practices Handbook, these measures shall include:

1. Limiting the extent of land disturbance to the minimum amount necessary to construct the project.
2. Designating areas for the staging of construction equipment and materials, including receptacles and temporary stockpiles of graded materials, which shall be covered on a daily basis.
3. Providing for the installation of silt fences, temporary detention basins, and/or other controls to intercept, filter, and remove sediments contained to any runoff from construction, staging, and storage/staple areas.
4. Implementing good construction housekeeping measures, including the use of dry cleanup measures whenever possible.
5. Collecting and filling cleanup water when dry cleanup methods are not feasible.
6. Cleaning and refueling construction equipment at designated off-site maintenance areas.
7. The immediate clean up of any leaks or spills.
8. The construction areas shall be delineated with fencing and markers to prevent land disturbing activities from being placed outside those areas.
9. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be regularly inspected, maintained and repaired.
10. Temporary Mutch. Straw mulch (clean and certified weed free) @ 4,000 lbs/acre (92 lbs/1,000 SF)
11. Erosion Control Blanket: Per Project Special Provisions.
12. Refer to Revegetation Plan by others for seeding and planting requirements.

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY EROSION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

1. The following requirements are made pursuant to Section 16.22, "Erosion Control," of the Santa Cruz County Code.
2. All clearing, grading, or excavating done between October 15 and April 15 shall be in accordance with a separate Written Erosion Control Plan.
3. Disturbance and removal of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete operations. All disturbed soil (particularly cut and fill slopes) shall be seeded and mulched or otherwise protected with temporary plastic covers or erosion control fabric in an approved manner. Good vegetative cover has been established. When permanent landscaping has been installed but is not fully established, any exposed soil shall be mulched or covered between October 15 and April 15.
4. Unless specific measures are shown or noted on the approved plans, all collected or concentrated runoff shall be directed to approved stormwater management facilities, lined conduits, or dispersed over dense vegetation in an approved manner that will not cause erosion.
5. The desired end result of these measures is to control site erosion and prevent sediment transport off the site. It shall be the developer's responsibility to site that any additional measures necessary to meet the requirements of these regulations. Inspections by County staff show the goal is not being met, additional measures will be required.
6. Pamphlets detailing seeding and mulching, runoff control, and written erosion control plan requirements shall be provided to the Environmental Planning Section of the Planning Department and are available in the County's internet site, to be distributed to all interested parties.
7. All construction shall conform to Part 1, Section C, "Erosion Control Requirements," of the County Code. All construction shall be inspected and approved by the County. All areas covered on a daily basis after October 15 or whenever more than a half inch of rain in 24 hours is forecast.



## EROSION CONTROL SHEET NOTES

1. TEMPORARY SILT FENCE PER STANDARD PLAN T51
2. TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL BLANKET ON SLOPE. PER STANDARD PLAN T54
3. TEMPORARY FIBER ROLL, TYPE 2. PER STANDARD PLAN T56, SURROUNDING STAGING AREA.
4. TEMPORARY DRAINAGE INLET PROTECTION, TYPE 5. PER STANDARD PLAN T64
5. TEMPORARY DRAINAGE INLET PROTECTION, SIMILAR TO TYPE 6B, PER STANDARD PLAN T64B. ADAPT GRAVEL FILLED BAGS TO FILTER RUNOFF AND MATCH FIELD CONDITIONS

**EROSION CONTROL PLAN**  
SCALE: 1" = 10'

FOR REDUCED PLANS  
ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES

## EROSION CONTROL PLAN

DRAWING NAME: 8 EC PLAN

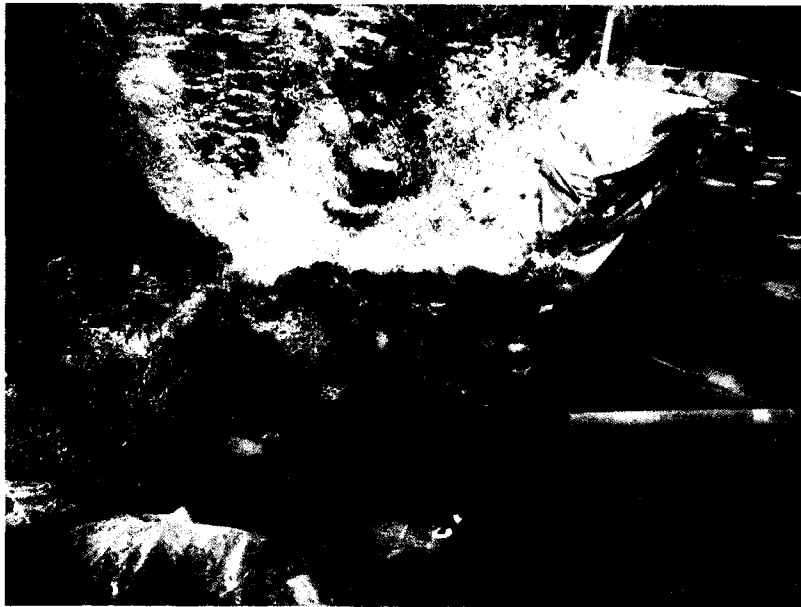
SHEET  
8 OF 8





**NORTH RODEO GULCH ROAD PM 4.75**  
**Proposed Road Repair**  
**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA**

**Biological Report**



**Biotic Resources Group**

Biotic Assessments ♦ Resource Management ♦ Permitting

# Biotic Resources Group

Biotic Assessments ♦ Resource Management ♦ Permitting

## **NORTH RODEO GULCH ROAD PM 4.75 Proposed Road Repair SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA**

### **Biological Report**

*Prepared for*

Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works  
Russell Chen, Project Engineer  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*Prepared by:*

Biotic Resources Group  
Kathleen Lyons, Plant Ecologist

And

Dana Bland & Associates  
Dana Bland, Wildlife Biologist

June 5, 2013

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Biotic Resources Group and Dana Bland & Associates documented and evaluated the biotic resources of a road repair located at PM 4.75 on North Rodeo Gulch Road in the unincorporated Soquel area of Santa Cruz County.

Specific tasks conducted for this study include:

- Characterize and map the major plant communities within the proposed project area.
- Identify sensitive biotic resources, including habitats, plant or wildlife species of concern.
- Evaluate the potential effects of the proposed project activities on sensitive biotic resources and recommend measures to avoid or reduce such impacts.

### 1.1 PROPOSED PROJECT

The project is located just north of Soquel Drive, at PM 4.75 on North Rodeo Gulch Road in Santa Cruz County as shown on Figure 1. During rain storms of March 2011, a slip out of the embankment below the southbound lane of North Rodeo Gulch caused the lane to fail. There is currently only a one-way segment of roadway with stop signs at either end along this portion of the road.

The repair work includes removing old rip rap that failed, constructing a steel soldier pile with timber lagging retaining wall, placing rip rap below the wall and tied into the bottom of the creek, a gabion basket dissipater for road runoff placed above the elevation of the creek high water, new pavement, and guard rail. The retaining wall will be approximately 75 feet long. Construction staging will be within the existing roadway. All repair work will occur along the east side of Rodeo Creek. The work area encompasses approximately 4,000 square feet.

If flowing water is present during the scheduled construction, the project will include a stream bypass system consisting of checkdams both upstream and downstream, and diverting flow through an 18-inch pipe. The checkdams will consist of sandbags filled with gravel and wrapped in heavy sheet plastic. Approximately 130 linear feet of channel will be dewatered for this project. Once the site has been dewatered and the site has been isolated from the stream, then the loose sands in the scour areas will be removed for a depth of approximately three feet. Approximately 75 linear feet of rip rap will be placed along the toe of bank and, in some locations, below the creek bed to support the structures above. The down drain pipe, with an RSP outfall energy dissipater, will be installed at the downstream end of the project area. No concrete grout will be placed in the rip rap for this project, only in the holes drilled for the piles, which will be monitoring according to County standards to ensure it does not migrate into the creek. Work will take approximately 60 days and will be completed prior to October 15 of the construction year.

### 1.2 INTENDED USE OF THIS REPORT

The findings presented in this biological report are intended for the sole use of Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works and its consultants in evaluating the proposed project. The findings presented by the Biotic Resources Group in this report are for information purposes only; they are not intended to represent the interpretation of any State, Federal or County law or ordinance pertaining to permitting actions within sensitive habitat or endangered species. The interpretation of such laws and/or ordinances is the responsibility of the applicable governing body.

## 2.0 EXISTING BIOTIC RESOURCES

### 2.1 METHODOLOGY

The biotic resources of the project site were assessed through literature review and field observations. Site observations were made on April 2 and 10, 2013 by Kathleen Lyons (plant ecologist) and Dana Bland (wildlife biologist).

Vegetation mapping of the property was conducted from review of aerial photos, a topographic map, and field observations. The major plant communities within the project area, based on the classification system developed by *California Terrestrial Natural Communities* (California Department of Fish and Game, 2003 and 2007) and *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995) and as amended to reflect site conditions, were identified during the field surveys. Modifications to the classification system's nomenclature were made, as necessary, to accurately describe the site's resources. The plant communities were mapped onto the engineer's base map. All plant species observed were recorded and identified to a level sufficient to determine their rarity; all species observed are listed in the narrative section of this report. Plant nomenclature follows *The Jepson Manual Online* (2012); the *An Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County, California* (CNPS, 2005) was also reviewed.

To assess the potential occurrence of special status biotic resources, two electronic databases were accessed to determine recorded occurrences of sensitive plant communities and sensitive species. Information was obtained from the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory (2013), and California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) RareFind database (CDFW, 2013) for the Soquel and Laurel USGS quadrangles and surrounding quadrangles. A delineation of State and Federal Jurisdictional Waters was conducted; the results of the delineation are summarized in this report.

This report summarizes the findings of the biotic assessment for the proposed project. The potential impacts of the proposed road repair project on sensitive resources are discussed below. Measures to reduce significant impacts to a level of less-than-significant are recommended, as applicable.

### 2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### 2.2.1 Geographic Setting

The project is located near the boundary of the Soquel and Laurel USGS quadrangles (see Figure 1). The project is located along Rodeo Creek Gulch. Low density residential development and forest lands surround the site; the site is located outside the County-designated urban and rural service areas. At the proposed project site, Rodeo Creek is depicted as a perennial creek on the Soquel USGS quadrangle with upstream areas having intermittent flow; however, it is believed that this section of the creek is currently intermittent. The creek flows southward into Corcoran Lagoon and then into Monterey Bay/ Pacific Ocean, approximately 3 miles downstream from this project site.

TOPO! map printed on 05/07/13 from "California.tpo" and "Untitled.tpg"  
121.98333° W 121.96667° W WGS84 121.95000° W

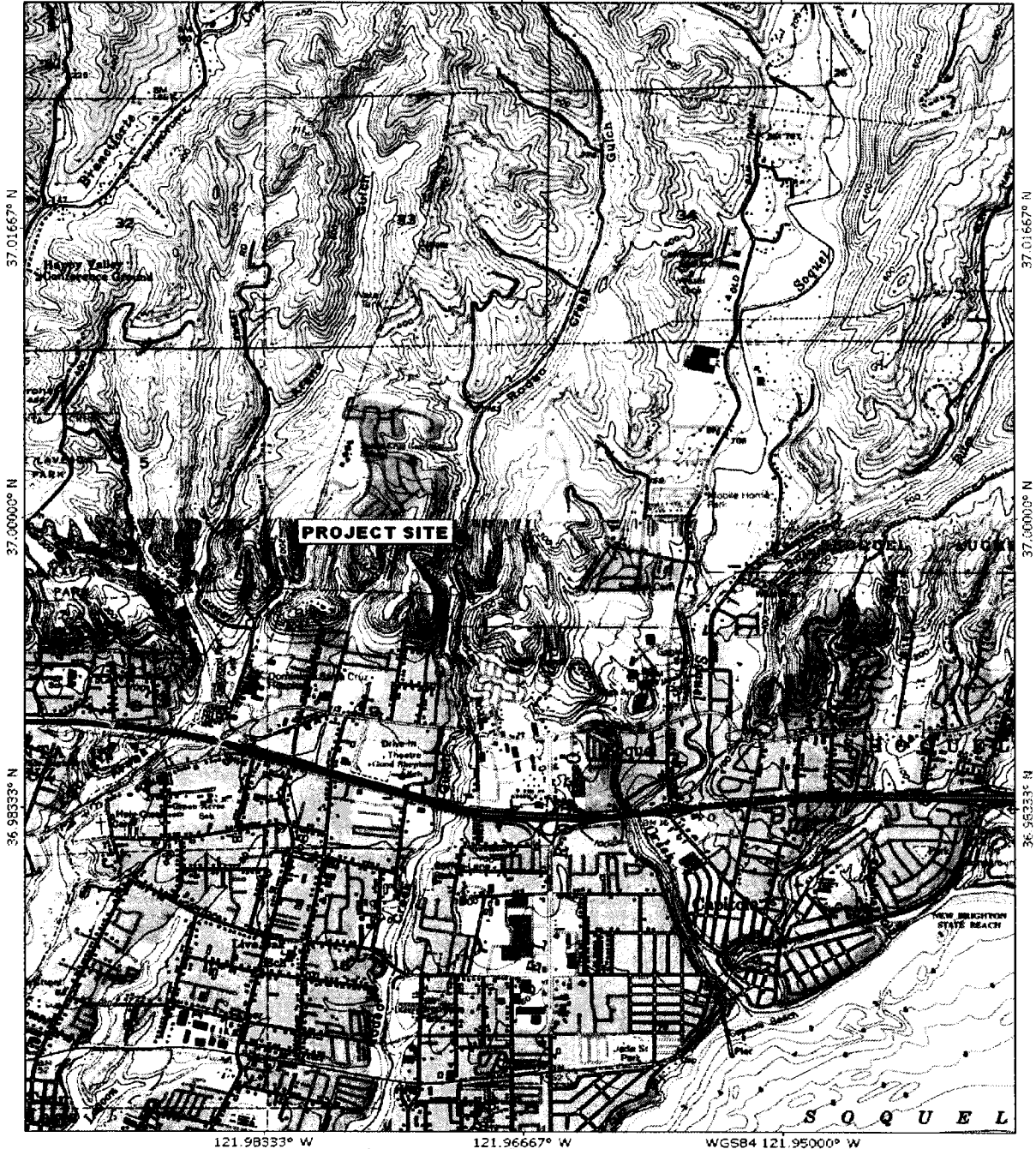


Figure 1. Location of Project Site on USGS Topographic Map  
(USGS Soquel and Laurel Quadrangles)

The project site supports riparian woodland, with in-stream wetlands. Each vegetation type, its California vegetation code, and state ranking (rarity) are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1. Vegetation Types at North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75**

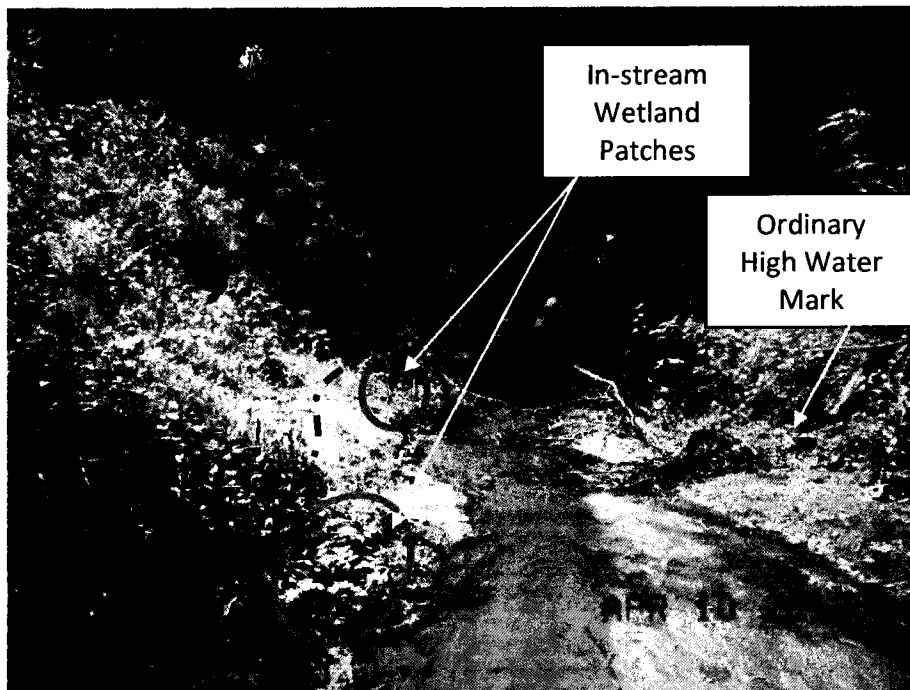
| CaCode <sup>1</sup> | Vegetation Type    | Plant Association  | State Ranking <sup>2</sup> |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| -                   | In-stream Wetlands | Water Parsnip/Scouring rush/Watercress/Nutsedge            | -                          |
| 61.420.00           | Riparian Woodland  | Coast Redwood/California Bay/Willow- California Blackberry | S4                         |

<sup>1</sup> - California vegetation code as per CDFW/CNDDDB (2010); <sup>2</sup> - Vegetation types are ranked between S1 and S5. For vegetation types with ranks of S1-S3, all associations within the type are considered to be highly imperiled.

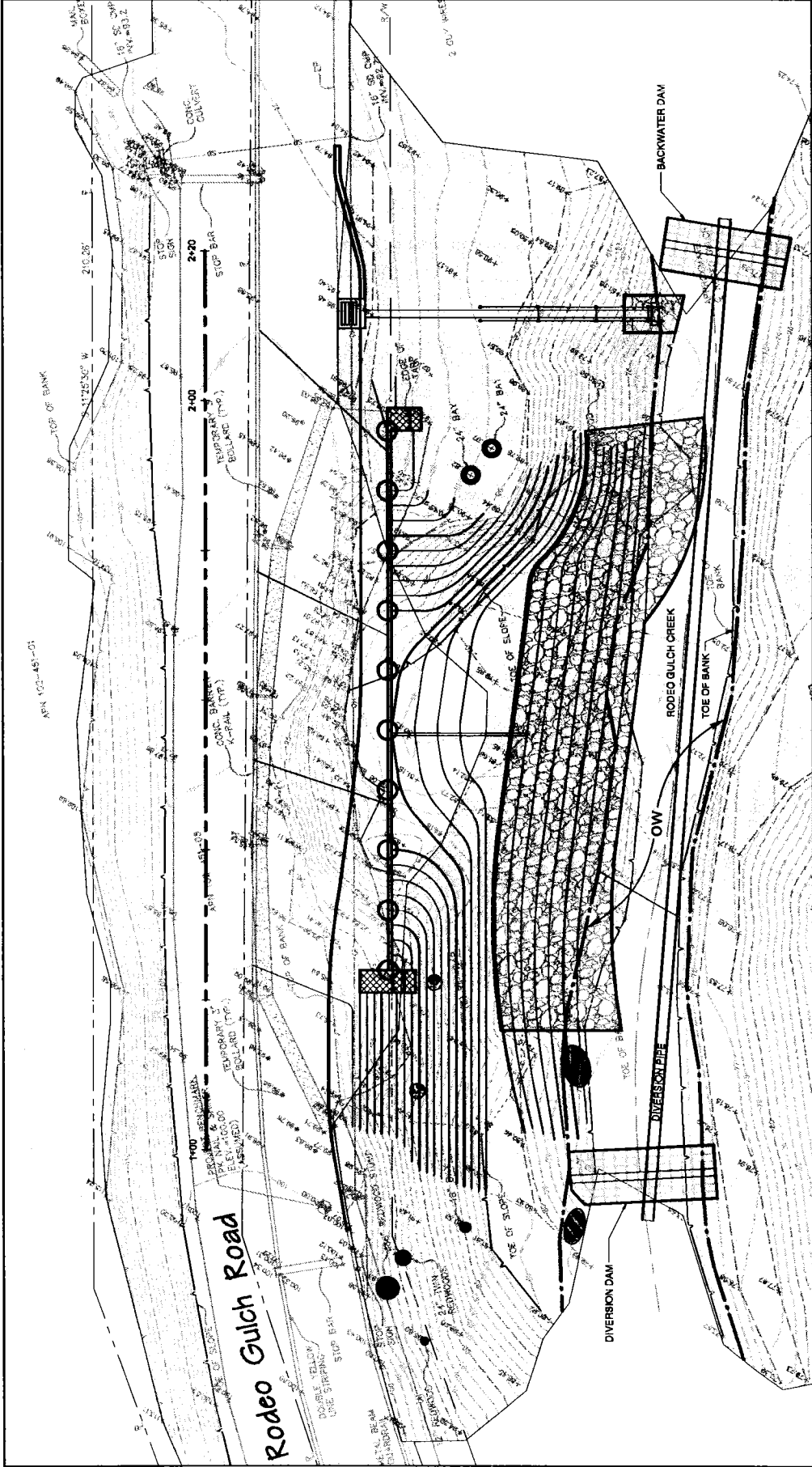
### 2.2.2 Vegetation and Wildlife Habitats

Two principal plant community types were observed within the project area: in-channel wetlands and riparian woodland.

In-channel wetlands occur within the bed of Rodeo Creek. Within the project area, two small patches of in-stream wetlands were observed along the toe of the north bank. The two wetland patches are comprised of water parsnip (*Berula erecta*), water smartweed (*Polygonum sp.*), nutsedge (*Cyperus sp.*), watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), and scouring rush (*Equisetum arvense*). Collectively the two patches encompass approximately 8 square feet. Figure 2 depicts the character of the in-channel wetlands and their location relative to the Ordinary High Water Mark. The location of the wetland patches is depicted on the plan sheet (Figure 3).



**Figure 2. Looking downstream at project work area, showing patches of in-channel wetlands, North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75, April 2013**



SCALE: 1" = 20'

0 20' 40'

**WATERS OF THE U.S.**

- In-stream Wetlands
- Other Waters (within ordinary high water mark)

**RIPARIAN CORRIDOR**

- Riparian Woodland
- Trees to be removed
- Trees, pruned with trunks to remain
- Trees to be retained

**Biotic Resources Group**  
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North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75 Storm Damage Repair Project  
 Distribution of Habitat Types in Project Area

Figure 3  
 6/13  
 696-01

Rodeo Creek also supports riparian woodland. The woodland is characterized by trees of coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), with arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) along the creek edge. The approximate location of the riparian trees (trunks) within the project area is depicted on Figure 3.

The riparian understory vegetation includes patches of stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and nightshade (*Solanum sp.*). The character of the riparian woodland at the downstream end of the project area is depicted on Figure 4.



**Figure 4. Riparian woodland at downstream end of project area, April 2013**

The wildlife value of the wetlands and riparian habitat of Rodeo Creek within the project vicinity is moderated by the proximity of the site to the road and residences (i.e., human disturbance). Common wildlife that can tolerate human presence are expected to occur along this portion of the creek, such as Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). This portion of Rodeo Gulch Creek is intermittent, and therefore does not support anadromous fish.

## **2.3 SENSITIVE BIOTIC RESOURCES**

### **2.3.1 Regulated Habitats**

The project area is located within Santa Cruz County outside the urban and rural service lines.



The project area supports riparian woodland, with in-stream wetlands. According to County Code (Section 16.32), all lakes, wetlands, estuaries, lagoons, streams and rivers are considered sensitive habitat. According to County Code (Section 16.30), the riparian corridor along perennial channels extends 50 feet outward from the bank-full flow line or edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is greater. The riparian corridor along intermittent channels is 30 feet outward from the bank-full flow line or edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is greater. The project area is located within the riparian corridor of Rodeo Creek, which has perennial flow in this section (as per USGS mapping); although it is believed the section may currently be intermittent.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is a trustee agency that has jurisdiction under Section 1600 et seq. of the CDFW Code. Under Sections 1600-1603 of the California Fish and Game Code, CDFW regulates all diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel or bank of any river, stream or lake which supports fish or wildlife. CDFW also regulates alterations to ponds and impoundments. CDFW jurisdictional limits typically extend to the top of bank or to the edge of riparian habitat if such habitat extends beyond top of bank (outer drip line), whichever is greater. The proposed project is located within CDFW's jurisdiction.

Water quality in California is governed by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and certification authority under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as administered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Section 401 water quality certification program allows the State to ensure that activities requiring a Federal permit or license comply with State water quality standards. Water quality certification must be based on a finding that the proposed discharge will comply with water quality standards which are in the regional board's basin plans. The Porter-Cologne Act requires any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste in any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the state to file a report of waste discharge. The RWQCB issues a permit or waiver that includes implementing water quality control plans that take into account the beneficial uses to be protected. Waters of the State subject to RWQCB regulation extend to the top of bank, as well as isolated water/wetland features and saline waters. Should there be no Section 404 nexus (i.e., isolated feature not subject to USACE jurisdiction); a report of waste discharge (ROWD) is filed with the RWQCB. The RWQCB interprets waste to include fill placed into water bodies. The proposed project is located within the RWQCB's jurisdiction.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates activities within waters of the United States pursuant to congressional acts: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1977, as amended). Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires a permit for any work in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States. Navigable waters are defined as those waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide to the Mean High Water mark (tidal areas) or below the Ordinary High Water mark (freshwater areas). The proposed project includes work below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of Rodeo Creek, such that work occurring in these areas would be within USACE's jurisdiction.

Field evidence of an OHWM was observed along Rodeo Creek. Water marks, exposed roots, and other vegetation patterns, were observed to indicate the elevation of the OHWM. The OHWM was found to correspond to approximately 1.5 feet above the thalweg (channel bottom) (elevation 73). The approximate location of the OHWM is depicted in Figure 4. A wetland delineation report is included in Appendix A.

### 2.3.2 Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats are defined by local, State, or Federal agencies as those habitats that support special status species, provide important habitat values for wildlife, represent areas of unusual or regionally restricted habitat types, and/or provide high biological diversity.

CDFW classifies and ranks the State's natural communities to assist in the determining the level of rarity and imperilment. Vegetation types are ranked between S1 and S5. For vegetation types with ranks of S1-S3, all associations within the type are considered to be highly imperiled. If a vegetation alliance is ranked as S4 or S5, these alliances are generally considered common enough to not be of concern; however, it does not mean that certain associations contained within them are not rare (CDFW, 2007 and 2010). The proposed project area does not support any vegetation types with an imperiled status (see Table 1).

According to County Code, development activities shall conform to permitted uses and impacts to sensitive habitat be avoided. If development occurs within any sensitive habitat area the County requires projects mitigate significant environmental impacts and restoration of any area which is degraded sensitive habitat or has caused or is causing the degradation, with restoration commensurate with the scale of the development.

### 2.3.3 Special Status Plant Species

Plant species of concern include those listed by either the Federal or State resource agencies as well as those identified as rare by CNPS (List 1B). The search of the CNPS and CNDDDB inventories identified the special status plant species with potential to occur in the project area. No special status plant species have been recorded in the CNDDDB as occurring within the immediate project area, although occurrences of species are known from scrub/chaparral and grassland within the upper Soquel/Rodeo Gulch area (i.e., chaparral at upper end of Rodeo Gulch supporting robust spineflower and grasslands at Ana Jean Cummings County Park that support Santa Cruz tarplant). All species evaluated for potential occurrence within the proposed project area as per CNDDDB and CNPS records are listed on Table 2.

Surveys for rare plants were limited to species deemed identifiable during the April 2013 site visit. No special status species were observed and none are expected due to the habitat conditions present at the site. The creek environment lacks specialized micro habitats (i.e., sandy or grassland substrate) conducive to the occurrence of special status plant species.

**Table 2. Special Status Plant Species Evaluated for Potential Presence at North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75, May 2013**

| Scientific Name                                    | Common Name               | Lifeform                   | CNPS Rare Plant Rank | CESA | FESA | Nearest Record; Potential to Occur on Site   |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------|------|--|
| <i>Amsinckia lunaris</i>                           | bent-flowered fiddleneck  | annual herb                | 1B.2                 | None | None | Polo Ranch in Scotts Valley; Not observed; no suitable habitat   |
| <i>Arctostaphylos andersonii</i>                   | Anderson's manzanita      | perennial evergreen shrub  | 1B.2                 | None | None | Nisene Marks SP, Redwood Glen Camp ; Not observed; no suitable habitat   |
| <i>Carex comosa</i>                                | Bristly sedge             | perennial rhizomatous herb | 2.1                  | None | None | White's lagoon in Nisene Marks SP; Not observed; no suitable habitat   |
| <i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>hartwegiana</i> | Ben Lomond spineflower    | annual herb                | 1B.1                 | None | FE   | Glenwood area in Scotts Valley, Canham Road in Scotts Valley; Not observed; no suitable habitat                            |
| <i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>hartwegii</i>   | Scotts Valley spineflower | annual herb                | 1B.1                 | None | FE   | Polo Ranch in Scotts Valley; Glenwood Drive area in Scotts Valley; Not observed; no suitable habitat                       |
| <i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>robusta</i>     | robust spineflower        | annual herb                | 1B.1                 | None | FE   | End of Paul Sweet Road, upper Rodeo Gulch Road; Valencia Road in Aptos; Not observed; no suitable habitat                  |
| <i>Erysimum teretifolium</i>                       | Santa Cruz wallflower     | perennial herb             | 1B.2                 | CE   | FE   | Glenwood area, Scotts Valley area; Not observed; no suitable habitat   |
| <i>Fissidens pauperculus</i>                       | Minute pocket moss        | perennial herb             | 1B.1                 | None | None | Forest of Nisene Marks SP; Not observed; no suitable habitat   |
| <i>Holocarpha macradenia</i>                       | Santa Cruz tarplant       | annual herb                | 1B.1                 | CE   | FT   | Anna Jean Cummings County Park, Fairway Drive area, Arana Gulch, Twin Lakes State Beach; Not observed; no suitable habitat |
| <i>Malacothamnus arcuatus</i>                      | arcuate bush-mallow       | perennial evergreen shrub  | 1B.2                 | None | None | Mt. Bache Road area (historic); Not observed; no suitable habitat  |
| <i>Monolopia gracilens</i>                         | woodland woollythreads    | annual herb                | 1B.2                 | None | None | Porter Gulch area (historic); Not  |

**Table 2. Special Status Plant Species Evaluated for Potential Presence at North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75, May 2013**

| Scientific Name                 | Common Name                  | Lifeform       | CNPS Rare Plant Rank | CESA | FESA | Nearest Record; Potential to Occur on Site   |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------|------|--|
| <i>Pedicularis dudleyi</i>      | Dudley's lousewort           | perennial herb | 1B.2                 | CR   | None | Aptos (historic), headwaters of Aptos Creek (historic); Not observed; no suitable habitat  |
| <i>Pentachaeta bellidiflora</i> | white-rayed pentachaeta      | annual herb    | 1B.1                 | CE   | FE   | Beach cliffs near Santa Cruz (historic); Not observed; no suitable habitat   |
| <i>Plagiobothrys diffusus</i>   | San Francisco popcorn-flower | annual herb    | 1B.1                 | CE   | None | Fairway Drive area; Polo Ranch Scotts Valley; SVUSD Preserve in Scotts Valley, Pogonip Open Space; Not observed; no suitable habitat |
| <i>Polygonum hickmanii</i>      | Scotts Valley polygonum      | annual herb    | 1B.1                 | CE   | FE   | Polo Ranch in Scotts Valley; Glenwood Drive area in Scotts Valley; Not observed; no suitable habitat                                 |
| <i>Trifolium buckwestiorum</i>  | Santa Cruz clover            | annual herb    | 1B.1                 | None | None | Sea Crest development in Soquel; Not observed; no suitable habitat   |

**CNPS Status: List 1B:** These plants (predominately endemic) are rare through their range and are currently vulnerable or have a high potential for vulnerability due to limited or threatened habitat, few individuals per population, or a limited number of populations. List 1B plants meet the definitions of Section 1901, Chapter 10 of the CDFW Code. List 4: List 4 is a watch list of plants with limited distribution in the state that have low vulnerability and threat at this time. These plants are uncommon, often significant locally, and should be monitored.

### 2.3.4 Special Status Wildlife Species

Special status wildlife species include those listed, proposed or candidate species by either the Federal or the State resource agencies as well as those identified as State species of special concern. In addition, all raptor nests are protected by CDFW Code, and all migratory bird nests are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Special status wildlife species were evaluated for their potential presence in the project area as described in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. Special status wildlife species and their predicted occurrence at North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75, May 2013.**

| SPECIES   | STATUS <sup>1</sup> | HABITAT   | POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE ON SITE  |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Invertebrates</b>  |                     |   |   |
| Ohlone tiger beetle<br><i>Cicindela ohlone</i>                          | FE                  | Coastal terrace prairie with sparse vegetation and openings, Watsonville loam soils   | None, no suitable habitat on site.  |
| Monarch butterfly<br><i>Danaus plexippus</i>                            | *                   | Eucalyptus, acacia and pine trees groves provide winter habitat when they have adequate protection from wind and nearby source of water | No suitable habitat on site.  |
| <b>Fish</b>   |                     |   |   |
| Tidewater goby <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>                           | FE, CSC             | Coastal lagoons and associated creeks up to 1 mile inland   | No suitable habitat on site.  |
| Steelhead<br><i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>                                 | FT                  | Perennial creeks and rivers with gravels for spawning   | Creek is intermittent. No suitable habitat on site.   |
| <b>Amphibians</b>   |                     |   |   |
| California red-legged frog<br><i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>              | FT, CSC             | Riparian, marshes, estuaries and ponds with still water at least into June.   | Closest known observation is >5 miles to north. Unlikely to occur on site due to lack of breeding areas within 1 mile and intermittent flows. |
| Foothill yellow-legged frog<br><i>Rana boylei</i>                       | CSC                 | Perennial creeks with cobble substrate for egg attachment.  | No suitable habitat on site.  |
| <b>Reptiles</b>   |                     |   |   |
| Western pond turtle<br><i>Actinemys marmorata</i>                       | CSC                 | Creeks and ponds with water of sufficient depth for escape cover, and structure for basking; grasslands or bare areas for nesting.      | Unlikely, site lacks deep water escape areas, nesting habitat, and basking sites.   |
| <b>Birds</b>  |                     |   |   |
| White-tailed kite<br><i>Elanus leucurus</i>                             | FP                  | Nests in tall riparian trees adjacent to open lands for foraging  | None, no suitable habitat on site.  |
| <b>Mammals</b>  |                     |   |   |
| Pallid bat<br><i>Antrozous pallidus</i>                                 | CSC                 | Roosts in caves, hollow trees, mines, buildings, bridges, rock outcroppings   | None, no suitable habitat on site.  |
| Santa Cruz kangaroo rat<br><i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i>           | None                | Manzanita chaparral with sandy soils  | None. No suitable habitat on site.  |
| San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat<br><i>Neotoma fuscipes annectens</i> | CSC                 | Woodlands including oaks, willow riparian, Eucalyptus   | No nests observed; unlikely to occur within work area because it is within the floodway.  |
| American badger   | CSC                 | Grasslands with friable soils   | None, no suitable habitat on site.  |

**Table 3. Special status wildlife species and their predicted occurrence at North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75, May 2013.**

| SPECIES              | STATUS <sup>1</sup> | HABITAT | POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE ON SITE |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| <i>Taxidea taxus</i> |                     |         |                              |

<sup>1</sup> Key to status: FE=Federally listed as endangered species; FT= Federally listed as threatened species; FP=Fully protected species by State; CSC=California species of special concern; \* = Species of local concern under County LCP

### 3.0 IMPACT AND MITIGATION DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 IMPACT CRITERIA

##### 3.1 *Thresholds of Significance*

The thresholds of significance presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines were used to evaluate project impacts and to determine if implementation of the proposed Project would pose significant impacts to botanical resources. For this analysis, significant impacts are those that substantially affect, either directly or through habitat modifications:

- A species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS or NMFS;
- Riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS;
- Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance;
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation plan, Natural Community Conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

#### 3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed road repair project was evaluated for its potential direct and indirect impacts to biotic resources. Impacts to sensitive habitats/resources were considered potentially significant.

The proposed project will require work within Rodeo Creek. If water is present at the time of construction, temporary dewatering will be required. Approximately 130 linear feet of the creek will be affected by the temporary dewatering. Assuming an average channel width of 7 feet, approximately 910 square feet of channel will be temporarily affected by dewatering.

The proposed project will have no net fill within the limits of OHWM; however, construction will entail removal of the failed hillside material from the creek channel and the creation of a new 4-foot deep rock toe under the existing creek bed. Approximately 100 cubic yards of rock will be installed beneath the creek bed. The native creek bed materials will be replaced on-site.

Work along the toe of the slope to remove the failed riprap and to placement new riprap will impact two patches of in-channel wetlands located within the work area (collectively encompassing approximately 8 square feet). Due to the dynamic nature of in-stream wetland vegetation, wetland vegetation is expected to re-colonize the work area after construction; therefore, this impact is considered to be temporary.

Two California bay trees (each 24" in diameter) located at the downstream portion of the work area will be cut (within stumps retained) to accommodate the slope repair and construction of the retaining wall. As California bay sprouts readily from the root crown, bole, or stump, re-sprouting of these cut trees is expected; therefore this impact to the riparian woodland is considered temporary. Two small willows (each 3" in diameter) that grow amid the failed slope will be removed as well as herbaceous riparian-associated understory vegetation that grows upstream and downstream of the slip-out. Placement of the riprap along the lower portion of the slope will permanently affect approximately 1,875 square feet of riparian vegetation.

Assuming concurrence from regulatory agencies, permits will be required prior to commencement of proposed scour repair work. Rodeo Creek was found to support federal and state jurisdictional areas, as summarized in Table 4. Placement of rip rap for repair of the road, including temporary dewatering for construction, will be located within the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB. The repair work, and structures used for temporary dewatering, will also result in the placement of fill within waters of the U.S. (USACE jurisdiction). The project will also occur with areas regulated by Santa Cruz County under the Riparian Corridor Protection Ordinance (see Table 4).

**Table 4. Summary of Potential Impacts to Jurisdictional Areas**

| Agency               | Permit Required | Permit Type                         | Jurisdictional Impact Acreage               |   |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
|                      |                 |                                     | Temporary                                   | Permanent                                 |
| USACE                | Yes             | Section 404 Nationwide Permit       | 910 sq. ft. <sup>1</sup><br>(0.02 acre)     | 0 <sup>4</sup>                            |
| RWQCB                | Yes             | 401 Water Quality Certification     | 910 sq. ft. <sup>1</sup><br>(0.05 acre)     | 1,875 sq. ft. <sup>2</sup><br>(0.04 acre) |
| CDFW                 | Yes             | 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement | 910 sq. ft. <sup>1</sup><br>(0.05 acre)     | 1,875 sq. ft. <sup>2</sup><br>(0.04 acre) |
| County of Santa Cruz | Yes             | Riparian Exception                  | 2,125 sq. ft. <sup>1,3</sup><br>(0.05 acre) | 1,875 sq. ft. <sup>2</sup><br>(0.04 acre) |

<sup>1</sup> temporary dewatering during construction; <sup>2</sup> placement of riprap along lower slope; <sup>3</sup> construction within riparian corridor, assuming work area of 4,000 square feet; <sup>4</sup> 100 cu. yds. of rock to be placed below the creek bed

Steelhead are not known from this portion of Rodeo Creek because it has intermittent flow. No mitigation for steelhead is recommended.

Nesting birds may occur in the riparian vegetation adjacent to the project site. Because most nesting birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treat Act, measures are listed below to avoid potentially significant impacts if any are present during construction.

The following measures are recommended to avoid or mitigate potentially significant impacts to riparian and in-stream resources, and wildlife, to a less-than significant level:

1. The County shall secure all necessary permits from regulatory agencies prior to any work.
2. The County shall implement riparian habitat protection measures to minimize impacts to the riparian woodland (including native trees) located upstream and downstream of the work area, including:
  - a. Install plastic mesh fencing at the perimeter of the work area (i.e., upstream and downstream limits of work) to prevent impacts to the adjacent riparian woodland and in-stream wetlands, and injury to adjacent native trees. Protective fencing shall be in place



prior to ground disturbances and removed once all construction is complete. During construction, no grading, construction or other work shall occur outside the designated limits of work.

- b. No excess soil, chemicals, debris, equipment or other materials shall be dumped or stored outside the designated limits of work.
  - c. Hand tools shall be used to trim vegetation to the extent necessary to gain access to the work area. All removed material/vegetation shall be removed from the riparian corridor.
3. Implement standard erosion control BMP's to prevent construction materials from entering the creek and adjacent riparian woodland. Install perimeter silt fencing and construction area limit-of-work fencing.
4. All staging of equipment and materials, and refueling of equipment, shall be located in existing roadways, driveways, and parking areas. The contractor shall prepare and implement a fuel spill prevention and clean-up plan.
5. Schedule construction work within the riparian corridor to take place from July 1 to October 15 of any given year when it is most likely the creek will be dry.
6. To avoid impacting breeding birds, if present, schedule construction to occur between August 1 and October 15 of any given year, which is outside the bird breeding season. If this is not practical, then have a qualified biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds. If any active bird nests are found within 50 feet of the work area, postpone construction until the biologist has determined that all young have fledged.
7. Retain an adequate amount of stump on the two California bay trees (i.e., 4-8 inches) to promote root crown sprouting. If heart rot is observed, the rot can be eliminated by cutting down trees to stumps of less than 8 inches height; root crown sprouts have a very low incidence of heart rot.
8. The County shall prepare and implement a riparian revegetation plan to provide replacement riparian vegetation along the bank of Rodeo Creek. Areas identified for placement of the erosion control blanket, as depicted on the Erosion Control Plan, shall be seeded with a native grass and forb mixture prior to placement of the erosion control blanket. Dormant native willow cuttings or rooted native container stock riparian trees and/or shrubs shall be planted approximately 10 -15 feet on-center amid the erosion control blanket. The County shall maintain the plantings for a period of 5 years; the plantings shall maintain a yearly survival rate of 80%.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**WETLAND DELINEATION**  
**NORTH RODEO GULCH ROAD PM 4.75**



# NORTH RODEO GULCH ROAD PM 4.75

## Proposed Road Repair Santa Cruz County, California

### Delineation of State and Federal Jurisdictional Waters

June 5, 2013



**Biotic Resources Group**

Biotic Assessments ♦ Resource Management ♦ Permitting

# Biotic Resources Group

Biotic Assessments ♦ Resource Management ♦ Permitting

## NORTH RODEO GULCH ROAD PM 4.75

### Proposed Road Repair Santa Cruz County, California

#### Delineation of State and Federal Jurisdictional Waters

#### Prepared For:

Santa Cruz County Public Works Department  
Attn: Russell Chen, Project Engineer

Prepared By

Biotic Resources Group

The undersigned certifies that this report is a complete and accurate account of the findings and conclusion of a jurisdictional “waters of the U.S.” (including wetlands) and “waters of the State” determination for the above-referenced project.



Kathleen Lyons, M.A.  
Plant Ecologist

June 5, 2013

## Executive Summary

At the request of the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department, Biotic Resources Group (BRG) has prepared this Delineation of Jurisdictional Waters for a roadway repair project located along North Rodeo Gulch Road in Santa Cruz County, California. This delineation was conducted in April 2013 to document the regulatory authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, and California Fish and Game Code. The project area was surveyed pursuant to the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region, Version 2.0* (USACE, 2008) to identify evidence of hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils; and the *Field Guide to Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements Section 1600-1607* (CDFG, 1994) to identify evidence of streambeds and associated riparian vegetation.

Based on the review of current site conditions, this study has found that it will be necessary for the project applicant to obtain concurrence from regulatory agencies on the findings of this delineation, and assuming concurrence, permits will be required prior to commencement of the proposed repair work. A creek within the study area was found to support federal and state jurisdictional areas, as summarized in Table ES-1. Repair of the roadway and creek bank, including temporary dewatering for construction, will be located within the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB. The repair work, and structures used for temporary dewatering, will result in the placement of fill within waters of the U.S. (USACE jurisdiction). The proposed project will have no net fill within the limits of Ordinary High Water; however, construction will entail removal of the failed hillside material from the creek channel and the creation of a new 4-foot deep rock toe under the existing creek bed. Approximately 100 cubic yards of rock will be installed beneath the creek bed. The native creek bed materials will be replaced on-site.

**Table ES-1. Summary Table, indicating regulatory agency and jurisdiction**

| Agency               | Permit Required | Permit Type                         | Jurisdictional Impact Acreage               |   |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
|                      |                 |                                     | Temporary                                   | Permanent                                 |
| USACE                | Yes             | Section 404 Nationwide Permit       | 910 sq. ft. <sup>1</sup><br>(0.02 acre)     | 0 <sup>4</sup>                            |
| RWQCB                | Yes             | 401 Water Quality Certification     | 910 sq. ft. <sup>1</sup><br>(0.05 acre)     | 1,875 sq. ft. <sup>2</sup><br>(0.04 acre) |
| CDFW                 | Yes             | 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement | 910 sq. ft. <sup>1</sup><br>(0.05 acre)     | 1,875 sq. ft. <sup>2</sup><br>(0.04 acre) |
| County of Santa Cruz | Yes             | Riparian Exception                  | 2,125 sq. ft. <sup>1,3</sup><br>(0.05 acre) | 1,875 sq. ft. <sup>2</sup><br>(0.04 acre) |

<sup>1</sup> temporary dewatering during construction; <sup>2</sup> placement of riprap along lower slope; <sup>3</sup> construction within riparian corridor, assuming work area of 4,000 square feet; <sup>4</sup> 100 cubic yards of rock rip rap to be placed below creek bed elevation

### Intended Use of this Report

The findings presented in this delineation are intended for the sole use of Santa Cruz County Public Works Department in evaluating regulatory jurisdiction for the proposed scour repair

project and presents BRG's best effort at determining the jurisdictional boundaries using the most current regulations and regulatory agency guidance. The findings presented by BRG in this report are for information purposes only; they are not intended to represent the interpretation of any State, Federal or local laws, polices or ordinances pertaining to permitting actions within jurisdictional areas, sensitive habitat, or endangered species. The interpretation of such laws and/or ordinances is the responsibility of the applicable governing body. Each regulatory agency is responsible for making the final determination of their jurisdiction.



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# Chapter 1. Introduction

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## 1.1. Purpose of Delineation

This delineation was prepared for Santa Cruz County Public Works Department in order to delineate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) jurisdictional authority for the North Rodeo Gulch Road PM4.75 repair project in Santa Cruz County, California (wetland study area).

The County of Santa Cruz is proposing to repair a creek bank and roadway that failed. The repair work includes removing old rip rap that failed, constructing a steel soldier pile with timber lagging retaining wall, placing rip rap below the wall and tied into the bottom of the creek, a gabion basket dissipater for road runoff placed above the elevation of the creek high water, new pavement, and guard rail. The retaining wall will be approximately 75 feet long. Construction staging will be within the existing roadway. All repair work will occur along the east side of Rodeo Creek. The work area encompasses approximately 4,000 square feet.

If flowing water is present during the scheduled construction, the project will include a stream bypass system consisting of check dams both upstream and downstream, and diverting flow through an 18-inch pipe. The check dams will consist of sandbags filled with gravel and wrapped in heavy sheet plastic. Approximately 130 linear feet of channel will be dewatered for this project. Once the site has been dewatered and the site has been isolated from the stream, then the loose sands in the scour areas will be removed for a depth of approximately three feet. Approximately 75 linear feet of rip rap will be placed along the toe of bank and, in some locations, below the creek bed to support the structures above. The down drain pipe, with an RSP outfall energy dissipater, will be installed at the downstream end of the project area. No concrete grout will be placed in the rip rap for this project, only in the holes drilled for the piles, which will be monitored according to County standards to ensure it does not migrate into the creek. Work will take approximately 60 days and will be completed prior to October 15 of the construction year.

The wetland study area is located just north of Soquel Drive, at PM 4.75 on North Rodeo Gulch Road in Santa Cruz County as shown on Figure 1. During rain storms of March 2011, a landslide in the embankment below the southbound lane of North Rodeo Gulch caused the lane to fail. There is currently only a one-way segment of roadway with stop signs at either end along this portion of the road. The site is located along the boundary of the Soquel and Laurel USGS quadrangles in the southern half of Section 4, T11S, R1W; Mt Diablo Base and Meridian. The site is reached from North Rodeo Gulch Road, a public street accessed from Soquel Drive, near State Highway 1 in the unincorporated area of Soquel.

The findings presented in this delineation present BRG's best effort at determining the jurisdictional boundaries using the most current regulations and regulatory agency guidance;

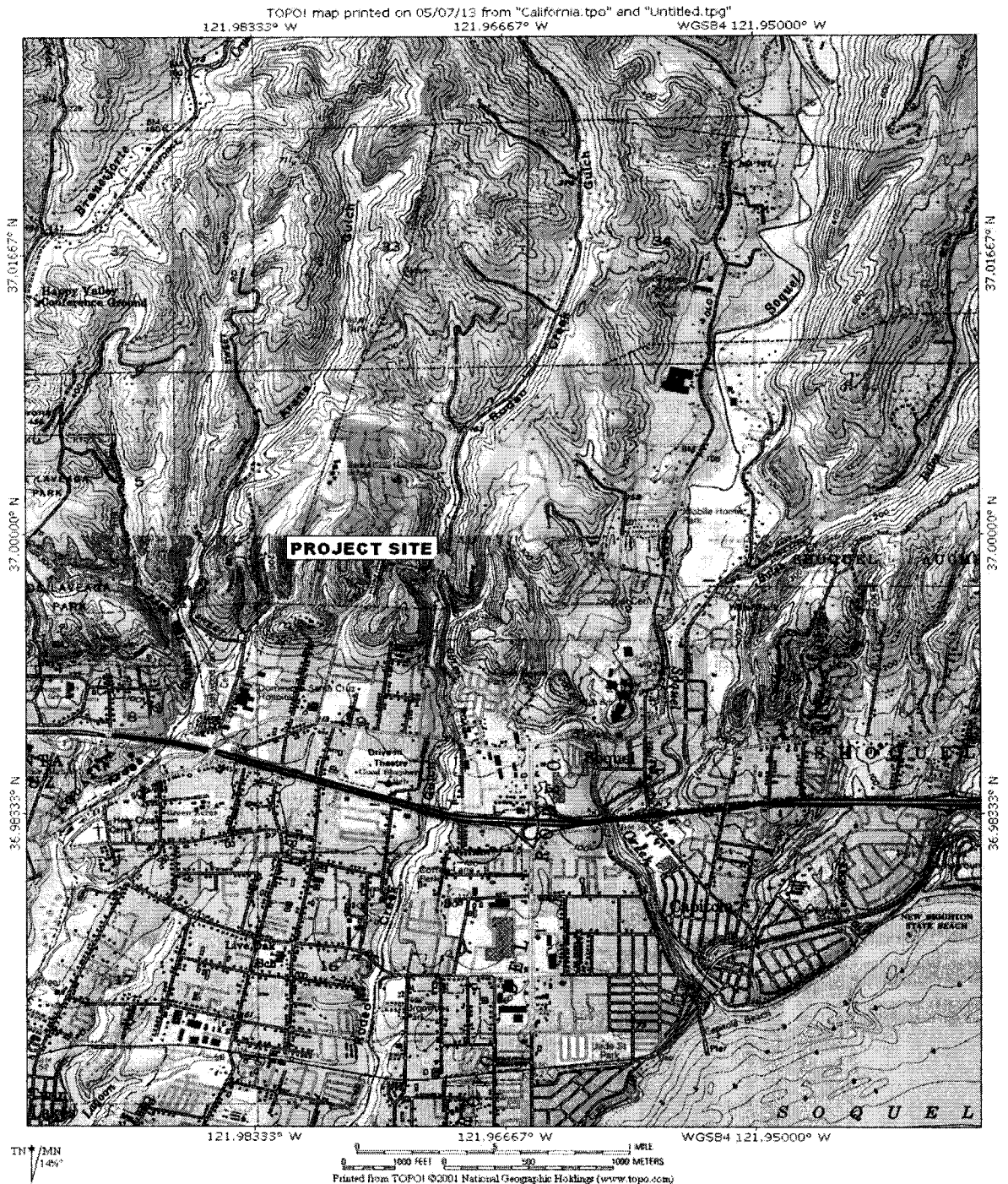
however, the interpretation of such regulations is the responsibility of the applicable governing body. Each regulatory agency is responsible for making the final determination of their jurisdiction.

### **1.2. Property Information**

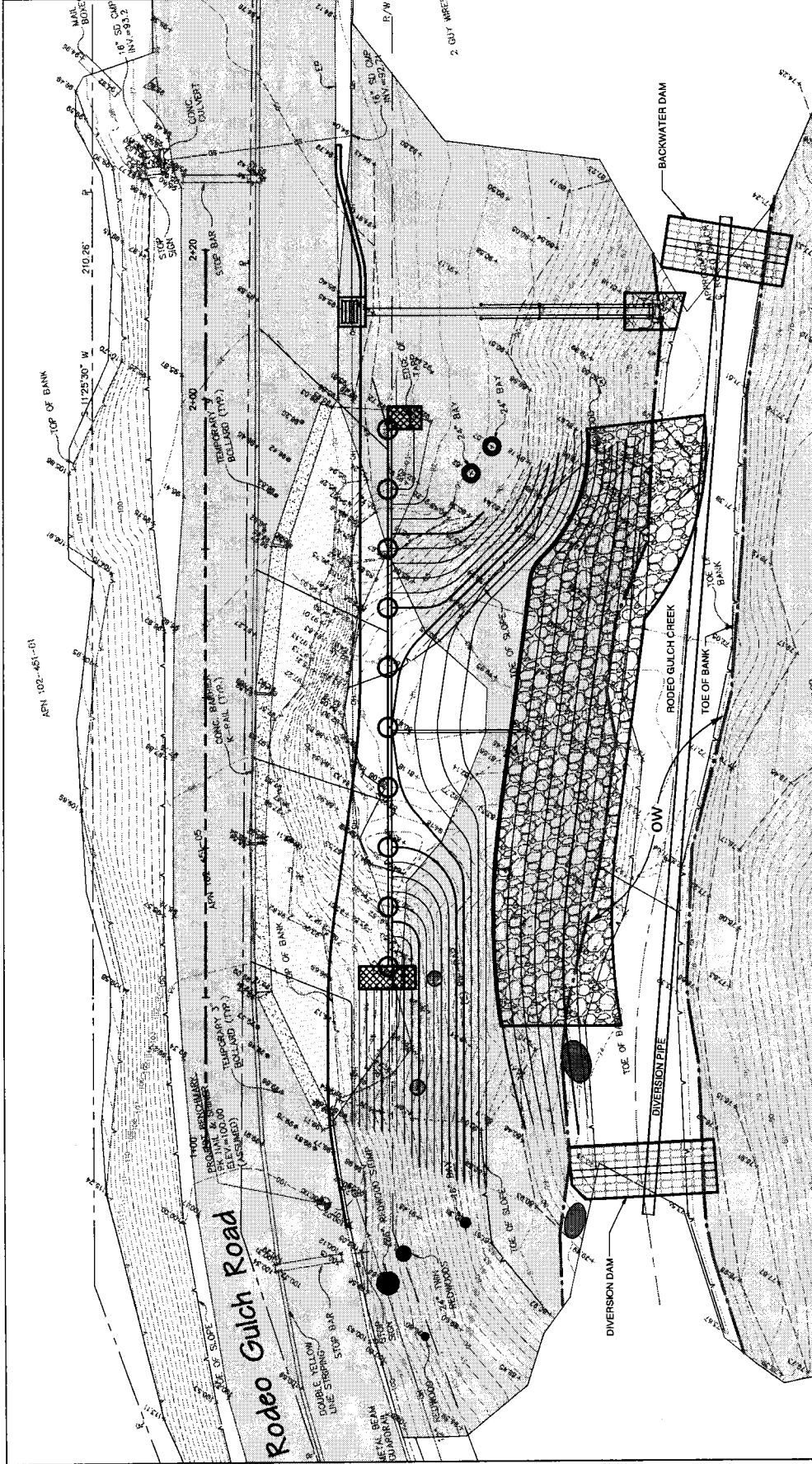
The North Rodeo Gulch Road Repair project area encompasses approximately 4,000 square feet (0.1 acre). The project area is situated along Rodeo Creek which empties into Corcoran Lagoon and the Monterey Bay/Pacific Ocean. The portion of Rodeo Creek at the project site is depicted as a perennial blue-line stream on the USGS topographic map; however, the creek is currently believed to be intermittent. North Rodeo Gulch Road is located parallel to the east side of the creek.

### **1.3. Project Description**

The wetland study area is located along North Rodeo Gulch Road and along the creek bank to Rodeo Creek. The study area encompasses the construction area outlined for the repair of the failed slope and road replacement, including the temporary dewatering features. Figure 2 depicts the wetland study area superimposed onto the proposed road repair construction plans.



**Figure 1. Proposed Project Location**  
(USGS Soquel and Laurel USGS Topographic Maps)



SCALE: 1" = 20'

0 20' 40'

WATERS OF THE U.S.

- In-stream Wetlands
- Other Waters (within ordinary high water mark)

RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

- Riparian Woodland
- Trees to be removed
- Trees, pruned with trunks to remain
- Trees to be retained

**Biotic Resources Group**  
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North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75 Storm Damage Repair Project  
 Distribution of Habitat Types in Project Area

6/13  
 696-01

## **Chapter 2. Summary of Regulations**

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### **2.1. United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

The USACE regulates activities within waters of the United States pursuant to congressional acts: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1977, as amended).

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires a permit for any work in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States. Examples of work include piers, docks, breakwaters, and dredging. Navigable waters are defined as those waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide to the Mean High Water mark (tidal areas) or below the Ordinary High Water mark (freshwater areas). Navigable waters may be used currently, in the past, or in the future, to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA, 1977, as amended) requires a permit for discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States. Under Section 404, Waters of the United States is defined as all waters which are used currently, or were used in the past, or may be used in the future for interstate or foreign commerce, including waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide up to the high tide line. Additionally, areas such as wetlands, rivers and streams (including intermittent streams and tributaries) are considered Waters of the U.S. Man-made ponds created by excavating dry land to collect and retain water for purposes of stock watering, irrigation or settling basins are typically not considered to be Waters of the U.S. (USACE Definitions, 2004).

The extent of wetlands is typically determined by examining the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and wetland hydrology. Under normal circumstances, all three of these parameters must be satisfied for an area to be considered a jurisdictional wetland under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

#### **2.1.1. Isolated Waters (SWANCC Decision)**

In 2001 the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision on the scope of the USACE's Section 404 CWA permitting as it related to isolated waters. Known as the SWANCC decision, the Court found that the USACE does not have the authority over isolated, non-navigable, intrastate waters that are not tributary or adjacent to navigable waters or tributaries.

#### **2.1.2. Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams and Wetlands (Rapanos Decision)**

In 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision that limits the definition of "wetlands" and waters of the U.S." under the CWA. In a 4-1-4 decision, four justices advocated for a narrower interpretation of the Clean Water Act, stating that waters of the U.S. should exclude intermittent or ephemeral streams and wetlands that have no continuous surface connection to navigable waters. In 2007, the USACE and the EPA issued guidance on this decision, stating that agencies will continue to assert jurisdiction over navigable waters and all wetlands adjacent to navigable

waters. Jurisdiction over waters, including wetlands will be made if either of the following standards are met: 1) relatively permanent (perennial or at least seasonally) non-navigable tributaries and wetlands with a continuous surface connection with such tributaries; or 2) certain adjacent and non-navigable tributaries where there is a significant nexus to navigable waters, such as chemical, physical, or biological connection.

### 2.1.3. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

The USFWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Fisheries administer the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). In general, NOAA is responsible for protection of ESA-listed marine species and anadromous fishes, while other fish and terrestrial species are under USFWS jurisdiction. A Proposed Project may permit the take of federally-listed species through a Section 7 Biological Opinion from USFWS or NOAA issued to another federal agency that funds or permits an action (e.g., USACOE). Under ESA, adverse impacts to protected species are avoided, minimized or mitigated for impacts to federally-listed species. This requires consultation with the USFWS and/or NOAA, which ultimately issues a Biological Opinion to USACE determining whether the federally listed species will be adversely impacted by a proposed project.

## 2.2. Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

Water quality in California is governed by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and certification authority under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as administered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Section 401 water quality certification program allows the State to ensure that activities requiring a Federal permit or license comply with State water quality standards. Water quality certification must be based on a finding that the proposed discharge will comply with water quality standards which are in the regional board's basin plans.

The Porter-Cologne Act requires any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste in any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the state to file a report of waste discharge. The RWQCB issues a permit or waiver that includes implementing water quality control plans that take into account the beneficial uses to be protected. Waters of the State subject to RWQCB regulation extend to the top of bank, as well as isolated water/wetland features and saline waters. Should there be no Section 404 nexus (i.e., isolated feature not subject to USACE jurisdiction) a report of waste discharge should be filed with the RWQCB. The RWQCB interprets waste to include fill placed into water bodies.

## 2.3. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is a trustee agency that has jurisdiction under Section 1600 et seq. of the State Code. Under Sections 1600-1603 of the California Fish and Game Code, CDFW regulates all diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel or bank of any river, stream or lake which supports fish or wildlife. CDFW defines a "stream" as a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation. CDFW definition of lakes includes natural lakes and man-made reservoirs. Along watercourses, CDFW jurisdictional



limits typically extend to the top of bank or to the edge of riparian habitat if such habitat extends beyond top of bank (outer drip line), whichever is greater. If an existing fish or wildlife resource may be substantially adversely affected by the activity, the CDFW may propose reasonable measures that will allow protection of those resources. If these measures are agreeable to the party, they may enter into an agreement with the CDFW identifying the approved activities and associated mitigation measures.

#### **2.4. Activities Requiring Permits**

Projects that involve impacting drainages, streams or wetlands through filling, stockpiling, channelization, bank stabilization, road or utility crossing or any other modification would require permits from the USACE (including Section 7 consultation for endangered species, if required), RWQCB, and CDFG prior to and during site construction. Both permanent and temporary impacts are regulated and would require permitting.

The USACE has two permit categories: a Nationwide Permit (NP) or Individual Permit (IP), depending upon the project description and jurisdictional impacts. The USACE permit requires the RWQCB to complete their Section 401 Water Quality Certification. This certification, as well as 1602 SAA with CDFG can occur concurrently with the USACE permit process. A ROWD is required by the RWQCB if SWANCC or Rapanos waters are present. Applications to both the RWQCB and CDFG require submittal of a valid CEQA document (i.e., Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report).

## Chapter 3. Methodology

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The field and reporting methodology followed the protocol specified in the 1987 USACE Manual (Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region, Version 2.0 (USACE, 2010) to delineate the extent of federal waters and wetlands. Existing reference materials relevant to the proposed project were gathered and reviewed. These materials included the following:

- Topographic Map: Soquel and Laurel quadrangles (USGS)
- NRCS, Web Soil Survey, Santa Cruz County, California, 2013.
- Hydric Soils List; Official List of Hydric Soil Map Units for Santa Cruz County, California (SCS, 1989)
- National Wetland Plant List, California for the Western Mountains, Valley, and Coasts, (Lichvar and Minkin, 2012)
- Project Construction Plans, Santa Cruz County Public Works Department, 2013
- National Wetlands Inventory, USFWS, 2013

A field survey was conducted on April 9, 2013. Evidence of potential jurisdictional areas were searched by viewing the study area (i.e., banks of Rodeo Creek) and searching for field indicators of wetlands, such as topographic features, wetland vegetation, and wetland soil conditions. Evidence of an Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) was examined. Features within the creek were photographed. Information gathered is described in this delineation report.

### 3.1. Waters of the U.S. and State Waters

The limits of USACE's jurisdiction in non-tidal waters extend to the OHWM which is typically defined as the line on the shore established by fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or the presence of litter and debris. Vegetation that is bent, matted down, or absent may indicate water flow and scour. The OHWM can be recorded as a line on the project base map, as an elevation and/or as a measurement above the lowest point of the channel (thalweg). The RWQCB jurisdiction and CDFG's jurisdiction is determined by the break in slope of the creek bank and the top-of-bank or dripline of riparian vegetation, respectively. This information is obtained from field surveys and review of aerial photos and topographic maps. This information can be recorded as an elevation (top-of bank) and/or as a line on the project base map (dripline of riparian vegetation).

### 3.2. Wetlands

The extent of wetlands is typically determined by examining the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and wetland hydrology. Under normal circumstances, all three of these parameters must be satisfied for an area to be considered a jurisdictional wetland under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as outlined in the *Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual*

(Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region* (USACOE, May 2010). The locations where all three parameters are met are typically depicted as polygons on the project base map.

### 3.1.1. Vegetation

Hydrophytic vegetation is plant life that occurs in areas where the frequency and duration of inundation or soil saturation exerts a controlling influence on the plant species present. Plant species are characterized by their tendency to occur in wetlands; the five categories are listed and described below:

- OBL: almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands
- FACW: usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands
- FAC: commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte
- FACU: occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands
- UPL: rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands.

Typically, an area is considered meet the USACE wetland vegetation criteria when the plant community passes the dominance test. In this test more than 50 percent of the dominant plant species across all strata are rated OBL, FACW or FAC. Species not listed on the wetland plant list are treated as upland species (Lichvar and Minkin, 2012). A stratum (tree, sapling/shrub, herb and woody vine) is defined as having 5% or more total plant cover. For the dominance test, cover of vegetation is estimated and ranked according to dominance. Species that contribute to a cumulative total of 50% of the total dominant coverage, plus any species that comprise at least 20% of the total dominant coverage are recorded. The “50/20 rule” also states that plant species from the ranked cover list be included, in decreasing order of coverage, until cumulative cover of selected species exceeds 50%. Therefore, in these instances, plant species providing less than 20% are included in the 50/20 rule analysis. The prevalence index is used to determine whether hydrophytic vegetation is present where indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology are present but the vegetation initially fails the dominance test. This test evaluates all plant species in the community and assigns weighted- numeric values to species within each indicator status categories. Hydrophytic vegetation is present if the prevalence index in 3.0 or less. This information is recorded on the Wetland Determination Data Form.

### 3.1.2. Hydrology

The assessment of the hydrologic criterion is based on four groups or indicators. Indicators include direct observation of surface water or groundwater, evidence of recent inundation (i.e., water marks, drift deposits, sediment deposits), and evidence of recent soil saturation (i.e., presence of oxidized rhizospheres within upper 12 inches). Other site conditions or data can also be used, such as shallow aquitards and the FAC-neutral test. This information is recorded on the Wetland Determination Data Form.

### 3.1.3. Soils

Hydric soils are surveyed in accordance with the USACE manuals. Soil pits are excavated to a depth of approximately 16 inches, with progressive pits dug laterally away from the channel/wetland features until hydric features are no longer present. At each soil pit, the soil texture and color are recorded and compared to a Munsell Soil Chart (1994) to designate hue, value and chroma. Indicators of hydric soil include organic accumulations, iron reduction, translocation and accumulation and sulfate reduction are recorded on the Wetland Determination Data Form. Soil survey information is also used to obtain soil information in regards to soil characteristics, drainage and color. The County Hydric Soil List is also referenced for soils considered to be hydric.

### 3.3. SWANCC Waters

The term “isolated waters” is generally applied to waters/wetlands that are not connected by surface water to a river, lake, ocean or other body of water. In the presence of isolated conditions, the RWQCB and CDFG have jurisdiction via the OHWM/streambed and/or the 3-parameter wetland methodology utilized by the USACE.

### 3.4. Rapanos Waters

Rapanos drainage features apply to non-navigable, ephemeral tributaries and their adjacent wetlands where there is a significant nexus to traditional navigable water (TNW). Factors considered in the significant nexus evaluation typically include volume, duration and frequency of flow, proximity to the TNW, size of the watershed, and average annual rainfall. Ecological factors can include the ability for tributaries to carry pollutants and flood waters to a TNW, ability to provide aquatic habitat that supports a TNW, the ability of the wetland to trap and filter pollutants, and the maintenance of water quality. Swales or erosion features (e.g., gullies, small washes) and ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only uplands and do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water are generally not considered federally jurisdictional waters. If Rapanos drainage conditions exist, the RWQCB and CDFG have jurisdiction via the OHWM and/or the 3-parameter wetland methodology utilized by the USACE.

## Chapter 4. Existing Site Conditions

Two principal plant community types were observed within the wetland study area: in-stream wetlands and riparian woodland. The distribution of these vegetation types are depicted on Figure 2.

In-channel wetlands occur within the bed and along the toe of Rodeo Creek. Within the wetland study area, two small patches of in-stream wetlands were observed along the east bank of the creek. The two wetland patches are comprised of water parsnip (*Berula erecta*) (OBL), water smartweed (*Polygonum sp.*) (FACW), nutsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*) (FACW), watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*) (OBL), and scouring rush (*Equisetum arvense*) (FAC). Collectively the two patches encompass approximately 8 square feet. Figure 3 depicts the character of the in-channel wetlands and their location relative to the Ordinary High Water Mark. The location of the wetland patches is depicted on the plan sheet (Figure 2).

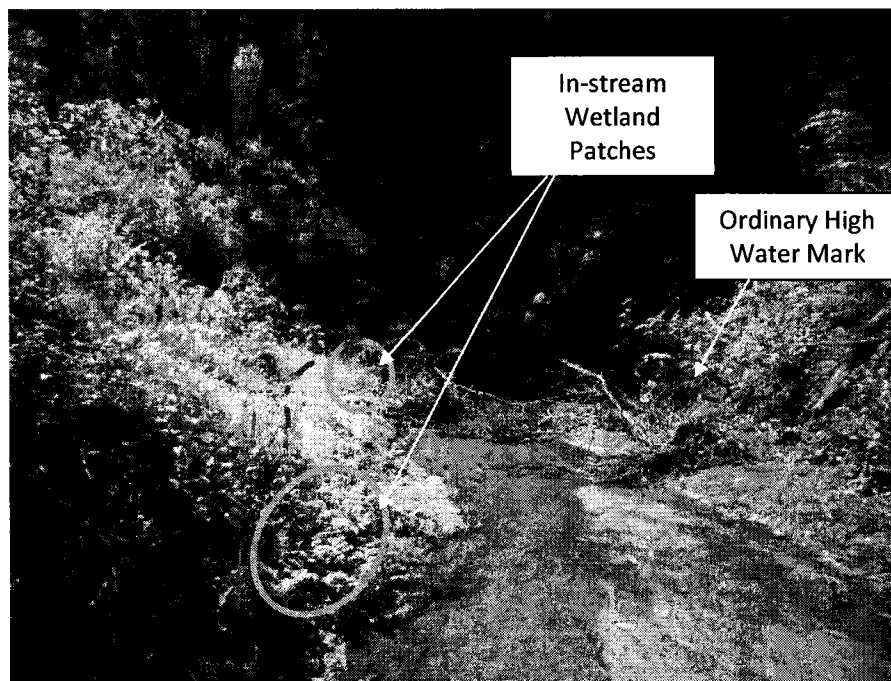


Figure 3. Looking downstream at project work area, showing patches of in-channel wetlands, North Rodeo Gulch Road PM 4.75, April 2013

Rodeo Creek also supports riparian woodland. The woodland is characterized by trees of coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) (NI) and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*) (FAC), with arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) (FACW) along the creek edge. The approximate location of the riparian trees (trunks) within the project area is depicted on Figure 2.

The riparian understory vegetation includes patches of stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and nightshade (*Solanum*

sp.). The character of the riparian woodland at the downstream end of the project area is depicted on Figure 4.



Figure 4. Riparian woodland at downstream end of project area, April 2013

Two sample points were obtained within the wetland study area. Due to the presence of OBL and FACW plant species growing along the toe of the creek channel, wetland attributes were suspected at these locations (see Table 1).

Table 1. Plant Community Types and Site Features Recorded, April 2013

| Plant Community    | Dominant Plant Species and Wetland Indicator Status   | Soil Features  | Hydrology Features | Meets Definition of USACE Wetlands? | Sample Point |
|--------------------|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| In-stream Wetlands | <i>Berula erecta</i> (OBL)<br><i>Polygonum sp.</i> (FACW)<br><i>Cyperus eragrostis</i> (FACW)<br><i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> (OBL)<br><i>Equisetum arvense</i> (FAC). | In-stream gravel and cobbles; positive hydric soils inferred due to presence of surface water, and soil saturated to surface | Surface water      | Yes                                 | SP#1<br>SP#2 |
| Riparian Woodland  | <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> (NI)<br><i>Umbellularia californica</i> (FAC)<br><i>Rubus ursinus</i> (FACU)<br><i>Urtica dioica</i> (FAC)  | Loam and clay loam; dry conditions on stream bank  | None observed      | No                                  | -            |

#### 4.1 Vegetation

At sample points #1 and #2, positive wetland vegetation was observed (i.e., more than 50% of the dominant plant species are FAC, FACW or OBL species). Two patches of wetland vegetation were observed, collectively measuring 8 square feet; these two sites meet the wetland vegetation criteria. No other wetland vegetation was observed in the study area.

## 4.2 Soils

According to more current County soil survey maps (NRCS Web Soil Survey, 2013) the wetland study area is mapped as Soquel loam, 2-9 percent slopes (171). The web soil survey map for the project area is presented in Appendix B.

The typical pedon of the Soquel loam is loam to 37 inches. Within the upper 16 inches, the loam is dark grey brown (10YR 3/1). The soil is formed in alluvium and mapping of this soil type includes small narrow valleys that are subject to intermittent flooding.

Field observations conform to the survey mapping. The creek banks support loam to clay loams; the bed of Rodeo Creek supports gravels and cobbles. Positive hydric soil conditions were inferred to be present in the creek bed.

## 4.3 Hydrology

The wetland study area is located along a perennial-to-intermittent waterway; Rodeo Creek is a tributary to Corcoran Lagoon, which empties into Monterey Bay/Pacific Ocean. Surface water was observed in Rodeo Creek at the time of the April 2013 field survey (approximately 2 inches deep).

### 4.3.1 Ordinary High Water Mark

Field evidence of an OHWM was observed. Water marks, exposed roots, and other vegetation patterns, such as a line of moss growth on bedrock, were observed to indicate the elevation of the OHWM.

The OHWM was found to correspond to approximately 1.5 feet above the thalweg (i.e., lowest point within channel bed (elevation 73)). The location of the OHWM is depicted in Figures 2 and 3.

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## **Chapter 5. Delineation Findings**

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### **5.1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Determination**

#### **5.1.1 Waters of the U.S. (Non-Wetland)**

The wetland study area supports a creek channel with open water. These unvegetated open water areas within the limits of the OHWM would be considered waters of the U.S.

The proposed project will have no net fill within the limits of OHWM; however, construction will entail removal of the failed hillside material from the creek channel and the creation of a new 4-foot deep rock toe under the existing creek bed. Approximately 100 cubic yards of rock will be installed beneath the creek bed. The native creek bed materials will be replaced on-site.

#### **5.1.2 Wetlands**

The wetland study area supports two small patches of in-channel wetlands. The wetlands occur along the toe of the east bank of Rodeo Creek, encompassing approximately 8 square feet. These areas meet the definition of wetlands.

The in-channel wetlands will be temporarily impacted by the project. Temporary dewatering and/or construction related to removing the failed hillside material from the creek bed and bank will impact these two wetland patches; however, following construction, wetlands are expected to naturally re-colonize the area such that there will be no net loss of in-channel wetlands.

### **5.2 Regional Water Quality Control Board Determination**

The wetland study area includes areas within the top of bank of Rodeo Creek. All areas below top of bank, including the wetlands and open water features within the channel meeting the definition of waters of the State subject to RWQCB jurisdiction.

To protect riparian resources and waters of the State, the project includes erosion control measures during and following construction. Revegetation of riparian vegetation along the slope below the soldier wall is also recommended.

### **5.3 California Department of Fish and Game Determination**

The wetland study area includes areas within the top of bank of Rodeo Creek. All areas below top of bank, including the wetlands and open water features within the channel, as well as riparian woodland that may extend beyond top-of-bank, meet the definition of waters of the State subject to CDFG jurisdiction.

To protect riparian resources and waters of the State, the project includes erosion control measures during and following construction. Revegetation of riparian vegetation along the slope below the soldier wall is also recommended.



## Chapter 6. References

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## **Appendix A** Determination Data Forms

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**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region**

Project/Site: N. Pinedo Gully Rd PM 4.75 City/County: Santa Cruz Sampling Date: 4/10/13  
 Applicant/Owner: Santa Cruz Co. PW State: CA Sampling Point: #1  
 Investigator(s): K. Lynn Section, Township, Range: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): creek channel Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 2%  
 Subregion (LRR): \_\_\_\_\_ Lat: \_\_\_\_\_ Long: \_\_\_\_\_ Datum: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Soquel loam, 2-9% slope NWI classification: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ (if no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? no Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? no (if needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____         | Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ | Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ |
| Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____              |   |  |
| Remarks:<br><u>in-channel wetland patch @ base of failed slope ; w/in limits of OHWM</u> |   |  |

**VEGETATION**

| Tree Stratum (Use scientific names.)                              | Absolute % Cover | Dominant Species? | Indicator Status | Dominance Test worksheet:   |
|---|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|
| 1. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>2</u> (A)<br><br>Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B)<br><br>Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>100%</u> (A/B)  |
| 2. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 3. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 4. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| Total Cover: _____  |                  |                   |                  | Prevalence Index worksheet:<br>Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____<br>OBL species _____ x 1 = _____<br>FACW species _____ x 2 = _____<br>FAC species _____ x 3 = _____<br>FACU species _____ x 4 = _____<br>UPL species _____ x 5 = _____<br>Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B)<br><br>Prevalence Index = B/A = _____  |
| <b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b>                                      |                  |                   |                  |   |
| 1. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 2. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 3. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 4. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 5. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dominance Test is >50%<br>___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup><br>___ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)<br>___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)<br><br><sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.<br><br>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ |
| Total Cover: _____  |                  |                   |                  |   |
| <b>Herb Stratum</b>   |                  |                   |                  |   |
| 1. <u>Cyperus carolinensis</u>                                    | <u>20%</u>       | <u>Y</u>          | <u>FACW</u>      |   |
| 2. <u>Berula erecta</u>   | <u>80%</u>       | <u>Y</u>          | <u>OBL</u>       |   |
| 3. <u>Equisetum arvense</u>                                       | <u>10</u>        | <u>N</u>          | <u>FAC</u>       |   |
| 4. <u>Grasses (unknown)</u>                                       | <u>10</u>        | <u>N</u>          | <u>—</u>         |   |
| 5. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 6. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 7. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 8. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| Total Cover: <u>120</u>   |                  |                   |                  |   |
| <b>Woody Vine Stratum</b>   |                  |                   |                  |   |
| 1. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| 2. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |   |
| Total Cover: _____  |                  |                   |                  |   |
| % Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____ % Cover of Biotic Crust _____ |                  |                   |                  |   |
| Remarks:<br><u>patch is 3'x1' for total of 3 sq. ft.</u>          |                  |                   |                  |   |

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: #1

**Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)**

| Depth (inches) | Matrix            |   | Redox Features |   |      |                  | Texture | Remarks |
|----------------|-------------------|---|----------------|---|------|------------------|---------|---------|
|                | Color (moist)     | % | Color (moist)  | % | Type | Loc <sup>2</sup> |         |         |
|                | <i>none taken</i> |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |
|                |                   |   |                |   |      |                  |         |         |

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, RC=Root Channel, M=Matrix.

**Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)           | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR C)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)       | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) (LRR B)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Vertic (F18)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (TF2)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5) (LRR C)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR D)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (F9)          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)          |   |   |

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present.

**Restrictive Layer (if present):**

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

*see below*

Hydric Soil Present? Yes  No

Remarks: *active creek channel with river cobbles - positive hydric soil inferred as site w/in OTMNM*

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)</b>        |  | <b>Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)</b>                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) (Riverine)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) (Riverine) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) (Riverine)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) (Nonriverine)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) (Nonriverine)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) (Nonriverine)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)                 |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)                        |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)                        |

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): 2"

Water Table Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): 0"

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes  No  Depth (inches): 0"

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes  No

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks: *water in creek channel; OTMNM at 73' elevation is ± 1.5 feet above that way; channel width is 6'*

**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region**

Project/Site: N. Padoe Gulch Rd PM 4.75 City/County: Santa Cruz Sampling Date: 4/10/13  
 Applicant/Owner: Santa Cruz Co. DW State: CA Sampling Point: #2  
 Investigator(s): K. Lyons Section, Township, Range: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): creek channel Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 20%  
 Subregion (LRR): \_\_\_\_\_ Lat: \_\_\_\_\_ Long: \_\_\_\_\_ Datum: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Sageel loam, 2-9% slope NWI classification: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? no Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? no (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

|  |   |          |                                       |   |          |
|--|---|----------|---------------------------------------|---|----------|
| Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No _____ | Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No _____ |
| Hydric Soil Present?   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No _____ |                                       |   |          |
| Wetland Hydrology Present?   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No _____ |                                       |   |          |
| Remarks:<br><u>in-channel wetlands patch at base of failed slope; patches located w/in limits of OHWM.</u> |   |          |                                       |   |          |

**VEGETATION**

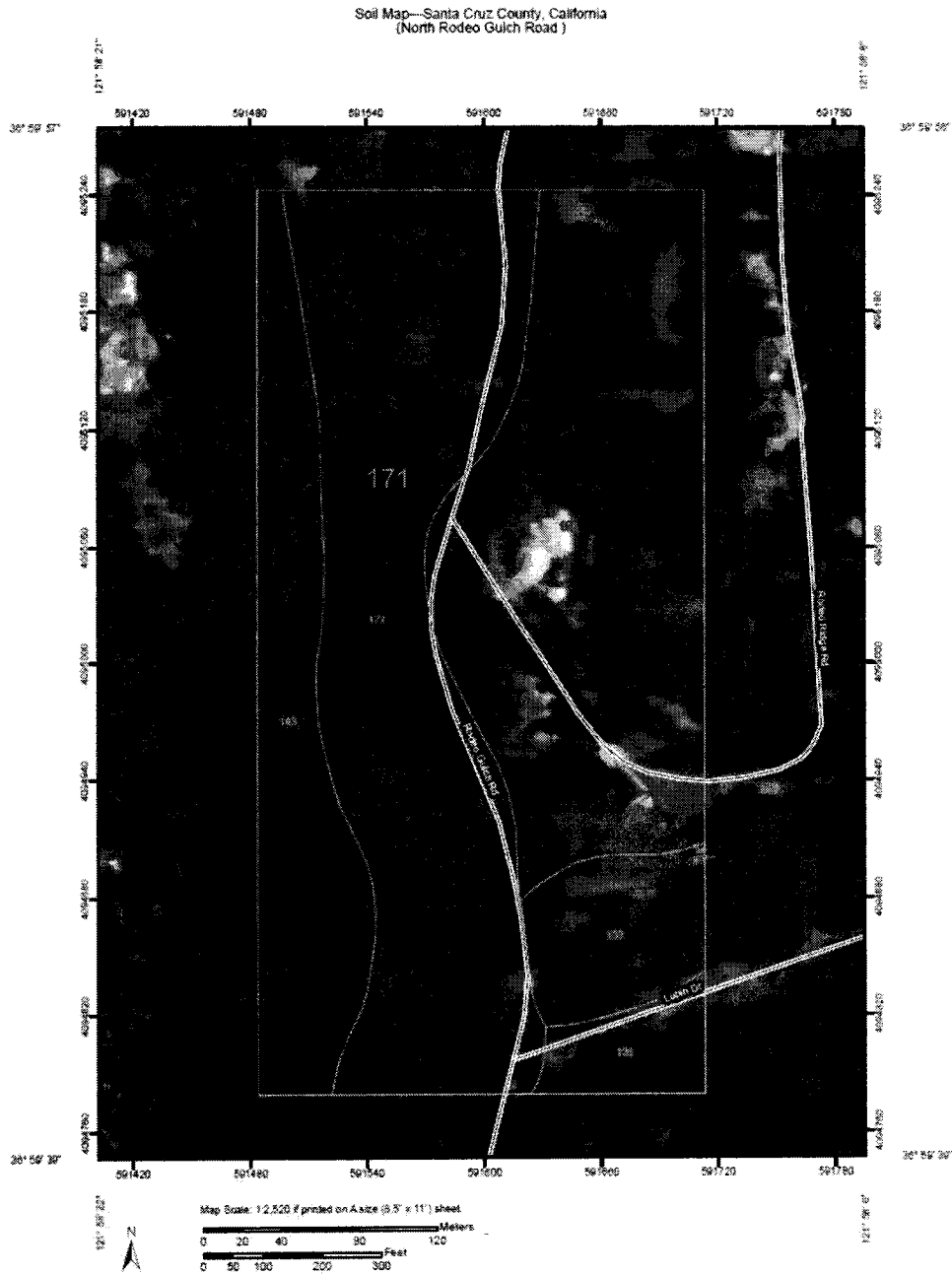
| Tree Stratum (Use scientific names.)                              | Absolute % Cover | Dominant Species? | Indicator Status | Dominance Test worksheet:  |                     |
|---|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC:   | <u>3</u> (A)        |
| 2. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata:  | <u>3</u> (B)        |
| 3. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC:  | <u>100%</u> (AB)    |
| 4. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | Prevalence Index worksheet:  |                     |
| Total Cover: _____  |                  |                   |                  | Total % Cover of:  | Multiply by:        |
| Septino/Shrub Stratum   |                  |                   |                  | OBL species _____  | x 1 = _____         |
| 1. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | FACW species _____   | x 2 = _____         |
| 2. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | FAC species _____  | x 3 = _____         |
| 3. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | FACU species _____   | x 4 = _____         |
| 4. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | UPL species _____  | x 5 = _____         |
| 5. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | Column Totals:   | _____ (A) _____ (B) |
| Total Cover: _____  |                  |                   |                  | Prevalence Index = B/A = _____   |                     |
| Herb Stratum  |                  |                   |                  | Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:   |                     |
| 1. <u>Koeleria hastulata - aq</u>                                 | <u>20</u>        | <u>Y</u>          | <u>OBL</u>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dominance Test is >50%   |                     |
| 2. <u>Polygonum sp.</u>   | <u>20</u>        | <u>Y</u>          | <u>FACW</u>      | ___ Prevalence Index is $\geq 3.0^1$   |                     |
| 3. <u>Eragrostis arvensis</u>                                     | <u>10</u>        | <u>N</u>          | <u>FAC</u>       | ___ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) |                     |
| 4. <u>Berula erecta</u>   | <u>20</u>        | <u>Y</u>          | <u>OBL</u>       | ___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  |                     |
| 5. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | ^Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.                                      |                     |
| 6. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            | Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____                       |                     |
| 7. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |  |                     |
| 8. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |  |                     |
| Total Cover: <u>70</u>  |                  |                   |                  |  |                     |
| Woody Vine Stratum  |                  |                   |                  |  |                     |
| 1. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |  |                     |
| 2. _____  | _____            | _____             | _____            |  |                     |
| Total Cover: _____  |                  |                   |                  |  |                     |
| % Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____ % Cover of Biotic Crust _____ |                  |                   |                  |  |                     |
| Remarks:<br><u>wetlands patch is 1' x 5' = 5</u>                  |                  |                   |                  |  |                     |





## **Appendix B** Web Soil Survey Map

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey National Cooperative Soil Survey

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| 171 | Soquel loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes |

Soil Types in Project Area