
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mr. Paul Caron
California Department of Transportation, District 7
100 South Main Street, MS-16A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

MODIFICATION OF CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED I-405 SEPULVEDA PASS HOV LANE (FREEWAY WIDENING) PROJECT (Corps' Project No. SPL-2008-464-PHT), 11 UNNAMED TRIBUTARIES TO SEPULVEDA CHANNEL, CITY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 09-207)

Dear Mr. Caron:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is in receipt of your request on behalf of California Department of Transportation, District 7 (Caltrans) requesting modification of Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. 09-207, issued on February 16, 2010 (WQC 09-207), for the I-405 Sepulveda Pass HOV (Freeway Widening) Project.

This modification request included the addition of three (3) new project components, which developed as the "design-build" freeway project was implemented and since the WQC 09-207 was issued. The changes stemmed from the decision to widen Sepulveda Boulevard, in accordance with standards for a frontage road, adjacent to the I-405 freeway.

As described in WQC 09-207, the project was solely for the I-405 freeway expansion, with the intent to widen the freeway, by strategically cutting into certain hillside slopes (only at the toe of the slope) and to install reinforced concrete retaining walls. Installing these types of retaining walls would allow for the slopes and ephemeral drainages throughout the Sepulveda Pass to remain natural and minimize impacts within drainages to the maximum extent feasible. This design plan for the reinforced retaining walls was consistent with requirements which would meet highway safety standards and would also avoid excessive grading of natural slopes and/or drainages; and avoid installation of concrete v-drains. While some areas were proposed for v-drain installation during the application process, WQC 09-207 specified that only reinforced concrete retaining walls would be installed.

The Regional Board has issued two (2) Notices of Violation to Caltrans for impacts to project areas not authorized by WQC 09-207 and Caltrans has responded by letter to these Notices of Violation. This letter does not authorize any previous activities which took place as a part of the

Caltrans 09-207 Modification (I-405 Sepulveda Pass Freeway Widening)

Sepulveda Boulevard widening or I-405 Freeway Widening project, which were not authorized by WQC 09-207.

By this letter, I hereby authorize the addition of the following activities to the project description of WQC 09-207:

1. Culvert 1925LT

A channel located approximately 600-feet north of the intersection of Sepulveda Boulevard (Blvd) and Mission Dump Road will be placed into an underground boxed storm drain. The sole purpose of the construction of an underground boxed channel at this location is to widen Sepulveda Blvd, which will be widened above the location of this existing channel. Currently the channel is concrete lined through a portion and stabilized on both banks with gabions and some portions with rock riprap.

A length of 138 feet of this existing open channel will be constructed into a concrete box culvert and tied into an existing storm drain at the termination of the channel. The proposed reinforced concrete box culvert will be 8-feet by 8-feet. In order to maintain 3-feet of freeboard between 100-year storm flows and the proposed roadway widening, a 10-foot high depressed concrete apron will be constructed at the upstream end. Figure 5 shows the limits of this project component. Mitigation for all temporary and permanent impacts associated with this project component will be required at a ratio of 3:1.

Figure 5 - Culvert 1925LT Proposed Impacts.

- a. Temporary Impacts = 248 sq ft
- b. Permanent Impacts = 1,714 sq ft

Permanent impacts were calculated for the structure and fill which will remain in areas previously jurisdictional areas (open concrete bottom channel). Temporary impacts are located outside the channel. Impacts associated with culvert installation outside jurisdictional features are:

Temporary Impacts (work area) = 21,322 sq ft
Permanent Impacts (wall construction) = 591 sq ft

2. Retaining Wall (RW 1917)

The wall is approximately 148 feet long by 12 inches wide. Retaining Wall 1917 will be constructed along the west side of Sepulveda Blvd starting approximately 470 feet north of Mission Dump Road and extending 148 feet north and ending adjacent to the 1925LT Drainage System. The wall will not impact the drainage system or any jurisdictional structures.

3. Retaining Wall (RW 1929)

This component will include a 15 foot setback for construction and installation of retaining wall. Figure 7 shows the limits of this project component. Approximately 10 trees including 2 California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), 8 blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), and 4 large shrubs including Greenbark ceanothus (*Ceanothus spp.*) and laurel sumac (*Rhus laurina*) will remain in the vicinity of the standpipe. Upon retaining wall construction completion, the standpipe and all areas adjacent to the wall will be restored to previously existing conditions.

The watershed behind the wall at this location will not be impacted, beyond the extent of the temporary construction limit, which will be 46 feet from the standpipe. Temporary impacts will occur within 5,104 square feet of jurisdictional area (0.177 acres). Mitigation for all temporary and permanent impacts associated with construction activities at this location will be required at a ratio of 2:1 and 3:1; respectively.

I have determined that the above-proposed modifications do not constitute a significant change in the nature or scope of the activities described for the project in your original application. Therefore, all of the proposed modifications are hereby incorporated into 401 Certification No. 09-207 and no additional action by this agency pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is necessary. This determination is limited to the proposed modifications contained in your notification to this Regional Board and described herein, and does not eliminate the Applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable laws, requirements and permits.

Should you have questions concerning this Certification action, please contact Valerie Carrillo Zara, P.G., Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.

Samuel Unger

Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

November 6, 2013

Date

Figure 5: Wall 1917

Figure 7: Wall 1929

cc: See next page

Paul Morrissey (via electronic copy)
Chambers Group
5 Hutton Center Drive, Suite 750
Santa Ana, CA 92707

Bill Orme (via electronic copy)
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 944213
Sacramento, CA 94244-2130

Jamie Jackson (via electronic copy)
California Department of Fish and Game
Streambed Alteration Team
4949 View Ridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Stephanie Hall (via electronic copy)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch, Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

Paul Amato (via electronic copy)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Jim Bartel
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Figure 5
Wall 1917
and Culvert 1925 LT
I-405 Sepulveda Pass
Widening
Jurisdictional Delineation Map

Version Date: 11/6/2013

Construction Features

- TCE
- Proposed Culvert LT
- Proposed Underground Culvert
- Wall

TCE Impacts

- Permanent (591 sqft)
- Temporary (21,322 sqft)

Jurisdictional Delineation

- Impacts to Jurisdictional Features**
- Permanent (1,714 sqft)
 - Temporary (248 sqft)

National Wetland Inventory

- Riverine

Photo Points

- East
- South



SCALE=1:400

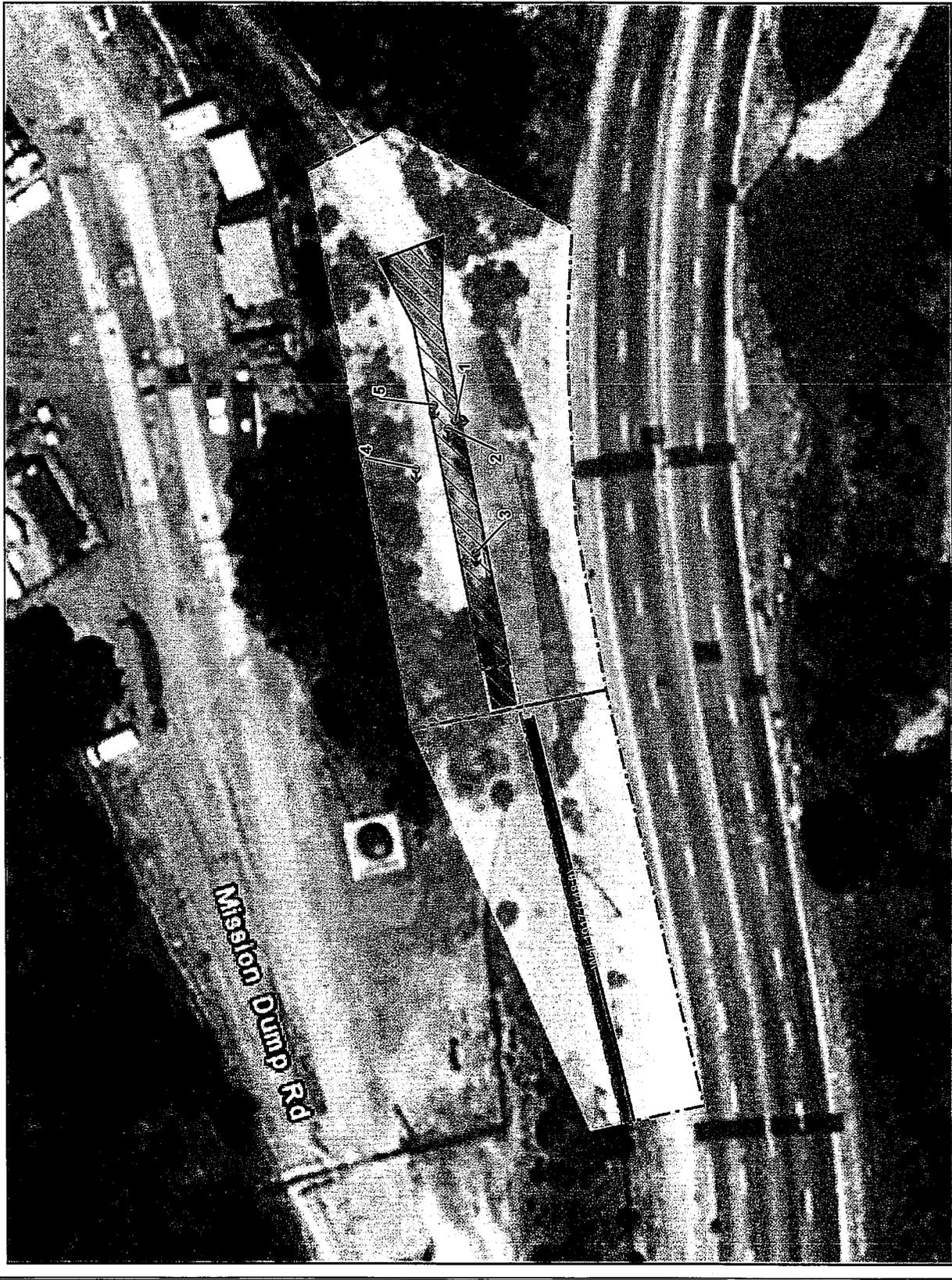
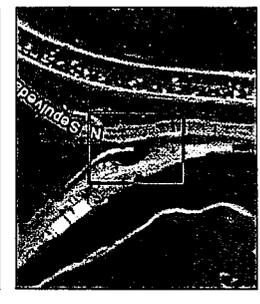


Figure 7
Wall 1929
I-405 Sepulveda Pass
Widening
Jurisdictional Delineation Map

Version Date: 11/6/2013

Construction Features

- TCE
- Culvert
- Wall

TCE Impacts

Temporary (5,104 sqft)

Jurisdictional Delineation

- Swale
- Erosional feature
- National Wetland Inventory
- Riverine

Photo Points

- North East
- South East
- South



SCALE=1:400

