



South Coast
Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

May 27, 2014

Billie Blanchard (CPUC Project Manager) / Brian Paul (BLM Project Manager)
California Public Utilities Commission & Bureau of Land Management
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

**Notice of Preparation of a CEQA Document for the
West Devers Upgrade Project**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The SCAQMD staff's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the proposed project that should be included in the draft CEQA document. Please send the SCAQMD a copy of the Draft EIR upon its completion. Note that copies of the Draft EIR that are submitted to the State Clearinghouse are not forwarded to the SCAQMD. Please forward a copy of the Draft EIR directly to SCAQMD at the address in our letterhead. **In addition, please send with the draft EIR all appendices or technical documents related to the air quality and greenhouse gas analyses and electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files. These include original emission calculation spreadsheets and modeling files (not Adobe PDF files). Without all files and supporting air quality documentation, the SCAQMD will be unable to complete its review of the air quality analysis in a timely manner. Any delays in providing all supporting air quality documentation will require additional time for review beyond the end of the comment period.**

Air Quality Analysis

The SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The SCAQMD recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analysis. Copies of the Handbook are available from the SCAQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720. More recent guidance developed since this Handbook was published is also available on SCAQMD's website here: www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/hdbk.html. SCAQMD staff also recommends that the lead agency use the CalEEMod land use emissions software. This software has recently been updated to incorporate up-to-date state and locally approved emission factors and methodologies for estimating pollutant emissions from typical land use development. CalEEMod is the only software model maintained by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and replaces the now outdated URBEMIS. This model is available free of charge at: www.caleemod.com.

The Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the project and all air pollutant sources related to the project. Air quality impacts from both construction (including demolition, if any) and operations should be calculated. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips). Operation-related air quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, that is, sources that generate or attract vehicular trips should be included in the analysis.

The SCAQMD has also developed both regional and localized significance thresholds. The SCAQMD staff requests that the lead agency quantify criteria pollutant emissions and compare the results to the recommended regional significance thresholds found here: <http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/signthres.pdf>. In addition to analyzing regional air quality impacts, the SCAQMD staff recommends calculating localized air quality impacts and comparing the results to localized significance thresholds (LSTs). LST's can be used in addition to the recommended regional

significance thresholds as a second indication of air quality impacts when preparing a CEQA document. Therefore, when preparing the air quality analysis for the proposed project, it is recommended that the lead agency perform a localized analysis by either using the LSTs developed by the SCAQMD or performing dispersion modeling as necessary. Guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found at:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/LST/LST.html>.

In the event that the proposed project generates or attracts vehicular trips, especially heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles, it is recommended that the lead agency perform a mobile source health risk assessment. Guidance for performing a mobile source health risk assessment ("*Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risk from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis*") can be found at:

http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mobile_toxic/mobile_toxic.html. An analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants should also be included.

In addition, guidance on siting incompatible land uses (such as placing homes near freeways) can be found in the California Air Resources Board's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective*, which can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>. CARB's Land Use Handbook is a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process.

Mitigation Measures

In the event that the project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate these impacts. Pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines §15126.4 (a)(1)(D), any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be discussed. Several resources are available to assist the Lead Agency with identifying possible mitigation measures for the project, including:

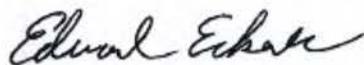
- Chapter 11 of the SCAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*
- SCAQMD's CEQA web pages at: www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM_intro.html
- CAPCOA's *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* available here: <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>.
- SCAQMD's Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, and the Implementation Handbook for controlling construction-related emissions
- Other measures to reduce air quality impacts from land use projects can be found in the SCAQMD's Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning. This document can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.aqmd.gov/prdas/aqguide/aqguide.html>.

Data Sources

SCAQMD rules and relevant air quality reports and data are available by calling the SCAQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039. Much of the information available through the Public Information Center is also available via the SCAQMD's webpage (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

The SCAQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that project emissions are accurately evaluated and mitigated where feasible. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at imacmillan@aqmd.gov or call me at (909) 396-3244.

Sincerely,



Ed Eckerle
Program Supervisor
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FLOOD CONTROL • ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSTRUCTION • OPERATIONS
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT • SURVEYOR • TRANSPORTATION



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

825 East Third Street • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835 • (909) 387-8104
Fax (909) 387-8130

GERRY NEWCOMBE
Director of Public Works

June 4, 2014

File: 10(ENV)-4.01

Billie Blanchard (CPUC Project Manager)
California Public Utilities Commission & Bureau of Land Management
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA. 94104-3002

**RE: CEQA – NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT FOR THE WEST OF DEVERS UPGRADE PROJECT FOR THE PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Mr. Blanchard:

Thank you for giving the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project. **We received this request on May 15, 2014** and pursuant to our review, the following comments are provided:

Water Resources Division (Mary Lou Mermilliod, PWE III, 909-387-8222):

1. We have reviewed the Notice of Preparation and it appears that the Notice has identified Hydrology and Water Quality as subjects to be evaluated in the EIR. However, the District's recommendations are most often made for site-specific conditions. We would appreciate the opportunity to provide comments when more information becomes available.

Should you have any questions, please contact the individual who provided the specific comment, as listed above.

Sincerely,

SUNDARAMOORTHY SRIRAJAN, P.E.
Public Works Engineer III
Environmental Management

SS:PE:nh/CEQAComments_PUC_NOP-WestofDeversUpgradeProj

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD First District JAMES RAMOS Third District
JANICE RUTHERFORD Second District GARY C. OVITT Fourth District
JOSIE GONZALES Fifth District



June 11, 2014

Billie Blanchard (CPUC Project Manager)/Brian Paul (BLM Project Manager)
California Public Utilities Commission & Bureau of Land Management
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Re: West of Devers Upgrade Project – Notice of Preparation

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Mr. Paul:

The City of Colton is pleased to participate in the scoping process for the West of Devers Upgrade Project by providing comments on the CPUC Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). City of Colton staff has reviewed the project description, accompanying exhibits, and Summary of Potential Issues and Impacts (NOP Attachment A), and has the following initial comments to assist in preparing the joint EIR/EIS, including appropriate mitigation measures:

Aesthetics/Visual

Although the project will use existing utility corridor within Segment 2 where above-ground transmission lines already exist, the taller, wider towers and larger conductor may significantly impact scenic vistas within the City of Colton. In addition, two additional towers (D-V6 and D-V12) are proposed within the City of Colton that will be highly visible from nearby residential areas and heavily traveled roadways, including Mount Vernon Avenue, Barton Road and I-215. We request that the environmental analysis include detailed visual simulations, with perspectives impacted travel corridors. Undergrounding the lines should be considered as mitigation for visual impacts.

Land Use

The project may impede residential development opportunities within the Reche Canyon area of Colton by creating a larger physical barrier and necessitating greater development setbacks. We request that the City of Colton's General

Plan, Zoning Code and Reche Canyon Specific Plan be reviewed relative to the impacts on planned and permitted development.

Public Health and Safety

The expanded utility corridor may increase the risk of fire in open undeveloped areas with limited accessibility. Health and safety impacts related to the risk of fire, both short term (i.e. construction activities) and long-term (i.e. risk of tower failure, snapped conduits, etc.) must be adequately considered in the EIR/EIS. Mitigation should include an emergency response plan with enhanced fire prevention, and consideration of undergrounding the lines to remove the risk of fire.

Transportation and Traffic

Construction activities will result in road closures and limited access for an extended period of time within the Cities of Colton and Grand Terrace. This "short-term" impact should be analyzed with regard to the limited road infrastructure that already exists within the project areas.

Recreation

Recreational activities in Colton and Grand Terrace could be affected by the increased size of the towers and close proximity to trails and off-road activities in the area. The increased size of the towers could also limit recreational connectivity opportunities between the cities. The potential loss of recreational areas should be addressed in the EIR/EIS.

Geology/Soils

Slope stability issues must be considered in the EIR/EIS. The area referred to as the Mount Vernon slope has experienced stability issues. Specifically, the area of concern is a property recently acquired by the City of Grand Terrace due to geological stability issues. This area is bordered directly between the Cities of Colton and Grand Terrace.

The project will traverse open, undeveloped and hillside areas. Potential erosion impacts stemming from the construction activities must be addressed in the EIR/EIS, with appropriate mitigation measures.

Air Quality

Short and long-term impacts to air quality, such as airborne dust and construction vehicle emissions, must be considered in the EIR/EIS. In particular, our area experiences high winds; therefore, mitigation measures must, at a minimum, include dust suppression measures.

Noise

Due to the proximity of the project area to residential areas, short and long-term noise impacts must be adequately evaluated and mitigated. In particular, short-term impacts from construction activities include construction vehicles and hours of construction. Long-term impacts would include any ongoing noise generated from conductors.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the scoping process for this project. We look forward to ongoing input and dialogue as planning and design proceeds for the West of Devers Upgrade Project. Should you have follow-up questions or require clarification of our comments, please contact me at 909-370-5185.

Respectfully,



MARK R. TOMICH

Development Services Director

- C: Ken Henderson, City of Grand Terrace City Manager
T. Jarb Thaipejr, City of Loma Linda City Manager
Steve Ward, City of Colton Interim City Manager
David X. Kolk, Colton Electric Utility Director
Amer Jakher, Colton Public Works Director



City of Banning

99 E. Ramsey Street · P.O. Box 998 · Banning, CA 92220-0998 · (951) 922-3125 · Fax (951) 922-3128

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

June 11, 2014

Via E-Mail

Billie Blanchard (CPUC Project Manager)/
Brian Paul (BLM Project Manager)
California Public Utilities Commission & Bureau of Land Management
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94101-3002

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR A JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
WEST OF DEVERS UPGRADE PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Paul:

Thank for providing the City of Banning Community Development staff with a copy of the NOP and an opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned project.

The Project description and the maps that are attached to the NOP are very general. It is difficult to tell the limit of construction and the extent of the area that will be directly affected by the project. The NOP mentions the number of structures that would be affected within each segment; however, it is unclear as to their specific locations and the extent of the environmental impacts associated with the structures.

Please provide specific information with regard to the following within the City of Banning corporate boundary:

1. Structures to be removed and their locations.
2. Structures to be upgraded and their locations.
3. Structures that would be relocated and their locations.
4. Timeline for the start and completion of items 1 through 3 above.

The above information will assist the City staff in evaluating the West of Devers project impacts on the existing and future land uses within the City of Banning. As provided in the NOP, the impacts cannot be determined. Also, please confirm whether the transmission towers that are located within the East Pit of Robertsons' Mine will be relocated. These towers are located at the northeast corner of the City of Banning corporate boundary to the west of MP 30 as shown in Figure 1 in the NOP.

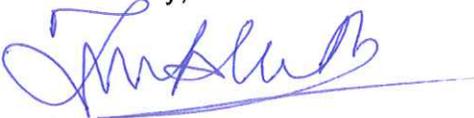
**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR A JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE WEST OF DEVERS UPGRADE PROJECT**

June 12, 2014

Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (951) 922-3131 or send an e-mail to zabubakar@ci.banning.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Zai Abu Bakar
Community Development Director

cc: Homer Croy, Interim City Manager
June Overholt, Administrative Services Director/Deputy City Manager
Duane Burk, Public Works Director
Fred Mason, Electric Utility Director



Community Development Department

DELIVERED BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 12, 2014

Billie Blanchard (CPUC Project Manager)/Brian Paul (BLM Project Manager)
California Public Utilities Commission & Bureau of Land Management
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Re: West of Devers Upgrade Project – Notice of Preparation

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Mr. Paul:

The City of Grand Terrace is pleased to participate in the scoping process for the West of Devers Upgrade Project by providing comments on the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In addition, we appreciate the meeting facilitated by the CPUC on May 21, 2014, with Ms. Blanchard and the Aspen Environmental Group Team.

While the City of Grand Terrace supports the use of renewable energy and improvements to the system that will provide the deliverability of greener energy, such improvements must be done in consideration of environmental impacts created by said improvements.

As such, we have reviewed the NOP and accompanying information and attachments, and have the following initial comments to assist in preparing the joint EIR/EIS:

Aesthetics/Visual

The Project proposes to use the existing utility corridor within Segment 2 where above ground transmission lines already exist to upgrade the system. However, the new towers will be taller and more massive to support the heavier conductors. In addition, two additional towers (D-V6 and D-V12) are proposed in proximity to Grand Terrace, within neighboring City of Colton, that are highly visible from two heavily traveled roadways: Mount Vernon Avenue and Barton Road. Many of the towers within Segment 1 are in proximity to existing commercial and residential areas making them more visible. Therefore, thorough analysis, including visual simulations, of

aesthetic/visual impacts must be included in the EIR/EIS, and undergrounding as mitigation should not be discounted.

Noise

Due to the proximity of the Project area to residential and commercial areas short and long term noise impacts must be adequately evaluated and mitigated. In particular, short term impacts from construction activities include construction vehicles both air and ground, hours of construction, and long term impacts would include any ongoing noise generated from conductors. It should be noted that the City of Grand Terrace is not inclined to approve construction activities between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Transportation/Traffic

Construction activities will result in road closures and limited access for extended period of times. These closures will impact highly traveled roadways and/or commercial centers in the Cities of Grand Terrace and Colton. These impacts must be evaluated in the EIR/EIS and properly mitigated.

Biological Resources

The California gnatcatcher and its habitat are located within Segment 2. Potential impacts to this sensitive resource must be analyzed in the EIR/EIS, and adequately mitigated.

Geology/Soils

Slope stability issues must be considered in the EIR/EIS. The area referred to as the Mount Vernon slope has experienced stability issues. The City acquired a property that backs onto Mount Vernon Avenue due to geological stability issues, and recently a house deck collapsed. This area is bordered directly between the Cities of Grand Terrace and Colton.

The Project will traverse open, undeveloped and hillside areas. Potential erosion impacts stemming from construction activities must be addressed in the EIR/EIS, and appropriate mitigation measures set forth.

Air Quality

Short and long-term impacts to Air Quality, such as airborne dust and construction vehicle emissions, must be considered in the EIR/EIS. In particular, our area experiences high winds; therefore, mitigation measures must, at a minimum, include dust suppression measures.

Public health and safety

The expanded utility corridor may increase the risk of fire in open undeveloped areas with limited accessibility. Health and safety impacts related to risk of fire, both short term (i.e. construction activities) and long-term (i.e. risk of tower failure, snapped conduits, etc.) must be adequately considered in the EIR/EIS. Mitigation should include an emergency response plan with enhanced fire prevention, and consideration of undergrounding to remove risk of fire.

Recreation

Recreational activities in Grand Terrace and Colton could be affected by the increased size of the towers and close proximity to trails and off-road activities in the area. The increased size of the towers could also limit recreational connectivity opportunities between the Cities. The potential loss of recreational opportunities must be addressed in the EIR/EIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the scoping process for this project. We look forward to ongoing input and dialogue as planning and design proceeds for the West of Devers Upgrade Project. Should follow up questions or clarification be required, please feel free to contact me at 909-430-2225.

Sincerely,



SANDRA MOLINA
Community Development Director

- c: Ken Henderson, City Manager
- Steve Ward, City of Colton Interim City Manager
- Mark Tomich, City of Colton Development Services Director
- David X. Kolk, Colton Electric Utility Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



June 5, 2014

Mr. Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94104

Notice of Preparation for Environmental Impact Report, West Devers Transmission Upgrade Project, California Aqueduct, Santa Ana Pipeline, Approximate Milepost 424.94, Southern Field Division, SCH2014051041

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Preparation for West Devers Upgrade Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, as requested by California Public Utilities Commission. The notice by the applicant is to solicit information and agency input related to approximately 10 miles (Segment 2) of high voltage transmission lines, situated within San Bernardino County. The Applicant's improvements include: replacement of one 220 kV line, removal of 29 existing towers, and installation of 35 new towers within their existing right of way (ROW). The primary purpose for the upgrades are to provide a reliable power transmission system from Vista Substation to Devers Substation, associated with which supports large generator agreements and solar projects.

The proposed improvements could impact lands in close proximity to the California Aqueduct Santa Ana Pipeline, part of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) ROW. The proposed project will cross DWR's ROW near Barton Road along West Devers at Milepost 1 located within the Community of Grand Terrace. Any improvements that encroach upon or impact DWR's ROW will require review and possible permitting from DWR prior to the start of any construction.

Please provide DWR with a copy of any subsequent environmental documentation when it becomes available for public review. Any future correspondence relating to this project should be sent to:

Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief
SWP Encroachments Section
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 641-2
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Billie Blanchard
June 5, 2014
Page three

In addition, please continue to keep DWR informed of any future actions with respect to the West Devers Upgrade Project.

If you have any questions, please contact Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief of DWR's SWP Encroachments Section, at (916) 653-7168 or Mike Anderson at (916) 653-6664.

Sincerely,



David M. Samson, Chief
State Water Project Operations Support Office
Division of Operations and Maintenance

cc: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, California 95814



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Office

June 11, 2014

Via Federal Express

Ms. Billie Blanchard
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

Notice of Preparation for a
Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the
West of Devers Upgrade Project Proposed in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Joint EIR/EIS) for the West of Devers Upgrade Project proposed by Southern California Edison. The proposed project consists of the removal and upgrade of existing 220 kV transmission lines in six segments, substation equipment upgrades at five substations, sub-transmission line upgrades at two substations, electric distribution line upgrades, and the installation of telecommunication lines. The project extends over 45 miles from the Vista Substation in the community of Grand Terrace to the Devers Substation near Palm Springs. The project traverses the communities of Grand Terrace, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Calimesa, Beaumont, Banning, Morongo Tribal Lands, and Palm Springs in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Metropolitan is a public agency and regional water wholesaler. It is comprised of 26 member public agencies serving more than 19 million people in six counties in Southern California. One of Metropolitan's major water supplies is the Colorado River conveyed via Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). The CRA consists of tunnels, open canals and buried pipelines. CRA-related facilities also include above and below ground reservoirs and aquifers, access and patrol roads, communication facilities, and residential housing sites. The CRA, which can deliver over 1.2 million acre-feet of water annually to the southern California coastal plain, extends 242 miles from the Colorado River to Lake Mathews. Metropolitan has five pumping plants located along the CRA, which consume approximately 2,400 gigawatt-hours of energy when the CRA is operating at full capacity.

In the project area, the CRA is a 16-foot cut and cover conduit. The CRA extends in a general east-west direction and is bisected by the proposed project near MP 38 and MP 42 (see attached

Ms. Blanchard

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June 11, 2014

map). Metropolitan also has fee property of varying widths through the same area. Based on a review of the proposed project boundaries as described in the NOP, the project has the potential to impact Metropolitan's CRA. In particular, the proposed project could interfere with Metropolitan's ongoing operation, maintenance and repair activities on the CRA, which require unrestricted and unobstructed access to these facilities. Accordingly, the Joint EIR/EIS must examine the potential impacts to Metropolitan's facilities and ensure that any such impacts are fully mitigated.

In order to avoid potential conflicts with Metropolitan's facilities and rights-of-way, we require that any design plans for any activity in the area of Metropolitan's pipelines or facilities be submitted for our review and written approval. Loading restrictions will be necessary in areas that cross the CRA. Approval of the project is contingent on Metropolitan's approval of design plans for portions of the proposed project that could impact its facilities. Any future design plans associated with this project should be submitted to the attention of Metropolitan's Substructures Team.

Detailed prints of drawings of Metropolitan's pipelines and rights-of-way may be obtained by calling Metropolitan's Substructures Information Line at (213) 217-6564. To assist the applicant in preparing plans that are compatible with Metropolitan's facilities and easements, we have enclosed a copy of the "Guidelines for Developments in the Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easement of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California." Please note that all submitted designs or plans must clearly identify Metropolitan's facilities and rights-of-way.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your planning process and we look forward to receiving future documentation on this project. For further assistance, please contact Ms. Michelle Morrison at (213) 217-7906.

Very truly yours,



for

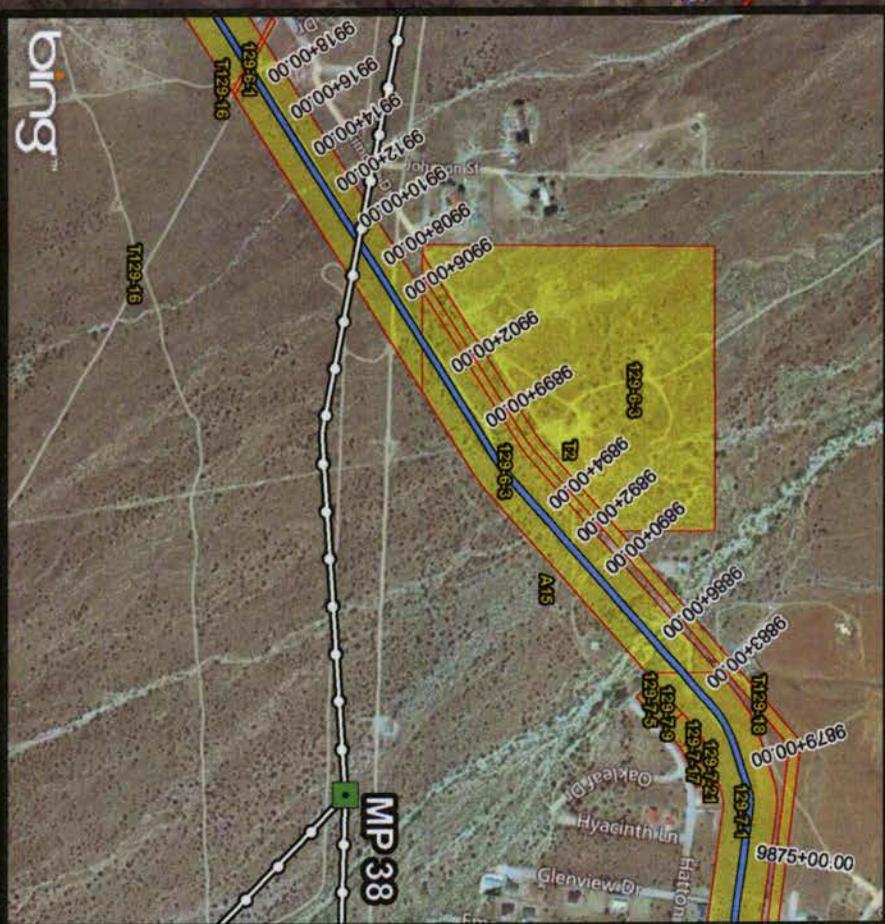
Deirdre West
Manager, Environmental Planning Team

MM

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Enclosures: Planning Guidelines and Map of Metropolitan Facilities in Project Vicinity
MWD-Colorado River Aqueduct Map

Colorado River Aqueduct
SCE West of Devers Upgrade Project Crossing



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Guidelines for Developments in the
Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easements
of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

1. Introduction

a. The following general guidelines should be followed for the design of proposed facilities and developments in the area of Metropolitan's facilities, fee properties, and/or easements.

b. We require that 3 copies of your tentative and final record maps, grading, paving, street improvement, landscape, storm drain, and utility plans be submitted for our review and written approval as they pertain to Metropolitan's facilities, fee properties and/or easements, prior to the commencement of any construction work.

2. Plans, Parcel and Tract Maps

The following are Metropolitan's requirements for the identification of its facilities, fee properties, and/or easements on your plans, parcel maps and tract maps:

a. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements and its pipelines and other facilities must be fully shown and identified as Metropolitan's on all applicable plans.

b. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must be shown and identified as Metropolitan's with the official recording data on all applicable parcel and tract maps.

c. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements and existing survey monuments must be dimensionally tied to the parcel or tract boundaries.

d. Metropolitan's records of surveys must be referenced on the parcel and tract maps.

3. Maintenance of Access Along Metropolitan's Rights-of-Way

a. Proposed cut or fill slopes exceeding 10 percent are normally not allowed within Metropolitan's fee properties or easements. This is required to facilitate the use of construction and maintenance equipment, and provide access to its aboveground and belowground facilities.

b. We require that 16-foot-wide commercial-type driveway approaches be constructed on both sides of all streets crossing Metropolitan's rights-of-way. Openings are required in any median island. Access ramps, if necessary, must be at least 16-foot-wide. Grades of ramps are normally not allowed to exceed 10 percent. If the slope of an access ramp must exceed 10 percent due to the topography, the ramp must be paved. We require a 40-foot-long level area on the driveway approach to access ramps where the ramp meets the street. At Metropolitan's fee properties, we may require fences and gates.

c. The terms of Metropolitan's permanent easement deeds normally preclude the building or maintenance of structures of any nature or kind within its easements, to ensure safety and avoid interference with operation and maintenance of Metropolitan's pipelines or other facilities. Metropolitan must have vehicular access along the easements at all times for inspection, patrolling, and for maintenance of the pipelines and other facilities on a routine basis. We require a 20-foot-wide clear zone around all above-ground facilities for this routine access. This clear zone should slope away from our facility on a grade not to exceed 2 percent. We must also have access along the easements with construction equipment. An example of this is shown on Figure 1.

d. The footings of any proposed buildings adjacent to Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must not encroach into the fee property or easement or impose additional loading on Metropolitan's pipelines or other facilities therein. A typical situation is shown on Figure 2. Prints of the detail plans of the footings for any building or structure adjacent to the fee property or easement must be submitted for our review and written approval as they pertain to the pipeline or other facilities therein. Also, roof eaves of buildings adjacent to the easement or fee property must not overhang into the fee property or easement area.

e. Metropolitan's pipelines and other facilities, e.g. structures, manholes, equipment, survey monuments, etc. within its fee properties and/or easements must be protected from damage by the easement holder on Metropolitan's property or the property owner where Metropolitan has an easement, at no expense to Metropolitan. If the facility is a cathodic protection station it shall be located prior to any grading or excavation. The exact location, description and way of protection shall be shown on the related plans for the easement area.

4. Easements on Metropolitan's Property

a. We encourage the use of Metropolitan's fee rights-of-way by governmental agencies for public street and utility purposes, provided that such use does not interfere with Metropolitan's use of the property, the entire width of the property is accepted into the agency's public street system and fair market value is paid for such use of the right-of-way.

b. Please contact the Director of Metropolitan's Right of Way and Land Division, telephone (213) 250-6302, concerning easements for landscaping, street, storm drain, sewer, water or other public facilities proposed within Metropolitan's fee properties. A map and legal description of the requested easements must be submitted. Also, written evidence must be submitted that shows the city or county will accept the easement for the specific purposes into its public system. The grant of the easement will be subject to Metropolitan's rights to use its land for water pipelines and related purposes to the same extent as if such grant had not been made. There will be a charge for the easement. Please note that, if entry is required on the property prior to issuance of the easement, an entry permit must be obtained. There will also be a charge for the entry permit.

5. Landscaping

Metropolitan's landscape guidelines for its fee properties and/or easements are as follows:

a. A green belt may be allowed within Metropolitan's fee property or easement.

b. All landscape plans shall show the location and size of Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement and the location and size of Metropolitan's pipeline or other facilities therein.

c. Absolutely no trees will be allowed within 15 feet of the centerline of Metropolitan's existing or future pipelines and facilities.

d. Deep-rooted trees are prohibited within Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements. Shallow-rooted trees are the only trees allowed. The shallow-rooted trees will not be permitted any closer than 15 feet from the centerline of the pipeline, and such trees shall not be taller than 25 feet with a root spread no greater than 20 feet in diameter at maturity. Shrubs, bushes, vines, and ground cover are permitted, but larger shrubs and bushes should not be planted directly over our pipelines. Turf is acceptable. We require submittal of landscape plans for Metropolitan's prior review and written approval. (See Figure 3).

e. The landscape plans must contain provisions for Metropolitan's vehicular access at all times along its rights-of-way to its pipelines or facilities therein. Gates capable of accepting Metropolitan's locks are required in any fences across its rights-of-way. Also, any walks or drainage facilities across its access route must be constructed to AASHTO H-20 loading standards.

f. Rights to landscape any of Metropolitan's fee properties must be acquired from its Right of Way and Land Division. Appropriate entry permits must be obtained prior to any entry on its property. There will be a charge for any entry permit or easements required.

6. Fencing

Metropolitan requires that perimeter fencing of its fee properties and facilities be constructed of universal chain link, 6 feet in height and topped with 3 strands of barbed wire angled upward and outward at a 45 degree angle or an approved equal for a total fence height of 7 feet. Suitable substitute fencing may be considered by Metropolitan. (Please see Figure 5 for details).

7. Utilities in Metropolitan's Fee Properties and/or Easements or Adjacent to Its Pipeline in Public Streets

Metropolitan's policy for the alignment of utilities permitted within its fee properties and/or easements and street rights-of-way is as follows:

a. Permanent structures, including catch basins, manholes, power poles, telephone riser boxes, etc., shall not be located within its fee properties and/or easements.

b. We request that permanent utility structures within public streets, in which Metropolitan's facilities are constructed under the Metropolitan Water District Act, be placed as far from our pipeline as possible, but not closer than 5 feet from the outside of our pipeline.

c. The installation of utilities over or under Metropolitan's pipeline(s) must be in accordance with the requirements shown on the enclosed prints of Drawings Nos. C-11632 and C-9547. Whenever possible we request a minimum of one foot clearance between Metropolitan's pipe and your facility. Temporary support of Metropolitan's pipe may also be required at undercrossings of its pipe in an open trench. The temporary support plans must be reviewed and approved by Metropolitan.

d. Lateral utility crossings of Metropolitan's pipelines must be as perpendicular to its pipeline alignment as practical. Prior to any excavation our pipeline shall be located manually and any excavation within two feet of our pipeline must be done by hand. This shall be noted on the appropriate drawings.

e. Utilities constructed longitudinally within Metropolitan's rights-of-way must be located outside the theoretical trench prism for uncovering its pipeline and must be located parallel to and as close to its rights-of-way lines as practical.

f. When piping is jacked or installed in jacked casing or tunnel under Metropolitan's pipe, there must be at least two feet of vertical clearance between the bottom of Metropolitan's pipe and the top of the jacked pipe, jacked casing or tunnel. We also require that detail drawings of the shoring for the jacking or tunneling pits be submitted for our review and approval. Provisions must be made to grout any voids around the exterior of the jacked pipe, jacked casing or tunnel. If the piping is installed in a jacked casing or tunnel the annular space between the piping and the jacked casing or tunnel must be filled with grout.

g. Overhead electrical and telephone line requirements:

1) Conductor clearances are to conform to the California State Public Utilities Commission, General Order 95, for Overhead Electrical Line Construction or at a greater clearance if required by Metropolitan. Under no circumstances shall clearance be less than 35 feet.

2) A marker must be attached to the power pole showing the ground clearance and line voltage, to help prevent damage to your facilities during maintenance or other work being done in the area.

3) Line clearance over Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements shall be shown on the drawing to indicate the lowest point of the line under the most adverse conditions including consideration of sag, wind load, temperature change, and support type. We require that overhead lines be located at least 30 feet laterally away from all above-ground structures on the pipelines.

4) When underground electrical conduits, 120 volts or greater, are installed within Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement, the conduits must be incased in a minimum of three inches of red concrete. Where possible, above ground warning signs must also be placed at the right-of-way lines where the conduits enter and exit the right-of-way.

h. The construction of sewerlines in Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must conform to the California Department of Health Services Criteria for the Separation of Water Mains and Sanitary Services and the local City or County Health Code Ordinance as it relates to installation of sewers in the vicinity of pressure waterlines. The construction of sewerlines should also conform to these standards in street rights-of-way.

i. Cross sections shall be provided for all pipeline crossings showing Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement limits and the location of our pipeline(s). The exact locations of the crossing pipelines and their elevations shall be marked on as-built drawings for our information.

j. Potholing of Metropolitan's pipeline is required if the vertical clearance between a utility and Metropolitan's pipeline is indicated on the plan to be one foot or less. If the indicated clearance is between one and two feet, potholing is suggested. Metropolitan will provide a representative to assist others in locating and identifying its pipeline. Two-working days notice is requested.

k. Adequate shoring and bracing is required for the full depth of the trench when the excavation encroaches within the zone shown on Figure 4.

l. The location of utilities within Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement shall be plainly marked to help prevent damage during maintenance or other work done in the area. Detectable tape over buried utilities should be placed a minimum of 12 inches above the utility and shall conform to the following requirements:

1) Water pipeline: A two-inch blue warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED WATER PIPELINE"

2) Gas, oil, or chemical pipeline: A two-inch yellow warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ PIPELINE"

3) Sewer or storm drain pipeline: A two-inch green warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ PIPELINE"

4) Electric, street lighting, or traffic signals conduit: A two-inch red warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ CONDUIT"

5) Telephone, or television conduit: A two-inch orange warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ CONDUIT"

m. Cathodic Protection requirements:

1) If there is a cathodic protection station for Metropolitan's pipeline in the area of the proposed work, it shall be located prior to any grading or excavation. The exact location, description and manner of protection shall be shown on all applicable plans. Please contact Metropolitan's Corrosion Engineering Section, located at Metropolitan's F. E. Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant, 700 North Moreno Avenue, La Verne, California 91750, telephone (714) 593-7474, for the locations of Metropolitan's cathodic protection stations.

2) If an induced-current cathodic protection system is to be installed on any pipeline crossing Metropolitan's pipeline, please contact Mr. Wayne E. Risner at (714) 593-7474 or (213) 250-5085. He will review the proposed system and determine if any conflicts will arise with the existing cathodic protection systems installed by Metropolitan.

3) Within Metropolitan's rights-of-way, pipelines and carrier pipes (casings) shall be coated with an approved protective coating to conform to Metropolitan's requirements, and shall be maintained in a neat and orderly condition as directed by Metropolitan. The application and monitoring of cathodic protection on the pipeline and casing shall conform to Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 195.

4) If a steel carrier pipe (casing) is used:

(a) Cathodic protection shall be provided by use of a sacrificial magnesium anode (a sketch showing the cathodic protection details can be provided for the designers information).

(b) The steel carrier pipe shall be protected with a coal tar enamel coating inside and out in accordance with AWWA C203 specification.

n. All trenches shall be excavated to comply with the CAL/OSHA Construction Safety Orders, Article 6, beginning with Sections 1539 through 1547. Trench backfill shall be placed in 8-inch lifts and shall be compacted to 95 percent relative compaction (ASTM D698) across roadways and through protective dikes. Trench backfill elsewhere will be compacted to 90 percent relative compaction (ASTM D698).

o. Control cables connected with the operation of Metropolitan's system are buried within streets, its fee properties and/or easements. The locations and elevations of these cables shall be shown on the drawings. The drawings shall note that prior to any excavation in the area, the control cables shall be located and measures shall be taken by the contractor to protect the cables in place.

p. Metropolitan is a member of Underground Service Alert (USA). The contractor (excavator) shall contact USA at 1-800-422-4133 (Southern California) at least 48 hours prior to starting any excavation work. The contractor will be liable for any damage to Metropolitan's facilities as a result of the construction.

8. Paramount Right

Facilities constructed within Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements shall be subject to the paramount right of Metropolitan to use its fee properties and/or easements for the purpose for which they were acquired. If at any time Metropolitan or its assigns should, in the exercise of their rights, find it necessary to remove any of the facilities from the fee properties and/or easements, such removal and replacement shall be at the expense of the owner of the facility.

9. Modification of Metropolitan's Facilities

When a manhole or other of Metropolitan's facilities must be modified to accommodate your construction or reconstruction, Metropolitan will modify the facilities with its forces. This should be noted on the construction plans. The estimated cost to perform this modification will be given to you and we will require a deposit for this amount before the work is performed. Once the deposit is received, we will schedule the work. Our forces will coordinate the work with your contractor. Our final billing will be based on actual cost incurred, and will include materials, construction, engineering plan review, inspection, and administrative overhead charges calculated in accordance with Metropolitan's standard accounting practices. If the cost is less than the deposit, a refund will be made; however, if the cost exceeds the deposit, an invoice will be forwarded for payment of the additional amount.

10. Drainage

a. Residential or commercial development typically increases and concentrates the peak storm water runoff as well as the total yearly storm runoff from an area, thereby increasing the requirements for storm drain facilities downstream of the development. Also, throughout the year water from landscape irrigation, car washing, and other outdoor domestic water uses flows into the storm drainage system resulting in weed abatement, insect infestation, obstructed access and other problems. Therefore, it is Metropolitan's usual practice not to approve plans that show discharge of drainage from developments onto its fee properties and/or easements.

b. If water must be carried across or discharged onto Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements, Metropolitan will insist that plans for development provide that it be carried by closed conduit or lined open channel approved in writing by Metropolitan. Also the drainage facilities must be maintained by others, e.g., city, county, homeowners association, etc. If the development proposes changes to existing drainage features, then the developer shall make provisions to provide for replacement and these changes must be approved by Metropolitan in writing.

11. Construction Coordination

During construction, Metropolitan's field representative will make periodic inspections. We request that a stipulation be added to the plans or specifications for notification of Mr. _____ of Metropolitan's Operations Services Branch, telephone (213) 250-_____, at least two working days prior to any work in the vicinity of our facilities.

12. Pipeline Loading Restrictions

a. Metropolitan's pipelines and conduits vary in structural strength, and some are not adequate for AASHTO H-20 loading. Therefore, specific loads over the specific sections of pipe or conduit must be reviewed and approved by Metropolitan. However, Metropolitan's pipelines are typically adequate for AASHTO H-20 loading provided that the cover over the pipeline is not less than four feet or the cover is not substantially increased. If the temporary cover over the pipeline during construction is between three and four feet, equipment must be restricted to that which

imposes loads no greater than AASHTO H-10. If the cover is between two and three feet, equipment must be restricted to that of a Caterpillar D-4 tract-type tractor. If the cover is less than two feet, only hand equipment may be used. Also, if the contractor plans to use any equipment over Metropolitan's pipeline which will impose loads greater than AASHTO H-20, it will be necessary to submit the specifications of such equipment for our review and approval at least one week prior to its use. More restrictive requirements may apply to the loading guideline over the San Diego Pipelines 1 and 2, portions of the Orange County Feeder, and the Colorado River Aqueduct. Please contact us for loading restrictions on all of Metropolitan's pipelines and conduits.

b. The existing cover over the pipeline shall be maintained unless Metropolitan determines that proposed changes do not pose a hazard to the integrity of the pipeline or an impediment to its maintenance.

13. Blasting

a. At least 20 days prior to the start of any drilling for rock excavation blasting, or any blasting, in the vicinity of Metropolitan's facilities, a two-part preliminary conceptual plan shall be submitted to Metropolitan as follows:

b. Part 1 of the conceptual plan shall include a complete summary of proposed transportation, handling, storage, and use of explosions.

c. Part 2 shall include the proposed general concept for blasting, including controlled blasting techniques and controls of noise, fly rock, airblast, and ground vibration.

14. CEQA Requirements

a. When Environmental Documents Have Not Been Prepared

1) Regulations implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) require that Metropolitan have an opportunity to consult with the agency or consultants preparing any environmental documentation. We are required to review and consider the environmental effects of the project as shown in the Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for your project before committing Metropolitan to approve your request.

2) In order to ensure compliance with the regulations implementing CEQA where Metropolitan is not the Lead Agency, the following minimum procedures to ensure compliance with the Act have been established:

a) Metropolitan shall be timely advised of any determination that a Categorical Exemption applies to the project. The Lead Agency is to advise Metropolitan that it and other agencies participating in the project have complied with the requirements of CEQA prior to Metropolitan's participation.

b) Metropolitan is to be consulted during the preparation of the Negative Declaration or EIR.

c) Metropolitan is to review and submit any necessary comments on the Negative Declaration or draft EIR.

d) Metropolitan is to be indemnified for any costs or liability arising out of any violation of any laws or regulations including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act and its implementing regulations.

b. When Environmental Documents Have Been Prepared

If environmental documents have been prepared for your project, please furnish us a copy for our review and files in a timely manner so that we may have sufficient time to review and comment. The following steps must also be accomplished:

1) The Lead Agency is to advise Metropolitan that it and other agencies participating in the project have complied with the requirements of CEQA prior to Metropolitan's participation.

2) You must agree to indemnify Metropolitan, its officers, engineers, and agents for any costs or liability arising out of any violation of any laws or regulations including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act and its implementing regulations.

15. Metropolitan's Plan-Review Cost

a. An engineering review of your proposed facilities and developments and the preparation of a letter response

giving Metropolitan's comments, requirements and/or approval that will require 8 man-hours or less of effort is typically performed at no cost to the developer, unless a facility must be modified where Metropolitan has superior rights. If an engineering review and letter response requires more than 8 man-hours of effort by Metropolitan to determine if the proposed facility or development is compatible with its facilities, or if modifications to Metropolitan's manhole(s) or other facilities will be required, then all of Metropolitan's costs associated with the project must be paid by the developer, unless the developer has superior rights.

b. A deposit of funds will be required from the developer before Metropolitan can begin its detailed engineering plan review that will exceed 8 hours. The amount of the required deposit will be determined after a cursory review of the plans for the proposed development.

c. Metropolitan's final billing will be based on actual cost incurred, and will include engineering plan review, inspection, materials, construction, and administrative overhead charges calculated in accordance with Metropolitan's standard accounting practices. If the cost is less than the deposit, a refund will be made; however, if the cost exceeds the deposit, an invoice will be forwarded for payment of the additional amount. Additional deposits may be required if the cost of Metropolitan's review exceeds the amount of the initial deposit.

16. Caution

We advise you that Metropolitan's plan reviews and responses are based upon information available to Metropolitan which was prepared by or on behalf of Metropolitan for general record purposes only. Such information may not be sufficiently detailed or accurate for your purposes. No warranty of any kind, either express or implied, is attached to the information therein conveyed as to its accuracy, and no inference should be drawn from Metropolitan's failure to comment on any aspect of your project. You are therefore cautioned to make such surveys and other field investigations as you may deem prudent to assure yourself that any plans for your project are correct.

17. Additional Information

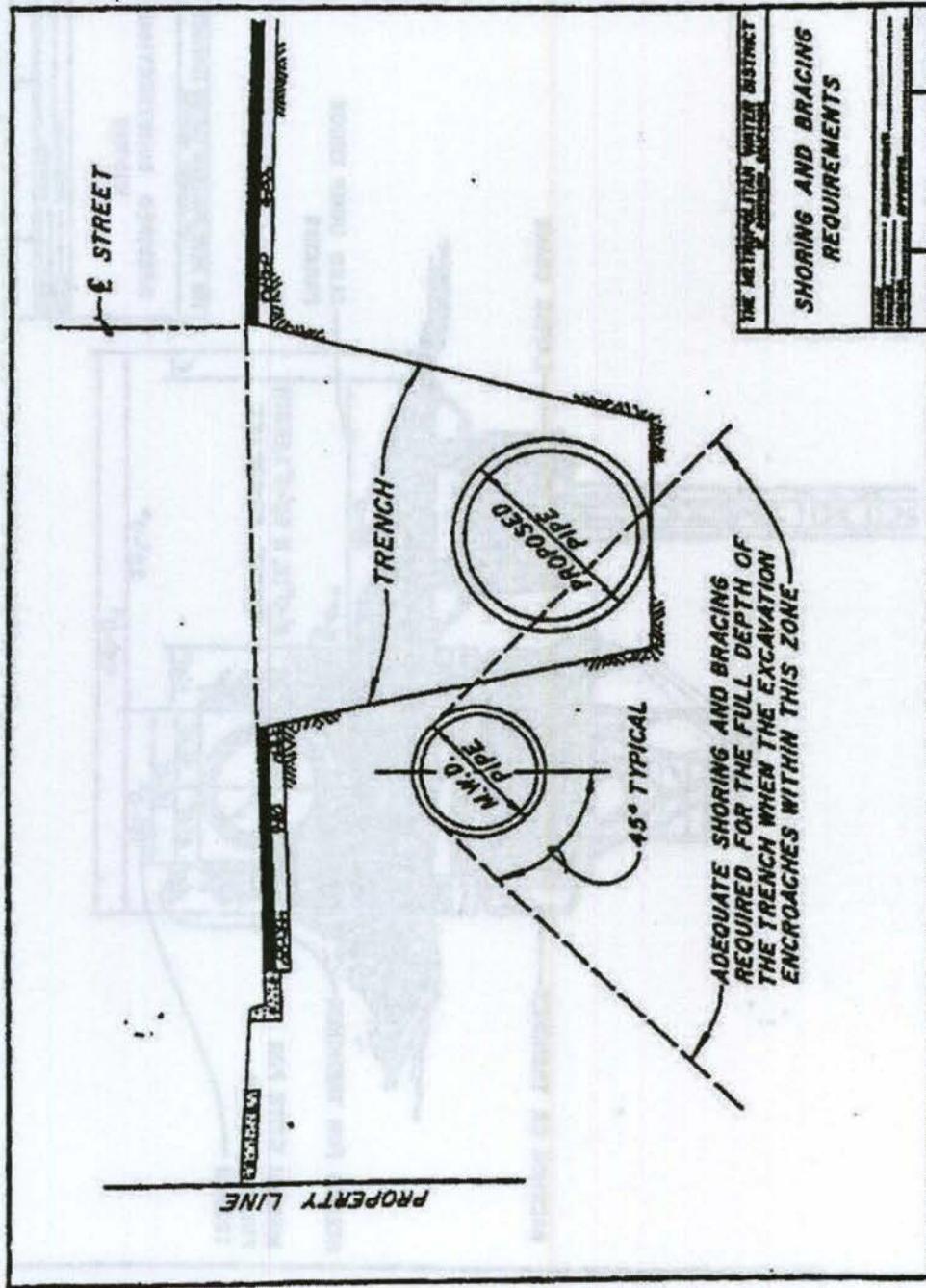
Should you require additional information, please contact:

Civil Engineering Substructures Section
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153
(213) 217-6000

JEH/MRW/lk

Rev. January 22, 1989

Encl.



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
 SHORING AND BRACING
 REQUIREMENTS

FIGURE 4

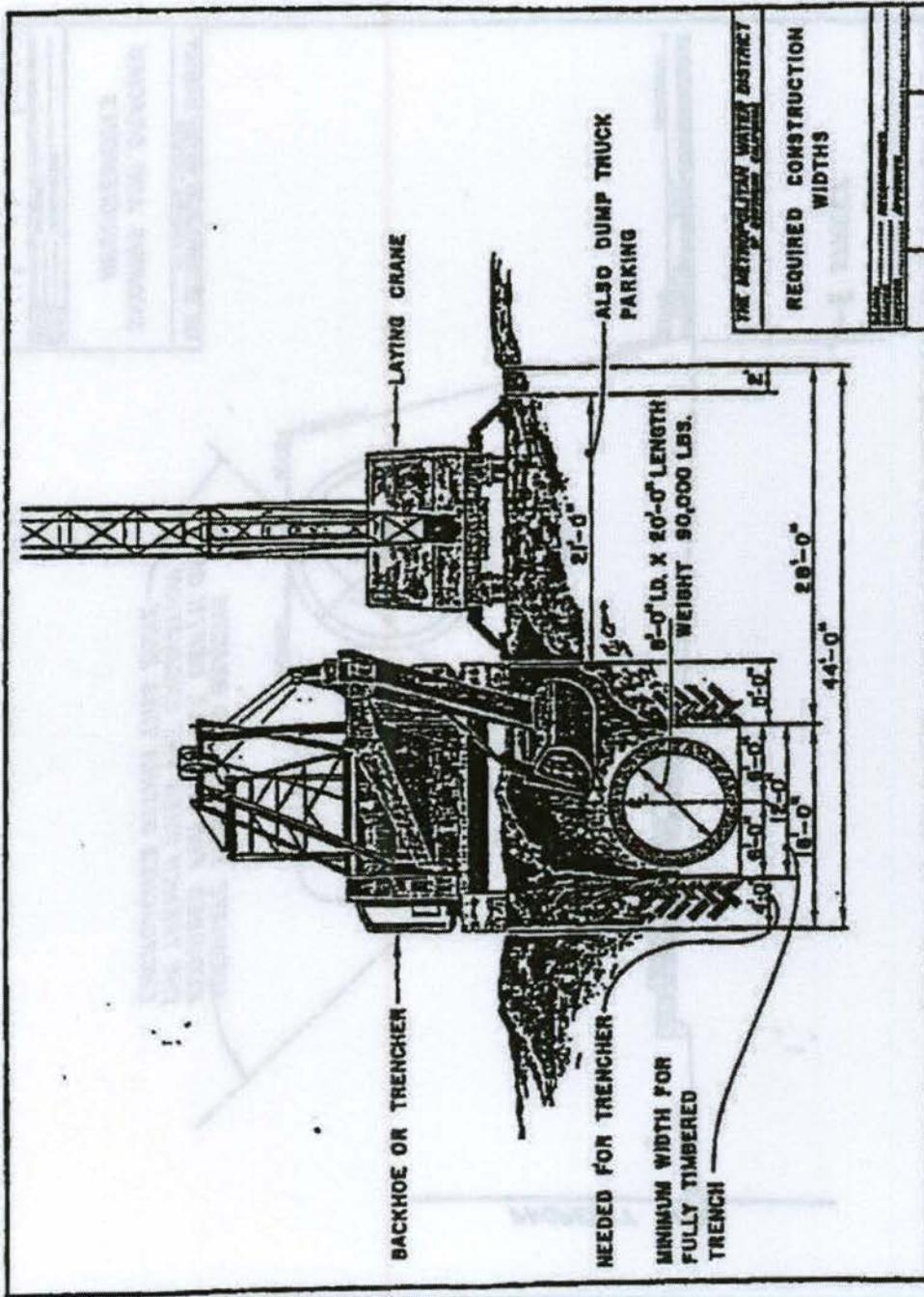
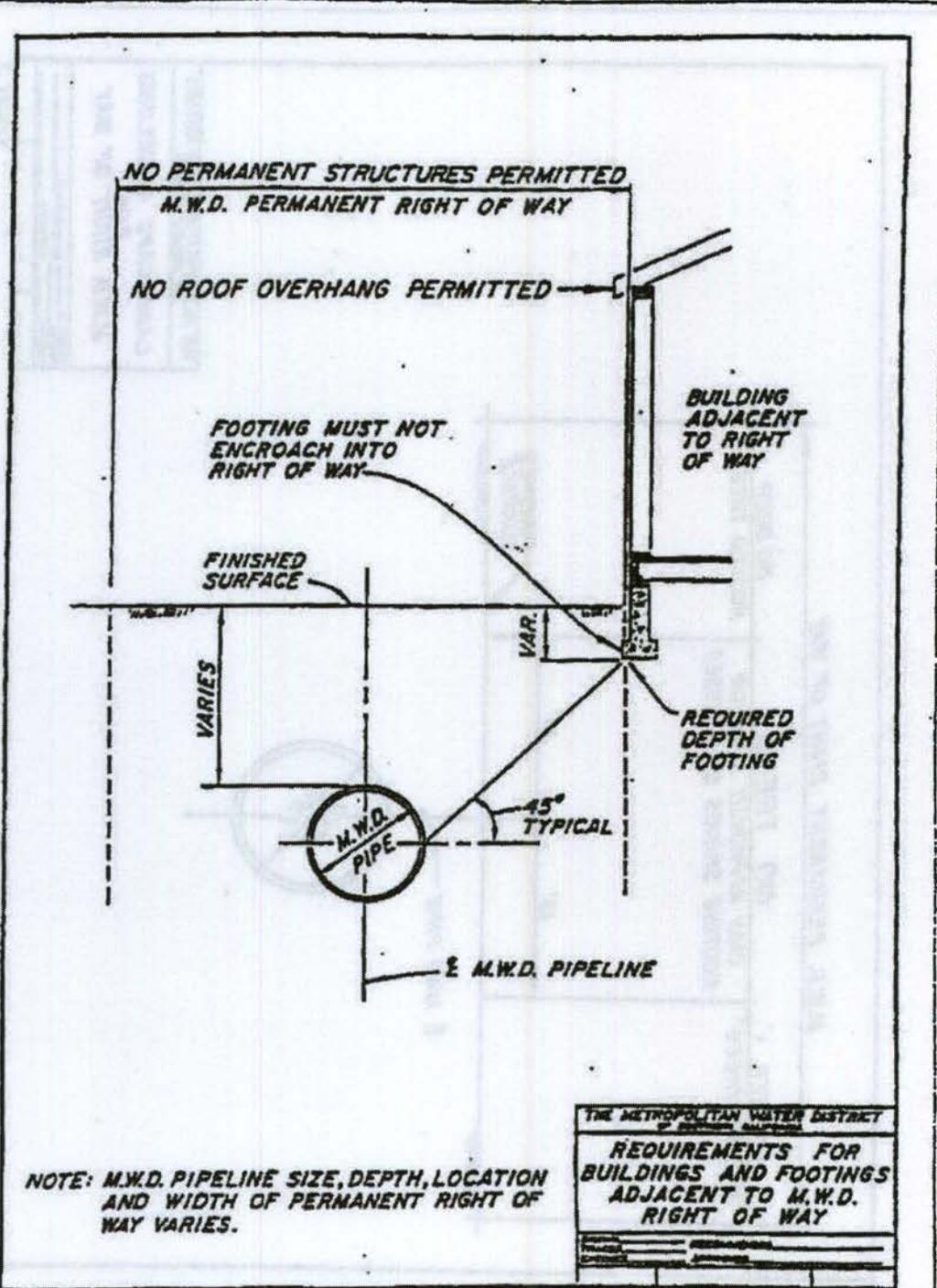


FIGURE 1

FORM NO. 27 6 1948 24-28 P.C. 104, 65 5445

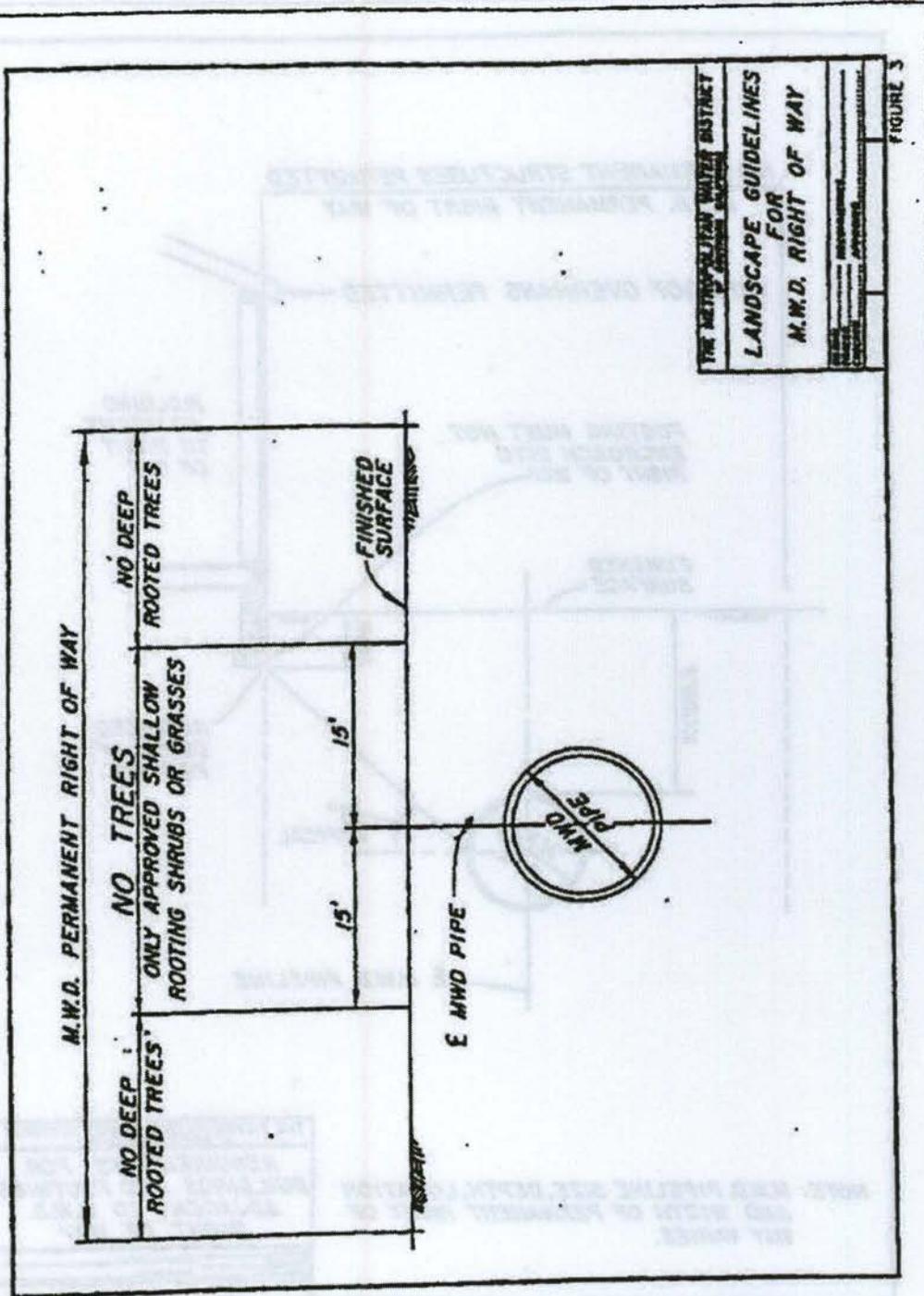
11-77 INTERIOR-FOOT CLEARANCE 1988



NOTE: M.W.D. PIPELINE SIZE, DEPTH, LOCATION AND WIDTH OF PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY VARIES.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF DENVER, COLORADO	
REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS AND FOOTINGS ADJACENT TO M.W.D. RIGHT OF WAY	
DESIGNED BY	DATE
CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY

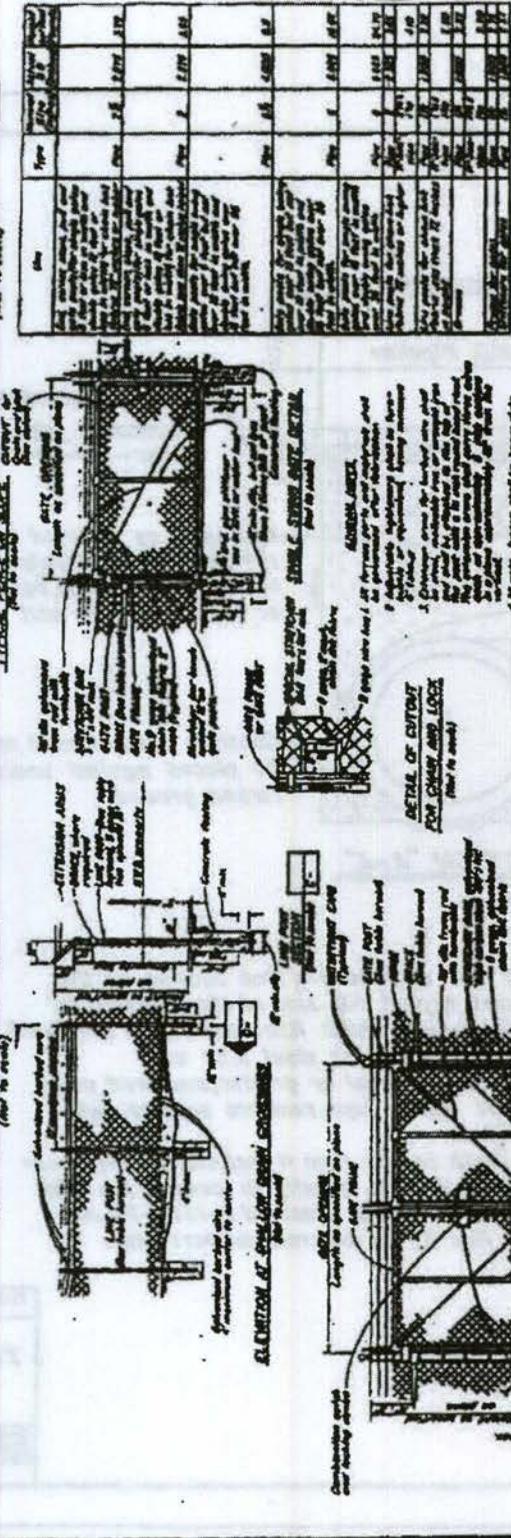
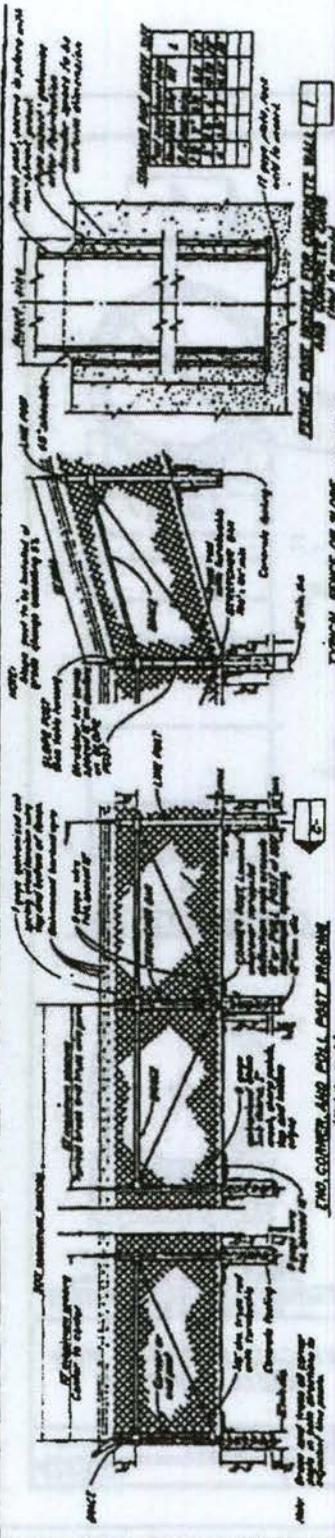
FIGURE 2



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES
FOR
M.W.D. RIGHT OF WAY

FIGURE 3

SPECIFICATIONS NO. SHEET NO.

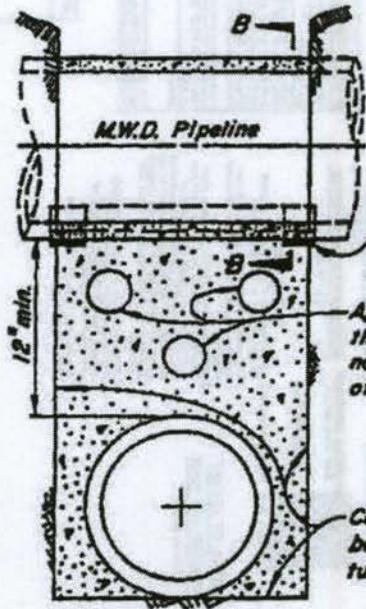


Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Notes
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

THE MESSIAH WALTER DISTRICT
 CHAIN LINK
 FENCE DETAILS

FIGURE 5

Revised 11/14/74 from 11-1-73 C-9547

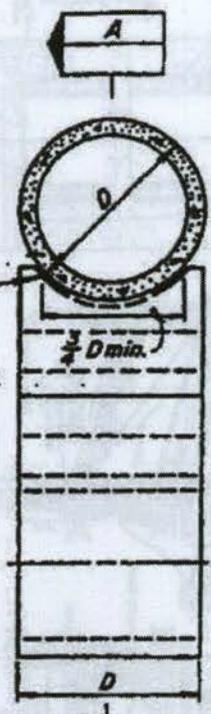


SECTION "A-A"

$\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6" premolded expansion joint filler

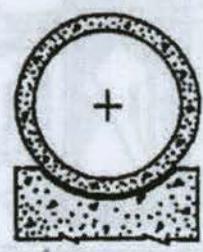
Apertures as directed by the Engineer, total volume not to exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ the volume of the supporting wall

Concrete support wall to be placed against undisturbed ground



CROSS SECTION

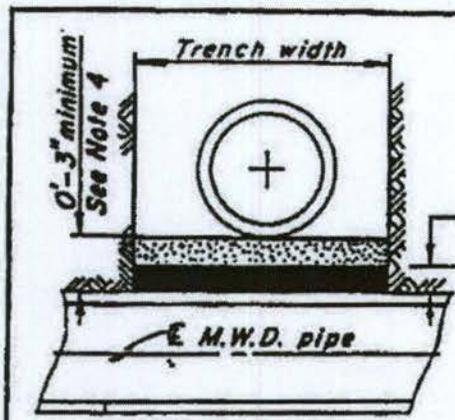
1. Supporting wall shall have a firm bearing on the subgrade and against the side of the excavation.
2. Premolded expansion joint filler per ASTM D-1751-73 to be used in support for steel pipe only.
3. If trench width is 4 feet or greater, measured along centerline of M.W.D. pipe, concrete support must be constructed.
4. If trench width is less than 4 feet, clean sand backfill, compacted to 90% density in accordance with the provisions of ASTM Standard D-1557-70 may be used in lieu of the concrete support wall.



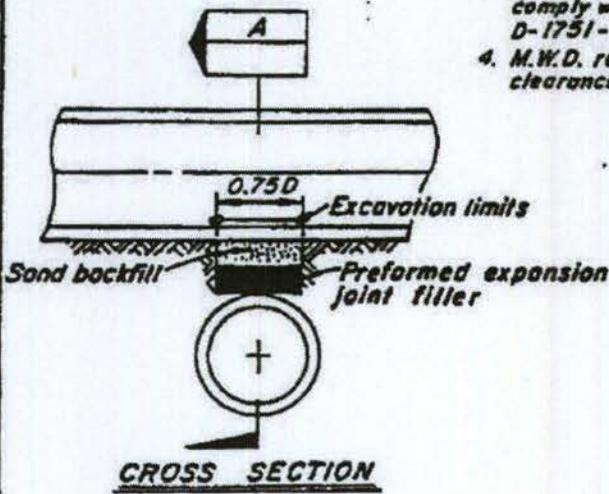
SECTION "B-B"

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
TYPICAL SUPPORT FOR M.W.D. PIPELINE	
DESIGNED BY _____	APPROVED BY _____
DRAWN BY _____	CHECKED BY _____
C-9547	

PROJECT NO. 10 10 1000 0 01 001 1000



SECTION A



CROSS SECTION

3" Preformed expansion joint filler

NOTES

1. This method to be used where the utility line is 24" or greater in diameter and the clearance between the utility line and M.W.D. pipe is 12" or less.
2. Special protection may be required if the utility line diameter is greater than M.W.D. pipe or if the cover over the utility line to the street surface is minimal and there is 12" or less clearance between M.W.D. pipe and the utility line.
3. Preformed expansion joint filler to comply with ASTM designation D-1751-73.
4. M.W.D. requests 12" minimum clearance whenever possible.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT	
TYPICAL EXPANSION JOINT FILLER PROTECTION FOR OVERCROSSING OF M.W.D. PIPELINE	
DATE:	BY:
PROJECT:	NO.:
C-11632	



State of California - Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
(909) 484-0459
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



June 12, 2014

Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94104

Subject: Notice of Preparation for the West Devers Upgrade Project
Draft Environmental Impact Report
State Clearinghouse No. 2014051041

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the West Devers Upgrade Project (Project) [State Clearinghouse No. 2014051041]. The Department is responding to the NOP as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources (California Fish and Game Code Sections 711.7 and 1802, and the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines Section 15386), and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15381), such as the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 *et seq.*) and/or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit for Incidental Take of Endangered, Threatened, and/or Candidate species (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2080 and 2080.1).

Project Description

The Project is located within the existing West Devers transmission corridor in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, including Tribal Lands of the Morongo Band of Indians and the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, and Redlands. The proposed Project will include the removal and upgrade of existing 220 kV transmission lines in six different segments. The segments were determined by location. The Project segments are described as follows:

Segment 1: San Bernardino. Two existing 220 kV double-circuit lines including 45 double-circuit towers will be removed and 61 towers will be installed within the existing right-of-way (ROW).

Segment 2: Colton and Loma Linda. One existing 220 kV line will be removed and rebuilt, involving the removal of 29 double-circuit towers and the installation of 353 towers.

Segment 3: San Timoteo Canyon: Removal of three existing sets of 220 kV towers and construction of two sets of towers, requiring the removal of 116 individual towers and installation of 133 towers.

Segment 4: Beaumont and Banning. Removal of approximately 175 structures and the installation of approximately 136 towers.

Segment 5: Morongo Tribal Lands and Vicinity. Six miles of this 9.5-miles segment are on Morongo Tribal Lands. In this segment, approximately 137 structures will be removed and approximately 108 structures will be installed. Three miles of the existing ROW on Morongo Tribal Lands will be abandoned and relocated to the south, near the I-15 Freeway.

Segment 6: Whitewater Devers Substation. Removal of approximately 116 structures, installation of 93 towers.

Substation Upgrades: The Project will also involve substation equipment upgrades at Devers, El Casco, Etiwanda, San Bernardino, and Vista Substations to accommodate increased power transfers on 220 kV lines.

Biological Resources and Impacts

The CEQA document should contain sufficient, specific, and current biological information on the existing habitat and species at the Project site; measures to minimize and avoid sensitive biological resources; and mitigation measures to offset the loss of native flora and fauna and State waters. The CEQA document should not defer impact analysis and mitigation measures to future regulatory discretionary actions, such as a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

If state or federal endangered or threatened species have the potential to occur on the Project site, species specific surveys should be conducted using methods approved by the Department or assume the presence of the species throughout the project site. The CEQA document should include recent survey data (CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a)). The CEQA document should also address species of special concern and federal critical habitat. To assist with review, an accompanying map showing the areas of impact should be included in the subsequent CEQA document. Additional maps detailing the location of endangered, threatened, or species of special concern should also be included in the subsequent CEQA document.

Natural Community Conservation Program (NCCP) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

The Department is responsible for ensuring appropriate conservation of fish and wildlife resources including threatened, endangered, and/or candidate plant and animal species, pursuant to the CESA, and administers the Natural Community Conservation Plan Program (NCCP Program). Within the Inland Deserts Region, the Department issued Natural Community Conservation Plan Approval and Take Authorization for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WR MSHCP) and the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CV MSHCP) per Section 2800, *et seq.*, of the California Fish and Game Code. The WR MSHCP and CV MSHCP establish multiple species conservation programs to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and provide for the incidental take of covered species in association with activities covered under the permits.

Compliance with approved habitat plans, such as the MSHCPs, is discussed in CEQA. Specifically, Section 15125(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the CEQA document discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed Project and applicable general plans and regional plans, including habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans. An assessment of the impacts to the MSHCPs as a result of this Project is necessary to address CEQA requirements. To obtain additional information regarding the WR MSHCP please visit: <http://rctlma.org/epd/WR-MSHCP> and for the CV MSHCP please visit: <http://www.cvmshcp.org>.

The proposed Project occurs within the WR MSHCP and CV MSHCP areas and is subject to the provisions and policies of the MSHCPs. In order to be considered a covered activity, Permittees must demonstrate that proposed actions are consistent with the MSHCPs and their associated Implementing Agreements. The California Public Utilities Commission is the lead agency but is not signatory to either the WR MSHCP or the CV MSHCP, therefore, in order to participate in either MSHCP they would need to act as a Participating Special Entity (PSE).

If the California Public Utilities Commission (i.e., the Lead Agency) chooses to act as a PSE and obtain take through the WR MSHCP then the following MSHCP policies and procedures will apply to this project: Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools (MSHCP Section 6.1.2), Protection of the Narrow Endemic Plant Species (WR MSHCP Section 6.1.3), Additional Survey Needs and procedures (WR MSHCP section 6.3.2), and Urban/Wildland Interface Guidelines (WR MSHCP section 6.1.4).

If the California Public Utilities Commission chooses to act as a PSE and obtain take through the CV MSHCP then the project activities must comply with all of the terms and requirements of the Permit and Implementing Agreement. A PSE must submit a complete application for the proposed activity to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission containing a detailed description of the proposed activity, a map indicating

the location of the proposed activity, and an analysis of its potential impacts to Covered Species and their Habitats and to the MSHCPs Reserve System. In addition, to minimize the impacts of development in the Conservation Areas and adjacent to the Reserve System the following measures will apply to the project: Required Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures (CV MSHCP Section 4.4) and Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (CV MSHCP Section 4.5)

If the Project is not processed through the MSHCPs for covered species, then the Project may be subject to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and/or CESA for threatened, endangered, and/or candidate species. The Department recommends that a CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) be obtained if the project has the potential to result in "take" (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the Project. The Department's CESA ITP states that a project fully minimize and mitigate impacts to State-listed resources.

Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

The Department has regulatory authority with regard to activities occurring in streams and/or lakes that could adversely affect any fish or wildlife resource. For any activity that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river or stream or use material from a streambed, the project applicant (or "entity") must provide written notification to the Department pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code. Based on this notification and other information, the Department then determines whether a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement is required. The Department's issuance of an LSA Agreement is a "project" subject to CEQA (see Pub. Resources Code 21065). To facilitate issuance of an LSA Agreement, if necessary, the environmental document should fully identify the potential impacts to the lake, stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, and monitoring and reporting commitments. Early consultation with the Department is recommended, since modification of the proposed project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. To obtain a Lake or Streambed Alteration notification package, please go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/forms.html>.

Although the portions of the proposed Project are within MSHCP boundaries, a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration may be required by the Department, should the site contain jurisdictional areas, and the Project proposes impacts to these areas. Additionally, the Department's criteria for determining the presence of jurisdictional waters are more comprehensive than the WR MSHCP criteria in Section 6.1.2 (Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools).

The following information will be required for the processing of a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration and the Department recommends incorporating this information

into the CEQA document to avoid subsequent documentation and project delays. Please note that failure to include this analysis in the project's environmental document could preclude the Department from relying on the Lead Agency's analysis to issue an LSA Agreement without the Department first conducting its own, separate Lead Agency subsequent or supplemental analysis for the project:

- 1) Delineation of lakes, streams, and associated habitat that will be temporarily and/or permanently impacted by the proposed project (include an estimate of impact to each habitat type);
- 2) Discussion of avoidance and minimization measures to reduce project impacts; and,
- 3) Discussion of potential mitigation measures required to reduce the project impacts to a level of insignificance. Please refer to section 15370 of the CEQA Guidelines for the definition of mitigation.

Cumulative Impacts

The Project extends through populated areas of southern California. The regional scarcity of biological resources may increase the cumulative significance of Project activities. Cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines Section 15130. Please include all potential direct and indirect project related impacts to riparian areas, wetlands, vernal pools, alluvial fan habitats, wildlife corridors or wildlife movement areas, aquatic habitats, sensitive species and other sensitive habitats, open lands, open space, and adjacent natural habitats in the cumulative effects analysis.

Alternatives Analysis

The CEQA document should analyze a range of fully considered and evaluated alternatives to the Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6). The analysis should include a range of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. The Department considers Rare Natural Communities as threatened habitats, having both local and regional significance. Thus, these communities should be fully avoided and otherwise protected from Project-related impacts. The CEQA document should include an evaluation of specific alternative locations with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate. Off-site compensation for unavoidable impacts through acquisition and protection of high-quality habitat should be addressed.

Please note that the Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Department studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.

Department Recommendations

The Department has the following concerns about the Project, and requests that these concerns be addressed in the CEQA document:

1. The CEQA document should quantify impacts to habitats and species as per the informational requirements of CEQA. An accompanying map showing the areas of impact should also be included.
2. The CEQA document should include recent biological surveys for fauna and flora (CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a)). The Department recommends that the Lead Agency contact the Department's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) in Sacramento, (916) 327-5960, to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the California Fish and Game Code. If state or federal threatened or endangered species may occur within the project area, species specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day, should be included with the CEQA document. Acceptable species specific surveys have been developed by the Department, and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and are accessible through each agencies websites. Assessments for rare plants and rare plant natural communities should follow the Department's 2009 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities. If the Department's 2009 guidelines were not used, surveys conducted after the issuance of the 2009 guidance should be updated following the 2009 guidelines. The guidance document is available here: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/protocols_for_surveying_and_evaluating_impacts.pdf
3. The CEQA document should provide an analysis of habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans, including the WR MSHCP and the CV MSHCP. The CEQA document should include a discussion of how the project will affect reserve assembly; how the Project will affect the goals and objectives of each NCCP; the applicable policies and procedures that pertain to the Project; a discussion of survey requirements; and a list of proposed mitigation measures pursuant to each NCCP. A copy of any documents discussing the Project's consistency with the NCCP (e.g., Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation for the WR MSHCP) should be included with the CEQA document.
4. The analysis in the CEQA document should satisfy the requirements of the Department's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program and CESA (if deemed necessary).

5. The Department recommends that a CESA ITP be obtained if the Project has the potential to result in "take" (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") of State-listed CESA species, either through construction or over the life of the Project, and the applicant chooses not to process the Project through an NCCP. CESA ITPs are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed CESA species and their habitats. The Department encourages early consultation, as significant modification to the proposed project and mitigation measures may be recommended in order to obtain a CESA ITP. Revisions to the California Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of a CESA ITP unless the Project CEQA document addresses all Project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a CESA permit.
6. The CEQA document should provide a thorough analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and identify specific measures to offset such impacts.
7. The CEQA document should analyze a range of fully considered and evaluated alternatives to the Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6).

In summary, the Department requests that the CEQA document include current information regarding biological resources, adequately address whether the project will be processed through the MSHCPs, provide a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts, and provide an alternatives analysis. If you should have any questions pertaining to these comments, please contact Heather Weiche at Heather.weiche@wildlife.ca.gov and 909-980-8607.

Sincerely,



Ali Aghili
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

cc: State Clearinghouse
CHRON