



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
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P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

April 28, 2005

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: PD-3

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**SANTA CLARA RIVER–SOUTH FORK (GROUTED ROCK AND ROCK GROINS)
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

1. Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project to construct rock groins and grouted rock in the Santa Clara River-South Fork in the City of Santa Clarita, concur that the project with the proposed mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment, find that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County, and approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
2. Adopt the enclosed Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program to ensure compliance with the project and implement conditions adopted to mitigate or avoid adverse effects on the environment.
3. Approve the project and authorize Public Works to carry out the project.
4. Authorize Public Works to pay \$1,250 fee to the State Department of Fish and Game as required by the Fish and Game and Public Resources Codes.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the project is to control erosion of the channel invert and to provide enhanced flood protection.

The project consists of construction of five rock groins, each 28 feet long and 150 feet apart, at the toe of the existing levee at Private Drain No. 1300, on the south side of the South Fork and upstream of Magic Mountain Parkway. The project also includes placement of grouted rock along the foot of the existing stabilizer, approximately 720 feet upstream of Magic Mountain Parkway.

An environmental impact analysis/documentation is a California Environmental Quality Act requirement that is to be used in evaluating the environmental impacts of this project and should be considered in the approval of this project. As the project administrator, we are also the lead agency in terms of meeting the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Initial Study of Environmental Factors indicated that the proposed project, with mitigation measures, would not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, in accordance with the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as this action will provide residents of the City of Santa Clarita with additional flood protection, which improves the quality of life in the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. The estimated cost for the project is \$370,000 including all environmental permit filling fees. This project is included in the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Flood Control District Fund Budget. A construction contract will be advertised for bids at a later date, contingent on your approval.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, any lead agency preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration must provide a public notice within a reasonable period of time prior to certification of the Mitigated Negative Declaration. To comply with this requirement, a Public Notice pursuant to Section 21092 of the Public Resources Code was published in the *Los Angeles Daily News* on February 10, 2005. Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration were provided to the Newhall Library, Valencia Library, and the City of Santa Clarita for public review. Notices regarding the availability of the Mitigated Negative Declaration were also mailed to residents within the vicinity of the project.

The public review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration ended on February 28, 2005. No comments were received.

Based upon the Initial Study of Environmental Factors, it was determined that the project, with the incorporation of mitigation measures, will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration is requested at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The California Environmental Quality Act requires public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implication of their action.

Mitigation measures have been included as part of the project. We have prepared the enclosed Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that includes maintaining records to ensure compliance with environmental mitigation measures adopted as part of this project. Your Board is being asked to approve and authorize Public Works to carry out this project.

A fee must be paid to the State Department of Fish and Game when certain notices required by the California Environmental Quality Act are filed with the County Clerk. Upon approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration by your Board, Public Works will submit a check in the amount of \$1,250 to the County Clerk to pay the fee. In addition, a \$25 handling fee will be paid to the County Clerk for processing. We will also file a Notice of Determination in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
April 28, 2005
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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The project will not have an impact on current services or projects.

CONCLUSION

Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Acting Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
SANTA CLARA RIVER-SOUTH FORK
(GROUTED ROCKS AND ROCK GROINS)**

I. Location and Brief Description

The proposed project is located in the City of Santa Clarita. The project consists of construction of five rock groins, each 28 feet long and 150 feet apart, at the toe of the existing levee at Private Drain No. 1300, on the south side of the South Fork, upstream of Magic Mountain Parkway. The project also includes placement of grouted rock along the foot of the existing stabilizer, approximately 720 feet upstream of Magic Mountain Parkway.

The purpose of the project is to control erosion of the channel invert and to provide adequate flood protection.

II. Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects

Focused studies conducted at the project site as part of the Natural River Management Plan found no endangered species or species of special concern present. The Natural River Management Plan is a joint Environmental Impact/Environmental Impact Statement developed for the Valencia Company, which addressed the impacts and provided mitigation measures for projects that would occur in the Santa Clara River South Fork. As part of the Natural River Management Plan, preconstruction surveys will be required prior to construction of the project. With the incorporation of the mitigation measures in the Natural River Management Plan, the proposed project impact on the environment will be considered less than significant.

III. Finding of No Significant Effect

Based on the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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Attach.

INITIAL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

1. **Project Title:** Santa Clara River-South Fork (Grouted Rocks And Rock Groins).
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, 11th Floor, Programs Development Division, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Mr. Albert E. Anidi, (626) 458-5199
4. **Project Location:** City of Santa Clarita
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331
6. **General Plan Designation:** Maintenance/Reconstruction
7. **Zoning:** Open Space
8. **Description of Project:** The proposed project is located in the City of Santa Clarita. The project consists of construction of five rock groins, each 28 feet long and 150 feet apart, at the toe of the existing levee at Private Drain No. 1300, on the south side of the South Fork, upstream of Magic Mountain Parkway. The project also includes placement of grouted rock along the foot of the existing stabilizer, approximately 720 feet upstream of Magic Mountain Parkway.
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Settings:**
 - A. **Project Site-**Santa Clara River-South Fork is a soft bottom channel with concrete lined slopes. The invert of the channel contains shrubs, weeds, and mixed vegetation.
 - B. **Surrounding Properties-**The topography of the surrounding project area is generally flat. The surrounding properties consist of mostly businesses. Animal life includes rodents, birds, insects, etc. Plant life within the surrounding properties consists of mostly landscape tree and weeds.
10. **Other agencies whose approval is required (and permits needed):** Regional Water Quality Control Board, Army Corps of Engineers, and California Department of Fish and Game.

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ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

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 by 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 a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and b) 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 would have a significant effect on the environment because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

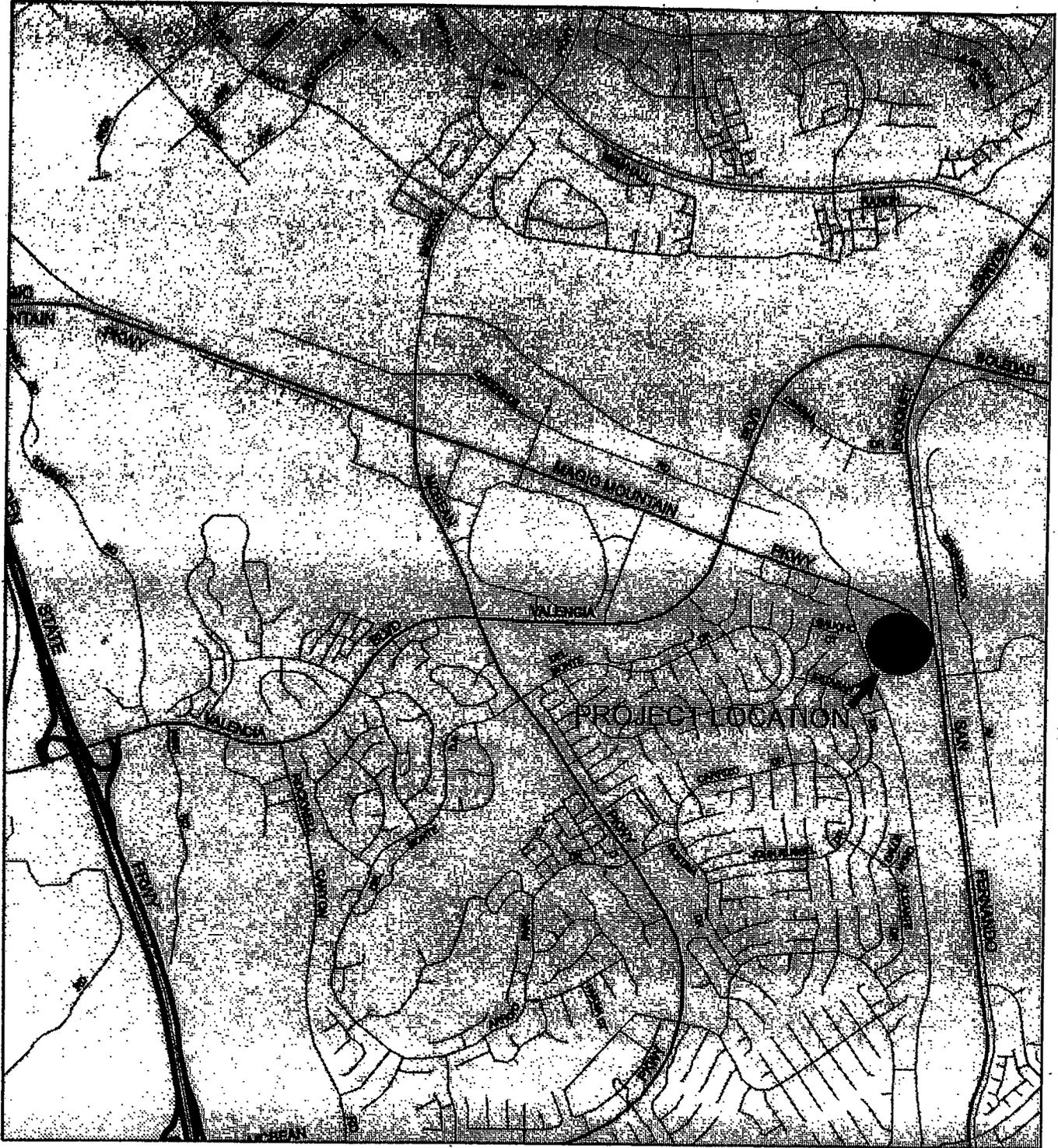
Albert E. Anidi
Signature

2/14/05
Date

Albert E. Anidi
Printed Name

LACDPW
For

SANTA CLARA RIVER - SOUTH FORK (Rock Groins)



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
900 S. Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803
Mapping & Property Mgmt. Division
Mapping & GIS Services Section

Printed using the Land Information Website (Thu Dec 16 08:52:26 PST 2004)



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**PROGRAM FOR REPORTING AND MONITORING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MITIGATION MEASURES**

**SANTA CLARA RIVER-SOUTH FORK
(GROUTED ROCKS AND ROCK GROINS)**

The project includes mitigation measures as discussed in Section XVIII of the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

1.0 Program Management

- 1.1 After adoption of environmental mitigation measures by the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Works shall designate responsibility for monitoring and reporting compliance with each mitigation measure. Responsibility for monitoring and reporting compliance with mitigation measures, if any, shall be designated by Public Works as appropriate.
- 1.2 To facilitate implementation and enforcement of this program, Public Works shall ensure that the obligation to monitor and report compliance with environmental mitigation measures is required by all project-related contracts between the County and A/E, prime construction contractor, and any other person or entity who is designated to monitor and/or report compliance under this program during the preconstruction and construction phases.
- 1.3 Public Works, as appropriate, shall take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that each project-related environmental mitigation measure, which was adopted, is implemented and maintained.

2.0 Preconstruction

- 2.1 Public Works is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures into project design and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.
- 2.2 Public Works is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.

3.0 Construction

- 3.1 Public Works or prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for constructing and/or monitoring the construction of mitigation measures incorporated in final construction documents and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.

- 3.2 Public Works or prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for implementation and/or monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures affecting methods and practices of construction (e.g., hours of operation, noise control of machinery) and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.
- 3.3 Public Works is responsible for monitoring compliance of prime construction contractor(s) with responsibility set forth in 3.1 above and reporting noncompliance in writing.

4.0 **Project Operation**

- 4.1 After completion and final acceptance of the project, Public Works is responsible for monitoring and maintaining compliance with adopted mitigation measures, which affect project operation.

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EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) "Potential Significant Impact" is appropriate if an effect is significant or potentially significant, or if the lead agency lacks information to make a finding of insignificance. If there are one or more "Potential Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
- 4) "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potential Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVIII, "Earlier Analysis," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR or other California Environmental Quality Act process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVIII at the end of the checklist.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). See the sample question below. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

**SANTA CLARA RIVER-SOUTH FORK
(GROUTED ROCKS AND ROCK GROINS)**

		Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS - Would the project:					
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?				X
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
II. AGRICULTURE 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. Would the project:					
a)	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 nonagricultural use?				X
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use?				X
III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:					
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for zone precursors)?				X
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

Potential Significant Impacts Less than Significant Impacts No Impacts

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:

a)	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?		X		
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
c)	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?		X		
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident, migratory fish, or wildlife species; or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X	
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan; Natural Community Conservation Plan; or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?				X

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:

a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				X
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				X
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:

a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
----	---	--	--	--	--

		Does the project require a permit from the State Geologist?	Does the project require a permit from the State Engineer?	Does the project require a permit from the State Department of Health?	No Hazard	
	i)	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 know fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
	ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
	iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
	iv)	Landslides?				X
	b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
	c)	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?				X
	d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
	e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:						
	a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
	b)	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?			X	
	c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
	d)	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?				X
	e)	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?				X
	f)	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?				X
	g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X

		Potential Significant Impacts?	Less than Significant with Mitigation (Reduction)	Significant Impacts?	No Impacts
	h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?		X	
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:					
	a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X
	b)	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 preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?		X	
	c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?		X	
	d)	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?			X
	e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X
	f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X
	g)	Place housing 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?			X
	h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?		X	
	i)	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?			X
	j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			X
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:					
	a)	Physically divide an established community?			X
	b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X
	c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?			X

Section Header					
X. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
	a)	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?			X
	b)	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?			X
XI. NOISE - Would the project result in:					
	a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?		X	
	b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X
	c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X
	d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X	
	e)	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?			X
	f)	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?			X
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:					
	a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			X
	b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X
	c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES -					
	a)	Would the project 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:			
		Fire protection?			X
		Police protection?			X
		Schools?			X

		Physical	Biological	Historical/Cultural	Other
	Parks?				X
	Other public facilities?				X
XIV. RECREATION -					
a)	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?				X
b)	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?				X
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:					
a)	Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			X	
b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways?				X
c)	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?				X
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:					
a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b)	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?				X
c)	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?			X	
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X

		Significant Impacts	Significant Mitigation Measures	Significant Impacts Avoided	No Impact
e)	Result in a 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?				X
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g)	Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE -					
a)	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, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				X
b)	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.)				X
c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

XVIII. DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO MITIGATE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS -

Section 15041 (a) of the State CEQA guidelines states that a lead agency for a project has authority to require changes in any or all activities involved in the project in order to lessen or avoid significant effects on the environment. The following mitigation measures for biological resources have been included:

1. The proposed project has potential to impact several special status plant species. The slender mariposa lily, Plummer's mariposa lily, Peirson's morning-glory, San Fernando Valley spineflower, slender-horned spineflower, mesa horkelia, Robinson's pepper-grass, California spineflower, and slender nemacladus have potential to occur in the study area. Of these, the San Fernando Valley spineflower and slender-horned spineflower are Federally- and State-listed endangered species; however, the remainder of the species listed above meet the criteria of Section 15380 of CEQA to be treated as if they are threatened or endangered.

Focused surveys conducted at the project site found none of the special status plant species above. However, the survey found the California black walnut present. The California black walnut is listed as a California Native plant species, which is a species of limited distribution. The required mitigation for this species is to avoid its removal if possible during construction.

The proposed project also has potential to impact several special status wildlife species. Federally-or State-listed wildlife species that have potential to occur in the project area include the unarmored threespine stickleback, Santa Ana sucker, arroyo toad, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo. Focused surveys conducted in 2002 for the southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo were negative. Focused surveys conducted in 2002 for the unarmored threespine stickleback and Santa Ana sucker were also negative; however, these results may be due to the extreme drought conditions that occurred in this channel and throughout southern California. These special status fish

species are known to occur downstream of the project site in the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. Due to the extreme drought conditions, focused surveys could not be conducted for the arroyo toad in 2002.

Any impact to these species would be reduced to less than significant by implementing the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP) mitigation measures and the measures of the Biological Opinion regarding coverage for the arroyo toad under the NRMP. The proposed project is one of the anticipated projects described by the NRMP. The mitigation in the NRMP is summarized below:

- **Aquatic Species Protection:** Measures to protect the unarmored three-spine stickleback and several other special status aquatic species include the following measures (among others): (1) pre-construction surveys and temporary fish/other aquatic species relocation by the USFWS or its agents; (2) restoration of adversely-affected streams after construction; (3) diversion of streamflow around active construction sites in the river; and (4) use of sedimentation retention ponds, where needed.
- **Bird Species Protection:** Measures to avoid significant impacts to the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher and other special status bird species include the following measures: (1) preconstruction surveys to determine presence or absence, (2) prohibit construction within 300 feet of an active nest, (3) discourage human and pet entry into sensitive habitat areas, and (4) replace vireo habitat that must be removed.
- **Arroyo Toad:** Measures to avoid significant impacts on the arroyo toad would include: (1) four preconstruction surveys conducted by a qualified biologist 48 hours prior to construction, (2) construction worker education regarding sensitivity of the arroyo toad, and (3) biological monitoring during construction.
- **Upland Habitat Mitigation Program:** Measures to protect nonlisted but otherwise considered special status upland species and their habitat include preconstruction surveys to locate and remove individuals from construction sites and replacement of such habitats in the upland habitat buffer zone.
- **Restoration of Temporarily Disturbed Areas:** After the installation of the bank protection, the riverbed will be restored to its original elevation. Salvaged native vegetative debris would be spread out over the disturbed area to allow seeds and propagules to become established naturally. In addition, large trees would be replaced with 1- and 5-gallon native container stock at a 3:1 ratio.
- **Riparian Habitat Mitigation Program:** An alternative to habitat restoration, recommended for the proposed project, would be the removal of the invasive giant reed from infested riparian habitat with prior approval from the ACOE or CDFG. Riparian weeding success would be monitored annually, with specific performance criteria to be evaluated at three and five years after implementation. The Valencia Company has an operating mitigation program, which could be utilized by payment of a per acre mitigation fee.
- **Water Quality Protection:** The Drainage Plan will ensure that significant water quality impacts will not occur from construction site erosion and municipal stormwater. The design and implementation of the water quality measures must meet current standards established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and cannot significantly adversely impact "Waters of the United States."

Environmental Protection and Maintenance: The river maintenance procedures have been designed to avoid impacts on endangered species and minimize impacts on other riparian resources through the use of preconstruction surveys, limitations on areas where work can be performed, relocation of special status species from work areas, and seasonal restrictions on work near endangered species habitats.

2. A total of 2.31 acres of native riparian vegetation types consisting of mule fat scrub/southern willow scrub, southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest, alluvial scrub, and active channel would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. The impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of the NRMP mitigation measures described above. The proposed project is one of the anticipated projects described in the NRMP.
3. The purpose of the NRMP is to develop standard mitigation measures for all work that would occur in the Santa Clara River and San Francisquito Creek that could impact the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game jurisdictional areas. The NRMP addresses cumulative impacts on these drainages for the next 20 years. Any project that is consistent with the mitigation measures in the NRMP can operate under the 404/1603 Permit issued to the Valencia Company. The proposed project is described in the NRMP and is, therefore, consistent with the NRMP mitigation measures. The impact of the drop structure overlying the riverbed and rock groins for bank protection was estimated to be 0.14 acre, with an additional 2.17 acres for temporary construction impacts.

Construction of the rock groins would replace vegetation that provides cover, foraging opportunities, and other biological resources that facilitate wildlife movement. However, the impact would be considered less than significant since the use of the wildlife movement corridor would remain unchanged.

ATTACHMENT A

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

SANTA CLARA RIVER-SOUTH FORK (GROUTED ROCKS AND ROCK GROINS)

I. AESTHETICS - Would the proposal:

- a) *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

No impact. The proposed project is not within proximity of any scenic vistas.

- b) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?*

No impact. The proposed project does not involve any scenic resources or any State scenic highway.

- c) *Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*

Less than significant impact. The proposed project will include construction of five rock groins and placement of grouted rock. The new structure would impact the visual character of the site. However, the structure would blend in with other similar existing structures within the channel. Therefore, the proposed project impact to the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings will be less than significant.

- d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

No impact. The project does not include any additional lighting systems. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on day or nighttime views in the area.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES - Would the proposal:

- a) ***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 nonagricultural use?***

No impact. The proposed project is located along the Santa Clara River–South Fork and is not used for agricultural purposes or as farmland. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

- b) ***Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?***

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with any zoning for agricultural use and will have no impact.

- c) ***Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

III. AIR QUALITY - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?***

No impact. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works currently complies with dust control measures enforced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The proposed project will not conflict with the current implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

- b) ***Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?***

Less than significant impact. Construction-related emissions and dust would be emitted during proposed project construction. However, the effect would be temporary and would not significantly alter the ambient air quality of the area. Construction activities would be restricted to the construction times allowed by the City of Santa Clarita, except during emergency situations. Thus, the impacts would be temporary and considered less than significant.

- c) ***Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?***

No impact. The emissions generated as a result of the proposed project will occur only during construction. These emissions would be temporary and are not expected to result in a cumulative net increase of pollutants. Project specifications will require the contractor to comply with Federal and State emission control regulations. Furthermore, the proposed project would neither result in a permanent increase in vehicle trips to the project location nor lead to emissions, which exceed thresholds for ozone precursors. Therefore, the proposed project construction will not lead to emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors.

- d) ***Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project may create small amounts of dust from the construction and pollution from diesel trucks. However, project construction will be short-term. Therefore, the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations would be less than significant.

- e) ***Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?***

Less than significant impact. Objectionable odors may be generated by diesel trucks used for the construction of the project. These types of odors will be short-term and temporary. Therefore, the impact of the proposed project from objectionable odors is considered less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the proposal:

- a) ***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?***

Less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

The proposed project has potential to impact several special status plant species. The slender mariposa lily, Plummer's mariposa lily, Peirson's morning-glory, San Fernando Valley spineflower, slender-horned spineflower, mesa horkelia, Robinson's pepper-grass, California spineflower, and slender nemacladus have potential to occur in the study area.

Of these, the San Fernando Valley spineflower and slender-horned spineflower are Federally- and State-listed endangered species; however, the remainder of the species listed above meet the criteria of Section 15380 of the California Environmental Quality Act to be treated as if they are threatened or endangered. Focused surveys conducted at the project site found none of the special status plant species above. However, the survey found the California black walnut present. The California black walnut is listed as a California Native plant species, which is a species of limited distribution. The required mitigation for this species is to avoid its removal if possible during construction.

The proposed project also has potential to impact several special status wildlife species. Federally- or State-listed wildlife species that have potential to occur in the project area include the unarmored threespine stickleback, Santa Ana sucker, arroyo toad, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo. Focused surveys conducted in 2002 for the southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo were negative. Focused surveys conducted in 2002 for the unarmored threespine stickleback and Santa Ana sucker were also negative; however, these results may be due to the extreme drought conditions that occurred in this channel and throughout southern California. These special status fish species are known to occur downstream of the project site in the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. Due to the extreme drought conditions, focused surveys could not be conducted for the arroyo toad in 2002.

Any impact to these species would be reduced to less than significant by implementing the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP) mitigation measures and the measures of the Biological Opinion regarding coverage for the arroyo toad under the NRMP. The proposed project is one of the anticipated projects described by the NRMP. The mitigation in the NRMP is summarized below:

Aquatic Species Protection: Measures to protect the unarmored three-spine stickleback and several other special status aquatic species include the following measures (among others): (1) preconstruction surveys and temporary fish/other aquatic species relocation by the USFWS or its agents; (2) restoration of adversely affected streams after construction; (3) diversion of streamflow around active construction sites in the river; and (4) use of sedimentation retention ponds, where needed.

Bird Species Protection: Measures to avoid significant impacts to the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher and other special status bird species include the following measures: (1) preconstruction surveys to determine presence or absence, (2) prohibit construction within 300 feet of an active nest, (3) discourage human and pet entry into sensitive habitat areas, and (4) replace vireo habitat that must be removed.

Arroyo Toad: Measures to avoid significant impacts on the arroyo toad would include: (1) four preconstruction surveys conducted by a qualified biologist 48 hours prior to construction, (2) construction worker education regarding sensitivity of the arroyo toad, and (3) biological monitoring during construction.

Upland Habitat Mitigation Program: Measures to protect nonlisted but otherwise considered special status upland species and their habitat include preconstruction surveys to locate and remove individuals from construction sites and replacement of such habitats in the upland habitat buffer zone.

Restoration of Temporarily Disturbed Areas: After the installation of the bank protection, the riverbed will be restored to its original elevation. Salvaged native vegetative debris would be spread out over the disturbed area to allow seeds and propagules to become established naturally. In addition, large trees would be replaced with 1- and 5-gallon native container stock at a 3:1 ratio.

Riparian Habitat Mitigation Program: An alternative to habitat restoration, recommended for the proposed project, would be the removal of the invasive giant reed from infested riparian habitat with prior approval from the ACOE or CDFG. Riparian weeding success would be monitored annually, with specific performance criteria to be evaluated at three and five years after implementation. The Valencia Company has an operating mitigation program which could be utilized by payment of a per acre mitigation fee.

Water Quality Protection: The Drainage Plan will ensure that significant water quality impacts will not occur from construction site erosion and municipal stormwater. The design and implementation of the water quality measures must meet current standards established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and cannot significantly adversely impact "Waters of the United States."

Environmental Protection and Maintenance: The river maintenance procedures have been designed to avoid impacts on endangered species and minimize impacts on other riparian resources through the use of preconstruction surveys, limitations on areas where work can be performed, relocation of special status species from work areas, and seasonal restrictions on work near endangered species habitats.

- b) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

Less than significant with mitigation incorporation. A total of 2.31 acres of native riparian vegetation types consisting of mule fat scrub/southern willow scrub, southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest, alluvial scrub and active channel, would be impacted by construction of the proposed project.

The impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of the NRMP mitigation measures described above. The proposed project is one of the anticipated projects described in the NRMP.

- c) ***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?***

Less than significant with mitigation incorporation. The purpose of the NRMP is to develop standard mitigation measures for all work that would occur in the Santa Clara River and San Francisquito Creek that could impact the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game jurisdictional areas. The NRMP addresses cumulative impacts on these drainages for the next 20 years. Any project that is consistent with the mitigation measures in the NRMP can operate under the 404/1603 Permit issued to the Valencia Company. The proposed project is described in the NRMP and is, therefore, consistent with the NRMP mitigation measures. The impact of the drop structure overlying the riverbed and rock groins for bank protection was estimated to be 0.14 acre, with an additional 2.17 acres for temporary construction impacts.

- d) ***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?***

Less than significant impact. Construction of the rock groins would replace vegetation that provides cover, foraging opportunities, and other biological resources that facilitate wildlife movement. However, the impact would be considered less than significant since the use of the wildlife movement corridor would remain unchanged.

- e) ***Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?***

No impact. The proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

- f) ***Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?***

No impact. The proposed project is described in the NRMP and its impact was therefore anticipated. Implementation of the mitigation measures in the NRMP would reduce potential project impacts to a less than significant level.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the proposal:

- a-d) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, directly or indirectly destroy a unique geologic feature, or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?***

No impact. No known historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources exist in the project area. However, if any cultural resources, including human remains, are discovered during construction, the contractor will cease all construction activities and contact a specialist to examine the project sites as required by project specifications. Thus, the effects of the proposed project on these resources are not considered significant.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the proposal:

- a) *Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:***

- i) *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.***

No impact. There are no known active faults underlying the project site, and we do not anticipate a fault rupture occurring at the project site.

- ii) *Strong seismic ground shaking?***

No impact. The project area has not been the epicenter of any known earthquake. The activities related to the project will not trigger strong seismic ground shaking.

- iii) *Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?***

No impact. The project area is not known to have suffered any liquefaction or identified as a potential liquefaction area. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on liquefaction.

- iv) *Landslides?***

No impact. The proposed project will have no impact exposing people or structures to landslides.

b) *Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

No impact. The proposed project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The purpose of the project is to provide erosion control and prevent further scouring of the channel lining. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on soil erosion and the loss of topsoil.

c) *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?*

No impact. The proposed project site is not known to be on soil that is unstable or would become unstable as a result of the project.

d) *Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?*

No impact. The soil at the proposed project location is not considered expansive. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact by creating significant risk to life or property.

e) *Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?*

No impact. There are no septic tanks or sewer pipes at the project site. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the proposal:

a) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

No impact. The proposed project does not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

- b-c) 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 or emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances or wastes within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**

Less than significant impact. Combustible engine fluids from the construction equipment are potentially hazardous substances. Necessary precautions will be taken to prevent the spillage of any hazardous substances that may affect the public or the environment at the project site. It is unlikely that an explosion, emission, or release of hazardous or acutely hazardous substances will occur as a result of the proposed project. Project specifications would require the contractor to properly maintain all equipment during construction. In the event of any spills of fluids, the contractor is required to remediate according to all applicable laws regarding chemical cleanups, and the nearby school officials would be notified of the spill and any precautions to be taken. Thus, the proposed project impact on the public or the environment is considered less than significant.

- d) 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?**

No impact. The project site is not known to be a hazardous materials site. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on hazardous materials.

- e) 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?**

No impact. The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public use airport. Thus, the proposed project will not result in safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area.

- f) 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?**

No impact. The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact relating to airstrip safety for people residing or working in the project area.

- g) *Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?***

No impact. The proposed project site is located outside the public street and would not interfere with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

- h) *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project is mostly located outside of residential areas, within the channel. Open fire will not be allowed at the project site during construction. Precautions will be taken by the contractor to prevent fire resulting from construction of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project impact on exposure of people or structure to risk involving wildland fires will be less than significant impact.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the proposal:

- a) *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?***

No impact. The contractor is required to implement Best Management Practices as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued to the County by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to minimize construction impacts on water quality. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

- b) *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 have been granted)?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would not involve the use of any water that would result in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. The proposed project will be constructed in the dry season when there is little or no water in the channel. However, if there is any water in the channel during construction, it will be diverted away from the project site. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge.

- c) ***Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would require construction of rock groins and placement of grouted rock along the toe of the existing levee. This will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the project site. The project is beneficial and would result in increased flood protection and erosion control within the project area. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on erosion or siltation on- or off-site.

- d) ***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?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would require construction of rock groins and placement of grouted rock along the toe of the existing levee. This will not significantly alter the existing drainage pattern, including the course of flow or the amount of surface runoff, in a manner that will result in flooding within or outside Santa Clara River-South Fork. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide flood protection and erosion control to the channel and surrounding properties. Therefore, the proposed project impact on the existing drainage pattern of the site is considered less than significant.

- e) ***Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?***

No impact. The construction of the proposed project will not result in additional surface water runoff. The contractor will take precautions to ensure that any hazardous chemical spills are properly cleaned up. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the capacity of the stormwater drainage systems and will not provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

- f) ***Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?***

No impact. The proposed project will not impact or degrade water quality.

- g) ***Place housing 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?***

No impact. The proposed project will not place any housing within a 100-year flood hazard area.

- h) ***Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?***

Less than significant impact. Construction of the proposed rock groins and the placement of grouted rock at the toe of the existing stabilizer would protect the drop structure, which purpose is to slow the rate of flood flow to increase silt build up and lessen scouring of the channel bottom. The project is beneficial since it provides protection to the erosion control structure in the channel and, therefore, the impact is considered less than significant.

- i) ***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?***

No impact. The proposed project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding.

- j) ***Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?***

No impact. The proposed project will not cause any inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Physically divide an established community?***

No impact. The proposed project will not physically divide an established community.

- b) ***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) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?***

No impact. The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

- c) ***Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?***

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with habitat conservation or natural community conservation plans.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the proposal:

- a) ***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?***

No impact. The construction of the proposed project would not deplete any known mineral resources. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact resulting in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

- b) ***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?***

No impact. The project site is not identified as a mineral resource recovery site in the local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on locally-important mineral resource recovery sites.

XI. NOISE - Would the proposal result in:

- a) ***Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?***

Less than significant impact. Noise levels within the proposed project site will increase during construction. However, the impact is temporary and will be subject to existing noise ordinances and standards set by U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The construction will not expose people to any significant increase in noise levels. Thus, the impact from severe noise levels is considered less than significant.

- b) ***Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?***

No impact. The project would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or noise. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the exposure of persons to groundborne noise and vibration.

- c) ***A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.***

No impact. There will be no substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise level due to the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on permanent noise increases.

- d) ***A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?***

Less than significant impact. During the construction phase of the project, there will be a nominal increase in existing noise levels due to construction and transportation of material to and from the project site. Construction activities will be limited to normal County and/or City regulated hours. Due to the short-term nature of the project, the impact from ambient noise levels will be less than significant.

- e-f) ***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 or 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?***

No impact. The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of an airport land or a private airstrip.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the proposal:

- a) ***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)?***

No impact. The proposed project will not induce a population growth, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the project will not induce a significant population growth.

- b-c) ***Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere or displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?***

No impact. The proposed project will not displace existing houses or people, creating a demand for replacement housing. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the construction of replacement housing.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICE - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Would the project 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: Fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities?***

No impact. The project will not affect public service and will not result in a need for new or altered governmental services in fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. The project will not have an impact on fire or police protection services as a result of new or physically altered governmental facilities.

XIV. RECREATION - Would the proposal:

- a) ***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?***

No impact. The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks.

- b) ***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?***

No impact. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project will require transportation of construction equipment and materials to the project site. This could minimally increase the existing traffic. However, the impact would be only during construction of the proposed project and is, therefore, temporary. Thus, the impact of the proposed project on substantial traffic increases is considered to be less than significant.

- b) ***Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?***

No impact. The proposed project will not exceed a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for roads or highways in the project area.

- c) ***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?***

No impact. The proposed project will have no impact on air traffic patterns.

- d) ***Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve any design features or incompatible uses constituting safety hazards.

- e) ***Result in inadequate emergency access?***

No impact. The proposed project is located within the channel and, therefore, will have no impact on emergency access.

- f) ***Result in inadequate parking capacity?***

No impact. The proposed project will not result in the need for more parking. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on parking capacity.

- g) ***Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?***

No impact. The proposed project would not conflict with any adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?***

No impact. The project will not result in contamination or an increase in discharge of wastewater that might affect wastewater treatment. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

- b) ***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?***

No impact. The proposed project will not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

- c) ***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?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project consists of constructing rock groins. The project will not require or result in the construction or expansion of new storm water drainage facilities beyond the scope of the project. Therefore, impact on the construction of new storm water drainage facilities would be less than significant.

- d) ***Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?***

No impact. The proposed project will not result in a need for additional water supplies. Therefore, the project will have no impact on existing water supply entitlements and resources.

- e) ***Result in a 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?***

No impact. No increase in the number of wastewater discharge facilities will occur as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on wastewater treatment.

- f) ***Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?***

No impact. The proposed project will not generate any significant amount of solid waste. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on landfill capacity.

- g) ***Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?***

No impact. The project would comply with all Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - Would the proposal:

- a) ***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 or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

No impact. Based on findings in this environmental review, the proposed project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and 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 California history.

- b) ***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?)***

No impact. The proposed project would not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulative considerable.

- c) ***Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?***

No impact. The proposed project would not have a direct or indirect detrimental environmental impact on human beings.

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