COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU, Acting Director

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
http://dpw.lacounty.gov

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

August 12, 2008

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:

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT NO. 469–WOODLEY AVENUE DRAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT THE COMMUNITY OF VAN NUYS IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

This action is to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and authorize the Department of Public Works to proceed with the Project No. 469–Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement project in the community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles.

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 install a high performance turf reinforcement mat in a soft-bottom channel section of Project No. 469–Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement project, together with any comments received during the public review period; find that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of your Board; adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, finding that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation; find on the basis of the whole record before your Board that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment; and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

2. Approve the project and authorize the Acting Director of Public Works or his designee to proceed with the preconstruction phase of the project, including approval of design plans and obtaining all necessary permits.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and authorize the Department of Public Works (Public Works) to proceed with this project to install a High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM) in a soft-bottom channel section of Project No. 469–Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement project.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Service Excellence (Goal 1) and Community Services (Goal 6). This action will prevent ponding of stagnant water and eliminate conditions for mosquito breeding, thereby improving the quality of life in the County of Los Angeles (County).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The estimated construction contract cost for the project is in the range of $380,000 to $430,000. A construction contract will be advertised for bids at a later date, contingent upon your Board's approval of this action. Funding for construction of the project is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Flood Fund Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of the project is to improve drainage and rectify maintenance problems in the Project No. 469–Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement project.

An environmental impact analysis/document is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirement that is to be used in evaluating the environmental effects of this project and should be considered in the approval of this project. As the project administrator, Public Works is also the lead agency in terms of meeting the requirements of CEQA.

The project involves regrading a section of the soft-bottom channel portion of Project No. 469–Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement project to install a HPTRM. This is a pilot project to test the long term effectiveness of this HPTRM channel stabilization method in lieu of lining the channel with concrete or placing riprap along the channel invert and banks.

Based upon the Initial Study of Environmental Factors, it was determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, adoption of the MND is recommended.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

An Initial Study was prepared for this project in compliance with CEQA. The Initial Study identified potential significant effects of the project to biological resources. Prior to the release of the proposed MND and Initial Study for public review, revisions in the project were made or agreed to which would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur. The Initial Study and project revisions showed that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the County, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the Initial Study and project revisions, a MND was prepared for this project.

A Public Notice was published in the *Daily News* on March 18, 2008, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092. Comments were received from Native American Heritage Commission. Responses to those comments are included in the Final MND. The agency has been notified of your Board's meeting date for this environmental document.

A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan consistent with the conclusions and recommendations of the MND has been prepared. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan identifies in detail the manner in which compliance with the measures adopted to mitigate or avoid potential adverse impacts of the project to the environment is ensured, and its requirements have been incorporated into the project.

The documents and other materials constituting the record of the proceedings, upon which your Board's decision is based in this matter, is located at Public Works, Programs Development Division, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 11th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803. The custodian of such documents and materials is the Environmental Planning and Assessments Section of Public Works. The documentation includes the attached Draft Initial Study/MND, Final MND, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.

The project is not exempt from payment of a fee to the California Department of Fish and Game pursuant to Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code to defray the costs of fish and wildlife protection and management incurred by the California Department of Fish and Game. Upon your Board's adoption of the MND, Public Works will file a Notice of Determination in accordance with Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code and pay the required filing and processing fees with the Registrar-Recorder\County Clerk in the amount of $1,926.75.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed project will facilitate maintenance, improve drainage, and eliminate standing water to remove a source of mosquito breeding.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works, Programs Development Division.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick V. Alcalli
for DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
Acting Director of Public Works

DDE:SA:re

Attachments (3)

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel

DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project No. 469
Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement

Prepared for:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
17671 Cowan Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92614

MARCH 2008

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Table of Contents

Section Page

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST 1
DETERMINATION 13
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS 15
I. AESTHETICS 15
II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES 16
III. AIR QUALITY 17
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES 18
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES 21
VI. GEOLOGY 23
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS 25
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY 27
IX. LAND USE PLANNING 30
X. MINERAL RESOURCES 31
XI. NOISE 31
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING 34
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES 34
XIV. RECREATION 35
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC 36
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS 38
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE 39
LIST OF PREPARERS 41
REFERENCES 42

List of Figures

Figure 1 – Site Vicinity Map 3
Figure 2 – Site Location Map 5
Figure 3 – Project Aerial Map 7
Figure 4 – Proposed Project Plan 9
Figure 5 – Jurisdictional Delineation Map 11

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

1. **Project Title:**

   Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**

   County of Los Angeles
   Department of Public Works
   900 S. Fremont Avenue
   Alhambra, CA 91803

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**

   Greg Huynh
   (626) 458-3937

4. **Project Location:**

   The Proposed Project is located in the community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles. The Proposed Project is located within the Encino–Tarzana Community Plan Area of the City of Los Angeles General Plan. More specifically, the Proposed Project runs parallel to Woodley Avenue in a north-south direction, immediately south of the intersection of Victory Boulevard and Woodley Avenue, and is located approximately one-half mile west of Interstate 405 and 1 mile north of Highway 101 (Figure 1). The Project site is located on the southwestern edge of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Van Nuys, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle in an unsectioned portion in Township 1N, Range 15W, Section 7 (Figure 2).

   The Proposed Project is located within the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area. The Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area is a regional park featuring dry-land recreational activities. Existing recreational uses within the Basin include the Balboa Sports Center, Hjelte Sports Center, Lake Balboa/Anthony C. Beilenson Park, Sepulveda Garden Center, Woodley Park, Encino Golf Course, Balboa Golf Course, and Woodley Lakes Golf Course. In addition to golf, recreational uses within these facilities include Little League and public baseball fields, cricket fields, landscaped public park space, multipurpose playfields, public tennis courts, an archery range, model airplane field, dog park, off-street bicycle trail, a wildlife refuge, and swimming and fishing in Lake Balboa. The Basin also includes the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in its northeast corner, which is home to a Japanese garden supplied with treated water from the plant. The project area, as well as the entire Basin, falls within the jurisdiction of the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan and its environmental document—the *Sepulveda Basin Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement* (1981).

5. **Proponent's Name and Address:**

   County of Los Angeles
   Department of Public Works
   900 South Fremont Avenue
   Alhambra, CA 91803

6. **General Plan Designation:**

   Open Space and Public Facilities

7. **Zoning:**

   OS-1XL and PF-1XL

8. Description of Project:

The Woodley Avenue Drain is a channel that forms part of the existing Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. Public Works proposes to re-grade a portion of a soft bottom open channel that forms part of existing Sepulveda Flood Control Basin and outlets into the Los Angeles River. The Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement involves the re-grading of a channel using high performance turf reinforcement mat (HPTRM). Approximately 1,200 feet of channel is to be re-graded. Additionally, HPTRM will be covered with topsoil and hydro-seed to promote vegetation growth. The channel has trapezoidal section and is aligned north-south to the west of Woodley Avenue.

The purpose of the project is to correct existing deficiencies of the channel. These deficiencies include erosion along the invert and stabilizers, excessive ponding of stagnant water, and heavy growth of weeds. The proposed improvements would help prevent future channel degradation. The proposed construction will take place on approximately 2.85 acres and require excavation of approximately 2,400 cubic yards of material and is expected to last approximately 60 days.

Historically, erosion problems in channels and streams were frequently mitigated by lining the channel with concrete or placing rip rap along the stream/channel invert and banks. While these methods are successful at stemming erosion in the channels and streams, they do result in a loss of riparian habitat.

Public Works is implementing this pilot project to gage the long term effectiveness of this HPTRM channel stabilization method. This pilot project will provide valuable data to determine if the HPTRM material can be installed at other erosion prone channels for channel stabilization purposes. If successful, this method will enable Public Works to stem or reduce scour and erosion in our earth lined channels and streams and minimize riparian habitat losses.

With the hydro-seed planting of the topsoil on the completed project, the pre-project riparian habitat will soon be able to be re-established with the dry weather flows. After the project is completed the streambed will be replanted with native riparian vegetation. Thus there will be no long term riparian habitat loss associated with this project.

The current maintenance of the lined channel includes the mowing/removal of vegetation on a biannual basis to maintain channel capacity under a California Department of Fish and Game permit as well as an Army Corp of Engineers Nationwide Permit. This maintenance regime will continue after the project is completed.

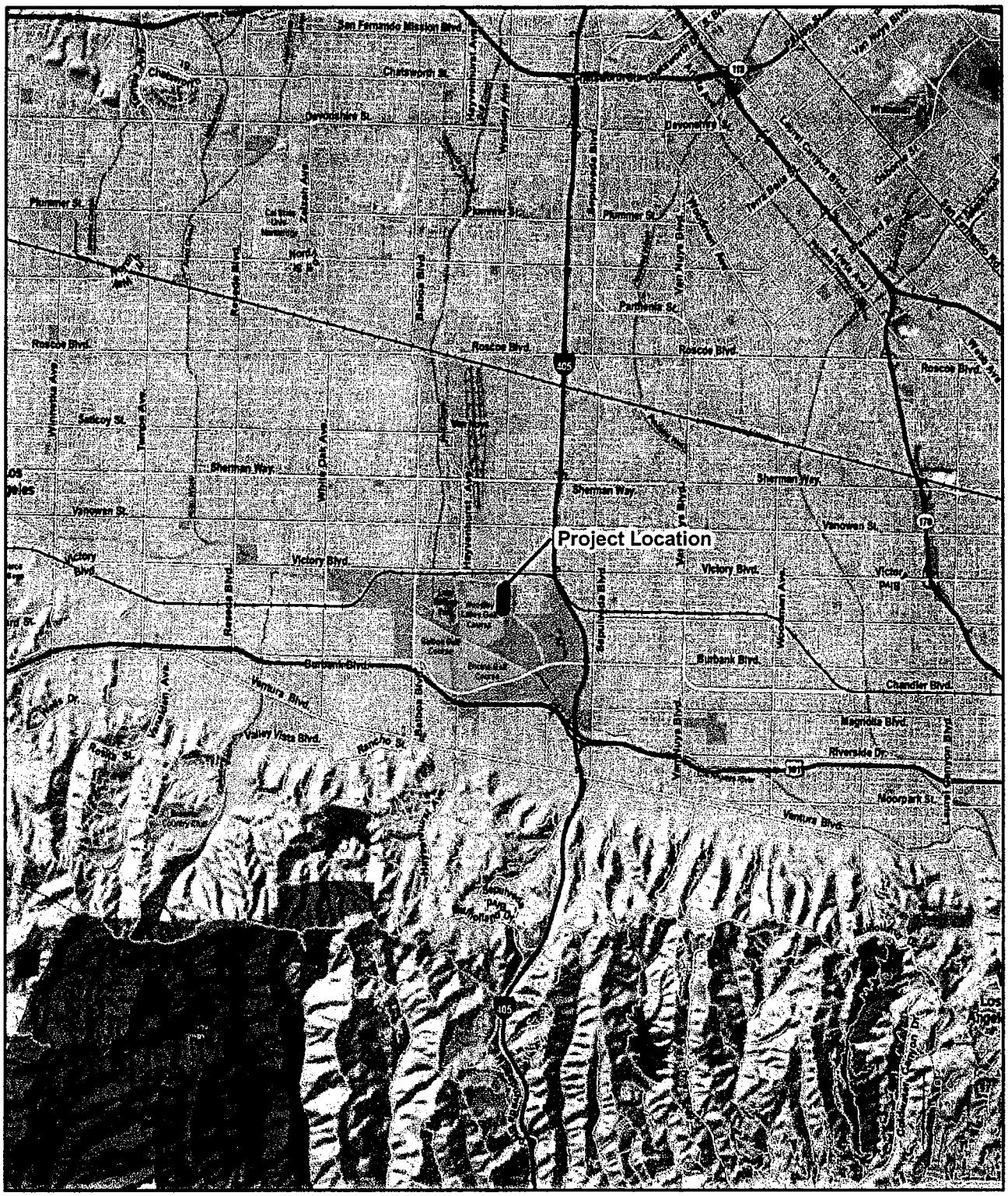
In late summer 2007, emergency vegetation clearing was conducted to facilitate the spraying of insecticides to control the mosquito population and the spread of West Nile Virus in the area.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting:

The Proposed Project would be located in the community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles. Surrounding land uses include the Woodley Lakes Golf Course to the west, Woodley Avenue and Woodley Avenue Park to the east, a residential neighborhood approximately one-eighth of a mile to the north, and the Sepulveda Dam Recreational Area to the south.

10. Other Agencies Whose Approval is Required:

Agency	Permit/Approval
California Department of Fish and Game	1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement
US Army Corps of Engineers	404 Nationwide Permit
Regional Water Quality Control Board	401 Water Quality Certification



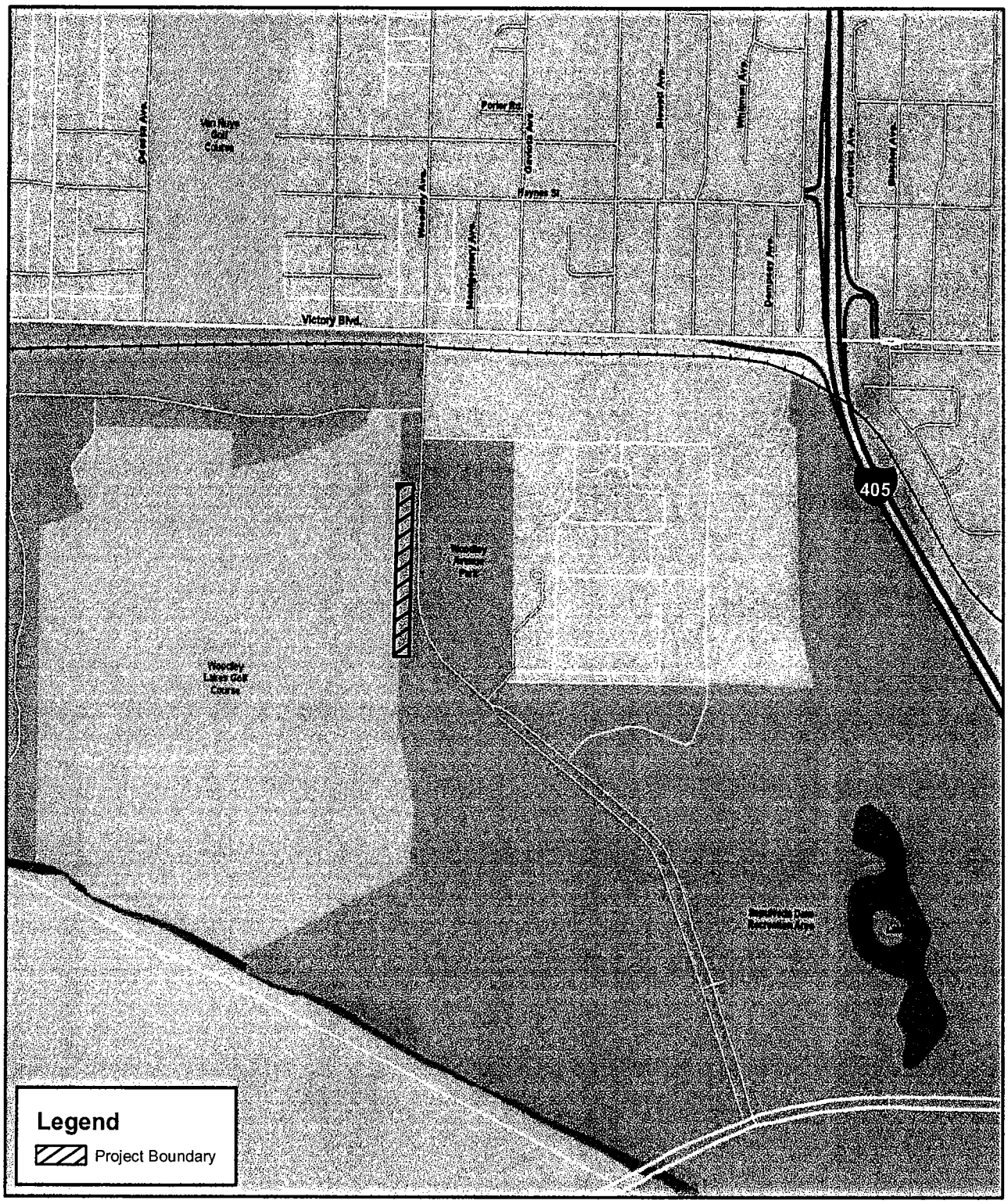
Chambers Group Inc.

N
W E
S

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

Figure 1
Site Vicinity Map

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Chambers Group Inc.

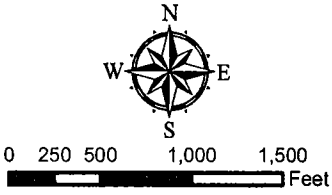
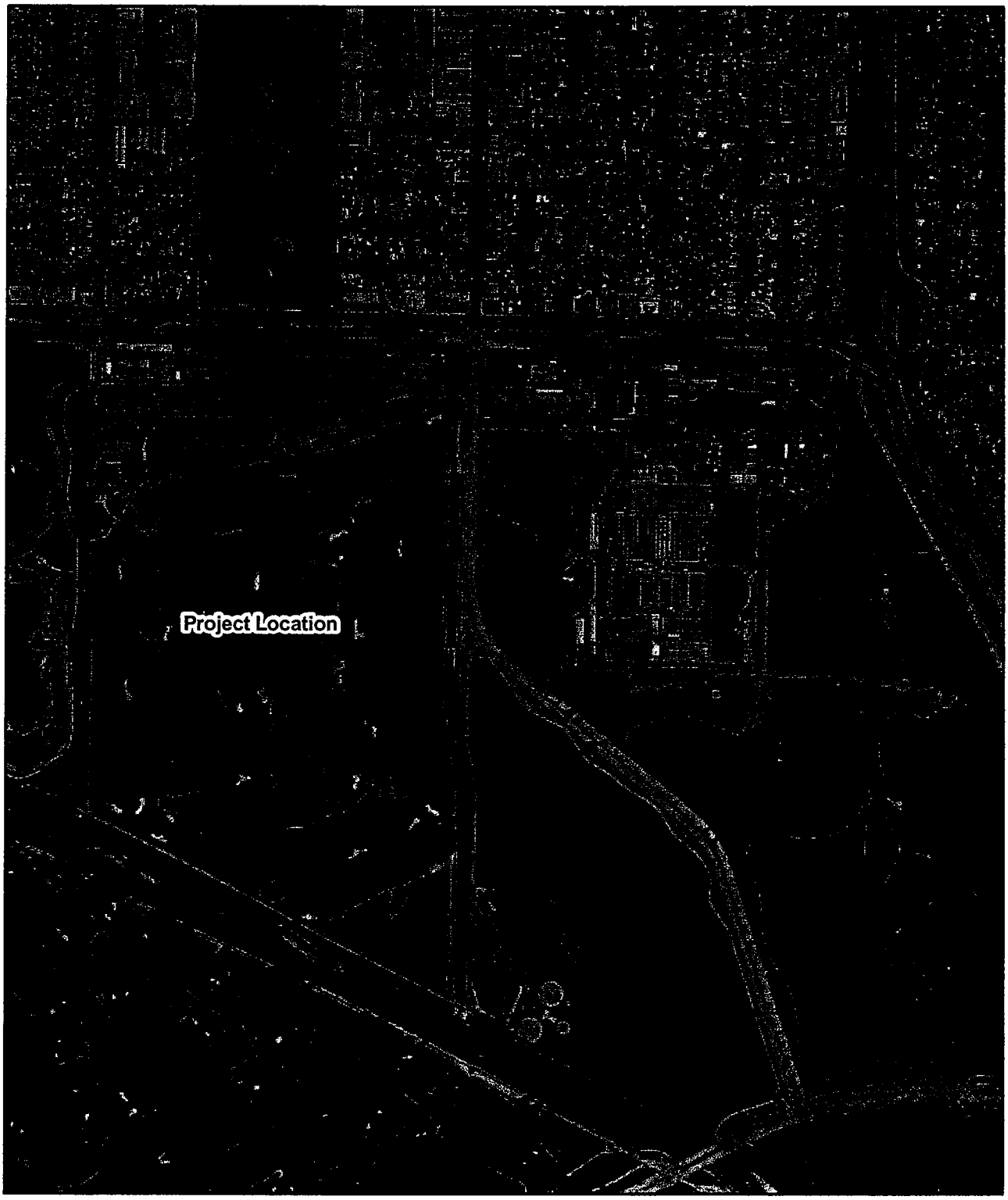


Figure 2
Site Location Map

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Chambers Group Inc.

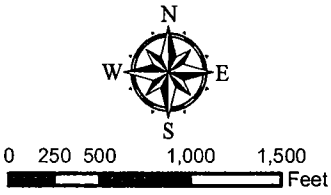
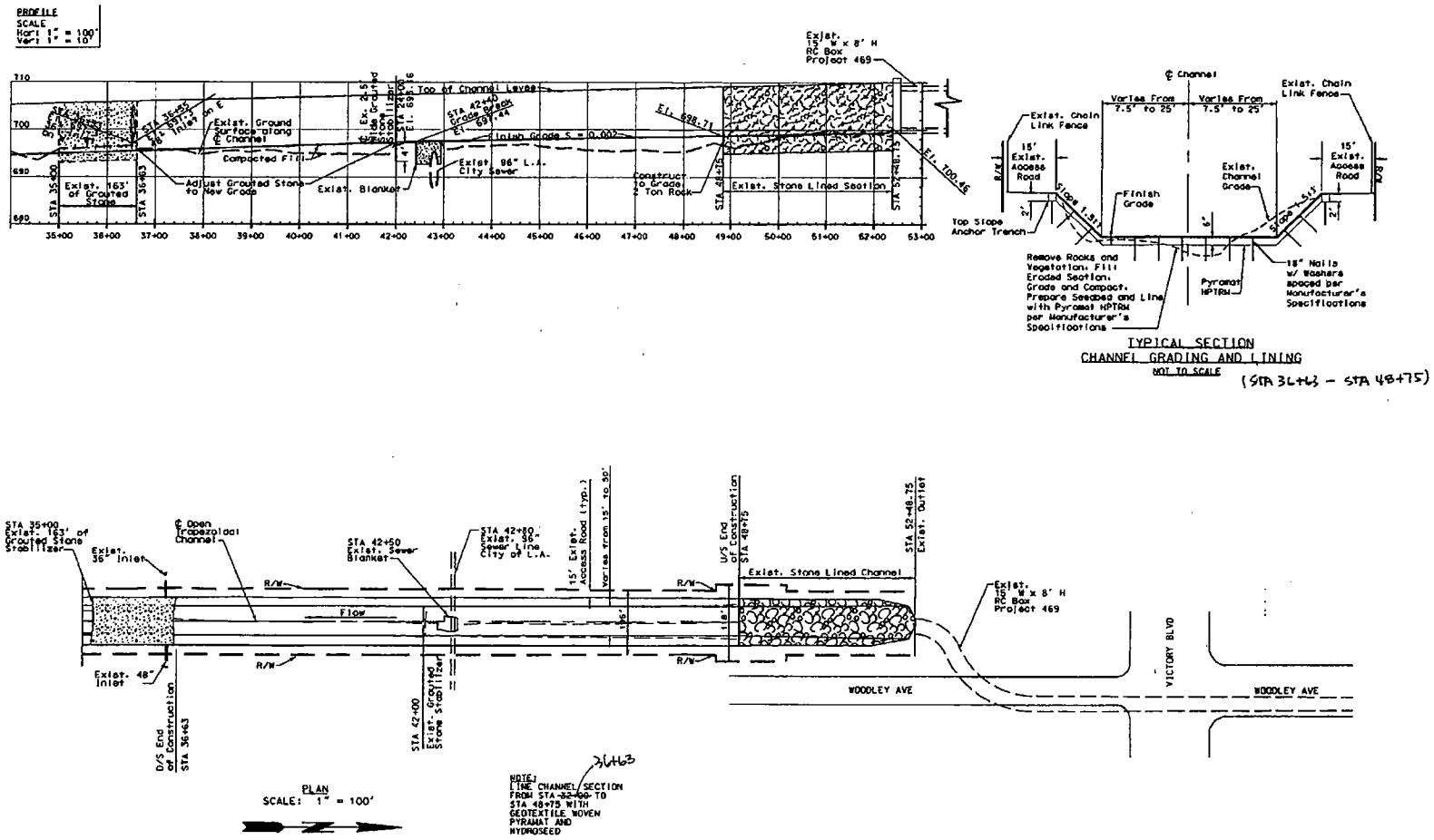


Figure 3
Project Aerial Map

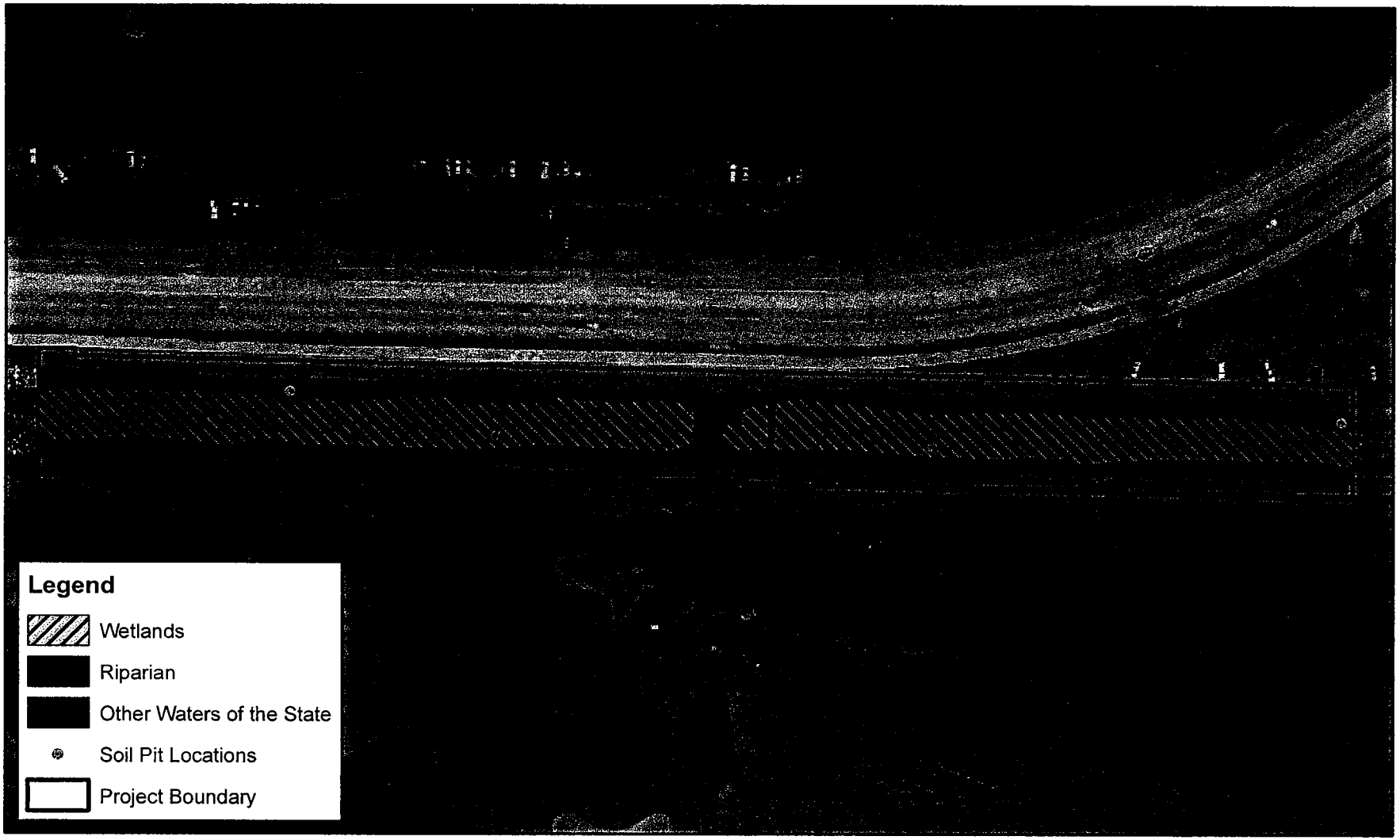
THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Chambers Group Inc.

Figure 4
Proposed Project Plan

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Chambers Group Inc.

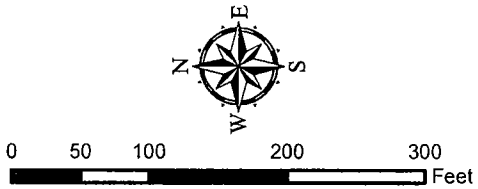


Figure 5
Jurisdictional Delineation Map

Image Source: USGS 2004

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

DETERMINATION

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 "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Hazards/Hazardous Materials	☐ Public Services
☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Recreation
☐ Air Quality	☐ Land Use and Planning	☐ Transportation/Circulation
☑ Biological Resources	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Utilities and Service Systems
☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
☐ Geology and Soils	☐ Population and Housing	

Determination

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 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____ For _____

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

I. AESTHETICS

Setting

Visually important views and scenic vistas may generally be characterized as (1) panoramic views (i.e., providing visual access to a large geographic area for which the field of view can be wide and extend into the distance) and (2) focal views (i.e., providing visual access to a particular object, scene, setting, or feature of interest). Both view types can be present in varying degrees in a given viewshed.

The Proposed Project would be located in the community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles. Surrounding land uses include the Woodley Lakes Golf Course to the west, Woodley Avenue and Woodley Avenue Park to the east, a residential neighborhood approximately one-eighth of a mile to the north, and the Sepulveda Dam Recreational Area to the south. A combination of natural habitat and man-made landscapes surround the project site with medium-high density residential immediately north of the project site.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project involves re-grading an existing soft-bottom open channel. During project construction activity, equipment and vehicles could be discernible from off-site vantage points and from adjacent properties. However, short-term construction activities would not create aesthetic impacts since there would be no obstruction of scenic views by construction equipment. In the visual context of surrounding development, visual character impacts would be temporary in nature. The project is consistent with the existing land use and would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site does contain scenic resources and is designated a scenic highway by the City of Los Angeles General Plan, Transportation Element; however, the project is not within the vicinity of any historic buildings and is not designated a State scenic highways. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) designates roadways that provide scenic views as official Scenic Highways or Corridors.[1] The project is not located near a designated State scenic highway, nor is it adjacent to local freeways or roadways that are designated or eligible scenic roadways.[2] The project would not affect the views of scenic resources. No impact would occur.

[1] California Department of Transportation. 1996. Guidelines for the Official Designation of Scenic Highways. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/shpg1.htm.

[2] California Department of Transportation. 2003. The California Scenic Highway System: A List of Eligible and Officially Designated Routes and Officially Designated State Scenic Routes. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project consists of the re-grading of a portion of existing Woodley Avenue Drain Channel. Based on the nature of the Proposed Project, the views from the surrounding neighborhoods would not be altered by the project. Therefore, the project would not substantially degrade the existing visual quality of the surrounding area and impacts would be less than significant.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project does not include the construction of any lighting, and as such, no impact would occur.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

The Proposed Project is located in the Community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles. The project location is classified as Open Space and Public Facilities according to the City's General Plan. The area does not have a history of agricultural land uses nor are there any current agricultural land uses occurring in the vicinity of the project site.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not convert Prime 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. The proposed site is not within any of the mapped farmland units designated by the California Resources Agency (California Division of Land Resource Protection, 2002). Therefore, no impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is zoned Open Space and Public Facilities according to the City's General Plan. There are no agricultural uses on the site nor is it located within an agricultural zone or bound by a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract and no impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project does not involve any conversion of land use, nor do the project limits contain any farmland or soils suitable for agricultural use. Therefore, the project would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

III. AIR QUALITY

Setting

The Proposed Project site is located in community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles, which is located in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The Basin is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The governing air quality management plan is the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan. The Basin is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east. It includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The topography and climate of Southern California combine to make the Basin an area of high air pollution potential, and constrain the District's efforts to achieve clean air. During the summer months, a warm air mass frequently descends over the cool, moist marine layer produced by the interaction between the ocean's surface and the lowest layer of the atmosphere. The warm upper layer forms a cap over the cool marine layer and inhibits the pollutants in the marine layer from dispersing upward. In addition, light winds during the summer further limit ventilation. Furthermore, sunlight triggers the photochemical reactions, which produce ozone, and this region experiences more days of sunlight than any other major urban area in the nation except Phoenix (SCAQMD, 2007).[3] The Basin is an area of extreme non-attainment for ozone, serious non-attainment for PM_{10}, and non-attainment for $PM_{2.5}$.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct applicable air quality plans. The project would neither directly or indirectly contribute to any operational emissions in excess of the threshold values established by the SCAQMD, nor would it exceed ambient air quality standards. As such, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any air quality plans. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Air Quality Management Plan of 2007 is the governing air quality plan for the project area. The project would produce dust or airborne particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) during construction activities; however, the construction activities would adhere to SCAQMD Rule 403 (SCAQMD, 2007). The Proposed Project would produce greenhouse gases during the temporary construction activities; however, the construction activities would adhere to all applicable air quality plans of the SCAQMD. The greenhouse gases produced during this short term construction

[3] 2007 Final AQMP, SCAQMD.

project are considered to be less than significant with respect to the average daily aggregate greenhouse gases produced in the South Coast Air Basin. The impacts on global warming resulting from the short term construction activity associated with this project are accordingly considered to be less than significant. These impacts would be temporary and cease upon completion of construction.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Air Quality Management Plan of 2007 is the governing air quality plan for the project area. The project would produce dust or airborne particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) during construction activities; however, the construction activities would adhere to SCAQMD Rule 403 (SCAQMD, 2007). These impacts would be temporary and cease upon completion of construction. During the operational post-construction phase the project would not result in an increase of criteria pollutants. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project may expose sensitive receptors in the neighborhood directly north of the project to construction related dust during the construction phase; however, these impacts are temporary and would have a less than significant impact.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project may expose the neighborhood directly north of project site to construction-related odors. Potential sources that may emit odors during construction activities include construction equipment and the application of materials such as asphalt pavement. The objectionable odors that may be produced during the construction phase are short term in nature and would cease upon the drying or hardening of the odor producing materials. Therefore, the impacts are temporary and would be considered less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting

Chambers Group, Inc., was retained by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works to conduct a literature review and a reconnaissance-level biological survey at the Woodley Avenue Drain (Project) site located in the City of Van Nuys. The Project site consists of five riparian vegetation communities and one scrub habitat. Other unvegetated areas were also present. The Project would require the removal of less than 0.19 acre of native riparian woodland or herbaceous vegetation. However, with the hydro-seed planting done with native riparian plant species in the topsoil of the finished project riparian habitat soon will be re-established along the project limits.

This section summarizes the findings of the surveys for the Woodley Avenue Drain Project site.

Reconnaissance-level biological surveys were conducted to identify and map the vegetation communities, to document the existing biological resources, and to assess the habitat for its potential to support sensitive plant and wildlife species on the project site.

Prior to performing the field survey, existing documentation relevant to the project site was reviewed. The most recent records of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2007) and the California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPSEI 2007), were reviewed for the quadrangles including and surrounding the Project site (Canoga Park and Van Nuys, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles). These databases contain records of reported occurrences of federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, former Federal Species of Concern (FSC), California Special Concern Species (CSC), and otherwise sensitive species or habitats that may occur within or in the immediate vicinity of the Project site. From these sources, lists of sensitive plant and wildlife species with the potential to occur within the Project site were compiled.

A reconnaissance-level survey was conducted on May 10, 2007, by Chambers Group, Inc., biologists. The objective of the reconnaissance survey was to identify and map vegetation communities and the distribution and relative abundance of general and sensitive wildlife habitats on the Project site. The survey was conducted by walking alongside the Woodley Avenue Drain and the adjacent areas and recording plant and wildlife observations on standardized field data sheets.

Of the eight special status plant species evaluated for their potential occurrence onsite, two were determined to have a low potential to occur prior to the focused survey. Due to the presence of suitable, although limited, habitat for these two species on the project site, a focused survey was conducted concurrently with the reconnaissance survey. Because both Nevin's barberry and Davidson's bush mallow are perennial shrubs and would have been conspicuous at the time of the survey, but were not observed, it was determined that these species are absent from the Project site. All other sensitive species were determined absent from the Project site due to a lack of suitable habitat within the limits of construction.

Of the eight special status wildlife species evaluated for their potential occurrence onsite, one specie had a high potential for occurrence, three species had a moderate potential for occurrence, one species had a low potential for occurrence, and three species were determined to be absent from the Project site. All of the species with a moderate or high potential to occur are CSC species and none are federal- or state-listed threatened and/or endangered. Therefore, no focused surveys are necessary for these species on the project site.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

A limited number of special status animal and plant species are known to occur in the area surrounding the project. Based on a field level reconnaissance biological survey, it was determined that no sensitive plant or wildlife species were present on the project site due to the lack of suitable habitat within the limits of construction for the project (Chambers Group, 2007). No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The Woodley Avenue Drain Project site contains approximately 1,200 linear feet of perennial channel, which comprises approximately 1.1 acres of United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction, all of which is wetland and open water. Within the immediate vicinity of the project site, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) jurisdiction consists of a total of 1.9 acre. Within that area there is 1.1 acres of wetlands and open water, and 0.8 acres of riparian habitat. Dimensions of USACE and CDFG jurisdictions within the project site are depicted on the USACE & CDFG Jurisdiction Map (Figure 5).

As currently designed, the Proposed Project would result in 1.1 acres of impacts to USACE jurisdiction, all of which are wetlands and open water, and 1.9 acres of impacts to CDFG jurisdiction, which consist of wetlands, open water, and riparian habitat.

The limits of CDFG jurisdiction, which would require 1600 permitting, are shown on the Delineation Map in dark blue (Figure 5).

Due to the impacts on wetlands and open water, an USACE Section 404 Permit is required. A less than significant impact would occur with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure BR-1.

BR-1: Based on our preliminary assessment of the Proposed Project's impacts and the relevant conditions a USACE Section 404 Permit is required for the Proposed Project as an existing flood control facility maintenance project (the Woodley Avenue Drain is a channel that forms part of the existing Sepulveda Flood Control Basin). The Proposed Project would require a pre-construction notification to the district engineer including a description of the maintenance baseline and the dredged material disposal site (Sections 10 and 404).

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The limits of USACE jurisdiction, which would require a Section 404 permit (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act) from the USACE if impacted, are shown on the Delineation Map in light blue (Figure 5). The Proposed Project would result in 1.1 acres of impacts to USACE jurisdiction, all of which are wetlands and open water, and 1.9 acres of impacts to CDFG jurisdiction, which consist of wetlands, open water, and riparian habitat. As discussed with the Army Corp of Engineers, the following mitigation measure will be incorporated by Public Works to ensure a less than significant impact to waters of the United States:

BR-2: Public Works proposes to excavate the existing hydric soil at the site and stockpile it during the channel grading work. After the rough grading is complete, Public Works will place the stockpiled hydric soil on the channel invert with 20 inches of soil below the high performance turf reinforcement mat (HPTRM) and add 3 inches above as topsoil. The soil will then be re-vegetated with the same plant species.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project consists of the re-grading of a portion of existing Woodley Avenue Drain Channel. Woodley Avenue Drain Channel is not a natural waterway for fish to travel; however, channels can allow species to migrate. During construction, species movement, if any, would be prohibited, but impacts would be temporary and cease upon completion of construction. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project site is within the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and is governed by both City and County General Plans. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. All impacts to biological resources would be temporary and would cease upon completion of construction. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is within a maintained Los Angeles County storm water channel and is not within a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or any other conservation plan area. No impact would occur.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

The project area is located in the area associated with the Gabrielino people in the historic period. Humans occupied the region around the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area about 9,000 years ago, possibly earlier (Altschul, et. al. 2003:11). There are four main periods for human occupation prior to the arrival of Europeans. These periods are the San Dieguito or Paleocoastal period (beginning about 9,000 years ago), the Millingstone period (beginning about 6,500 years ago, the Intermediate period (beginning possibly as early as 3,000 years ago) and the Late period (beginning about 1,000 years ago) (Altschul, et. al. 2003:7-26; Moratto 1984). The Intermediate period includes the desert migration known variously as the Shoshonean tradition or the Shoshonean Wedge probably beginning about 1,500 years ago, but may have been comprised of several migration periods beginning considerably earlier (Altschul, et. al. 2003:16; Moratto 1984). These migrations were probably due to extreme desiccation in the desert areas of origin in the Great Basin.

The Gabrielino peoples are descended from the Shoshonean culture migrants. This is evidenced by the language differences between the Hokan speakers (e.g., Chumash) to the north and the south of the Gabrielino. The Gabrielino are members of the Cupan speakers of the Takic family of languages which is included in the Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock (Bean and Smith 1978:538).

The Paleocoastal period peoples subsisted by hunting and probably some gathering, in the Millingstone period gathering seemed to become primary, the Intermediate period saw a return to emphasis on hunting, the Late period subsistence became more diversified with the advent of fish hooks and the bow and arrow (Altschul, et. al. 2003:18; Perry 2000:35). Paleocoastal sites would be small, probably transient sites due to a highly mobile lifestyle. Millingstone and later period sites would have become increasingly more complex and larger due to the increasing reliance on sedentary subsistence styles (i.e., fishing and gathering). These sites would have been typically found on bluffs above water resources, but lagoon shores and flood plains were also utilized (Perry 2000:34-35).

Historic European influence came to the Gabrielino culture sometime shortly after about AD 1769 when Gaspar de Portola leading the first Spanish settlers made contact with the native people of the Los Angeles Basin. The Gabrielino were ultimately relocated to the Spanish Mission San Gabriel from which the name Gabrielino is derived. The Mission San Fernando, located about 8 miles north of the proposed project area, was founded in 1797.

The Encino-Tarzana Community Plan Area consists of several distinct neighborhoods which developed as separate communities. Encino with its roots traced to early Spanish settlers, was named for its abundance of large spreading oak trees, Los Encinos. Until the winter storms of 1998, a massive oak tree approximately 1,000 years old still remained standing giving testimony to the history of the area. The city has designated one site in the community as Historic-Cultural. The site is the Los Encinos State Historic Park located along Ventura Boulevard and La Maida Street, where some of the original Hacienda still remains.

The existing drain within the project area has been covered with fill material from channel construction, thereby destroying or burying any potential resources. Mass excavation activities may potentially harm undiscovered resources, but surface-grading activities should not pose a threat.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No significant historical resources are known to occur in the project area. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐

No archaeological resources are expected to occur in the project area, and therefore substantial adverse impacts thereto resulting from the proposed project are not expected. Resources that may occur in the project area in all probability originated elsewhere upstream and were transmitted and deposited by hydrologic processes. Having been severed from their original context, the academic value of these resources would be severely diminished. In the event that archaeological resources are uncovered during the construction, a qualified archaeologist, paleontologist, and/or geologist would be contacted, depending on the importance of the find, as determined by Regional Planning and the State Historic Preservation Office, pursuant to the City of Los Angeles General Plan. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Because the project consists of shallow surface excavation along the drain channel, impacts to paleontological resources and unique geologic features are not anticipated, as these types of resources are more often found at deeper depths within the soil profile. In the event that paleontological resources or a unique geological feature is uncovered during construction, a qualified paleontologist, and/or geologist would be contacted, depending on the importance of the find, as determined by Regional Planning and the State Historic Preservation Office, pursuant to the City of Los Angeles General Plan. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Located along an existing streambed, the project is not expected to disturb human remains. In the event that human remains are encountered, construction activities will immediately cease while a coroner and qualified archaeologist are contacted to determine the origin of the remains. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) will be notified and the most likely descendant contacted. Subsequent to exhumation, the remains shall be re-interred at a location determined by the NAHC. Compliance with these measures and the rest of the regulations contained in the applicable sections of § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and § 5097.94, § 5097.98 and §5097.99 of the Public Resources Code will result in a less than significant impact related to the disturbance of human remains.

VI. GEOLOGY

Setting

The proposed project is located in the San Fernando Valley. The San Fernando Valley runs east-west and is approximately 25 miles in length by 12 miles wide. The valley is bounded on the north by the Santa Susana and San Gabriel Mountains, the Simi Hills on the west, the Verdugo Mountains on the east and the Santa Monica Mountains on the south. The valley floor generally slopes downward toward the south reflecting the greater amount of sediment deposited from the San Gabriel Mountains. The San Fernando Valley has been infilled with hundreds of feet of sediments of marine and continental origin. The Santa Susana and San Fernando Fault zones are along the northerly side of the valley. Surface soils of this area are attributed primarily to alluvial deposits which include silts, sands, gravel and boulders. The project site, as well as the entire valley, is located in a seismically active area; however, the project is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone or in a City of Los Angeles Fault Rupture Study area. The nearest fault is approximately 6.07 miles (9.76 km) away. The site does not contain oil wells and is not considered to be within a methane, fire or high wind hazard area (ZIMAS 2007).

Evaluation

			Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project 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.	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazards of surface faulting and fault rupture to built structures. Fault rupture generally occurs within 50 feet of an active fault line and is limited to the immediate area of the fault zone where the fault breaks along the surface. Since the project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Southern California is a seismically active region that is prone to earthquakes. There is a potential for the project site to experience strong seismic ground shaking in the future from local and regional faults. However, the project would be built to the standards and requirements of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and other regulations, plans, and standards. The design standards of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and other applicable regulations and plans would reduce impacts associated with strong seismic ground shaking to a less than significant level.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is located in an area designated as having high liquefaction potential because of shallow depth to groundwater. Consideration of this factor has been incorporated into the project design. No impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The topography in the project area is essentially flat making landslides there impossible. No impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The project would be constructed within an existing drain channel. Therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

While the project is located in a liquefaction zone, the project would neither increase overall exposure to such an event nor increase the probability of such an event occurring. A less than significant impact would

occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project consists of the re-grading of a portion of existing Woodley Avenue Drain Channel. The project would not create a risk to life or property. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project does not involve the construction or installation of septic tanks or other wastewater disposal systems. No impact would occur.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Setting

The Proposed Project is located in the community of Van Nuys, Los Angeles County, CA. The Project site is located upstream of the Sepulveda Dam within the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. The project is an existing open water drain. Water that flows through the channel is primarily stormwater runoff, which usually includes runoff from surface streets. Street runoff often includes chemicals from automobiles.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines and regulates hazardous waste under the regulatory authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Hazardous wastes are discarded materials that are so classified because of the public health and safety concerns they pose. The EPA specifically classifies the residual remaining in a container that has held hazardous materials or substances as hazardous waste.

Hazardous or flammable substances that may be used during the construction phase of the project would include vehicle fuels and oils for the operation of heavy equipment. Diesel and/or other construction equipment and vehicle fuels would be used; however, the transport, storage, and usage of hazardous materials such as fuels are regulated by the State and would be in compliance with all State regulations during construction.

The Proposed Project consists of the re-grading of a portion of existing Woodley Avenue Drain Channel. While the project could possibly divert water contaminated with runoff from local roadways, future water quality in the channel is expected to be similar to that of existing conditions. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not 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.

Hazardous or flammable substances that may be used during the construction phase of the project would include vehicle fuels and oils for the operation of heavy equipment. Diesel and/or other construction equipment and vehicle fuels would be used; however, the transport, storage, and usage of hazardous materials such as fuels are regulated by the State and would be in compliance with all State regulations during construction. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project consists of the re-grading of a portion of existing Woodley Avenue Drain Channel and would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The nearest school is Bassett Elementary School, located over three quarters of a mile from the project site. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not be located on a site included on a list of hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, no impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located approximately 0.75 miles south of Van Nuys Airport; however, the project is not included as part of the Van Nuys Airport land use plan (Van Nuys Airport Master Plan, 2005) and does not have the potential to result in an aviation-related safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located approximately 0.75 miles south of Van Nuys Airport; however, the project does not have the potential to result in an aviation-related safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g)	Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Project construction and operations activities would not alter local or regional emergency response or emergency evacuation routes since no temporary lane or roadway closures are planned. All construction vehicle and equipment staging will be accommodated on-site, and no roadway improvements are necessary for project implementation. The project would occur in an existing drainage channel, outside of the emergency response planning and emergency evacuation areas. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
h)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is not located in an area of any appreciable urban-wildland interface. The project is located in a recreational area but would not expose people or structures to a greater risk of fire related damage, injury, or death in excess of existing levels. No impact would occur.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Setting

Water quality in the project area is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Los Angeles River Basin Plan, formulated to prevent water quality degradation and to protect the beneficial uses of water, and the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California, designed specifically for the protection of ocean waters by establishing discharge requirements and prohibitions. In addition the Southwest Regional Water Quality Control Board (SWRWQCB) is responsible for implementing the EPA mandated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program locally.

Because the proposed project would be implemented within a designated flood control basin on federally-owned land, the project must comply with Executive Order 11998 (Floodplain Management), which requires all federal agencies to take actions to reduce the risk of flood loss, to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values in floodplains, and to minimize the adverse effects of floods on human safety, health, and welfare.

The City of Los Angeles Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) assures the City's compliance with this and other floodplain management objectives. The FMP is considered a future-oriented approach to planning in flood risk areas reflecting a pre-disaster planning approach that is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the City to continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS) (2001 FMP). In particular, the FMP was developed to (1) identify the City's known flood problem areas, (2) establish goals, objectives, policies and

implementation programs to reduce flooding and flood related hazards, and (3) ensure the natural and beneficial functions of its floodplains are protected.

The proposed project site is located within the designated 100-year flood zone; the parcel is identified as Zone A (City of Los Angeles Planning Department ZIMAS, 2007). However, because of the nature of the area as a flood control basin, it is within a potential inundation area for upstream flows during floods; it is also within a dam inundation area (City of Los Angeles General Plan, Safety Element, 1996).

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project area is within the Los Angeles-San Gabriel River-San Fernando-Bull Canyon Watershed boundary. The area is subject to compliance with the 1987 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (or Clean Water Act) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and its Section 402(p) that established a framework for regulating municipal, industrial, and construction stormwater discharges. The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) administers water quality control policy as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated agency. For this purpose, and to implement prescriptions of the California Water Code, the State is divided into nine administrative areas. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has jurisdiction over the proposed project area and the County of Los Angeles is the designated NPDES Principal Permittee for the area.

The Proposed Project is designed to improve runoff filtration. The project would not generate any excessive runoff or violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. In addition, the project would not contribute any significant increases in the quantity of pesticides, fertilizers, and detergents into the storm drain system. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not involve groundwater withdrawal or any activities that would affect groundwater recharge. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project 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 offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project would occur within the existing streambed and would not substantially alter existing drainage patterns in a way that would result in substantial siltation. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project 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 offsite?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project consists of the re-grading of a portion of existing Woodley Avenue Drain Channel. The purpose of the project is to correct deficiencies of the channel including erosion along the invert and stabilizers, excessive stagnant water, and to remove the heavy growth of weeds surrounding the project. The Proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or offsite. No impact.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project 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 significant change in the amount of surface runoff volumes from the proposed project is anticipated to occur. No surface water bodies are found within the project site that would be affected by the project. The nature and extent of storm water runoff ultimately discharged into the existing storm drain system would not substantially change from existing levels. In addition, no wells are planned as part as any improvements to the site and no changes in the direction of ground water are anticipated. As a result, no impacts would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is not expected to degrade water quality. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not place housing in a 100-year flood hazard area. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
h)	Would the project place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project would be located within a 100-year flood hazard area and would redirect storm water flow; however, a less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
i)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. Therefore, no impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
j)	Would the project cause or expose people and structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Inundation by seiche and tsunami are not considerable hazards in the project area, given its proximity to the ocean. Additionally, the project itself would not create structures that are particularly susceptible to damage caused thereby, and would not add to the level of exposure already experienced by people living in the project area. No impact would occur.

IX. LAND USE PLANNING

Setting

The Proposed Project is located within the Encino-Tarzana Community Plan of the City of Los Angeles General Plan. Surrounding land uses include the Woodley Lakes Golf Course to the west, Woodley Avenue and Woodley Avenue Park to the east, single family and multiple family residential neighborhoods approximately one-eighth of a mile to the north, and the Sepulveda Dam Recreational Area to the south. The Proposed Project is an existing drainage channel and is zoned Open Space – Public Facilities.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project involves re-grading an existing soft-bottom open channel and would not physically divide an established community. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No impacts to habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans would occur with the Proposed Project.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Setting

Natural mineral deposits are nonrenewable resources that cannot be replaced once they are depleted. The primary mineral resources within the City of Los Angeles are rock, gravel and sand deposits. Significant potential deposit sites have been identified by the state geologist and generally lie along the flood plain from the San Fernando Valley through the downtown. Much of the area identified has been developed with structures and is inaccessible for mining extraction. No resource extraction currently occurs on the project site. There are no known locally important mineral resources on the project site or in the immediate vicinity.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is an existing drainage channel and is not anticipated to contain mineral deposits or resources of regional or State value. The Proposed Project is not located on an active oil field. The project would be limited to the confines of the existing drainage channel and would not deplete mineral resources. No resource extraction would occur on the project site. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site has not been identified in a general plan, specific plan, or any other land use plans as a locally important mineral resource recovery site. No impact would occur.

XI. NOISE

Setting

Sound is mechanical energy transmitted by pressure waves in a compressible medium such as air. Noise as a pollutant can be defined as unwanted sound. The decibel (dB) scale is used to quantify sound intensity. Because the human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the spectrum, noise measurements are weighted more heavily within those frequencies of maximum human sensitivity in a process called "A-weighting" written as dBA.

Noise can be generated from either point sources (stationary equipment) or from a line source, such as a roadway with moving vehicles, or aircraft flying overhead. Noise decreases approximately 6dBA for every 100 feet.

Noise levels in the project area are regulated by the County of Los Angeles' Noise Ordinance. For construction activities exceeding a 20-day duration, noise levels are not to exceed 65dBA during the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at single-family residences, Monday through Saturday, and 55dBA during the nighttime hours of 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. For multiple family residences these numbers are 5dBA higher for the corresponding time periods.

Existing noise sources in the project area include vehicular traffic along Woodley Avenue and Victory Boulevard, directly adjacent to the project on the east and north of the project site respectively. Additional noise on the project site comes from the Van Nuys Airport, located approximate 0.75 miles north of the project site. Per Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular 36-3, prohibits Stage 2 aircraft from departing between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (medical emergency and military flights are exempt). Stage 3 aircraft (newer or modified jet-engine aircraft that produce less noise) are not affected by the curfew until 11 p.m.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project expose people to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project involves re-grading an existing soft-bottom open channel in a largely open area within the community of Van Nuys with relatively low traffic volumes. The generation of project-related noise would occur over the short-term for site preparation and construction activities. Excavation, trenching, and other construction activities generated by the proposed project would temporarily increase noise levels in the area. Construction workers and workers in adjacent areas are the most likely to experience the noise associated with the proposed project construction.

However, construction noise would not be significant given the context of the existing noise from air traffic from the Van Nuys Airport. The project construction noise would not conflict with the nearest residential and school uses, which are the most noise-sensitive, since they are located over one-eighth and three-quarters of a mile from the proposed construction limits respectively. Those land uses would not be adversely affected by short-term, temporary noise increases simply due to noise attenuation levels over the one-eighth and three-quarters of a mile distance.

Additionally, potential impacts would occur over a relatively short duration and would only occur during the daytime hours. Construction activities are treated separately in many community noise ordinances because they do not represent a chronic, permanent noise source. To abate the potential nuisance from construction noise, the City of Los Angeles Noise Ordinance and Public Welfare Regulations (Chapter IV of the Los Angeles Municipal Code) regulate construction noise in several ways. The standards defined by the City for construction activity noise control include the following:

Section 41.40(a) limits hours of construction activities to 7 AM to 9 PM if such activities may disturb the sleep of any persons in the vicinity. Construction activities include equipment operations, as well as equipment repair and servicing, and also the delivery of any construction materials (Ordinance No. 158 587).

Section 41.40(c) further limits hours of allowable operations from 8 AM to 6 PM on Saturday or any holiday (Ordinance No. 166 170; effective 9/29/90). Construction work is not permitted on Sundays.

Additionally, Section 112.05 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (Ordinance No. 161 564) establishes performance standards for powered equipment or tools. The maximum allowable noise level for operations within 500 feet of any residential zone is 75 dB(A) measured at 50 feet from the noise source. This restric-

tion holds unless compliance is not technically feasible even with the use of noise "mufflers, shields, sound barriers and/or other noise reduction devices or techniques."

Compliance with the City of Los Angeles Noise Ordinance and Public Welfare Regulations time limits is sufficient to maintain all construction-related noise impacts at levels that are less than significant.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project expose people to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Excessive groundborne vibration is typically caused by activities such as blasting used in mining operations, or the use of pile drivers during construction. None of those activities would occur during project construction. More common vibration sources are related to heavy equipment activities during excavation, grading, materials transport, and structural building activities. Project construction would temporarily increase those common groundborne vibration and noise levels. Despite the noise and vibration levels associated with such construction, however, it would occur at times of the day and for short enough durations that it would not be a nuisance to noise sensitive uses. Further, given their distance from the project construction limits, occupied structures would not be exposed to groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. These impacts are considered less than significant.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Once operational, the project would not create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, as noise associated with the project would be similar to those of existing levels. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in the ambient noise levels during construction that would cease upon completion, and would be attenuated to less than significant impact levels by factors related to site topography and land cover. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located approximately 0.75 miles south of Van Nuys Airport; however, the project is not included as part of the Van Nuys Airport land use plan (Van Nuys Airport Master Plan, 2005) and does not include any residential or commercial development. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located approximately 0.75 miles south of Van Nuys Airport; however, the project is not included as part of the Van Nuys Airport land use plan (Van Nuys Airport Master Plan, 2005) and does not include any residential or commercial development. No impact would occur.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Setting

The Proposed Project involves re-grading an existing soft-bottom open channel in an existing drainage system. Residential and commercial developments are located in the areas surrounding the project site.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. As a result, no impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impact would occur.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

Setting

The Proposed Project lies within the boundaries of existing public services. Below is a listing of service and provider:

Health Services:
The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services provides public health services to the project area.

Police Protection:
Law enforcement in the area is provided by the Los Angeles Police Department, Van Nuys station.

Fire Protection:
The Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Station 100, located at 6751 Louise Avenue, provides fire protection in the area of the Proposed Project.

Schools:
The Encino – Tarzana Community Plan Area is administered by the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 or the public services: Fire protection? Police protection? Schools? Parks? Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project involves re-grading an existing soft-bottom open channel and would not result in an increased need for fire and police protection services. There would be no impacts to schools, parks and other public facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated as a result of implementation of the Proposed Project.

XIV. RECREATION

Setting

The Proposed Project would be located in the community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles, California, served by the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not 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. As a result, no changes in the demand for local parks and recreation facilities are anticipated. No impacts would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. As a result, no impacts are anticipated.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Setting

The Encino-Tarzana Community Plan area is served by the 101 Freeway which runs east-west along the northern portion of the plan area and the 405 Freeway which runs north-south and forms the eastern boundary of the plan area.

Arterials that are designated as Major Highways within the plan include Ventura Boulevard, Victory Boulevard, Tampa Avenue, Reseda Boulevard (north of Ventura Boulevard) White Oak Avenue, Balboa Boulevard, Woodly Avenue, Havenhurst Avenue, Sepulveda Boulevard, and Burbank Boulevard (east of Balboa Boulevard). The Secondary Highways are Corbin Avenue, Wilbur Avenue, Lindley Avenue, Louise Avenue, Mecca Avenue, Reseda Boulevard (south of Ventura Boulevard), Magnolia Boulevard, and Burbank Boulevard (west of Balboa Boulevard, and Oxnard Street. The plan area also includes Collector Streets.

Streets and highways shall be developed in accordance with standards and criteria contained in the Transportation Element of the General Plan and the City's Standard Street Dimensions, except where environmental issues and planning practices warrant alternate standards consistent with street capacity requirement.

The Project site is served by Woodley Avenue and Victory Boulevard, both designated as Major Class Highways according to the Encino-Tarzana Community Plan. It is the City's objective that the traffic level of service (LOS) on the street system in the community not exceeds LOS D.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project 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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Construction of the project would result in a temporary increase in traffic associated with the movement of construction vehicles, equipment, and personnel on area roadways. The trucks transporting materials and worker vehicles are depicted in trips rather than number of trucks on the site at one time. The majority of the equipment would require one trip to the site and then one trip off the site. This would not result in a substantial increase in traffic. Construction vehicles and machinery would be staged in a location on the site that would minimize construction interference with normal traffic patterns. Less than significant impacts would result from construction related traffic.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would add a relatively minimal amount of construction-related trips during the construction period, and no trip increases are expected during the operational phase of the project. . Impacts to level of service would be less than significant.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns or an increase in traffic levels or location resulting in substantial safety risks. Therefore, no impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Project construction has little, if any, potential to increase traffic hazards during the construction period. Minimal pedestrian traffic is expected on the west side of Woodley Avenue during construction. If determined necessary by the County, safety barriers and/or signage could be installed during construction to direct pedestrian movements within the public right of way. In the long term, the Proposed Project would not have any permanent effects on the roadway design for Woodley Avenue, nor would it cause any permanent traffic/transportation hazards. Impacts are considered less than significant.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Fire and other emergency response access would be provided in compliance with State and local fire requirements. Neither the size nor the scope of the project would create conditions that would adversely affect access to the site during an emergency. Through traffic will be maintained at all times during construction. These measures will ensure that emergency access impacts remain less than significant.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	Would the project result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not change on-street parking capacity. Parking for construction workers would be provided within a construction staging area on the project site. No additional off-site parking would be required for the project. No impact would result.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g)	Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turn-outs, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project would not conflict with known adopted policies supporting alternative transportation. The project does not involve roadway modifications affecting any existing or future bus routes, bus turnouts, bicycle lanes, or other alternative transportation facilities.

No aspect of the project would conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. No impact would occur.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Setting

The Proposed Project will not require any utilities or services. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works operates and maintains the water system for the project area. The management of solid waste in the City of Los Angeles involves public and private refuse collection services as well as public and private operation of solid waste transfer, resource recovery, and disposal facilities. The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) provide potable water to the area.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not generate wastewater. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not 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 would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g)	Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The Proposed Project would correct deficiencies to the existing Woodley Avenue Drain, specifically the implementation of HPTRM to stabilize the channel. The Proposed Project would result in 1.1 acre of temporary impacts to USACE jurisdiction, all of which are wetlands, and 1.9 acre of CDFG jurisdiction,

consisting of wetlands, open water, and riparian habitat. The project would not result in a permanent loss of habitat nor cause a species population to decrease. A less than significant impact would occur with mitigation measures BR-1 and BR-2.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would not result in impacts that would be considered cumulatively considerable. The potential for cumulative impacts occurs when the independent impacts of the project are combined with the impacts of related projects in proximity to the project site such that impacts occur that are greater than the impacts of the project alone. As discussed above, the impacts associated with the Proposed Project are temporary in nature and would cease upon completion of construction. There are no known projects at this time in the vicinity of the Proposed Project that would contribute to cumulative impacts and therefore, it has been determined, that the project would have no impact, or impacts would be less than significant, with respect to the environmental issues.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not result in any adverse environmental effects on human beings. The project would correct deficiencies to the existing Woodley Avenue Drain, specifically the implementation of HPTRM to stabilize the channel. No impact would occur.

List of Preparers

Chambers Group, Inc.
17671 Cowan Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92614

James Smithwick Ph.D., Principal Environmental Planner

Lisa Sander Ph.D., Environmental Policy Specialist

Taylor Elliott, Staff Environmental Planner

Andrew Minor, Staff Environmental Planner

Sean Tondre, GIS Analyst

References

2007 Chambers Group, In., Draft Jurisdictional Delineation Survey for the Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement.

2007 South Coast Air Quality Management District. *Final Air Quality Management Plan.*

2003 Altschul, et. al., eds.. *At the Base of the Bluff: Archaeological Inventory and Evaluation Along Lower Centinela Creek, Marina Del Rey, California.* Redlands, California: Statistical Research, Inc.

2003 California Department of Transportation. *The California Scenic Highway System: A List of Eligible and Officially Designated Routes and Officially Designated State Scenic Routes.*

2000 Perry, Richard. Final Environmental Assessment: Ballona Wetlands, Los Angeles County, California. On file at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Los Angeles, California.

1998 City of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. *Encino-Tarzana Community Plan*

1996 California Department of Transportation. *Guidelines for the Official Designation of Scenic Highways.*

1992 County of Los Angeles. *General Plan as Amended.*

1984 Moratto, Michael J.. California Archaeology. Orlando: Academic Press.

1978 Bean, L .J. and C. R. Smith.. "Gabrielino" In Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 8: California, edited by Robert Heizer, pp. 538 – 549. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.

FINAL

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project No. 469
Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement

SCH NO. 2008031067

Prepared for:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
17671 Cowan Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92614

May 2008

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Introduction

On March 18, 2008, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works) distributed to public agencies and the general public the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement Project. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §21091 and State CEQA Guidelines §15073, a 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/MND was provided from March 18, 2008, to April 17, 2008.

Project Description

The Woodley Avenue Drain is a channel that forms part of the existing Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. Public Works proposes to re-grade a portion of a soft bottom open channel that forms part of existing Sepulveda Flood Control Basin and outlets into the Los Angeles River. The Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement involves the re-grading of a channel using high performance turf reinforcement mat (HPTRM). Approximately 1,200 feet of channel is to be re-graded. Additionally, HPTRM will be covered with topsoil and hydro-seed to promote vegetation growth. The channel has trapezoidal section and is aligned north-south to the west of Woodley Avenue.

The purpose of the project is to correct existing deficiencies of the channel. These deficiencies include erosion along the invert and stabilizers, excessive ponding of stagnant water, and heavy growth of weeds. The proposed improvements would help prevent future channel degradation. The proposed construction will take place on approximately 2.85 acres and require excavation of approximately 2,400 cubic yards of material and is expected to last approximately 60 days.

Historically, erosion problems in channels and streams were frequently mitigated by lining the channel with concrete or placing rip rap along the stream/channel invert and banks. While these methods are successful at stemming erosion in the channels and streams, they do result in a loss of riparian habitat.

Public Works is implementing this pilot project to gage the long term effectiveness of this HPTRM channel stabilization method. This pilot project will provide valuable data to determine if the HPTRM material can be installed at other erosion prone channels for channel stabilization purposes. If successful, this method will enable Public Works to stem or reduce scour and erosion in our earth lined channels and streams and minimize riparian habitat losses.

With the hydro-seed planting of the topsoil on the completed project, the pre-project riparian habitat will soon be able to be re-established with the dry weather flows. After the project is completed the streambed will be replanted with native riparian vegetation. Thus there will be no long term riparian habitat loss associated with this project.

The current maintenance of the lined channel includes the mowing/removal of vegetation on a biannual basis to maintain channel capacity under a California Department of Fish and Game permit as well as an Army Corp of Engineers Nationwide Permit. This maintenance regime will continue after the project is completed.

In late summer 2007, emergency vegetation clearing was conducted to facilitate the spraying of insecticides to control the mosquito population and the spread of West Nile Virus in the area.

Environmental Setting/Existing Land Uses

The Proposed Project is located in the community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles. The Proposed Project runs parallel to Woodley Avenue in a north-south direction, immediately south of the intersection of Victory Boulevard and Woodley Avenue, and is located approximately one-half mile west of Interstate 405 and 1 mile north of Highway 101. The Project site is located on the southwestern edge of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Van Nuys, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle in an

unsectioned portion in Township 1N, Range 15W, Section 7.

The Proposed Project site is zoned OS-1XL and PF-1XL and has a General Plan Designation of Open Space and Public Facilities.

Surrounding Land Uses

The Proposed Project would be located in the community of Van Nuys in the City of Los Angeles. Surrounding land uses include the Woodley Lakes Golf Course to the west, Woodley Avenue and Woodley Avenue Park to the east, a residential neighborhood approximately one-eighth of a mile to the north, and the Sepulveda Dam Recreational Area to the south.

Findings

An Initial Study has been prepared to assess the Proposed Project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts and is incorporated in the Draft MND. Based on this Initial Study, it has been determined that the Proposed Project would not have any significant impacts on the environment. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- There was no potential for adverse impacts on aesthetics, agricultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, or utilities and service systems associated with the Proposed Project.

- Potential adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project were found to be less than significant in the following areas: air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, noise, and transportation/traffic.

- Full implementation of the proposed mitigation measures included in this MND would reduce potential project-related adverse impacts on biological resources to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures and project conditions have been incorporated into the scope of work for the Woodley Avenue Drainage Project and will be fully implemented by LACDWP to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts identified in this MND. These mitigation measures will be included in a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP).

BR-1: Based on our preliminary assessment of the Proposed Project's impacts and the relevant conditions a USACE Section 404 Permit is required for the Proposed Project as an existing flood control facility maintenance project (the Woodley Avenue Drain is a channel that forms part of the existing Sepulveda Flood Control Basin). The Proposed Project would require a pre-construction notification to the district engineer including a description of the maintenance baseline and the dredged material disposal site (Sections 10 and 404).

BR-2: Public Works proposes to excavate the existing hydric soil at the site and stockpile it during the channel grading work. After the rough grading is complete, Public Works will place the stockpiled hydric soil on the channel invert with 20 inches of soil below the high performance turf reinforcement mat (HPTRM) and add 3 inches above as topsoil. The soil will then be re-vegetated with the same plant species.

CEQA REQUIREMENTS REGARDING COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (b) outlines parameters for submitting comments, and reminds persons and public agencies that the focus of review and comment of negative declarations should be, "on the proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. If persons and

public agencies believe that the project may have a significant effect, they should: (1) Identify the specific effect; (2) explain why they believe the effect would occur, and; (3) Explain why they believe the effect would be significant."

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (c) further advises, "Reviewers should explain the basis for their comments, and should submit data or references offering facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert opinion supported by facts in support of the comments. Pursuant to Section 15064, an effect shall not be considered significant in the absence of substantial evidence." Section 15204 (d) also states, "Each responsible agency and trustee agency shall focus its comments on environmental information germane to that agency's statutory responsibility." Section 15204 (e) states, "This section shall not be used to restrict the ability of reviewers to comment on the general adequacy of a document or of the lead agency to reject comments not focused as recommended by this section."

In accordance with Public Resources Code 21092.5 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency shall notify any public agency which comments on a negative declaration, of the public hearing or hearings, if any, on the project for which the negative declaration was prepared. If notice to the commenting public agency is provided pursuant to Section 21092, the notice shall satisfy the requirement of this subdivision.

Comments and Response to Comments Received on the Draft ND

This section provides responses to written comments received during the 30-day public review period.

All comments on the Draft IS/ND, and their responses, are presented and organized as follows:

- A table summarizing the written comments received on the Draft IS/ND;
- Responses to comments received; and
- Complete copies of written comments received.

CEQA §21091(f) and State CEQA Guidelines §15074 state that the Lead Agency (District) must consider the MND together with any comments received before approving the project. Formal responses to comments are not required for an IS/MND. However, adequate information should be in the record explaining why the comment does not affect the conclusion that there are no potential significant effects. This document serves this purpose and is considered part of the record for the Proposed Project.

Comments Received on the Draft IS/MND

This section provides a summary of written comments received during the public review period on the Draft IS/MND, as well as a complete copy of the written comments received. Table 1 indicates the number assigned to each comment letter received on the Draft IS/MND, commenter name, date of correspondence, comment number assigned to each comment, and the topic for each written comment. The letters are numbered sequentially by commenter. The letter number is then used as the prefix for individual comments, which are also numbered sequentially after the prefix. Each letter has been scanned and included for reference.

Table 1
Written Comments Received on the Draft IS/MND

Letter	Commenter/Agency	Date	Comment Number	Comment Topics
1	Dave Singleton, Program Analyst, Native American Heritage Commission	April 1, 2008	1.1-1.6	Cultural and Historic Resources

This section includes a written response to all comments received on the Draft IS/MND. The responses are provided in the order in which they are presented in Table 1. For referral purposes, this section also provides a complete copy of the written comments received on the Draft IS/MND. Each comment letter is produced in its entirety, including attachments.

LETTER 1 – NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION, DAVE SINGLETON, PROGRAM ANALYST. APRIL 1, 2008.

Response to Comments 1.1 through 1.6:

Located along an existing streambed and in an area that has been greatly altered from its original state, archaeological resources, paleontological resources, unique geologic features, and human remains are not anticipated to occur in the project area. The area was trenched during the original construction of the drain, effectively removing any cultural resources that may have been in the soil to a depth of up to 15 feet below the existing ground surface.

In addition, as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the evaluation of existing archaeological studies done in the vicinity of the project did not identify evidence of Native American artifacts being present on the project site. The MND also noted that Public Works has provisions in the project description, best management practices, and construction specifications requiring work to stop and an archaeologist, paleontologist, coroner, and/or geologist monitor to be called to the jobsite in the event Native American artifacts, paleontological resources, unique geological features, and/or human remains are identified during construction as determined by Regional Planning and the State Historic Preservation Office, pursuant to the City of Los Angeles General Plan, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and § 5097.94, § 5097.98 and §5097.99 of the Public Resources Code. Compliance with these measures would result in a less than significant impact related to cultural resources.

PPD 605

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
e-mail: ds_nahc@pacbell.net

April 1, 2008

Mr. Greg Huynh
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Re: SCH#2008031067; CEQA Notice of Completion; proposed Mitigate Negative Declaration for the Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement Project; San Fernando Valley; Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Huynh:

The Native American Heritage Commission is the state agency designated to protect California's Native American Cultural Resources. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the California Code of Regulations §15064.5(b)(c (CEQA guidelines). Section 15382 of the 2007 CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ...objects of historic or aesthetic significance." In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE)', and if so, to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess the project-related impacts on historical resources, the Commission recommends the following action:

√ Contact the appropriate California Historic Resources Information Center (CHRIS) for possible 'recorded sites' in locations where the development will or might occur.. Contact information for the Information Center nearest you is available from the State Office of Historic Preservation (916/653-7278)/ http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov. The record search will determine: 1-1

- If a part or the entire APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
- If any known cultural resources have already been recorded in or adjacent to the APE.
- If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
- If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

√ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.

- The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measurers should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for pubic disclosure. 1-2
- The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.

√ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for:

  * A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search of the project area and information on tribal contacts in the project vicinity that may have additional cultural resource information. Please provide this office with the following citation format to assist with the Sacred Lands File search request: USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle citation with name, township, range and section; .
- The NAHC advises the use of Native American Monitors to ensure proper identification and care given cultural resources that may be discovered. The NAHC recommends that contact be made with Native American Contacts on the attached list to get their input on potential project impact (APE). In some cases, the existence of a Native American cultural resources may be known only to a local tribe(s). 1-3

√ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.

- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities. 1-4
- A culturally-affiliated Native American tribe may be the only source of information about a Sacred Site/Native American cultural resource.
- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.

√ Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains or unmarked cemeteries in their mitigation plans.

* CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(d) requires the lead agency to work with the Native Americans identified by this Commission if the initial Study identifies the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains within the APE. CEQA Guidelines provide for agreements with Native American, identified by the NAHC, to assure the appropriate and dignified treatment of Native American human remains and any associated grave liens. **1-5**

√ Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98 and Sec. §15064.5 (d) of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines) mandate procedures to be followed, including that construction or excavation be stopped in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery until the county coroner or medical examiner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. Note that §7052 of the Health & Safety Code states that disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony. **1-6**

√ Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in §15370 of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines), when significant cultural resources are discovered during the course of project planning and implementation

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachment: List of Native American Contacts

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Native American Contacts
Los Angeles County
April 1, 2008

Charles Cooke
32835 Santiago Road
Acton , CA 93510

(661) 733-1812 - cell
suscol@intox.net

Chumash
Fernandeno
Tataviam
Kitanemuk

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Delia Dominguez
981 N. Virginia
Covina , CA 91722
(626) 339-6785

Yowlumne
Kitanemuk

Beverly Salazar Folkes
1931 Shadybrook Drive
Thousand Oaks , CA 91362
(805) 558-1154 - cell
805 492-7255

Chumash
Tataviam
Fe†rnandeño

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
John Valenzuela, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall , CA 91322
tsen2u@msn.com
(661) 753-9833 Office
(760) 885-0955 Cell
(760) 949-1604 Fax

Fernandeño
Tataviam
Serrano
Vanyume
Kitanemuk

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
William Gonzalaes, Cultural/Environ Depart
601 South Brand Boulevard, Suite 102
San Fernando , CA 91340
ced@tataviam.org
(818) 837-0794 Office
(818) 581-9293 Cell
(818) 837-0796 Fax

Fernandeno
Tataviam

Randy Guzman - Folkes
1931 Shadybrook Drive
Thousand Oaks , CA 91362
ndnrandy@hotmail.com
(805) 905-1675 - cell

Chumash
Fernandeño
Tataviam
Shoshone Paiute
Yaqui

LA City/County Native American Indian Comm
Ron Andrade, Director
3175 West 6th Street, Rm. 403
Los Angeles , CA 90020
(213) 351-5324
(213) 386-3995 FAX

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American with regard to cultural resources for the proposed, SCH#2008031067; CEQA Notice of Completion; Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement Project located near the intersection of Interstate 405 and U.S. Highway 101 in the San Fernando Valley ofo Los Angeles County, California.

This document, along with the Draft Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH# 2008031067); Comments and Response to Comments; Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan; and the Notice of Determination, constitute the Final Negative Declaration for the Woodley Avenue Drain Project in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

John A Burton	July 21, 2008
Signature	Date
John A. Burton	Civil Engineer
Printed Name	Title

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

Project No. 469
Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement

SCH NO. 2008031067

Prepared for:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
17671 Cowan Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92614

May 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION... 1
CEQA Requirements 1
Program Objectives 1
Overview of the Project 1
Organization of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan 1

DESCRIPTION OF PLAN... 2
Mitigation Monitoring Procedures 2
Reporting Procedures 2
Public Availability 3
Program Changes 3
Types of Mitigation Measures Being Monitored 3
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Summary 4

REPORT PREPARATION... 7

INTRODUCTION

CEQA Requirements

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that when a public agency completes an environmental document that includes measures to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects, the public agency must adopt a reporting or monitoring plan for the changes to the project that it has adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The appropriate reporting or monitoring plan must be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6).

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LACDPW) would coordinate monitoring of the implementation of all mitigation measures for the project. Monitoring will include: 1) verification that each mitigation measure has been implemented; 2) recordation of the actions taken to implement each mitigation measure; and 3) retention of records in the project file.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for the Proposed Project include the following:

- To provide assurance and documentation that mitigation measures are implemented as planned;
- To collect analytical data to assist the LACDPW administration in its determination of the effectiveness of the adopted mitigation measures;
- To report periodically regarding project compliance with mitigation measures, performance standards and/or other conditions; and
- To make available to the public, upon request, the LACDPW record of compliance with project mitigation measures.

Overview of the Project

The detailed project description and project summary table are included in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, State Clearinghouse # 2008031067.

Organization of the Mitigation Monitoring Program

The following describes the various sections of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan:

Introduction - Provides an overview of CEQA's monitoring and reporting requirements, program objectives, the project for which the program has been prepared, and the manner in which the mitigation monitoring program has been organized.

MMRP - Describes the LACDPW entities responsible for implementation of the mitigation monitoring plan, the plan scope, procedures for monitoring and reporting, public availability of documents, the process for making changes to the program, types of mitigation measures, and the manner in which monitoring will be coordinated to ensure implementation of mitigation measures.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Summary - Outlines the impacts and mitigation measures, responsible entities, and the timing for monitoring and reporting for each mitigation measure included in the plan. A form for actual use by the LACDPW and/or its assigned agents will be constructed from this information for each responsible entity.

Report Preparation - Lists the individuals involved in development of this MMRP.

DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

Mitigation Monitoring Procedures

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan delegates responsibilities for monitoring the project, and also allows responsible County entities flexibility and discretion in determining how best to monitor implementation. Monitoring procedures will vary according to the type of mitigation measure. The timing for monitoring and reporting is described in the monitoring and reporting summary table included as part of this program (see page # 4). Adequate monitoring consists of demonstrating that monitoring procedures took place and that mitigation measures were implemented.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the monitoring program, the County will utilize existing systems where appropriate. For instance, with any major construction project, the administration generally has at least one inspector assigned to monitor project construction. These inspectors are familiar with a broad range of regulatory issues and will provide first line oversight for much of the monitoring program.

Responsibilities of the LACDPW include identification of typical mitigation measure-related issues such as noisy equipment, dust, safety problems, etc. Any problems are generally corrected through directions to the contractors, or through other appropriate, established mechanisms. Internal reporting procedures are already in place to document any problems and to address broader implementation issues.

Reporting Procedures

The LACDPW would be responsible for monitoring and implementing the mitigation measures included in this monitoring plan.

Reporting consists of establishing a record that a mitigation measure is being implemented, and generally involves the following steps:

- LACDPW distributes reporting forms to the appropriate County office (as indicated in the summary form) or employs the office's existing reporting process for verification of compliance.
- Responsible entities verify compliance by signing the monitoring and reporting form and/or documenting compliance using their own internal procedures when monitoring is triggered.
- Responsible entities provide LACDPW with verification that monitoring has been conducted and ensure, as applicable, that mitigation measures have been implemented.
- LACDPW prepares construction activities reports during the construction phase and incorporates project reports, as appropriate, into the periodic reports summarizing all district mitigation monitoring efforts.

The project-specific reporting forms prepared by LACDPW document the implementation status of mitigation measures for the project. The progress reports describe the monitoring status of all project

mitigation measures. Project reporting forms and periodic status reports will be available at the LACDPW office.

The LACDPW would also be responsible for assisting with reporting responsibilities to ensure that they understand their charge and complete their reporting procedures accurately and on schedule.

Public Availability

All monitoring reporting forms, summaries, data sheets, and correction instructions related to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement Project would be available for public review upon request at the County during normal business hours.

Program Changes

If minor changes are required to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, they would be made in accordance with CEQA and would be permitted after further review by the County. Such changes could include reassignment of monitoring and reporting responsibilities and/or redesign to make any appropriate improvements. No change would be permitted unless the mitigation monitoring and reporting plan continues to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21081.6.

Types of Mitigation Measures Being Monitored

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the LACDPW Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement is a "project-specific" evaluation as defined in the CEQA Guidelines.

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration recommends two project specific mitigation measures to reduce impacts related to biological resources during construction. Compliance with these mitigation measures will be accomplished through administrative controls over project planning and implementation, in this case, through incorporation of specific construction methods, and verification of construction in accordance with these special provisions. Monitoring would be accomplished as described previously under "Reporting Procedures" through verification and certification by personnel.

In general, implementation of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan will require the following actions:

- Appropriate mitigation measures would be included in construction documents.
- Departments with reporting responsibilities would review the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, which provides general background information on the reasons for including specified mitigation measures.
- Problems or exceptions to compliance would be addressed by LACDPW as appropriate.
- Periodic meetings may be held during project implementation to report on compliance with mitigation measures.

Woodley Avenue Drain Improvement Project
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING SUMMARY

Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Entity	Monitoring Triggers	Frequency of Reporting
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
The Proposed Project would 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. As currently designed, the Proposed Project would result in 1.1 acres of impacts to USACE jurisdiction, all of which are wetlands and open water, and 1.9 acres of impacts to CDFG jurisdiction, which consist of wetlands, open water, and riparian habitat. Due to the impacts on wetlands and open water, an USACE Section 404 Permit is required. A less than significant impact would occur with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure BR-1.	**BR-1:** Based on the preliminary assessment of the Proposed Project's impacts and the relevant conditions, a USACE Section 404 Permit is required for the Proposed Project as an existing flood control facility maintenance project (the Woodley Avenue Drain is a channel that forms part of the existing Sepulveda Flood Control Basin). The Proposed Project would require a pre-construction notification to the district engineer including a description of the maintenance baseline and the dredged material disposal site (Sections 10 and 404).	LACDPW	2 & 3	Once
The Proposed Project would project 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. As discussed with the Army Corp of Engineers, mitigation measure BR-2 would be incorporated by Public Works to ensure a less than significant impact to waters of the United States.	**BR-2:** Public Works proposes to excavate the existing hydric soil at the site and stockpile it during the channel grading work. After the rough grading is complete, Public Works would place the stockpiled hydric soil on the channel invert with 20 inches of soil below the high performance turf reinforcement mat (HPTRM) and add 3 inches above as topsoil. The soil would then be re-vegetated with the same plant species.	LACDPW	2,3,4	Multiple

Monitoring Triggers

1 Planning Stage (schematic design and design development)
2 Pre-Construction
3 Construction
4 Commencement of Operation
5 On-going through Project Operations

Responsible Entity

LACDPW – Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

REPORT PREPARATION

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan was prepared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works with the assistance of Chambers Group Inc. The following individuals participated in report preparation:

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

John Burton, Project Manager

Chambers Group, Inc.

James Smithwick, Director of Environmental Planning

Paula Fell, Senior Environmental Planner

Taylor Elliott, Environmental Planner