



PUBLIC NOTICE

Ballona Creek Channel – Geotechnical Investigation for Ballona Creek Trash Capture Project

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT**

BUILDING STRONG®

Public Notice No.: 408-SPL-PN-2020-0016

Permit No.: 408-SPL-2020-0016

Comment Period: 2020-06-01 to 2020-06-30

Requester: In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), has requested permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Ballona Creek Channel.

Location:

The proposed action would conduct geotechnical investigations via borings and wells inside Ballona Creek Channel at the western terminus of Alla Road south of Marina Freeway (Highway 90) and east of Culver Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. The proposed features are in-river, which will require construction within the channel.

Requester's Proposed Action:

LACFCD is proposing to conduct geotechnical investigation within Ballona Creek Channel, to include a combination of Cone Penetration Tests (CPT), hollow stem auger (HSA) borings, mud rotary borings (MR), groundwater monitoring and pumping well installation, and a pump test for dewatering recommendations. CPTs and borings are planned on the levee crest and within the creek and will be backfilled with cement-bentonite grout. Groundwater monitoring and pumping wells will be installed on the levee crest. Soil samples will be collected from the borings for classification and tested to determine their engineering properties. In addition, soil and groundwater samples will be collected for environmental screening for material handling protocol during construction. CPTs are proposed to 100 feet below ground surface (bgs) or refusal, whichever occurs first. Spoils will not be generated from the CPTs and all CPT locations will be backfilled with cement-bentonite grout to surface. Soil borings, both HSA and MR, are proposed to 75 feet bgs. Drilling within the creek will require specialized barge-mounted equipment for over-the-water drilling; the proposed CPTs and borings within the creek will be to the depths previously mentioned. Groundwater is anticipated to be shallow. Sampling will be every 5 vertical feet, unless otherwise directed by the field geologist or engineer during drilling. Soil cuttings, mud/water generated from the HSA and MR borings will be placed into 55-gallon drums and disposed offsite. If a boring is left overnight or unsupervised for an extended period, it will be appropriately covered and marked to prevent damage to the borehole, injury to pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or contamination from surface run off, until it can be properly backfilled.

For dewatering testing, four (4) monitoring wells and two (2) pumping wells are proposed to be installed. All wells will be considered temporary and will be constructed to State of California Department of Water Resources Standards to the extent possible for their intended function. The two pumping wells will be constructed with 8-inch diameter Schedule 40 PVC casings in 14-inch diameter borings to approximately 80-foot depths; however, depending on encountered conditions they may be drilled deeper. Perforation intervals, slot size, filter pack gradation and surface seal will be designed after the preliminary exploratory borings have been completed and assessed. Wells will be located along approximately 200 feet of the levee crest and spaced between 25 to 40 feet apart. The monitoring wells will be used to measure the groundwater surface depression created by the pumping wells and will be constructed with 4-inch diameter Schedule 40 PVC casing in 8- to 10-inch diameter borings to approximately 50-foot depths, but may be as deep as the pumping wells. Perforation intervals, slot size, filter pack gradation, and surface seal will be designed after the preliminary exploratory borings have been completed and assessed.

The channel dimensions would not be altered and the existing channel would operate as under existing conditions. The proposed work will not affect the existing operation of the Ballona Creek Channel. Drilling is expected to occur during normal business hours Monday through Friday unless required otherwise by permits. CPT's, HSA and MR Borings are anticipated to take one month to complete, and dewatering testing is anticipated to take two months to complete.

The purpose of the geotechnical investigation work of the current permit application is to determine the site conditions, which is needed to design the larger trash capture project for a more robust trash abatement solution within Ballona Creek.

Authority: The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation or alteration of any USACE Civil Works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 USC 408 ("Section 408"). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The Secretary of Army's authority under Section 408 has been delegated to the USACE, the Chief of Engineers. The Chief of Engineers has further delegated the authority to the USACE, Directorate of Civil Works and Division and District Engineers, depending upon the nature of the activity.

Limits of Section 408 Authority: A requester has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC Section 1344), and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 USC 1413). The compliance determination for any Section 10/404/103 permit decision associated with the proposed alteration will also address the Section 408 compliance determination. In addition, an approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

Consideration of Comments: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State and local agencies and officials, and other interested parties. Comments will be made part of the record, and they will be considered before permission is granted to proceed with this action. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that would be directly or indirectly affected by the alteration described in this public notice.

Submission of Comments: Interested parties may submit, in writing, any comments concerning this proposal. Comments should reference public notice no. 408-SPL-PN-2020-0016 and be forwarded by the comment due date of June 30, 2020. Comments must be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Engineering Division, ATTN.: Priyo Majumdar, 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930, Los Angeles, California 90017-3409. Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to Priyodarshi.Majumdar@usace.army.mil.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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