



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Geotechnical borings in Los Angeles River, Rio Hondo, and San Gabriel River Channels for West Santa Ana Branch Transportation Corridor.

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

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**Public Notice No.:** 408-SPL-PN-2021-0014

**Permit No.:** 408-SPL-2021-0014

**Comment Period:** 2021-08-31 to 2021-09-30

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**Requester:** In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), through Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), has requested permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Los Angeles River Channel, Rio Hondo Channel, and San Gabriel River Channel.

**Location:**

The proposed action would conduct geotechnical borings in Los Angeles River Channel near the intersection of Tweedy Boulevard and Burtis Street in the city of South Gate, in Rio Hondo Channel south of Miller Way and north of Meadow Road in the city of South Gate, and in San Gabriel River Channel east of the intersection of Borwick Street and Palo Verde Avenue in the city of Bellflower, all in Los Angeles County, California. The proposed features are in-river, which will require construction within the channel.

**Requester's Proposed Action:**

LACMTA is proposing to drill four geotechnical borings in Los Angeles River Channel, two geotechnical borings in Rio Hondo Channel, and four geotechnical borings in San Gabriel River Channel.

At each boring location, samples will be taken at varying intervals based on depth and soil structure. The borings will be drilled adjacent to the existing bent locations of existing bridges. At each boring location, a sample will be taken of the spoils, and then the spoils will be contained in barrels and stored offsite while awaiting test results. Once testing is complete, spoils will be sent to an appropriate upland disposal facility.

The geotechnical boreholes will measure less than 1-foot in diameter and will be drilled to a maximum depth of 150 feet below the ground surface. The total volume of excavated material for all of the boreholes will not exceed 50 cubic yards of soil. The holes would be backfilled with a cement/sand slurry, and then covered with grout/or ready-mix concrete surface plugs to mimic the existing concrete-lined channels, restoring the areas to pre-activity contours and conditions.

The purpose of the project is to design the proposed West Santa Ana Branch Transportation Corridor, a new light rail transit line connecting downtown Los Angeles to southeast Los Angeles County. The geotechnical data would be needed to complete the preliminary engineering design of the three river crossing structures proposed as part of this light rail transit line.

**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.

**Environmental Compliance:** A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore, subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. While USACE is responsible for ensuring environmental compliance, the requester is responsible for providing all information that the Los Angeles District identifies as necessary to satisfy all applicable federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and procedures. NEPA and other analysis completed to comply with other environmental statutes (e.g., Endangered Species Act) should be commensurate with the scale and potential effects of the activity that would alter the USACE project. The Los Angeles District will work with the requester to determine the requirements, which will be scaled to the likely impacts of the proposed alteration and should convey the relevant considerations and impacts in a concise and effective manner. Comments received on this public notice will be used in the evaluation.

**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-2021-0014 and be forwarded by the comment due date of September 30, 2021. 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](mailto:Priyodarshi.Majumdar@usace.army.mil).

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

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[WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/SECTION-408-PERMITS](http://WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/SECTION-408-PERMITS)