



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Ventura River Levee – exploratory geotechnical borings.

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

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**Public Notice No.:** 408-SPL-PN-2021-0030

**Permit No.:** 408-SPL-2021-0030

**Comment Period:** 2021-12-01 to 2021-12-31

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**Requester:** In compliance with Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 USC 408 (“Section 408”), Southern California Gas Company, through the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD), has requested permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Ventura River Levee, Ventura County, California.

**Location:**

The proposed action would conduct two exploratory geotechnical borings within Ventura River Channel at approximate Ventura River levee Sta. 110+00, approximately 1,465 feet west of North Olive Street and West McFarlane Drive intersection in the city of Ventura, Ventura County, California.

**Requester’s Proposed Action:**

The proposed action involves drilling up to two 6 to 8 inch exploratory borings to an approximate depth of 35 feet below ground surface along the road near the riverside toe of Ventura River levee at approximate levee Sta. 110+00.

During drilling activities, soil samples will be collected from drill cuttings and drive samples will be collected alternating between a Standard Penetration Test (SPT) and modified California (ModCal) sampler. The samplers will be driven approximately 18-inches to facilitate lithologic logging, to obtain in-situ density information, and to collect samples for geotechnical laboratory testing. A temporary PVC piezometer will be installed in one of the exploratory borings to monitor depth to groundwater.

The purpose of the proposed action is to evaluate subsurface conditions and prepare shoring and slope stability recommendations in support of the proposed future validation dig on the existing L-1004 gas pipeline located southwest of the intersection of State Route 33 and Stanley Avenue in the city of Ventura.

**Authority:** The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation or alteration of any USACE Civil Works project is contained in 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.

**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 action 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.

**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). 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-2021-0030 and be forwarded by the comment due date of December 31, 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**  
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