

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

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APPLICATION TO REISSUE PERMIT Southern California Gas Company

Public Notice/Application No.: SPL-2009-00087-PKK

Project: Sullivan Canyon Line 3003 and 407 Pipeline and Right-of-Way Maintenance Program

Comment Period: August 12 through September 12, 2019

Project Manager: Theresa Stevens, Ph.D.; (805) 585-2146; theresa.stevens@usace.army.mil

Applicant

Elod Nemeth Southern California Gas Company 1050 Overland Court Mail Location 8417 San Dimas, California 91773

Contact

Jennifer Turner Rincon Consultants, Inc. 180 N. Ashwood Avenue Ventura, California 93003

Location

The project is located in the Santa Monica Mountains, in Sullivan Canyon near the city of Brentwood, Los Angeles County, CA (lat: 34.074805, long: -118.511332).

Activity

To conduct, for a period of 10 years, routine maintenance and repairs of two existing high-pressure gas line segments and the adjacent maintenance access road in Sullivan Canyon. Routine maintenance and repairs would occur periodically or on an as-needed basis. For more information see Additional Project Information section below. NOTE: the attached plan drawings are provided as examples of the types of work that may occur in the project area, and do not represent exact impacts or exact locations of impacts to waters of the U.S.

Interested parties are hereby notified an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). We invite you to review today's public notice and provide views on the proposed work. By providing substantive, site-specific comments to the Corps Regulatory Division, you provide information that supports the Corps' decision-making process. All comments received during the comment period become part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit will be issued, issued with special conditions, or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY DIVISION ATTN: Theresa Stevens, Ph.D. 60 SOUTH CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 201 VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93001-2598 Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: theresa.stevens@usace.army.mil

The mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. The Corps evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands. The Regulatory Program in the Los Angeles District is executed to protect aquatic resources by developing and implementing short- and long-term initiatives to improve regulatory products, processes, program transparency, and customer feedback considering current staffing levels and historical funding trends.

Corps permits are necessary for any work, including construction and dredging, in the Nation's navigable water and their tributary waters. The Corps balances the reasonably foreseeable benefits and detriments of proposed projects, and makes permit decisions that recognize the essential values of the Nation's aquatic ecosystems to the general public, as well as the property rights of private citizens who want to use their land. The Corps strives to make its permit decisions in a timely manner that minimizes impacts to the regulated public.

During the permit process, the Corps considers the views of other Federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and the general public. The results of this careful public interest review are fair and equitable decisions that allow reasonable use of private property, infrastructure development, and growth of the economy, while offsetting the authorized impacts to the waters of the United States. The permit review process serves to first avoid and then minimize adverse effects of projects on aquatic resources to the maximum practicable extent. Any remaining unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic environment are offset by compensatory mitigation requirements, which may include restoration, enhancement, establishment, and/or preservation of aquatic ecosystem system functions and services.

Evaluation Factors

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR Part 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact

Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

EIS Determination- A preliminary determination has been made an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

<u>Water Quality</u>- The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Section 401 requires any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance.

<u>Coastal Zone Management</u>- This project is located outside the coastal zone and preliminary review indicates it would not affect coastal zone resources. After a review of the comments received on this public notice and in consultation with the California Coastal Commission, the Corps will make a final determination of whether this project affects coastal zone resources after review of the comments received on this Public Notice.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>- The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has been consulted and historic properties are not known to occur in the area of potential effect (APE). The APE includes waters of the U.S. below ordinary high water (OHW) in Sullivan Canyon Creek. In addition to a review of the NRHP, the applicant submitted a cultural resources report which included a records search, sacred lands file search, a pedestrian survey, and coordination with Native American tribal representatives in the region (Rincon January 2019). The report found no historic properties, archeological sites, or sacred sites in the APE. This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources.

<u>Endangered Species</u>- Preliminary determinations indicate the proposed activity would not affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species, or designated critical habitat. Therefore, formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act does not appear to be required at this time.

<u>Public Hearing</u>- Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

<u>Basic Project Purpose</u>- The basic project purpose comprises the fundamental, essential, or irreducible purpose of the proposed project, and is used by the Corps to determine whether the applicant's project is water dependent (i.e., requires access or proximity to or siting within the special aquatic site to fulfill its basic purpose). Establishment of the basic project purpose is necessary only when the proposed activity would discharge dredged or fill material into a special aquatic site (e.g., wetlands, pool and riffle complex, mudflats, coral reefs). Because no fills are proposed within special aquatic sites, identification of the basic project purpose is not necessary. However, the basic project purpose for the proposed project is pipeline maintenance. The project is not water dependent.

Overall Project Purpose- The overall project purpose serves as the basis for the Corps' 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis and is determined by further defining the basic project purpose in a manner that more specifically describes the applicant's goals for the project, and which allows a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed. The overall project purpose for the proposed project is to conduct asneeded repairs to two existing high-pressure natural gas pipelines and adjacent access road segments that become exposed by erosion in Sullivan Canyon and to repair pipeline segments that are deemed in need of repair as a result of "smart pig" or other inspection findings.

Additional Project Information

<u>Baseline information-</u>The applicant has requested reissuance of a 5-year permit for the proposed maintenance program; however the Corps is considering issuing a 10-year permit.

Existing Conditions: The Project site is located in Sullivan Canyon on the western slope of the Santa Monica Mountains, south of San Vicente Mountain, west of Mandeville Canyon and east of Rustic Canyon. Topography consists of steep slopes exceeding 60 degrees, and a narrow canyon floor. Elevation ranges from approximately 600 feet to 1,680 feet above mean sea level. Regional land uses in the vicinity of the Project area are open space with sparse residential developments southeast of the Project site. The open space is a recreation area with numerous mountain bike and walking trails. An existing approximately 10 – 12 feet wide dirt maintenance road extends the length of the canyon bottom and is used by nearby residents for mountain biking, hiking, and running. The Los Angeles County Department of Water and Power operates a debris basin near the southern terminus of the canyon.

The Project site is located in the Sullivan Canyon Creek watershed. Sullivan Canyon Creek is an intermittent stream surrounded by a multi layered riparian community that ends at the toe of slope of the canyon walls before it quickly transitions into chaparral. The creek begins at San Vicente Mountain to the north and meanders southward along the floor of Sullivan Canyon. The creek flows along the lowest elevation portions of the canyon along a path of least resistance, commonly flowing over and across the existing access roadway, existing hiking trails, and pipeline backfill and articulated concrete mats. Eight small ephemeral tributaries to Sullivan Canyon Creek and one small ephemeral drainage to Rustic Canyon occur in the Project site. These steep, narrow, and densely vegetated tributaries originate along the ridgetops on either side of canyon and drain the crests of the canyon, as well as runoff from residential development in the lower reaches of the Project site.

Sullivan Canyon Creek and seven of ephemeral tributaries in the Study Area, as well as the tributary to Rustic Canyon along the northern access road, may be jurisdictional waters of the U.S. regulated under the Clean Water Act. Approximately 1.88 acres (24,401 linear feet) of non-wetland waters of the U.S. are in the Project area. No wetland waters are in the Project area.

Waters of the United States in Sullivan Canyon

	Waters of the United States						
Feature	Non-wetland Waters Acres / lin. ft.	Wetland Waters Acres / lin. ft.					
Sullivan Canyon Creek	1.64 / 21,644	-/-					
Sullivan Canyon Creek Tributary 1	-/-	-/-					
Sullivan Canyon Creek Tributary 2	0.02 / 255	-/-					

1.88 / 24,401	-/-
0.01 / 106	-/-
0.07 / 662	-/-
0.03 / 902	-/-
0.01 / 154	-/-
0.01 / 129	-/-
0.07 / 305	-/-
0.01 / 244	-/-
	0.07 / 305 0.01 / 129 0.01 / 154 0.03 / 902 0.07 / 662 0.01 / 106

Existing Permits: This is an ongoing routine maintenance project. Previous routine maintenance activities have been completed annually or as-needed under the following permits:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Individual Permit No. SPL-2009-00087-PKK, issued May 4, 2015 and expiring December 1, 2019
- Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Water Quality Certification File No. 14-034, issued July 22, 2015 and expiring July 22, 2020
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 16-2008-0406-R5, issued July 9, 2009, extended April 16, 2014, and expiring December 31, 2019

Need for the Project: The Project facilitates compliance with the existing Department of Transportation (DOT) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requirements for safely operating and maintaining the natural gas pipelines in Sullivan Canyon. The Project would maintain two essential high-pressure natural gas transmission pipelines to ensure safe and reliable natural gas service to serve millions of residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the Los Angeles region. A maintenance road provides access for ongoing routine inspection and maintenance operations required under federal and state regulations, and SoCalGas policy.

The two underground pipelines are located in Sullivan Canyon, which contains a highly dynamic alluvial system. This system occasionally conveys large, destructive flows and can cause damage to pipeline infrastructure. The two underground natural gas pipelines and maintenance road were installed over 50 years ago, and follow in some areas, where the natural low-flow channel of the Sullivan Canyon drainage exists today. These areas are highly susceptible to being washed out and causing damage to the pipeline(s) or making the road impassable. The Project addresses ongoing maintenance requirements in Sullivan Canyon through spot repairs to keep the pipelines protected and road maintained. These maintenance activities will ensure the continued safe functionality and reliability of the pipelines.

<u>Project description-</u> The proposed Project includes an ongoing long-term maintenance program, implemented through a series of anticipated routine maintenance activities to ensure pipeline safety in accordance with DOT and CPUC regulations over the lifetime of the pipelines. Typical maintenance actions that must be routinely conducted in Sullivan Canyon and to safely maintain the pipeline system and maintenance road include: pipeline inspection, leak excavations, installation of

magnesium anodes, pipeline excavation and recoating, pipeline segment replacement, pipeline protection, pipeline integrity correlation/inspection digs and repairs, pipeline safety enhancement (in accordance with the state-mandated Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan), and access road maintenance.

Portions of the pipeline in waters of the U.S. exposed by erosion would be inspected, repaired, and reburied. The maintenance road would be maintained in a drivable condition. This maintenance in waters of the U.S. includes grading small portions of the road that become eroded and replacing gravel that has washed away. Routine vegetation maintenance would occur in waters of the U.S., which is required to maintain the pipeline and access road right-of-way and to facilitate the aforementioned inspections and repairs. SoCalGas has already reinforced several highly-erodible locations along Sullivan Canyon's streambanks with articulated concrete mats and ungrouted riprap, which protect the pipelines and road during high stream flows. Routine maintenance includes repairing the mats and riprap and installing additional materials in areas in waters of the U.S. as needed to protect the pipelines and road.

<u>Proposed Mitigation</u>— The proposed mitigation may change as a result of comments received in response to this public notice, the applicant's response to those comments, and/or the need for the project to comply with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. In consideration of the above, the proposed mitigation sequence (avoidance/minimization/compensation), as applied to the proposed project is summarized below:

Avoidance: The discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S would result from maintenance of existing pipelines and the maintenance access road. Because the pipelines and road are partially located within waters of the U.S., complete avoidance is not feasible. However, proposed impacts to waters of the U.S. would be restricted to existing pipelines and the access road.

Minimization: The impact areas would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would be implemented to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. include: pre-construction surveys, delineation or flagging of sensitive resources, construction monitoring, limiting the removal of native vegetation and trees, trash disposal, vehicle cleanliness and maintenance, control of noxious and invasive weeds, a worker environmental awareness program (WEAP), implementation of storm- and ground-water BMPs, implementation of existing regulations regarding fugitive dust, and safe fire practices.

Proposed construction activities would be completed in a manner that minimizes habitat disturbance to the extent practicable. Typical excavation and backfill associated with inspections and leak detections would temporarily disturb an area of approximately 1,000-2,000 square feet per repair. Pipeline exposures requiring hard protection would utilize permeable structures, such as articulated concrete mats or ungrouted riprap, both of which would stabilize the streambed and provide a stable substrate through which riparian vegetation can grow. Gradual sediment deposition and vegetation growth would enhance the aquatic habitat and reduce aesthetic impacts over time. In addition, temporary impacts from construction activities such as excavation would be minimized by revegetation and restoration of the affected area to pre-project conditions to the extent practicable.

Compensation: As compensatory mitigation for new permanent impacts to waters of the U.S., SoCalGas would fund the Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) in-lieu fee program at a ratio of 3:1. SoCalGas currently has over two acres of credits purchased with MRT and would continue to fund the MRT in-lieu fee program to provide mitigation for project impacts over the life of the permit. Temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-existing conditions via on-site restoration of in-kind habitat at a 1:1 ratio to reduce and minimize temporal loss of functions from project implementation.

Proposed Special Conditions

Special conditions included in the existing permit would be updated and required in the new permit, if issued. Existing conditions include requirements for annual reporting, on site revegetation, and compensatory mitigation. Additional special conditions to ensure minimization of impacts to aquatic and other environmental resources will be identified through the permit application review processes, and incorporated into the Corps permit for the Project.

For additional information please call Theresa Stevens, Ph.D. of my staff at (805) 585-2146 or via e-mail at theresa.stevens@usace.army.mil. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Division.



Regulatory Program Goals:

- To provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands.
- To ensure the Corps provides the regulated public with fair and reasonable decisions.
- To enhance the efficiency of the Corps' administration of its regulatory program.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
60 SOUTH CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 201
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93001-2598

WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/REGULATORY

Figure 1 **Regional Location**



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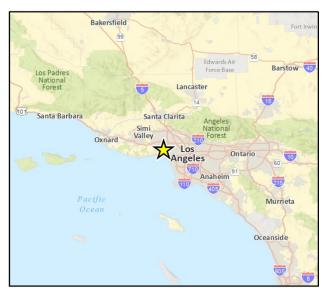


Exhibit B: Figures Page 1

Figure 2 Project Location

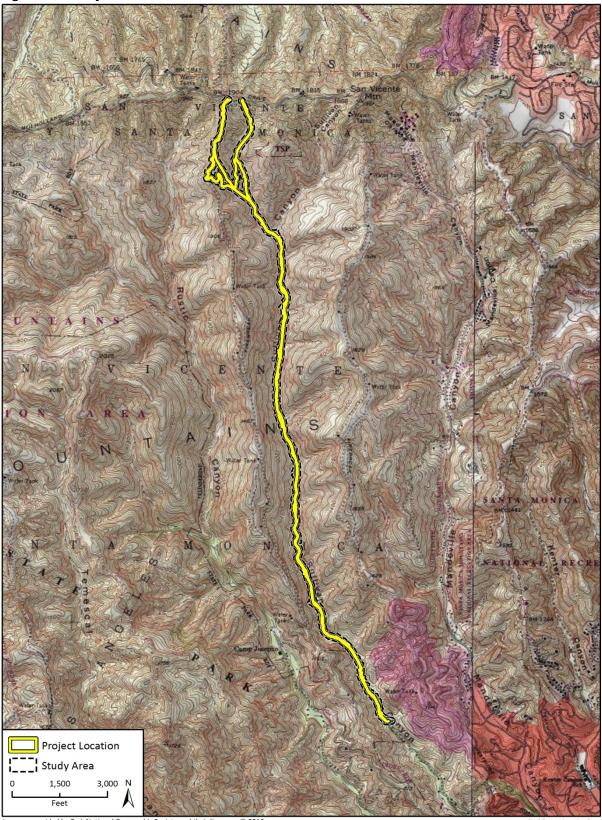
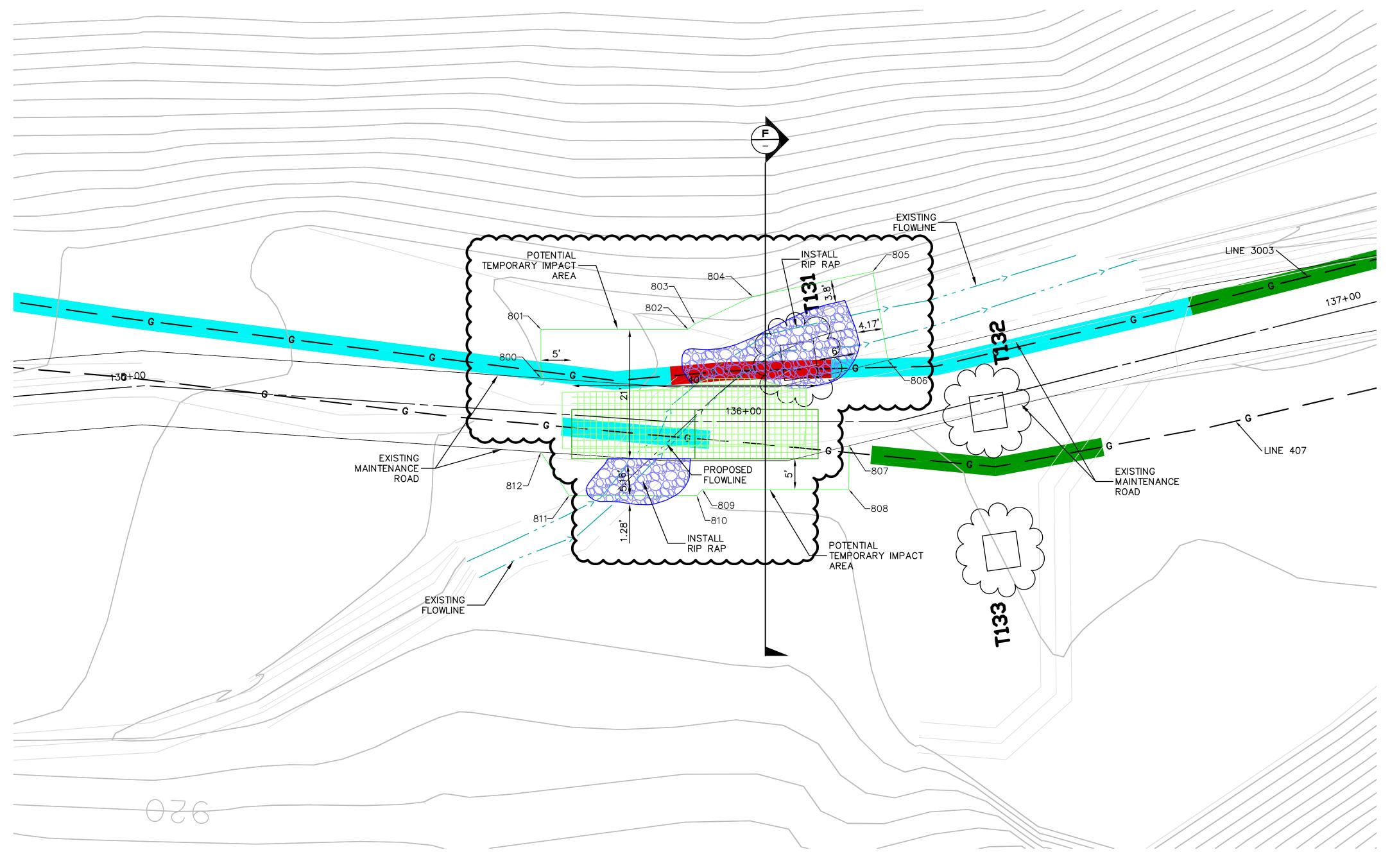
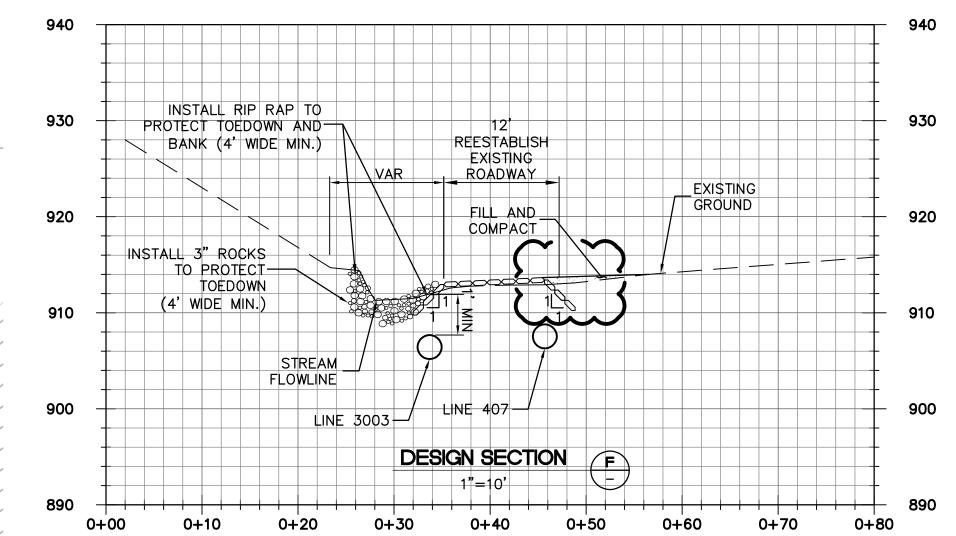
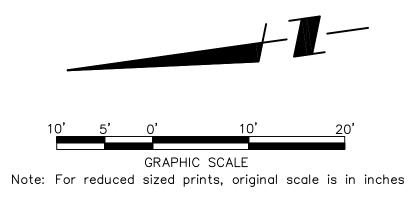


Exhibit B: Figures Page 2



POINT TABLE								
POINT #	NORTHING	EASTING						
800	1857550.41	6404451.92						
808	1857503.45	6404427.03						
801	1857549.30	6404459.75						
809	1857526.97	6404430.35						
802	1857525.67	6404456.42						
810	1857528.00	6404429.48						
803	1857524.45	6404457.13						
811	1857548.54	6404432.38						
804	1857514.53	6404460.21						
812	1857552.09	6404440.01						
805	1857494.64	6404461.52						
806	1857494.23	6404446.92						
807	1857502.42	6404434.05						





TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY OTHERS

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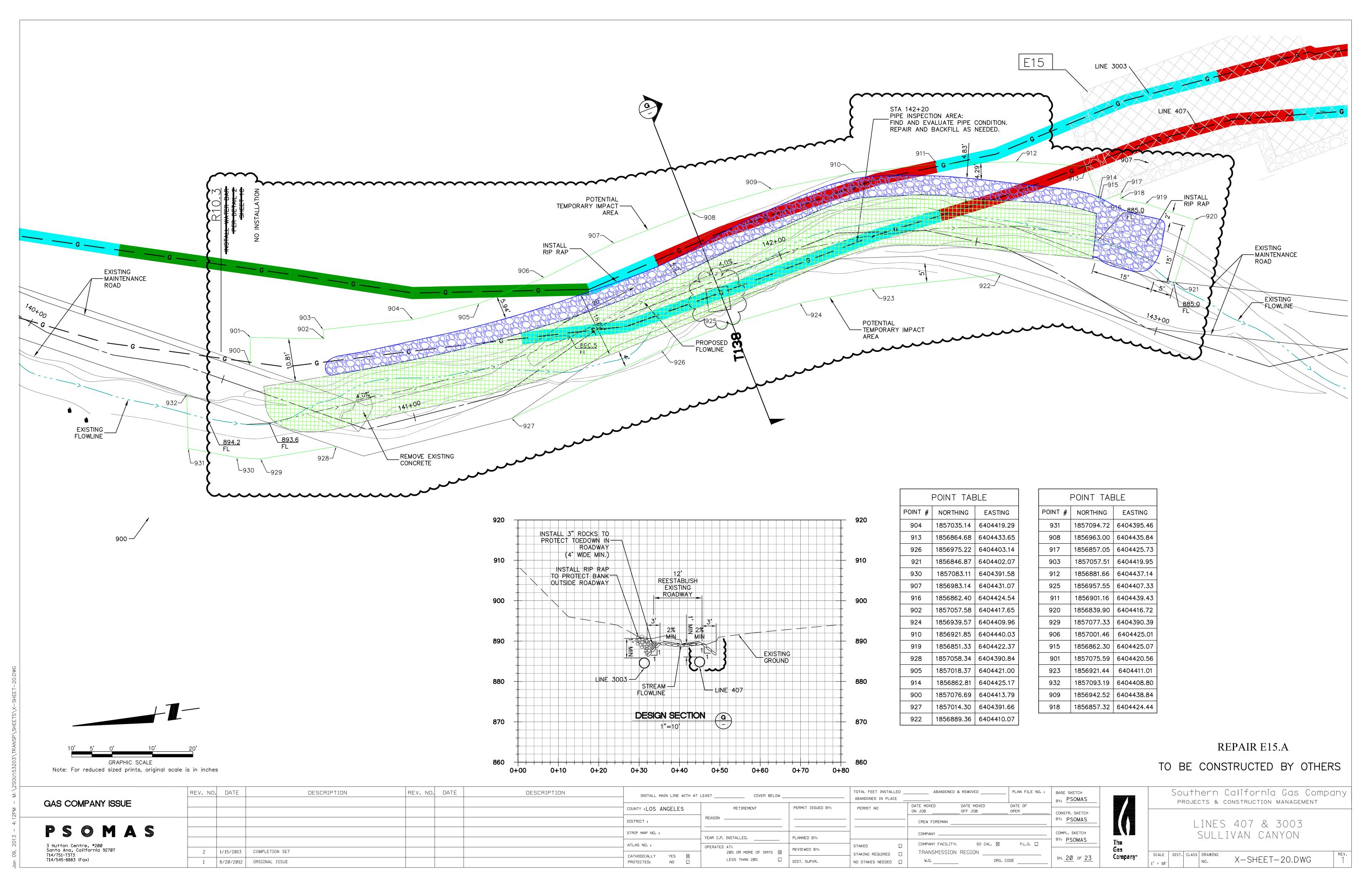
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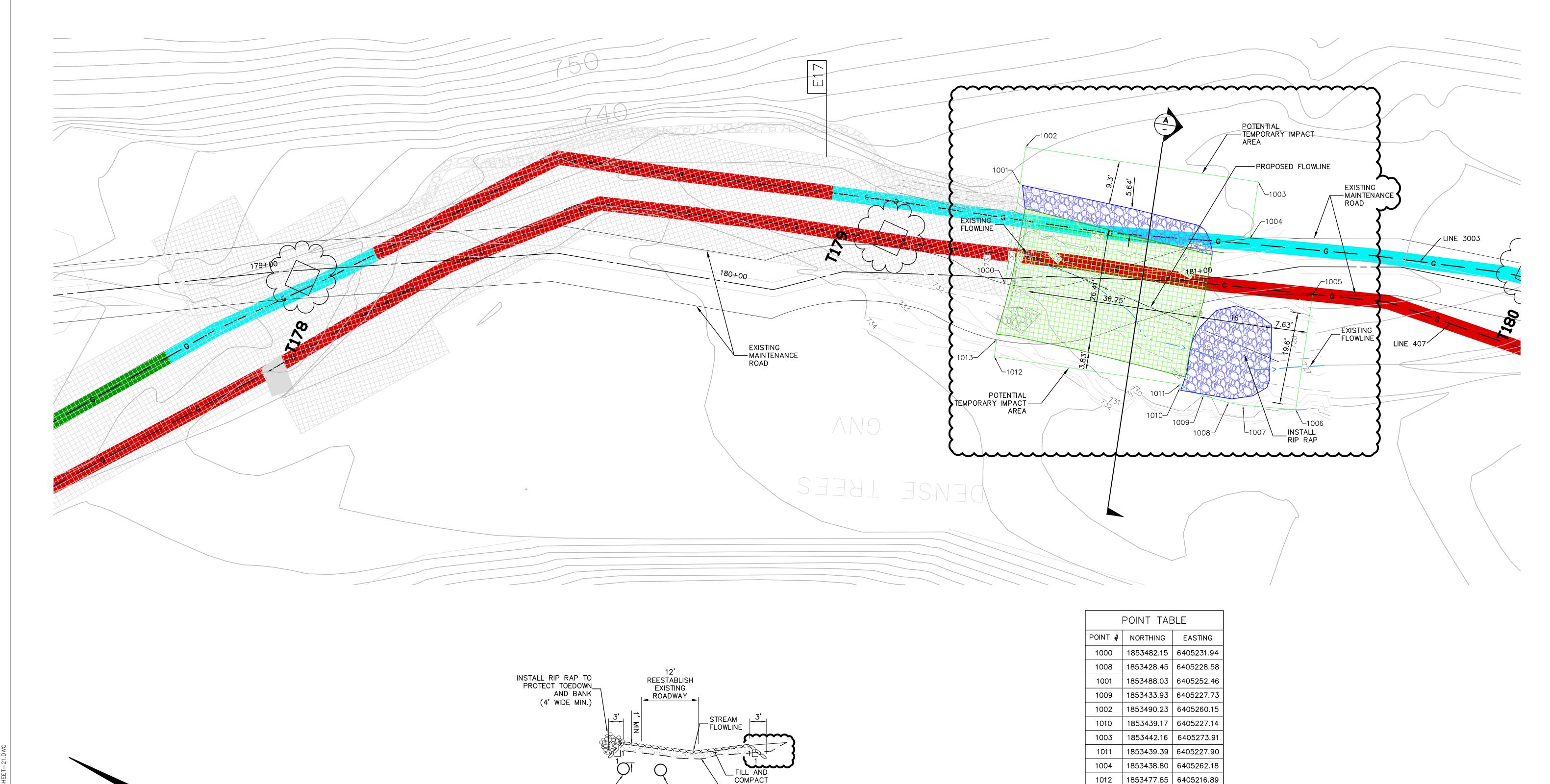
The Gas Company Southern California Gas Company PROJECTS & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

LINES 407 & 3003

SULLIVAN CANYON

CALE DIST. CLASS DRAWING NO. X—SHEET—19.DWG





GRAPHIC SCALE

Note: For reduced sized prints, original scale is in inches

DESIGN SECTION

1"=10'

EXISTING GROUND

POINT #	NORTHING	EASTING
1000	1853482.15	6405231.94
1008	1853428.45	6405228.58
1001	1853488.03	6405252.46
1009	1853433.93	6405227.73
1002	1853490.23	6405260.15
1010	1853439.17	6405227.14
1003	1853442.16	6405273.91
1011	1853439.39	6405227.90
1004	1853438.80	6405262.18
1012	1853477.85	6405216.89
1005	1853421.69	6405256.80
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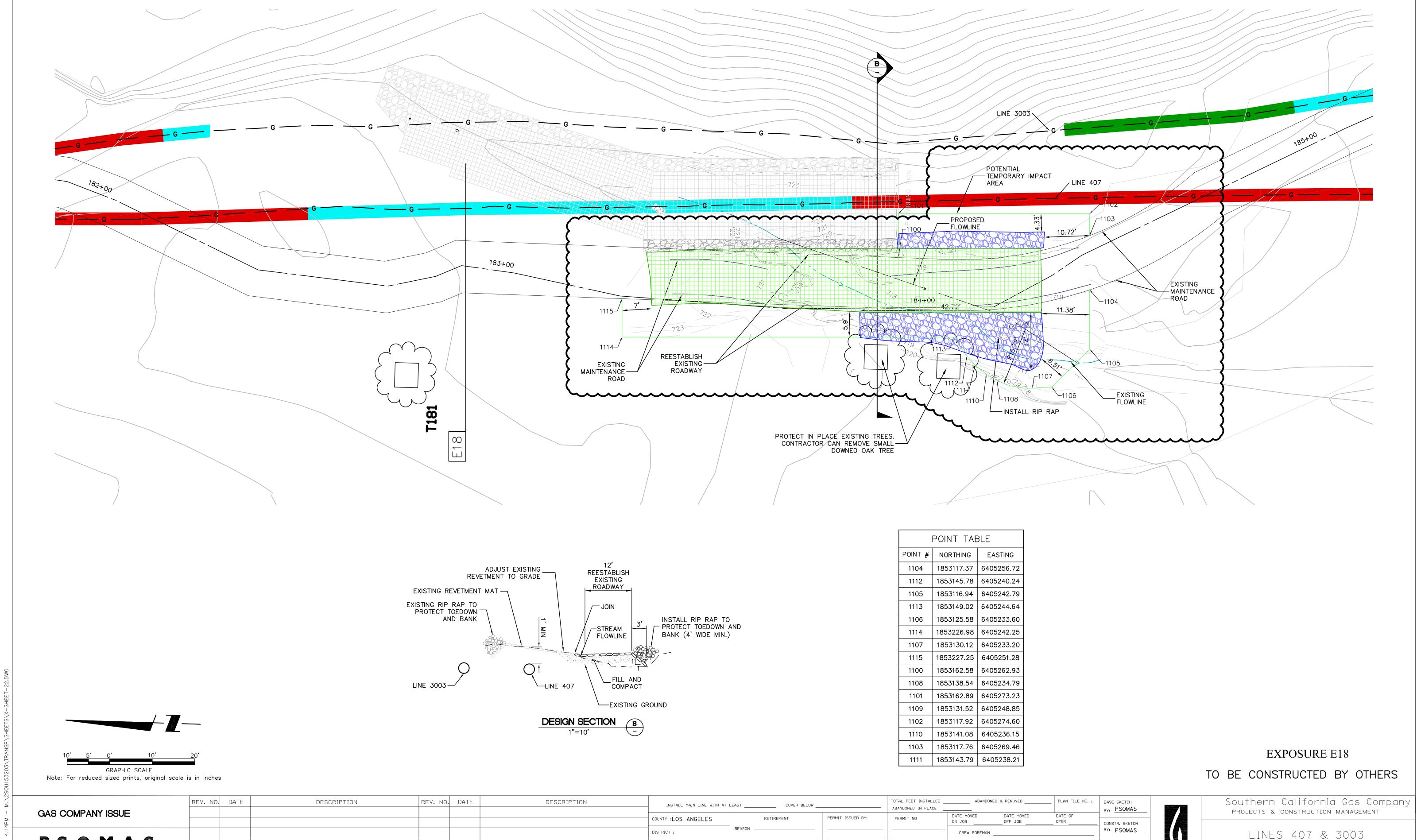
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