PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

BUILDING STRONG®

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT
Nicolas – Calle Girasol Road and Channel Improvements Project

Public Notice/Application No.: SPL-2018-00635-PJB
Project: Nicolas Road & Calle Girasol and Channel Improvements Project
Comment Period: March 23, 2020 through April 22, 2020
Project Manager: Tiffany Kwakwa; (213) 452-3375; Tiffany.D.Kwakwa@usace.army.mil

Applicant
Patrick Thomas
City of Temecula
41000 Main Street
Temecula, California 92590

Contact
Barry Jones
Helix Environmental Planning, Inc.
7578 El Cajon Blvd., Suite 200
La Mesa, California 91941

Location
The proposed project is located in and near Santa Gertrudis Creek. The site is located east of Interstate 15 and Highway 79 along Nicolas Road and Calle Girasol (at approximately lat/long: 33.543678, -117.112580) in the city of Temecula, Riverside County, California.

Activity
The applicant is proposing to upgrade the existing dirt road crossing at Santa Gertrudis Creek into a T-intersection with Calle Girasol with four culverts of varying length underneath and reroute the channel to the north within uplands resulting in permanent impacts to 0.84 acre (1,209 linear feet) of non-wetland waters of the United States. For more information see Additional Project Information section below.

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 would be considered in the decision. This permit would 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: Tiffany Kwakwa
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930
Los Angeles, California 90017

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: Tiffany.D.Kwakwa@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 would be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision would 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 would be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that would 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 would 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 would 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.

Water Quality- 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.

Coastal Zone Management-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 would make a final determination of whether this project affects coastal zone resources after review of the comments received on this Public Notice.

Essential Fish Habitat- No Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, occurs within the project area and no EFH is affected by the proposed project.

Cultural Resources- The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and this site is not listed. The applicant has submitted an archaeological survey and evaluation of cultural resources report prepared by HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (2017) which identified no pre-historic or historic-period archaeological resources within the Project area. This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources.

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

Public Hearing- 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

Basic Project Purpose- 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). Because no fills are proposed within special aquatic sites (wetlands, pool and riffle complex, mudflats, coral reefs), identification of the basic project purpose is not necessary. However, the basic project purpose for the proposed project is transportation. 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 serve as a transportation circulation element for the City of Temecula that would serve a projected average 14,200 daily vehicle trips.

Additional Project Information

Baseline information- The project area is in the City of Temecula, western Riverside County, east of the State Route 79. Nicolas Road currently transitions from a paved road to a dirt road crossing through Santa Gertrudis Creek, which is an intermittent stream that drains from east to west and crosses the central portion of the study area.

The study area is composed of upland habitats, developed areas, mule fat scrub and streambed within the creek channel, ruderal vegetation, bare ground, disturbed Riversidean sage scrub, small patches of eucalyptus, and ornamental landscaping. Except for the existing Nicolas Road, Calle Girasol and Liefer Road, and an existing groundwater pumping station maintained by Rancho California Water District (RCWD), the site is currently vacant. Surrounding uses include existing single-family residential to the north, minor development to the south, vacant land south of Calle Girasol, and a paved road, which connects to Nicolas Road.

Further east is a new residential and commercial complex, Roripaugh Ranch. The crossing is intended to facilitate the anticipated increase in vehicle traffic with the completion of the new development, which has been authorized and is anticipated to complete construction prior to the proposed project. Additionally, this road crossing is part of the City of Temecula’s General Plan and has been slated as a circulation element, requiring upgrades from its current state. There are existing utilities under Nicolas Road, including under the portion that is a dirt road through the creek.

Project description- The proposed project involves the construction of a T-intersection of Nicolas Road with Calle Girasol with four arch culverts of varying length underneath plus the realignment of Santa Gertrudis Creek. The creek would be rerouted by grading within uplands and would be widened from just above the junction of Nicolas Road and Calle Girasol downstream to the Liefer Road Bridge, and to the north to accommodate road improvements that encroach into the creek at the intersection and to avoid impacts to the pump station nearby.

Table 1: Proposed Project Impacts by Fill Type

Fill Type	**Area (acres)**	**Approximate Cubic Yards**
Excavation only: Conveyance bottom	0.09	436
Temporary Impacts: Remedial Excavation	0.01	81
Asphalt Concrete Underlain with Clean Fill: Road and Access Road	0.13	210
Enviroflex in Conveyance and Culverts	0.07	113
Concrete Culvert Walls and Retaining Walls	0.01	16
Rip-rap	0.13	210
Clean Fill	0.37	597
Isolation Impact	0.03	0
Temporary *Permanent*	*0.01* *0.83*	*81* *1,582*
Total	***0.84***	***1,663***

A multi-arch culvert crossing is proposed where Nicolas Road crosses Santa Gertrudis Creek. The crossing would be approximately 96 feet wide and consist of four soft-bottom arch culverts, with lengths of 132 feet, 157 feet, 183 feet, and 231 feet. Each arch culvert would be approximately 22 feet wide and 11 feet high at average scour depth. Existing water and sewer lines would be retained and adjusted within the roadbed. Enviroflex interlocking Articulating Concrete Block Revetment reinforcement would be necessary under the bridge to prevent scour from undermining the culvert footings and to protect the water and sewer lines. A grade control structure would be at the upstream end of the Nicolas Road crossing to slow the water and lessen its erosive potential, which helps stabilize the bottom of the crossing. The grade of the bottom through the Nicolas Road crossing would be five percent, thus eliminating the need for a downstream grade control structure, possibly improving wildlife movement.

The northerly side slopes of the new, proposed conveyance constructed in uplands, as well as the slopes adjacent to the RCWD groundwater pump station would be graded to a 2:1 slope and reinforced with rip rap as necessary to protect the adjacent properties. The rip rap would be designed to be “self-healing”, using a thickened section of partially buried, oversized rip rap that would protect over the wide range of storm events and obviate the need for future repairs or maintenance.

Access would need to be maintained for the RCWD groundwater pump station, and would be needed for the City to maintain the intersection improvements, and would be provided off the widened Nicolas Road in the southeastern end of the project area. Access would consist of a concrete access road that would allow for most storm events to overtop the roadway to maintain downstream hydraulics.

The widened conveyance bottom would vary from 150 feet to 340 feet in width and would be seeded with an alluvial streambed/riparian scrub mosaic similar to what occurs in the existing creek conveyance. The total area of alluvial streambed anticipated to be created is 1.84 acres.

Proposed Mitigation– 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 proposed project's impacts have been reduced from an original design of 2.02 acres to 0.84 acre, resulting in an avoidance of 1.18 acres.

Minimization: During construction, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect onsite waters not impacted would include, but are not limited to: gravel basins, gravel bag inlet protection, fiber rolls, mulching, silt fencing, offsite sediment control, energy dissipation, and designated maintenance and storage areas for equipment (outside of drainages). Descriptions of the BMPs will be included in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Implementation of BMPs and restrictions on construction work areas will result in avoidance and minimization of impacts to upstream and downstream resources.

Compensation: For 0.84 acre permanent impacts associated with the proposed project, the applicant is proposing to purchase 0.84 re-establishment credits from the Riverpark Mitigation Bank and 0.68 preservation credits from the Barry Jones Mitigation Bank.

Proposed Special Conditions

No additional Special Conditions are proposed at this time. Special conditions would be added based on public notice comments and environmental considerations.

For additional information please call Tiffany Kwakwa of my staff at (213) 452-3375 or via e-mail at Tiffany.D.Kwakwa@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
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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017
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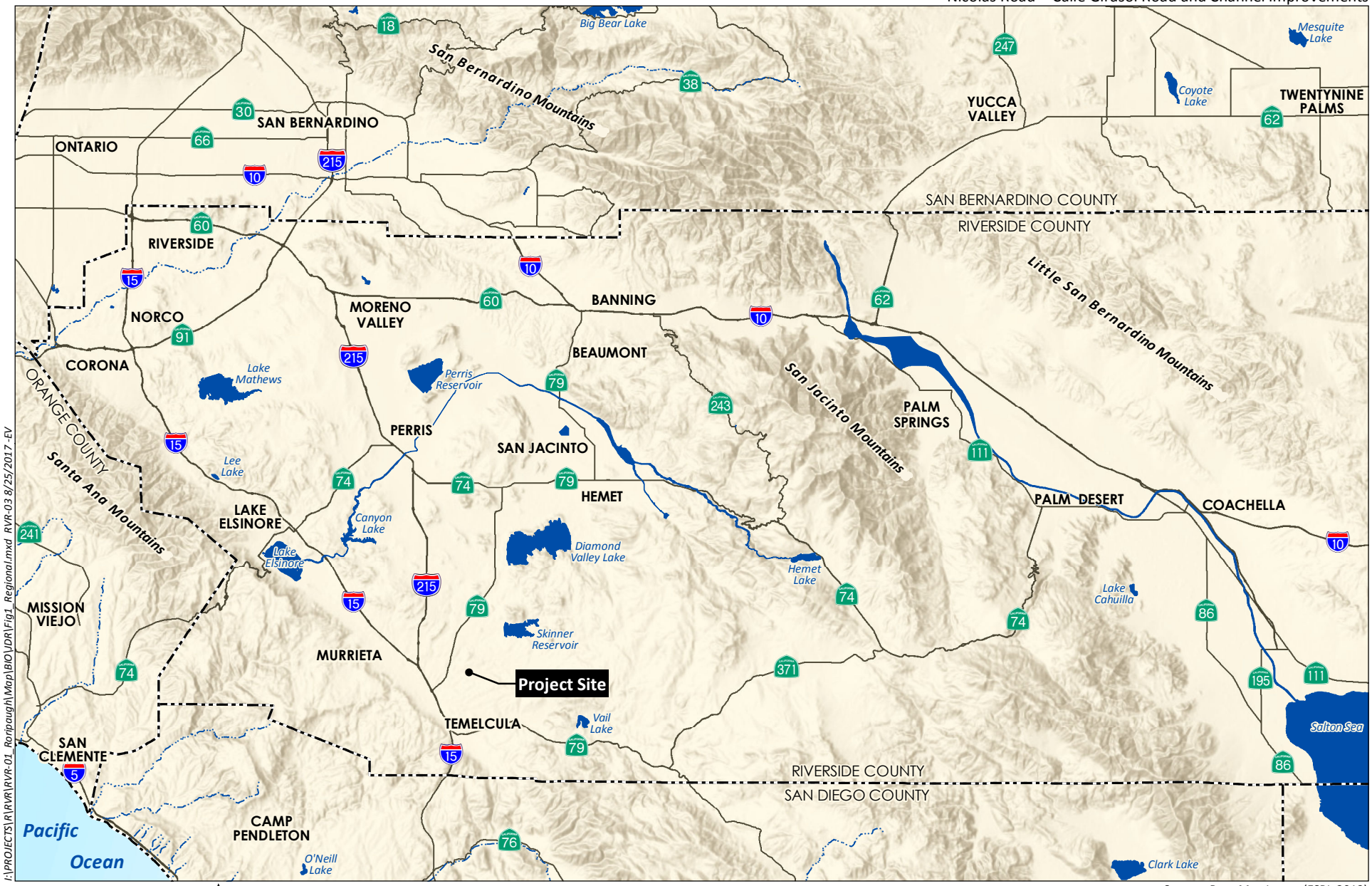

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Source: Base Map Layers (ESRI, 2013)

HELIX Environmental Planning

Regional Location

Figure 1

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USGS 7.5' QUAD: BACHELOR MTN.

Project Location Map

NICOLAS ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

HELIX Environmental Planning

N 0 2,000 Feet

Figure 2

Nicolas – Calle Girasol Road and Channel Improvements Project

Permanent Impact
Temporary Impact
Isolated Waters Impacts
Non-wetland Waters of the U.S. (Width Shown in Feet)
Non-wetland Waters of the U.S.
Photo Location
Sampling Point

Other

Dirt Road Crossing
Concrete Road Crossing
Riprap
Concrete Apron and Side Slopes

Liefer Road
Liefer Road Bridge
SP1
36 FT
40 FT
Santa Gertrudis Creek
40 FT
Nicolas Road
46 FT
37 FT
16 FT
Drainage 4
Drainage 3
Long Valley Wash
Los Chonas Ranch Road
Calle Colibri Road
Calle Medusa
Calle Girasol

Coordinate System: StatePlane California Zone VI Feet
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: North American 1983
Vertical Datum: NAVD88, U.S. Feet

0 200 Feet

Source: Aerial (RCIT 2016)

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HELIX Environmental Planning

USACE/RWQCB Jurisdictional Areas/Project Effects

Figure 6

NGO/TRAN
957090022 31249
INDIAN SUMMER ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

BAILLARGEAT
957090020
31220 NICOLAS ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

NAVEJAR
957090023
39622 LIEFER ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

SINGH
957090019 31250
NICOLAS ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

SALLEY
957090018 31276
NICOLAS ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

PROPOSED TOP
RIPRAP PROTECTION
PROPOSED TOE
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
2 : 1 SLOPE
2 : 1 SLOPE
CITY MAINTENANCE EASEMENT/
TEMP. CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT
TEMPORARY
CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT/
LIMITS OF GRADING
EXISTING LIEFER
BRIDGE
LIEFER ROAD
LIMITS OF
GRADING
PAVED
ACCESS
ROAD
RIPRAP
CONCRETE
CULVERT
HEADWALL
ARTICULATED
BLOCK
10'AC TRAIL
R/W
A
A
110'
40'
NICOLAS ROAD
RCWD
SITE
957090021
R/W
R/W
R/W
PROPOSED IMP
B
B
LIMITS OF
GRADING
PROPOSED 11'X22'
CONCRETE CULVERTS
EXISTING NICOLAS
ROAD/ CALLE
GIRASOL
CONCRETE
CULVERT
HEADWALL
CITY MAINTENANCE EASEMENT/
TEMP. CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT
PAVED ACCESS ROAD
LIMITS OF
GRADING/TEMP
CONSTRUCTION
EASEMENT
CALLE GIRASOL

CHALKER
957150006 31280
TOMMY LANE
TEMECULA, CA 92591

GARCIA
957150005
31270 TOMMY LANE
TEMECULA, CA 92591

SCE
957150001
31225 NICOLAS ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

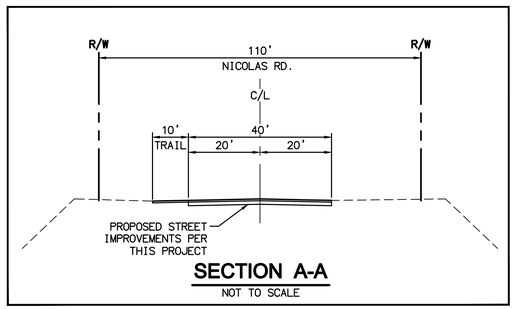
SCE
957150002
31205 NICOLAS ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

SCE
957150003
31253 NICOLAS ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

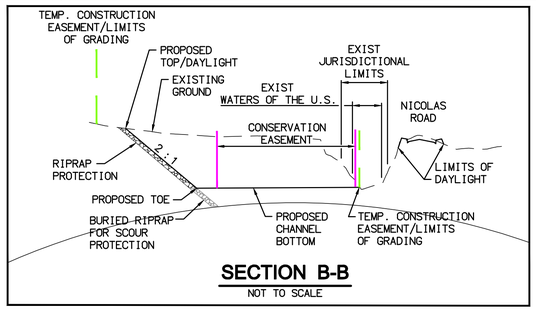
SCE
957150016
31255 NICOLAS ROAD
TEMECULA, CA 92591

SCALE 1"=50'

50 25 0 50 100 150
SCALE: 1"=50'



SECTION A-A
NOT TO SCALE



SECTION B-B
NOT TO SCALE

LEGEND

- NON-WETLANDS WATERS OF THE U.S.
- CDFW STREAMBED
- CDFW RIPARIAN
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT
- CITY MAINTENANCE EASEMENT
- TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL
40810 COUNTY CENTER DR.,
SUITE 200
TEMECULA, CA 92591
PHONE: (951) 676-8042
MBAKERINTL.COM

NICOLAS ROAD AND CALLE GIRASOL IMPROVEMENTS

INTERSECTION ONLY IMPROVEMENTS
TEMECULA, CA

PROPOSED PROJECT

ALT. C5 - A3