



16210  
17 July 1978

Navigable Waters of the United States; Las Chollas Creek

*San Diego  
County*

From: Legal Officer


TO: Chief, Aids to Navigation Branch  
Via: Chief, Operations Division

Ref: (a) Your memo 16594 of 30 Jun 1978  
(b) COMDINST 16210.1A

1. Based upon the information provided in reference (a), it is my opinion that the waters of Las Chollas Creek from its mouth to mile 0.35, the proposed bridge site, are navigable waters of the United States.
2. Accordingly, you may exercise jurisdiction for the purposes of the Bridge Administration program.
3. A record of this finding will be maintained in accordance with reference (b) by the Legal Officer.

R. S. MATHEW  
Acting

Copy To:  
COMDT (G-LMI/81)

  
MJPERRONE:aw:14JUL78

*Memorandum*

16594/PF

Ser: oan 217-78

DATE: 30 June 1978

SUBJECT: Navigability of Las Chollas Creek; determination of

FROM : Chief, Aids to Navigation Branch

TO : District Legal Officer

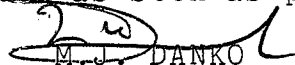
VIA: Chief, Operations Division

W 7/6/78

1. The metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) of San Diego proposes to construct a sixteen-mile light rail/vehicle transit system from Centre City, San Diego to San Ysidro, California. The MTDB asked what permits, if any, will be required by The Coast Guard for the proposed project.

2. The enclosed findings and photographs are provided for your information.

3. Based on the information enclosed, it appears that Las Chollas Creek is navigable in fact and tidal waters of the Pacific Ocean at the site of the proposed Guideway project. Your comments are requested as soon as practicable.

  
M. J. DANKO

Encl: (1) Findings of Fact

FINDINGS OF FACT  
LAS CHOLLAS CREEK

1. Las Chollas Creek, from its headwaters on high ground near the city of La Mesa to its mouth, at San Diego Bay, drains a 27-square-mile area and flows generally southwestward to empty into lower San Diego Bay.

The watershed of Las Chollas Creek is about 9 miles long, and 6.5 miles wide at its widest point. The highest elevation in the basin - about 800 feet - is at the eastern divide. The terrain is generally hilly, with long narrow valleys consisting of flat lands along Las Chollas Creek.

The total fall of Las Chollas Creek from its headwaters in the City of La Mesa to its mouth is about 800 feet. The gradient of this stream is steep averaging about 75 feet per mile, but flattens out to about 25 feet per mile in the valley.

The only significant tributary of Las Chollas Creek is South Las Chollas Creek which joins Las Chollas Creek on the left bank at river mile 0.77.

2. There is no history of navigation on Las Chollas Creek.

3. The proposed Guideway Project (Light-rail vehicle system) will cross Las Chollas Creek on the San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railway tracks at mile 0.35 above the mouth next to the Harbor Drive Bridge and the Sante Fe Railway Bridge in the City of San Diego.

4. In a public notice dated November 1972, the Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers published a list of navigable waters of the United States subject to their authorities as established by Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899. The Corps considered lower San Diego Bay to be navigable to the line on shore that is 3 feet above mean sea level. (Appendix 1).

5. The Corps of Engineers surveyed Las Chollas Creek in conjunction with a flood plain study in 1968. Table 3 (Appendix 2) is an excerpt from the study showing streambed elevations at various bridge crossings over Las Chollas Creek. The proposed Guideway project will cross Las Chollas Creek at river mile 0.35 downstream from the 32nd Street Bridge. The S.D. & A.E. bridge was not surveyed by the Corps.

6. During a site inspection of the proposed Guideway project photo's were made of the bridge. (Appendix 3). Personnel from MTDB advised that navy ship's dock at the entrance of Las Chollas Creek Channel. Note photo of Harbor Drive Bridge with ship in background.