

**Feasibility Study Update**  
**Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex**  
**Rancho Palos Verdes, California**

**Prepared for City of Rancho Palos Verdes, California**

**July 26, 2018**



***Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.***

3150 Bristol Street, Suite 210 • Costa Mesa, California 92626



Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

**Feasibility Study Update  
Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex**

**Prepared for  
City of Rancho Palos Verdes, California**

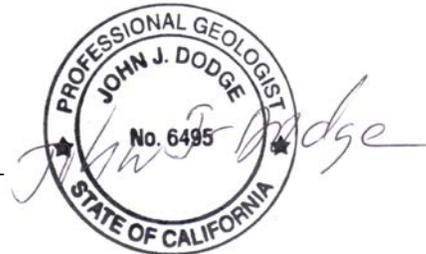
**July 26, 2018**

The material and data in this report were prepared under the supervision and direction of the California state licensed professionals listed below, consistent with generally accepted practices of the hydrogeologic consulting and geotechnical engineering industry.

Stephen J. Cullen, Ph.D., P.G.



John J. Dodge, P.G.



Neven Matasovic, Ph.D., P.E, G.E.





## Table of Contents

Section	Page
Executive Summary .....	1
1. Introduction .....	1
1.1 Site Background .....	1
1.1.1 Overview and Problem Statement.....	1
1.1.2 Regulatory Background.....	4
1.1.3 Recent Community Involvement .....	8
1.2 Project Area Definition .....	9
1.3 Purpose and Overview.....	11
1.4 Document Organization .....	12
2. Summary of Previous Work.....	14
2.1 Historical Documents, 1957-1997 .....	14
2.2 1997 Ehlig and Yen Feasibility Study.....	17
2.3 2000 Leighton Feasibility Study .....	20
3. Physical Characteristics of the PBLC Vicinity .....	22
3.1 Topography .....	22
3.2 Watershed Hydrology .....	24
3.3 Soils.....	26
3.4 Geology .....	29
3.5 Landslide Characterization.....	31
3.6 Hydrogeology.....	34
3.6.1 Groundwater Recharge.....	35
3.6.2 Groundwater Occurrence.....	38
3.6.3 Water Wells .....	40
3.7 Geotechnical Modeling .....	41
4. Feasibility Study .....	45
4.1 ARARs.....	45
4.1.1 Definitions .....	45
4.1.2 Identified ARARs.....	46
4.2 Remedial Action Objective .....	47
4.3 General Response Actions .....	48
4.3.1 Subsurface Dewatering.....	49
4.3.2 Stormwater Control .....	49
4.3.3 Engineered Slope Stabilization Measures.....	51
4.3.4 Eliminate Septic System Discharge.....	51
4.3.5 Coastal Erosion Control .....	52
4.4 Identification and Screening of Technology Alternatives .....	52
4.4.1 Stormwater Control Option 1 – Repair Existing Corrugated Piping System.....	52
4.4.1.1 Description.....	52
4.4.1.2 Screening Summary.....	53
4.4.2 Stormwater Control Option 2 – Install Concrete Channels .....	53



## Table of Contents (Continued)

Section	Page
4.4.2.1 Description	53
4.4.2.2 Screening Summary	53
4.4.3 Stormwater Control Option 3 – Install Liner and Channel System	54
4.4.3.1 Description	54
4.4.3.2 Screening Summary	54
4.4.4 Stormwater Control Option 4 – Seal Surface Fractures	55
4.4.4.1 Description	55
4.4.4.2 Screening Summary	55
4.4.5 Subsurface Dewatering Option 1 – Groundwater Extraction Pits	55
4.4.5.1 Description	55
4.4.5.2 Screening Summary	56
4.4.6 Subsurface Dewatering Option 2 – Groundwater Extraction Wells	56
4.4.6.1 Description	56
4.4.6.2 Screening Summary	56
4.4.7 Subsurface Dewatering Option 3 – Directional Subsurface Drains	57
4.4.7.1 Description	57
4.4.7.2 Screening Summary	57
4.4.8 Engineering Slope Stabilization - Buttressing (Engineered Fill)	58
4.4.8.1 Description	58
4.4.8.2 Screening Summary	59
4.4.9 Engineering Slope Stabilization Measures - Mechanically Stabilized Earth Wall	59
4.4.9.1 Description	59
4.4.9.2 Screening Summary	60
4.4.10 Engineering Slope Stabilization Measures – Drilled Piers (Caissons)	60
4.4.10.1 Description	60
4.4.10.2 Screening Summary	60
4.4.11 Centralized Sewer System	61
4.4.11.1 Description	61
4.4.11.2 Screening Summary	61
4.4.12 Coastal Erosion Control (Breakwater)	62
4.4.12.1 Description	62
4.4.12.2 Screening Summary	62
4.4.13 Summary of Retained Technologies	62
4.5 Detailed Analysis of Remedial Technologies	62
4.5.1 Concrete Channels	63
4.5.2 Liner and Channel System	64
4.5.3 Seal Surface Fractures	65
4.5.4 Groundwater Extraction Wells	66
4.5.5 Directional Subsurface Drains	67
4.5.6 Centralized Sewer System	69
4.6 Preferred Options	70
4.6.1 Description and Conceptual Design	70



## Table of Contents (Continued)

Section	Page
4.6.1.1 Seal Surface Fractures.....	71
4.6.1.2 Directional Subsurface Drains.....	71
4.6.1.3 Liner and Channel System.....	72
4.6.1.4 Groundwater Extraction Wells.....	73
4.6.1.5 Centralized Sewer System.....	74
4.6.2 Data Gaps.....	74
4.6.3 Pilot Testing.....	75
4.6.4 Approximate Implementation Costs.....	75
4.6.4.1 Seal Surface Fractures.....	76
4.6.4.2 Directional Subsurface Drains.....	76
4.6.4.3 Liner and Channel System.....	76
4.6.4.4 Groundwater Extraction and Monitoring Wells.....	76
4.6.4.5 Centralized Sewer System.....	77
4.6.4.6 Total Estimated Project Cost.....	77
References.....	78

## List of Figures

### Figure

- 1 Regional Site Location
- 2 Aerial Photograph with Geographic Features
- 3 Landslide Subareas
- 4 Measured Horizontal Movement, 2013-2014
- 5 Watersheds
- 6 Topography
- 7 Major Utilities
- 8 Regional Geology
- 9 Stratigraphic Column, Monterey Formation
- 10 Onshore/Offshore Faults and Folds



## **List of Figures (Continued)**

### **Figure**

- 11 Existing Dewatering Wells
- 12 Slope Stability Model
- 13 Modeled Increase in Factor of Safety with Decline in Groundwater Elevation
- 14 Conceptual Horizontal Drains, Extraction Wells, and Monitoring Wells

## **List of Tables**

### **Table**

- 1 Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)
- 2 Screening Evaluation of Remedial Technologies
- 3 Detailed Analysis of Remedial Alternatives
- 4 Approximate Order-of-Magnitude Costs for Preferred Alternatives

## **List of Appendices**

### **Appendix**

- A USGS Landslide Types and Processes
- B Custom Soil Resource Report for Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part, Portuguese Bend
- C Geotechnical Modeling Figures
- D Conceptual Liner and Channel Specifications



## **Executive Summary**

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. has prepared this feasibility study (FS) update to address remediation of ongoing land movement in the Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex (PBLC) using the results of past environmental, engineering, and hydrogeologic work completed to address regional slope failure on the greater Palos Verdes Peninsula. This FS is an update to efforts completed primarily in 1997 and 2000 that characterized the hydrogeologic and geotechnical conditions driving landslide activity and proposed a variety of various approaches and technologies to abate slope failure in the PBLC.

Earlier remedies focused, in part, on the removal of subsurface water (groundwater) and the elimination of continued stormwater loading to groundwater in key areas. Some proposed recommendations were implemented after the 1997 FS was drafted, including installation of dewatering wells, mass regrading, and surface water infiltration control with an above-grade piping system. However, land movement was largely unabated, and slope failure continues today at rates of up to approximately 8 feet per year. Slope failure is continually managed by a City of Rancho Palos Verdes (City) maintenance program, with significant cost and effort to maintain area utilities and the nearby roadway in a functional state. Additional measures, including a major excavation for a buttress extending nearly half a mile along the coast, were proposed in 2000, but were not implemented.

This FS focuses on implementing cost-effective technologies as options for the City to consider regarding storm water control and groundwater extraction to achieve manageable and sustainable land stability. Other geotechnical engineering solutions, such as buttresses, were also considered with other options, but were screened out due largely to poor overall implementability.

The FS remedies focus on the southern PBLC area mainly within the control of the City that is subject to a relatively high level of land movement, where the surface water drainage currently is not functioning properly, and where groundwater extraction is most needed. An engineering analysis and evaluation of the existing stormwater drainage system of this area should be completed to assist in the design and construction of an updated system to convey runoff to the



ocean and eliminate ponding areas which have been created over the years due to land settlement. At the same time, efforts need to be made for design and installation of groundwater extraction drains (horizontal drains or hydraugers). Hydrauger design and installation can be tested and modified based on results obtained. These horizontal drains could be installed, for example, into the coastal bluff and extend north under PVDS, and directly drain into the ocean.

Further, it is recommended to perform an engineering analysis of the watershed including the northern canyon areas (upper Portuguese, Ishibashi, and Paintbrush Canyons) to identify where, how and to what extent stormwater infiltrates into groundwater in the PBLC. Subsequently, efforts could be made for design and installation of an environmentally friendly flexible liner system in the watershed canyons where the stormwater significantly infiltrates to groundwater in the PBLC in an attempt to minimize this infiltration and allow the stormwater to be discharged to the ocean in a controlled manner.

Further, it is recommended to identify existing surface fractures throughout the PBLC area and install land surface fracture sealing with environmentally friendly material to minimize direct uncontrolled stormwater infiltration which currently percolates into groundwater. These sealed surface fractures in the PBLC should be checked and maintained annually prior to the rainy season.

Sanitary sewer septic system effluent in the upslope areas has long been recognized as a source of groundwater recharge in the PBLC area that needs to be eliminated. In addition to the above options, it is recommended that the City consider working with its neighboring city, Rolling Hills, to construct a centralized sanitary sewer system and a storm water drainage system for the residential neighborhood at the top of the watershed above the Portuguese, Ishibashi, and Paintbrush Canyon areas, as well as within the City's Portuguese Bend neighborhood.

Importantly, the remedy options identified can be implemented in accordance with the City's Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). Several



stormwater control and groundwater extraction remedy elements, as envisioned, can be designed to be largely integrated into the native habitat.

Estimated order-of-magnitude costs for implementation of the recommended remedies total approximately \$31.3 million, with additional operating, maintenance, and monitoring costs totaling \$22 million approximately over 30 years. Additional hydrogeologic and geotechnical data will be collected as an integral step leading to final design and implementation. In addition, remedy construction is proposed to be completed incrementally and iteratively starting with a pilot test program for directional subsurface drains. Drain pilot testing costs (included in above estimates) are estimated to total approximately \$350,000 over about 12 to 18 months.

Stakeholder participation has been identified as a key pathway to project success and community acceptance. It is recommended that public workshops be scheduled at various stages of project implementation which could include the design phase, pre-construction, any pilot testing implementation and post construction phases of the project.



## **1. Introduction**

This report has been prepared by Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A) to present the methods, results, and conclusions of the Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex (PBLC) feasibility study (FS) update. This FS update has been completed to summarize the physical characteristics of the PBLC and vicinity, and to systematically compile historical PBLC investigation work, related vicinity geologic and hydrologic studies, previous efforts toward achieving land movement stabilization, and regulatory drivers that will impact implementation of PBLC stabilization measures. The currently available information has been presented and analyzed in this FS update in order to identify techniques and technologies that can be implemented to stabilize the PBLC. PBLC stabilization will be considered achieved when a significant reduction in land displacement is recorded, as measured by the land survey monitoring system currently in place or a successor land survey methodology.

The format of this FS broadly follows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) FS format (U.S. EPA, 1988) developed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). That is, this document is a CERCLA-analogue FS. The time-tested CERCLA FS approach is a systematic, methodical, and thorough concept-level process widely accepted in the engineering industry to develop, analyze, and select cost effective mitigation alternatives that can be accepted by federal, state, and local regulators and community stakeholders.

This introductory section presents site background information, regulatory history, the purpose and objectives of the FS, and a summary of community involvement opportunities.

### **1.1 Site Background**

#### ***1.1.1 Overview and Problem Statement***

The PBLC is located along the south central section of the Palos Verdes Peninsula within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes in Los Angeles County, California. The terminus of the active landslide complex, and generally the southwest boundary of the PBLC, is the Pacific Ocean. In



this location, the shoreline runs in a generally northwest to southeast direction along the coastal coves known as Portuguese Bend on the east and Smuggler's Cove (Sacred Cove) and Abalone Cove on the west (Figure 1). Two other prominent features on the coastline at the terminus of the PBLC are Inspiration Point and the more westerly Portuguese Point. The eastern border of the PBLC is formed by an approximate line that runs northward from western Yacht Harbor Drive to the confluence of Ishibashi and Paintbrush Canyons. The northern boundary of PBLC is a small distance south and subparallel to Burma Road, a trail that was established along the path of the former proposed Crenshaw Boulevard extension. Construction for the Crenshaw Boulevard extension was begun in the 1950s but was never completed. The western boundary of PBLC is an approximate north-south line located a small distance west of Peppertree Drive in a residential neighborhood. The western boundary terminates south of Palos Verdes Drive South (PVDS) and west of Portuguese Point.

Ehlig (1992) describes PBLC as being divided into two parts. The main part is described as moving towards Portuguese Bend (Figure 2). The western segment is described as moving into Sacred Cove between Inspiration Point and Portuguese Point. The main landslide has an area of about 190 acres and the western segment has an area of about 70 acres. Later, as reported by Douglas (2013), the PBLC was further divided into several subsides: (1) inland, (2) eastern, (3) central, (4) seaward, and (5) western subsides (Figure 3).

Douglas (2013) reports that the PBLC (along with the Abalone Cove landslide to the west of PBLC) is a reactivated part of an approximate 2-square mile ancient landslide mass termed the Altamira Landslide Complex on the overall south flank of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Douglas (2013) states that the landslide mass is a composite of numerous slides ranging from small slumps to large translational block slides that have occurred over the last approximately 800,000 years. Contrary to this view, Ehlig (1992) states that the slide originated about 120,000 years before present and was a megaslide that started moving as a unit but fragmented as movement progressed. A guide to landslide terminology, such as earthflow or landslide complex, is included as Appendix A for reference.

Regardless of the original movement of the larger landslide mass, in 1955, reactivation of the PBLC was initiated when Los Angeles County was constructing an extension to Crenshaw



Boulevard with the goal of extending the road down the south side of the Palos Verdes Hills to an intersection with PVDS. A relatively small landslide was triggered in 1956 during the road construction, and approximately 160,000 cubic yards of material was removed and placed at the head of the PBLC. MacKintosh and MacKintosh (1957) concluded that the sliding area had a very low factor of safety (FOS) prior to movement in 1955, and that the immediate cause of movement in 1956 and 1957 was the placement of approximately 3 million cubic feet of fill upon which to build the Crenshaw Boulevard extension. Consistent with antecedent instability noted by MacKintosh and MacKintosh (1957), Douglas (2013) reported that evidence of movement in historical aerial photographs had been discovered as early as 1948, and slide damage to the Portuguese Bend Club pier had been noticed as early as 1946. MacKintosh and MacKintosh (1957) observed that the most rapidly moving portion of the slide, on the eastern side of the slide, traveled about 22 feet in the seven months between September 17, 1956 and April 26, 1957.

Douglas (2013) reported at the time of Crenshaw Road extension project that houses in the area were using septic waste systems that recycled household water into the subsurface, and that the neighborhoods did not have storm drains. Both of these factors had been contributing to groundwater recharge in the PBLC area by the time the road construction began. Douglas (2013) also stated that Converse Consultants concluded that increased pore water pressure that resulted from elevated groundwater levels was a significant causal factor.

Since the reactivation in 1956, the slide has moved at various rates. In general, the area of greatest movement has stayed the same and is focused in the eastern and seaward subslide areas as reported by Douglas (2013) and described above. Figure 4 presents a map of the horizontal displacement that occurred between October 8, 2013 and September 19, 2014. Horizontal displacement of over 8.5 feet per year was measured within the eastern and seaward subslides.

Continued land movement in the PBLC area over the last several decades has resulted in significant infrastructure damage to homes, utilities, and roadways. The City of Rancho Palos Verdes has expended nearly 50 million dollars over the years repairing and maintaining the



damage and addressing the overall technical and administrative issues associated with managing such a complex problem.

### **1.1.2 Regulatory Background**

Historically, the primary driving force for conducting projects to stabilize the PBLC has not been of regulatory origin. Preservation of infrastructure, preservation of private property, preservation of open lands, preservation of the natural vegetation and recreational attributes of the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve (Preserve), reduction in soil erosion losses, restoring the water clarity in Portuguese Bend Cove, reduction in the cost of operation and maintenance of infrastructure, and health and safety concerns related to maintenance of the integrity of the key road system, the sewer system, and other infrastructure have been the leading drivers that have motivated the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and citizens to strive to achieve stabilization of the PBLC. As a result, there is little in the record that involves regulatory action with respect to the PBLC. Nonetheless, the following is a summary of applicable regulatory based actions taken relative to historical PBLC projects that may influence future work in the PBLC.

In September 1987, the Rancho Palos Verdes Redevelopment Agency (RDA) proposed a grading and drainage project as part of a series of projects designed to contribute to the stabilization of the PBLC. The project was examined on a general basis in previous environmental impact reports (EIRs) prepared by the RDA. This particular EIR provided an analysis of environmental impacts associated with grading, drainage, and relocation of PVDS. The final proposed project incorporated alterations that mitigated non-significant short-term negative impacts.

The Community Development Commission for the County of Los Angeles also completed a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental assessment and the project was found to be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and did not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). A finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was made stating that the project would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment (City of Rancho Palos Verdes, 1987).



In 1988, a general investigation study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was authorized by Public Law 99-662, Section 712 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, to study the feasibility of constructing shoreline erosion mitigation measures in order to provide additional stabilization for the PBLC and adjacent landslide areas (USACE, 1998). The authorization read that the Army was “. . . authorized to study the feasibility of constructing shoreline erosion mitigation measures along the Rancho Palos Verdes coastline and in the City of Rolling Hills, California for the purpose of providing additional stabilization for the Portuguese Bend landslide area and adjacent landslide areas.”

The study focus was on controlling sedimentation and turbidity in the nearshore and offshore zones that result from erosion at the shoreline, which impacts the marine species and habitat of the area. Additional fish and wildlife enhancement studies were authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Section 116 which read “. . . investigative measures to conserve fish and wildlife (as specific in Section 704 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986), including measures to demonstrate the effectiveness of intertidal marine habitat.” The reconnaissance study was initiated in October 1988 and completed in 1990, with a recommendation to proceed to a feasibility study based on a plan to help stabilize the landslide. However, a decision by the Assistant Secretary of the Army stated in a letter dated October 28, 1991 that “Landslide stabilization is outside the purview of the Army Civil Works program.” The reconnaissance report was revised in 1992 to reflect that decision, and no further study was recommended.

In anticipation of another proposed Portuguese Bend Grading Project located within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes Redevelopment Area, an initial study was prepared in September 1994 in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), and the State CEQA Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 as amended (California Code of Regulation Section 15000 et seq.). The project site was comprised of three vacant non-contiguous areas located on the eastern portion of the PBLC.

This report of the initial study complied with the rules, regulations, and procedures for implementation of CEQA adopted by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (the Local CEQA



Guidelines). The project grading activity, specifically cutting and filling within the PBLC, proposed the removal of approximately 50,000 cubic yards of earth material from a cut area approximately 6.25 acres in size located in the southeastern portion of the PBLC. The project also proposed redistribution of the 50,000 cubic yards of earth material to two previously graded/disturbed fill areas. The reported purpose of the proposed project was to reduce driving forces in an active portion of the PBLC by moving earth from a driving force area to a neutral area of driving force (EDAW, 1994).

In accordance with Section 15050 and 15367 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes was designated as the lead agency, defined as the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The project was funded by the RDA and implemented by the City working for the RDA. After implementation of the initial study, it was concluded that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect in this case because of mitigation measures that were added to the project. As a result, a mitigated negative declaration was prepared. Mitigations required as a component of the approved project included the following:

- Control of construction-generated dust
- Cessation of vehicular traffic when the wind speed exceeds 15 miles per hour (mph)
- Appropriate NO<sub>x</sub> emission controls on construction vehicles
- Minimization of footprint for construction vehicle routes
- Identification of optimum construction vehicle routes to avoid areas of sensitive vegetation
- Preparation and review of erosion control plans by the Director of Public Works and a qualified biologist to protect sensitive plant species and minimize disturbance to non-sensitive plant species
- Post-construction re-establishment of vegetation



- Prohibition of grading/construction during the mating/breeding/nesting season for the California gnatcatcher and the coastal cactus wren (mid-February through July)
- Limitation of construction hours to Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (noise control)
- Equipment of construction equipment with mufflers (noise control)

An extensive biological assessment of the Rancho Palos Verdes development area was attached to the study that was based on a literature review and field surveys of the study area and, in some cases, surrounding areas. It is noteworthy that the study concluded that the proposed project would not impact the quality of existing recreational opportunities and that the project was not located in an area of existing recreational use, or designated for recreational activity. That conclusion may require re-evaluation to consider current uses of the area.

Another initial study to evaluate a proposed erosion control project was conducted in 1994 (EDAW, 1994). The proposed project consisted of the placement of three drainage inlets and a 48-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) at the bottom of Portuguese Canyon, from PVDS to a point in the canyon approximately 1,600 feet north of PVDS. Approximately 350 linear feet of 1211 CMP was to be placed on the surface and staked down at each joint or at intervals not to exceed 15 feet.

The proposed project also involved minor grading and brush removal at the bottom of the canyon, as necessary for installation of the drainage pipe and inlets. A finding was issued that, although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. Preparation of a negative declaration was recommended (EDAW, 1994).

Subsequent to the Secretary of the Army declining to participate in a landslide study, Congress added funds for a feasibility study to develop a shore protection project that would provide for restoration of the natural marine habitat at Rancho Palos Verdes. An agreement between the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the USACE to perform the study was signed in December



1994. The alternative selected as the proposed recommended plan in the feasibility study was to construct a dike 400 feet offshore with natural removal of sediment deposits in the restoration area by wave action.

### **1.1.3 Recent Community Involvement**

The Landslide Subcommittee of the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council organized and held a series of public meetings on June 1, June 20, June 29, and July 6, 2017. The purpose of the meetings was to invite the community to participate in creating and identifying goals for the PBLC and to discuss the path forward in addressing the challenges faced by the community with respect to the PBLC.

At the first public meeting, held on June 1, 2017, goals were identified that included the following:

- Control of the PBLC and attendant costs
- Stabilize residences
- Retain use of PVDS
- Protect the integrity of the Preserve and preserve the marine ecology
- Restore the ecology of the ocean and land resources
- Explore the possible of a geological hazard abatement district (GHAD)
- Identify plausible potential solutions
- Provide the basis of a design-build proposal to solicit federal funding

The June 20, 2017 public meeting focused on potential solutions and/or actions for intercepting water on the PBLC. The meeting discussions were wide-ranging, and emphasized (1) the need to fully understand the hydrology of the watershed in which the PBLC is located, (2) the need to re-establish and maintain an effective stormwater control system, (3) the importance of capturing and controlling water before it gets into the PBLC, and (4) to minimize impacts to Preserve land.



The June 29, 2017 public meeting addressed the effects of the PBLC on the surf zone. Consensus of the participating public focused on (1) hiring competent engineers to implement recommendations, (2) early communication with relevant regulatory agencies (e.g., Coastal Commission) regarding any planned PBLC projects, (3) use of road maintenance funds to underwrite the necessary technical work needed to slow the PBLC movement, and (4) assessment of the environmental impacts to the Preserve land and ocean ecology plus restoration of potentially damaged habitat to its original condition.

The July 6, 2017 meeting focused on major actions that could be considered as a means of addressing the PBLC problem. As with a previous meeting, the public consensus focused on understanding the hydrology of the PBLC, understanding the occurrence of groundwater as it relates to the movement of the PBLC, and understanding and completing previous work on surface drainage.

On October 17, 2017, a meeting was held between representatives of the City, DBS&A, the PVPLC, and the Wildlife Agencies to discuss potential impacts of PBLC solutions within the context of the City's draft Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). The City's goal for the meeting was to develop a programmatic policy ensuring that, while the probability for successfully resolving the PBLC problem was maximized, all appropriate measures were being considered to minimize potential impacts to biological resources within the Preserve.

## **1.2 Project Area Definition**

This FS focuses on significantly reducing land movement in the defined Red Zone area (project area) of the PBLC, where land movement has consistently been measured at the greatest rates. As shown in Figure 2, in addition to PBLC, landslides in the southern Palos Verdes Peninsula include the Abalone Cove, Portuguese Bend, Flying Triangle, Klondike Canyon, and most of the Ancient Altamira Landslide. All of these landslides are located within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes except for the majority of the Flying Triangle Landslide, which is in Rolling Hills.



As described by Douglas (2013), two of the landslides, Portuguese Bend and Abalone Cove, are reactivated parts of a much larger and older slide mass that covers over 2 square miles and extends from the crest of the peninsula, near Crest Road, to the shoreline. Douglas (2013) named this ancient landslide mass the “Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex.”

Douglas (2013) reported that the Abalone landslide and surrounding area, including portions of the ancient landslide complex, has been largely stabilized through the use of groundwater dewatering using vertical wells. The Klondike and Flying Triangle Landslides are closely related in space and time to the PBLC and Abalone Landslides, and are also part of the Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex, but they are commonly considered separate failures (Douglas, 2013).

The PBLC project area within which land movement is being addressed by this FS is the area of greatest movement within the PBLC. As shown in Figure 4, the area in which measured horizontal movement has ranged from 1 foot, 10 inches to 8 feet, 7 inches is the area of greatest PBLC movement (the Red Zone). As mapped, the Red Zone is approximately 86 acres in area. This Red Zone area comprises what Douglas (2013) delineated as the eastern, central, and seaward landslide subareas of the PBLC, along with a small portion of the western PBLC landslide subarea, south of PVDS to the ocean.

The total PBLC area is approximately 250 acres (101 hectares) in area. However, the area of land on which conditions that contribute to landslide instability exist is much greater. Numerous hydrologic, geologic, and engineering reports of the PBLC have concluded that controlling the water that enters into and is stored in the PBLC subsurface is critical to achieving landslide stabilization. Therefore, this FS considers that the selected landslide stabilization solution will be implemented over an area larger than the PBLC or the Red Zone itself. Water can move into the PBLC subsurface, where it contributes to instability, via three pathways.

The first pathway is via rainfall and stormwater that runs off and subsequently infiltrates and percolates into the subsurface. Water is also introduced into the subsurface through residential use and disposal via onsite wastewater treatment systems (e.g., septic systems), a second pathway. The third pathway is via groundwater underflow. Groundwater underflow occurs



when groundwater that has percolated to the water table in one location migrates laterally to another location. In the PBLC location, previous contouring of groundwater levels indicates that groundwater is moving in the subsurface from upslope areas to the north of PBLC toward the south.

As a result, the larger area that is being considered when targeting a PBLC landslide stabilization solution is the watershed. A watershed is defined as the area of land bounded peripherally by a divide and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water. For example, in Portuguese Canyon, the watershed is defined as the land area from which all water that drains will ultimately drain into Portuguese Canyon. Based on review of topographic and drainage maps along with the use of field observations and aerial photographs, subsurface water in the PBLC is being impacted by water from Portuguese, Ishibashi, and Paintbrush Canyons. Figure 5 depicts the combined watershed boundary of the three canyons.

### **1.3 Purpose and Overview**

This FS report has been prepared consistent with methodologies that have been developed pursuant to CERCLA, also known as Superfund. Specifically, this FS was prepared using methodologies presented in the *Guidance for Conducting Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies Under CERCLA* (U.S. EPA, 1988). The CERCLA FS process is typically used to abate the risk of exposure to toxic environmental contaminants. In this project, toxic contamination is not an issue, and the criterion related to reduction of contaminant toxicity is removed from consideration.

The resulting FS process represents a systematic methodology established for characterizing the nature and extent of complex problems, evaluating potential remedial options, and selecting the optimum remedial solution options for the City's consideration. The overall goal of the FS process is to gather sufficient information to make an informed management decision regarding potential remedial actions, and to develop a comprehensive, reliable, restoration strategy that satisfies community and regulatory requirements. The specific purpose of this FS is to identify viable conceptual solution options that will accomplish the following project goals:



- Provide the geotechnical conditions that significantly reduce the risk of damage to public and private property and would allow for the significant improvement of roadway infrastructure, safety, and stability.
- Significantly reduce human health risk and improve safety in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.
- Significantly reduce sediment dispersal and deposition into the Pacific Ocean that is causing unacceptable turbidity in the coastal and marine environment.
- Select remedy options that will be consistent with the Natural Communities NCCP/HCP, specifically Section 4.1.2.

## **1.4 Document Organization**

This FS document generally follows the methodology and organizational format of the CERCLA feasibility study process (U.S. EPA, 1988). Section 1 presents an introduction that includes project background, history, project purpose, projection area definition, and a description of community involvement with the project. Section 2 provides a summary of the relevant previous work related to the PBLC and vicinity that forms a foundation for moving forward toward remedy selection and implementation options. Section 3 present a description of the physical characteristics of the project area including topography, watershed hydrology, soils, geology, groundwater, and landslide characteristics. Taken together, Sections 1 through 3 represent a characterization of the current information and data available to use in defining the PBLC setting and problem.

Using the information and data presented in Sections 1 through 3 as the basis, Section 4 presents the remedial FS section of the report. Sections 4.1 and 4.2 present the introduction and purpose of the FS and the summary of infrastructure concerns related to the PBLC, respectively. Section 4.3 presents the applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) potentially governing remedy implementation. Section 4.4 establishes the remedial action objectives (RAOs). Section 4.5 establishes general response actions (broad classes of available technologies) to control movement of the PBLC. Section 4.6 identifies and screens



the identified technologies appropriate to achieve the RAOs. Section 4.7 provides a more detailed discussion and analysis, presenting the pros and cons, of the technologies most suitable to achieve RAOs. Finally, the preferred alternative options are identified in Section 4.8 as the most appropriate technology and methodology to address RAOs. An analysis of remaining data gaps, the need for pilot testing, and an estimate of the cost of implementation of the selected remedy are also presented.



## **2. Summary of Previous Work**

As noted by Douglas (2013), numerous geologic, hydrogeologic, environmental, and engineering studies have been completed and numerous reports have been produced by several authors over the years since the PBLC was first recognized. Not all of the documents have been digitally archived and some information has likely been permanently lost over the years. However, some key documents are available that describe past efforts and designs for land stabilization that are useful to review and form a foundation for moving forward toward a solution. These documents, supplemental to those described in Section 1.1.2, are summarized below.

### **2.1 Historical Documents, 1957-1997**

In 1957, a report was written that described the ground movement of an approximately 200-acre area of land extending from above a major body of fill on Crenshaw Boulevard southward to the Pacific Ocean (MacKintosh, 1957). The report recommended that immediate emergency action be undertaken “. . . to protect the large investment in homes, streets, sewers, communication lines, and other utilities and improvements.” As of 1989, over 140 homes have been destroyed. Of the residents that remain, home utilities and foundation structures must be maintained continuously. It was also reported that over 10 million tons of mud and rock were deposited in the ocean. Disruption of vital community transportation and utility transmission lines is continuously threatened and millions of dollars have been spent to maintain community safety and services.

Between March and August 1957, the County of Los Angeles and Palos Verdes Properties installed a group of 22 reinforced concrete caisson “shear pins” across the active failure surface in an effort to stabilize the PBLC. Each of these caissons was 4 feet in diameter, 20 feet in length, and embedded 10 feet into the material underlying the “failure surface” as it was understood at that time. The landslide reportedly slowed by approximately 65 percent (from 0.8 to 0.25 inch per day) following the installation of these shear pins. This reduced rate of movement was only maintained for approximately five months. In early 1958, the landslide abruptly returned to its pre-shear pin displacement rate of nearly 0.8 inch per day. Several



intact shear pins have since been displaced to, and deposited on, the shoreline by subsequent landslide movement and wave action (Ehlig and Yen, 1997).

From the late 1950s through the mid-1980s a series of geologic and engineering studies were conducted to understand and characterize various aspects of the PBLC and related landslide complexes in the vicinity.

In 1972, Palos Verdes Properties provided financial support for a dissertation that analyzed the reasons for the movement of the PBLC (Vonder Linden, 1972). The report stated that “If movement were halted by eliminating infiltration of water, lowering the existing water table, and regrading parts of the slide surface, the factor of safety thereby would be raised to a value of at least unity.”

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes was incorporated in 1973, and at that time the City took over the maintenance of roads and utilities in the PBLC area within the City limits. It was reported that approximately 20 percent of the City budget for street maintenance was spent for the 0.8± mile of PVDS through the landslide (Ehlig and Yen, 1997).

In September 1978, the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 108U, which established the Landslide Moratorium Area in and around the PBLC. In February 1981, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 139U, which added the area known as Klondike Canyon to the Landslide Moratorium Area.

In 1984, the City put a landslide stabilization plan of control (POC) into operation. In 1984, it was reported that the PBLC was moving over 40 feet per year. The stabilization plan consisted of installation of dewatering wells, major surface drainage, and regrading redistribution of earthen mass. This initial effort has since been called Phase I (Ehlig and Yen, 1997). It was reported that 5 years after initiation of the POC, the PBLC was moving less than 1 foot per year.

The RDA proposed a grading and drainage project in September 1987, as Phase II of the POC intended to stabilize the PBLC (Ehlig and Yen, 1997). The grading portion performed in January and March 1988 involved redistribution of 500,000 cubic yards of earth from areas



where the slide plane was steep to areas where the slide plane was relatively level so that the weight of the landslide material acted as a resisting force rather than a driving force. Generally speaking, the rate of slide movement responded positively to dewatering, regrading, and surface drainage improvements in Phase I and II, but these were not ultimately able to stop the slow movement. In fact, the rate of movement increased in subsequent years as earlier work deteriorated.

Following a period of severe wave erosion and shoreline regression in early 1988, rock-filled wire baskets (gabions) were installed along the western shoreline of the landslide in 1988 in an attempt to reduce the rate of wave erosion. Although this temporarily abated the erosion, the gabions were essentially destroyed within an 18- to 24-month period by the combination of wave action, corrosion of the wire baskets, and landslide deformation (Ehlig and Yen, 1997).

In January 1989, the USACE held a public information workshop to present to the community a study it was beginning in order to identify the federal interest in solutions to problems associated with shoreline erosion mitigation measures and storm damage along the coast of Rancho Palos Verdes, including consideration of how such a solution would contribute to landslide stabilization. In June 1993, the Assistant City Manager of Rancho Palos Verdes wrote a memorandum describing an upcoming workshop on the RDA's interaction with the USACE on a feasibility study for shoreline protection and marine environmental restoration. The discussions centered on the need for shoreline protection, not landslide abatement.

Phase III grading was completed during August and September 1990. This phase of grading involved the relocation of approximately 60,000 cubic yards of soil from the central uphill margin of the landslide to the eastern portion of the failure immediately upslope of PVDS. Following this unloading, perceptible movement of the Landward Zone appears to have stopped until the heavy rainfall of January 1995. Between the completion of the 1990 Phase III grading and 1995, the rate of landslide movement gradually increased to approximately 0.25 inch per day (Ehlig and Yen, 1997).

In 1991, Rancho Palos Verdes staff gave a presentation to the City Council on the progress of the stabilization plan. The progress reported included the performance of extensive geologic



investigations using the services of 25 experts in the fields of geology and engineering. In addition, \$1.5 million had been spent to implement grading, dewatering wells had been installed, and drainage structures had been constructed to control and convey water through the PBLC.

In September 1994, a consultant proposed a grading project to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes in which several areas of the PBLC slide area were identified as “cut” zones where 50,000 cubic yards was to be removed, and other areas of lower elevation were identified as “fill” zones. As with the earlier proposed grading project of 1987, the purpose was to reduce driving forces in an active portion of the PBLC by moving earth from a driving force area to a neutral area of driving force.

In 1997, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the USACE commissioned a study to determine the impact of the PBLC on the ocean environment (Abbott Associates, 1997) that concluded that 3,589,000 cubic yards of earth had entered into the ocean as a result of landsliding.

## **2.2 1997 Ehlig and Yen Feasibility Study**

A preliminary geologic and geotechnical engineering report was jointly prepared by Perry Ehlig (Ehlig) and Bing Yen & Associates, Inc. (BYA) which was presented to the City Council of Rancho Palos Verdes in 1997. The report evaluated the feasibility of a POC developed in 1995 by Ehlig and BYA and amended it for the 1997 report. The POC was intended to minimize or arrest the movement of the more rapidly moving portion (East-Central Subslide) of the PBLC and if successful, would provide valuable insight on the feasibility of stabilizing the western portion of the PBLC.

The scope of work of the study incorporated compilation and evaluation of the historical surface and subsurface data to determine where additional exploration was needed to develop a preliminary geotechnical model for analysis. The study also consisted of installation of 13 additional monitoring wells to characterize groundwater, drilling of 18 large-diameter, 8 rotary-wash, and 4 rotary-core boreholes for subsurface mapping of the slide plane(s), and collection of slide plane samples for additional laboratory testing. Back calculation of the slide behavior was performed on the slide model to calibrate the soil parameters and confirm the



validity of the model. Assessment of the proposed POC in mitigating the slide movement was done using the model to identify primary and supplemental mitigation techniques and their effectiveness. Based on the results of the POC assessment, conclusions and recommendations were presented in a formal report.

Based on movement patterns, geologic, and/or geomorphic features, the PBLC was subdivided into subslides. The subslides were classified on increasing displacement rates which include, from the lowest to greatest rate of movement, the Landward, the West-Central, the East-Central, and the Seaward subslides. The study estimates that for the period from 1956 to 1996, rates of displacement range of the subslides range from 0.2 to more than 1.5 inches per day, and that the higher rates are associated with periods of above-average rainfall.

The Ehlig/BYA POC recommended removal of approximately 450,000 cubic yards of slide plane clay from the upper portions of the Landward and East-Central subslides of the PBLC. This plan requires the excavation and removal of approximately 2.65 million cubic yards of landslide materials. They estimate that roughly 100,000 cubic yards of the landslide materials would consist of bentonitic (slide plane) clay, which could be used as a blanket fill to retard surface water infiltration. The remainder of the removed materials would be exported off-site and replaced with compacted fill.

The POC also included installation of subdrain systems in the removal areas, construction of impervious drainage channels in selected canyons, installation of dewatering wells, and re-establishment of surface drainage within the developed portion of Portuguese Canyon. The study evaluated three scenarios where no reduction in groundwater levels occurred, lowering of the groundwater level of 25 feet, and lowering of groundwater level of up to 35 feet south of the regraded area. The increase in the factor of safety was estimated to range from 7 percent to 16 percent.

After discussing the benefits of dewatering and its positive effect on increasing the factor of safety, the report stated:



However, engineering analysis also revealed that the Seaward subslide, exacerbated by its steep and dilated bluff and erosion at its toe, will have a lower factor of safety than the regraded northeast PBL. Hence, the Seaward subslide may move first and, consequently, pose the risk that the EastCentral subslide may lose its lateral support towards the ocean. Engineering analysis shows further that the reduction of lateral support will reduce the factor of safety of the East-Central subslide to 1.04. This means that, while it appears to be theoretically feasible that the proposed POC [plan of control] can improve the current state of stability in eastern PBL, the margin of safety for the East-Central subslide (at a factor of safety of 1.04) is too small and the East-Central subslide will have an intermittent slow movement and periodic acceleration following heavy precipitation.

Thus, the authors indicate their opinion that the avoidance of the addition of water to the subsurface in this area is critical. However, the authors stated that even in the best case, the proposed POC would only be capable of improving the stability marginally and that the landslide may still creep intermittently and be susceptible to reactivation. Conditions cited which could contribute to reactivation of the landslide included shoreline erosion, successive years of above average rainfall, lapses in the de-watering or surface drainage maintenance programs, and continued movement of the Seaward and/or West-Central subslides. Thus the authors evaluated supplemental stabilization measures that included (1) slide plane clay strength enhancement, (2) the construction of a revetment along the shore line, and (3) a more extensive dewatering program.

The evaluation indicated that the tests conducted for this report regarding slide plane clay strength enhancement via lime injection were promising but not extensive, nor was the method of field implementation proven. A pilot test was recommended. The construction of a revetment along the shore line was assumed to be implemented in combination with strength reduction due to slow movement. In this scenario, the revetment was deemed a successful approach, but it was recognized that any construction in the vicinity of the existing shoreline would require permits from federal and state regulating agencies, and that obtaining these permits might be a long and costly process with uncertain outcome. Regarding supplemental dewatering, the authors stated that the benefits of lowering the groundwater elevation would be theoretically significant, particularly in the eastern portion of the landslide. However, to lower the water table an average of more than 20 feet may not be feasible because of the high cost associated with



lowering groundwater within the low permeability material. At the time, the authors believed that one could not practically expect to lower the water table an additional 20 feet below the October 1996 level across the PBLC as a whole (Ehlig and Yen, 1997).

Ehlig and Yen (1997) also reported on a global positioning system (GPS) satellite survey network that the City of Rancho Palos Verdes established that showed that the eastern portion of the slide moving about twice as fast as the western portion. The report stated that the rate accelerates when groundwater rises and/or when the landward (northern) portion of the slide exerts additional driving forces due to local slope failures or debris accumulations. Erosion of the toe of the slide along the shore exacerbates the instability of the seaward portion of the slide.

### **2.3 2000 Leighton Feasibility Study**

In a report prepared for the Palos Verdes Portuguese Bend Company, Leighton and Associates (Leighton) (2000) reviewed the 1997 POC (Ehlig and Yen, 1997) and recommended revisions. The report was prepared for the proposed construction of an 18-hole golf course and related facilities. The report presented a revised POC termed the Palos Verdes Portuguese Bend (PVPB) POC. The PVPB POC included all but the lime injection aspects of the 1997 POC, supplemented with a more extensive removal and capping of the landslide area, and extensive shear keys, as well as additional subdrains, monitoring wells, and dewatering wells. Grading for the property, including Peacock Hill and the active PBLC, was presented in a proposed grading plan. The PVPB POC was planned in phases, sequenced to limit the probability of major accelerations in the rate of landslide movement.

The scope of work for the study included determination of the subsurface geologic structure, the ancient and active rupture surfaces, the gross stability of the site, and a groundwater analysis. The work performed included review of past geological, geotechnical, and hydrogeological reports and maps, aerial photograph analysis, and geologic mapping of the field area. Analyses of GPS survey and monitoring well data were also completed for the study. Subsurface exploration included drilling of 9 large-diameter and 11 continuous-core borings with downhole wireline geophysical logging, in addition to logging of 3 exploratory trenches. All of the core



borings were converted to monitoring wells, and 4 additional monitoring wells were constructed with nests of piezometers. Laboratory testing of slide plane materials was conducted to establish chemical and physical properties for utilization in the slope stability analyses. Slope stability analysis was performed of the present stability and to determine the impacts of the proposed development, and the implementation of the proposed POC was also included.

Other remedial measures proposed by Leighton include construction of two additional large shear keys to support buttresses of recompacted fill with subdrainage. The largest of the shear keys was proposed to be constructed near the toe of the PBLC and a toe protection system consisting of a riprap revetment was also recommended. An elaborate system of subdrainage of horizontal wells would intercept subsurface flow below Paintbrush and Ishibashi Canyons and direct flow to the ocean. Also, permeable drainage membranes, remedial grading, and construction of a drainage culvert would reduce surface water infiltration and facilitate gravity flow for the subdrainage system. Other remedial measures include more extensive capping of the landslide area, a short sheet pile wall at the western Klondike Canyon landslide boundary adjacent to the Beach Club, and construction of a dewatering pit to permit the development of a system of hydroaugers.

The slope analysis conducted by Leighton estimates that the factor of safety for the most active portions of the PBLC would increase by approximately 50 percent. The factor of safety for the less active portions would increase by approximately 20 percent. They also conclude that the slide movement of the active portions of the PBLC located east of Inspiration Point would be arrested.



### **3. Physical Characteristics of the PBLC Vicinity**

This section provides information describing PBLC area topography, hydrology, soils, geology, and hydrogeology, as well as landslide characteristics.

#### **3.1 Topography**

The regional topography of the ancient Altamira Landslide Complex is mapped in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Redondo Beach, Torrance, and San Pedro quadrangles (USGS, 1963 and 1964). More recently, the Los Angeles Region Imagery Acquisition Consortium (LAR-IAC) developed a digital terrain model (DTM) using LiDAR and generated 2-foot and 5-foot digital contour elevation for Los Angeles urban project areas and Catalina Island, which includes the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (circa 2015) (Figure 6). The PBLC is located in the southeast portion of the larger and older Altamira Landslide Complex, is completely mapped within the San Pedro, California quadrangle (USGS, 1964), and is part of the LAR-IAC DTM.

The Altamira landslide covers over 2 square miles extending from the crest of Palos Verdes peninsula near Crest Road at elevations of approximately 1,200 feet above mean sea level (feet msl) to the shoreline (Douglas 2013, Vonder Linden 1972). The perimeter of the Altamira Landslide Complex is generally bounded by an unnamed canyon adjacent to Barkentine Canyon to the west and the Klondike Canyon to the east and has the overall shape of a rotational landslide. The Altamira Landslide Complex is characterized by rolling hills with numerous gullies and canyons oriented generally perpendicular to the shoreline. Landward, the head of the ancient landslide is the prominent Valley View Graben, which sharply declines in elevation by 145 feet into a relatively flat surface of approximately 400 feet in width.

The extension zone of the Altamira Landslide covers over 50 percent of the area and has a stepwise series of scarps and platforms with the major scarp dropping from 1,200 feet msl to the first head at 900 feet msl. The head scarp of the landslide contains some of the steepest slopes, with between 150 percent and 280 percent gradient. The last “platforms” are at approximately 500 feet msl, where there begins a relatively flat surface in the central portion of



the ancient landslide, south of Narcissa Drive, that extends to the head of the Abalone Cove Landslide.

The area of relatively flat terrain covers half a square mile in the central portion of the Altamira Landslide Complex. This area is characterized by rolling hills with slope gradients generally less than 60 percent. The Altamira Canyon cuts through this relatively gentle sloping surface with elevations falling from 400 feet msl to approximately 250 feet msl over a distance of 100 feet. The Altamira Canyon is the longest canyon (8,800 feet) that extends from the crest of the slide to the shoreline, just west of Inspiration Point.

Throughout the Altamira landslide there are a series of canyons that run parallel to each other and range between 800 to 8,800 feet in length. From west to east there is the unnamed canyon that bounds the landslide, as well as Vanderlip, Altamira, Kelvin, Portuguese, Ishibashi, Paint Brush, and Klondike Canyons, with slope gradients that range between 100 percent and 280 percent.

Abalone Cove Landslide and the PBLC are generally within the compression zone or toe of Altamira Canyon and are characterized by a hummocky topography with rounded hills and some smooth valleys with a maximum elevation of 500 feet msl. On average, there is about 7 degrees dip in topography from the crest to the shoreline (Ehlig and Yen, 1997; Mackintosh, 1957). The crest of the PBLC is approximately 500 feet msl and the toe of the slide extends to the shoreline. In this compression zone, PVDS runs generally east to west, parallel to the shoreline. The elevation of PVDS ranges from approximately 160 to 220 feet msl and is about 800 feet from the shoreline.

Pronounced sea cliffs and narrow beaches are present at the shoreline. The most noticeable features along the shoreline include two promontories that are present in the Western and western Seaward subslide areas of the PBLC (Figure 3), the westerly Inspiration Point and the easterly Portuguese Point with elevations up to 135 feet msl.



### 3.2 Watershed Hydrology

A watershed is defined as a region or area bound peripherally by a divide and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water. In this case, the bodies of water of interest are the canyons that convey surface water, to one degree or another, through the area of the PBLC. It is also of interest to characterize the areas from which stormwater drains and ultimately runs off into the PBLC canyons. Water from those areas ultimately flows into the PBLC canyons and, in turn, into the PBLC.

The PBLC receives water (both surface water and groundwater) from the watersheds of Portuguese Canyon, Ishibashi Canyon, and Paintbrush Canyon. These canyons are generally ephemeral, meaning that surface water does not flow through them throughout the year. Rather, these canyons generally have flowing water when and after it rains and they convey stormwater from the high ground in the watershed toward the Pacific Ocean. Collectively, they are referred to herein as the PBLC Canyons. Klondike Canyon is considered herein separate from the PBLC but, as described below, water from Klondike Canyon likely flows as underflow across the watershed divide at the lower southwest end of the Klondike Canyon watershed. Klondike Canyon is also an exception in that perennial water is observed flowing in the lower reaches of Klondike Canyon. The PBLC Canyons are shown in Figure 5 with their collective watershed boundaries.

The PBLC Canyons are located in what is identified as the “Ocean South South” (*sic*) drainage area in the Master Plan of Drainage (MPD) (RBF Consulting, 2015), a part of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed defined by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The PBLC Canyons are directly tributary to the Pacific Ocean. The PBLC Canyons have storm drain systems located in their upper reaches that discharge into the canyons that, in turn, drain ultimately into the ocean. The area of the Portuguese Bend watershed that drains into the PBLC Canyons is approximately 627 acres.

Over significant reaches of these canyons, notably the portions which direct water to and through the PBLC, the drainage systems consist mostly of canyon bottoms that are unimproved open channels. The surface of the ground within much of the PBLC is generally hummocky,



irregular, and locally fissured due to the landslide activity. Previous drainage structures constructed to control and convey stormwater runoff have failed. The MPD (RBF Consulting, 2015) found that the CMP structures were undersized for the calculated flow they would receive. As a result, surface drainage within the landslide is generally poor and difficult to maintain. Infiltration of the runoff conveyed through these canyons is a source of recharge for the groundwater within the landslide (Ehlig and Yen, 1997).

As described in the MPD (RBF Consulting, 2015), Ocean South South has three major canyons: Altamira Canyon, Portuguese Bend Canyon, and Paint Brush Canyon. While a part of the delineated Ocean South South drainage area, surface water from Altamira Canyon does not drain directly into PBLC like the other adjacent canyons and will not be discussed further herein. Groundwater that originates from Altamira Canyon infiltration may, however, flow into the PBLC area. Portuguese Canyon is located on the westerly side of the PBLC and generally forms the boundary of two subsides termed by Ehlig and Yen (1997) as the West-Central and East-Central slides. This boundary, and Portuguese Canyon, is defined by a near vertical fault that extends in a north-south direction along the general alignment of Portuguese Canyon (Ehlig and Yen, 1997). The upper reaches of Portuguese Canyon are steep and convey stormwater quickly to the lower reaches where water moves more slowly in the low gradient terrain. Smaller in size, Ishibashi Canyon, located east of Portuguese Canyon, drains into Paint Brush Canyon which, in turn, drains into an undeveloped mountain-front alluvial fan area of the PBLC. Paint Brush Canyon includes two debris basins in series upstream of the confluence of Ishibashi and Paint Brush Canyons before discharging to the upper end of the PBLC, where evidence in the field indicates that stormwater readily infiltrates.

Klondike Canyon is located east of Paintbrush Canyon and the PBLC. The area of the Klondike Canyon Watershed is 680 acres and a smaller portion of that area drains into Klondike Canyon itself. The southwest margin of the Klondike Canyon Watershed, where Klondike Canyon stormwater empties into the Pacific Ocean, is within the mapped boundary of the PBLC. Though it appears likely, based on its location relative to the PBLC boundary and the generally low-lying surface terrain, it is unknown whether groundwater is moving from the lower Klondike Canyon Watershed into the PBLC Watershed. This is a complicated area where the Klondike



Canyon Watershed abuts the PBLC Watershed and the Klondike Canyon Landslide abuts the PBLC in an area of maximum PBLC movement.

As mentioned above, there are several swales and storm drains that drain the upper reaches of the watershed into the PBLC Canyons and Klondike Canyon where the water is then conveyed to the Pacific Ocean (Figure 7). The upper watershed areas contributing to water flow into the PBLC and Klondike Canyon landslides are located within the City of Rolling Hills. This may represent legal and/or jurisdictional access challenges with respect to the implementation of landslide abatement solutions that involve stormwater control and conveyance. Of the combined approximately 1,300-acre area of the PBLC and Klondike watersheds, approximately 360 acres (28 percent) lies within Rolling Hills. The balance of the watershed areas (940 acres, or 72 percent) lies within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

There are currently no known stream gage data based on monitoring of either dry weather or storm water flow in the canyons that convey water into the PBLC and the Klondike Canyon Landslide. These canyons have a bottom generally 10 to 20 feet wide and fall 15 to 20 feet in a 100-foot run. A hydrologic study for this area is not within the scope of this study. Based on information in the MPD, it is estimated that the 100-year storm runoff for each of the above canyons would be approximately 200 cubic feet per second (cfs). This is not a rigorously derived design value, but rather an estimate to provide a basis to establish the rough sizing and feasibility of improvements being considered as part of a conceptual landslide stabilization solution.

### **3.3 Soils**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) SSURGO database (USDA, 2015) was used to access information about the surficial soils at the PBLC (Appendix B). The SSURGO database contains information about soil as collected by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) over the course of a century. The information is typically displayed in tables or as maps and is available for most areas in the U.S. The information was gathered by walking over the land and observing the soil. In many cases, soil samples were analyzed in laboratories. The maps outline areas called map units. The map units describe soils and other components that



have unique properties, interpretations, and productivity. The information was collected at scales ranging from 1:12,000 to 1:63,360. More details were gathered at a scale of 1:12,000 than at a scale of 1:63,360. The mapping is intended for natural resource planning and management by landowners, townships, and counties.

The soil survey information came from the Soil Survey of Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part (CA 696), mapped at a scale of 1:24000, using aerial images dated May 25, 2010 to November 24, 2014.

The predominant soil unit symbol in the PBLC is 1168 with a mapping unit name of Haploxerepts, 10 to 35 percent slopes. Rather than a typical association of soil series, the name Haploxerepts refers to the soil taxonomic classification of surficial soils that predominantly occur in the PBLC. Haploxerept soils typically occur at an elevation of 0 to 1,210 feet msl in an annual precipitation zone that typically ranges from 13 to 17 inches. Mean annual temperature typically ranges from 62 to 63 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). In this mapping unit, Haploxerept soils make up about 90 percent of the landscape, with the minor component of 10 percent composed of the Lunada soil that typically occurs on hillslopes.

Haploxerepts generally occur on landslides in mixed slide deposits derived mostly from calcareous shale. The typical soil profile of a Haploxerept is as follows: 0 to 7 inches, loam; 7 to 20 inches loam with the incipient development of soil structure; 37 to 79 inches, channery loam. A channery soil is a soil that is, by volume, more than 15 percent thin, flat fragments of sandstone, shale, slate, limestone, or schist as much as 6 inches along the longest axis. A loam is soil composed mostly of sand (particle size > 63 micrometers [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]), silt (particle size > 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ), and a smaller amount of clay (particle size < 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ). By weight, its mineral composition is about 40/40/20 percent concentration of sand/silt/clay, respectively. These proportions can vary to a degree, however, and result in different types of loam soils: sandy loam, silty loam, clay loam, sandy clay loam, silty clay loam, and loam, depending on which particle size predominates.

Haploxerepts typically occur on slopes that range from 10 to 35 percent, are well drained (internally), and have moderately high to high capacity to transmit water. Typical saturated



hydraulic conductivities ( $K_{sat}$ ) of Haploxerepts range from 0.60 to 2 inches per hour. Depth to first water is typically greater than 80 inches.

Soils are also typically classified as lying within a hydrologic soil group that, when considered with land use, management practices, and hydrologic conditions, determine a soil's associated runoff curve number. Runoff curve numbers are used to estimate direct runoff from rainfall (NRCS, 2007). Soils were originally assigned to hydrologic soil groups based on measured rainfall, runoff, and infiltrometer data. As the initial work was done to establish these groupings, assignment of soils to hydrologic soil groups has been based on the judgment of soil scientists. Assignments are made based on comparison of the characteristics of unclassified soil profiles with profiles of soils already placed into hydrologic soil groups. Most of the groupings are based on the premise that soils found within a climatic region that are similar in depth to a restrictive layer or water table, transmission rate of water, texture, structure, and degree of swelling when saturated, will have similar runoff responses.

The Haploxerepts mapped at the PBLC are classified as falling within the characteristic of Hydrologic Group B (NRCS, 2017). Soils in this group have moderately low runoff potential when saturated, and water transmission through the soil is not impeded. Group B soils typically have between 10 percent and 20 percent clay and 50 percent to 90 percent sand and have loamy sand or sandy loam textures (USDA, 2015).

Douglas (2013) also characterized PBLC area soils as commonly comprising soils that are "expansive" in character. Douglas states that weathering and erosion of the Altamira bedrock produced a soil that is rich in clay minerals with distinctive properties. These clays have the ability to absorb and expel water so that they can swell (expand) or shrink (contract). When it rains, the clays in the soil absorb water, expand and become sticky. In the summer, they dry out and the clays lose water and contract. In the dry months, the soils in the area develop cracks, sometimes more than an inch across and up to a foot deep. In the rainy months, the cracks disappear as the clays absorb water. In the process of wetting and drying, expansion and contraction, the soils on the slopes respond to gravity and slowly migrate downslope. This is called soil creep. Expansive soils can also be a problem for slabs or foundations or anything that is placed in or on the ground without proper footing. Expansive soil movement is related to



rainfall patterns and can amount to tenths of an inch to inches per year (Douglas, 2013). Douglas (2013) pointed out that in locations where GPS measurements indicate that land displacement is minimal, there is the possibility that the slow movement is due to slope creep from expansive soils.

In summary, surficial soils on the PBLC are generally loamy in texture with a proportion of sand, silt, and clay of about 40/40/20 percent. They can take in and percolate water readily. They are relatively deep and have a moderate to high water-holding capacity. They develop deep, wide cracks during the dry summer and provide channels for later infiltration during the rainy season. Once water has infiltrated and is stored in the soil profile, the presence of expansive clays causes the soils to expand (or swell), closing the soil cracks. The cycle of expansion and contraction is a source of soil creep. Without a pathway for surface water to runoff to the Pacific Ocean, the infiltration of runoff water sourced from slopes higher on the PBLC readily occurs and exceeds the storage capacity of surficial soils. The excess water then percolates into underlying formations, beyond the reach of transpiring plants, where it potentially provides a mechanism to facilitate more significant slide movements.

### **3.4 Geology**

The PBLC is located on the northwest trending Palos Verdes Peninsula, which is formed on the hanging wall of the southwest-dipping Palos Verdes fault (Douglas, 2013) (Figure 8). The Peninsula is the result of uplift and formation of a doubly plunging anticline. The anticline plays an important role in the presence of the PBLC, which is located on the southern flank of the fold. The head of the landslide coincides with the crest of the anticline and the south limb is gently inclined in the seaward direction. The sedimentary rocks that form the Peninsula include the Mesozoic Catalina Schist, Monterey Formation, marine terrace deposits, alluvium, and landslide deposits.

The oldest rocks of the Peninsula consist of Mesozoic Catalina Schist, which forms the core of the anticline (Ehlig, 1992). Middle to Late Miocene marine sediments of the Monterey Formation unconformably overlie the schist, and these sediments were deposited in an ocean basin (Douglas, 2013). Widespread volcanism occurred in the early phase of deposition of the



Monterey Formation, which contributed volcanoclastic sediments to the Monterey Formation (Conrad and Ehlig, 1987). Conrad and Ehlig (1987) subdivided the rocks of the Monterey Formation into three main members, from lower to upper: the Altamira Shale, Valmonte Diatomite, and Malaga Mudstone (Figure 9). In the Pliocene, the ocean basin was subsequently folded into an anticline and uplifted what is now the Peninsula, producing an island separated from the mainland by a shallow sea (Douglas, 2013). Erosion of the uplifted island resulted in sedimentation of the shallow sea, forming a peninsula connected to the mainland. Fluctuations of sea levels in the Pleistocene simultaneous with uplift resulted in preservation of 13 marine terraces that circumscribe the Peninsula. Modern day sea level produces near vertical sea cliffs almost 150 feet high and erodes the landslide toe at relatively high rates.

The two upper members of the Monterey Formation are mostly composed of biogenic materials such as diatomite, diatom-rich shale, and phosphate-rich mudstones. The Altamira Shale member is further subdivided into lower and middle tuffaceous shale and upper cherty and phosphatic lithofacies (Figure 9) (Douglas, 2013). The tuffaceous shale is rich in volcanic ash that contains interbeds of clay and bentonite that are inherently weak. The bentonite beds are the slip surfaces of most landslides in the peninsula (Ehlig, 1992; Douglas, 2013). The clay and bentonite interbeds form aquitards or aquicludes that permit the buildup of pore water pressure. Outcrops of the tuffaceous lithofacies in the ancient Altamira Landslide Complex are predominantly composed of tuffaceous shales with interbeds of cherts, silty sandstone, and intrusive basalt sills (Douglas, 2013).

The Altamira Shale member also contains beds of tuff turbidite, ash fall, and debris flow tuffs that vary in thickness and are discontinuous over short distances (Douglas, 2013). Two distinctive tuff units occur within the tuffaceous lithofacies including the Miraleste Tuff and the Portuguese Tuff (Douglas, 2013). The Miraleste tuff is positioned in the upper part of the facies and the Portuguese tuff occurs approximately 450 feet below the top of the tuffaceous facies. The Portuguese Tuff ranges in thickness from approximately 20 to 60 feet with an average thickness of approximately 50 to 60 feet in the PBLC (Leighton and Associates, 2000). The variable thickness is the result of deposition on a hummocky sea floor interpreted to be caused by a single eruptive event (Ehlig, 1992). Most of the tuff has been converted to montmorillonite



clay (bentonite) due to groundwater and heat (Douglas, 2013). The Portuguese Tuff functions as a zone of low shear strength and as an aquiclude in the PBLC (Ehlig, 1992). In the upper and middle portions of the PBLC, the landslide shear zone is positioned in a range approximately 50 feet above the tuff to coinciding with the top of the tuff. In the lower portion of the PBLC, the shear zone is positioned near the base of the tuff (Ehlig, 1992).

Several folds and faults occur in the PBLC and offshore areas, the largest of which are anticlinal folds (Figure 10). All of the folds are asymmetric, east-west trending, and anticlinal. None of the onshore folds are exposed at the surface but are identified with subsurface data. The folds are significant in that they have influenced the direction of movement of the subsides of the PBLC (Douglas, 2013). Ehlig and Yen (1997) described the western edge of the east central subslide to be defined by a near vertical fault which extends in a north-south direction along the general alignment of Portuguese Canyon. The canyon probably developed along the fault. The fault is controlled by a discontinuity in the underlying bedrock structure.

All of the geologic structures were formed during uplift and folding of the Peninsula. The crests of the anticline located at the head of the PBLC trends westward to Altamira Canyon where it underlies the hills of "Peacock Flats." This anticline retards seaward movement of the ancient Altamira Landslide. Subsurface data reveal two flexural faults in the bedrock under the PBLC that trend west to east (Douglas, 2013). One of the flexures coincides with the boundary of the eastern and inland subsides (Figure 3). These flexures cause undulations in the slip zone of the PBLC, which creates large tension cracks in the slide mass as it moves over them.

### **3.5 Landslide Characterization**

The PBLC is the reactivated portion of a bowl-shaped area that encompasses approximately 2 square miles on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex (Figure 3). The Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex was first mapped by Woodring et al. (1946). More recent studies have moved the head of the landslide northward to include the Valley View graben (Douglas, 2013). There are differing hypotheses that postulate on the initiation and evolution of the Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex. Jahns and Vonder Linden (1972) believed that the Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex was the result of a series of semi-



independent slides that formed in three separate time intervals during the 500,000 years. The oldest slides are located inland and the slides became progressively younger toward the coast.

Ehlig (1992) proposed that the Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex initiated as a megaslide that moved as a simple translational glide block unit and, with continued displacement, the original slide block became fragmented. Furthermore, he concluded that the megaslide occurred sometime prior to 125,000 years ago and was no older than 200,000 years ago. Douglas (2013) argued that the AALC contains terrace remnants that are older than 200,000 years and therefore, its origin is older. He proposed that the upper block of landslide complex separated from a paleo sea cliff dated at 780,000 years and initial movement began shortly after this date. Douglas (2013) also believes that movement occurred in episodes with the oldest block at the head and the youngest at the coast which is consistent with the Jahns and Vonder Linden (1972) model. Given that borings drilled through the PBLC have determined that the ancient rupture surface is mostly at or the near the top of the Portuguese Tuff and the rupture surface is stratigraphically continuous, Leighton and Associates (2000) favor initial translational movement as a single sheet that subsequently broke up into large blocks consistent with the Ehlig (1992) model.

The active PBLC encompasses approximately 250 acres with a maximum width of 3,600 feet and maximum head-to-toe length of approximately 4,200 feet (Douglas, 2013). The PBLC, together with the Abalone Cove and Klondike Canyon Landslides are reactivated portions of the Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex (Ehlig, 1992; Douglas, 2013). The western margin of the PBLC is poorly defined and transitory with respect to the Abalone Cove Landslide, whereas the east margin is well-defined. The internal structure of the landslide is established to be a series of randomly oriented large blocks separated by fractures and grabens (Ehlig and Yen, 1997; Leighton and Associates, 2000). Five large, semi-independent blocks or subslides were identified by Ehlig (1992), including the Landward, East-Central, West-Central, and Seaward subslides (Figure 3).

The Abalone Cove Landslide Abatement District (ACLAD) is the first Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) created (in 1981) under the Beverly Act of 1979 (SB1195). The ACLAD is governed by a board of directors elected from property owners in the district area and



assesses property owners to pay for the construction and maintenance of abatement measures in the Abalone Cove Landslide area, such as groundwater dewatering wells. The ACLAD maintains an extensive dewatering well network in the area. The well network has reportedly lowered water levels in the slide area up to a maximum of approximately 60 feet (Douglas, 2007) and helped to promote overall relative land stability in the ACLAD area.

Ehlig and Yen (1997) supplemented their subsurface exploration data set with data acquired from previously drilled borings to construct a structure contour map of the basal rupture surface in the PBLC. The contour map estimates and maps the elevation of the rupture surface for the Landward, West-Central, and Seaward subslides. However, lack of subsurface data (data gap) east of Portuguese Canyon permits only inferred mapping of the rupture surface in this area. The undulating shape of the rupture surface is controlled by the structure of the underlying bedrock. The dips of the rupture surface range from approximately 15 to 25 degrees beneath the Landward subslide and flatten to less than 5 degrees in an anticlinal undulation along the southern margin near the West-Central and East-Central subslide boundaries (Ehlig and Yen, 1997; Leighton and Associates, 2000).

One significant characteristic of the basal rupture surface is the trough shaped basin formed along the eastern part of the East-Central subslide (Appendix C). The rupture surface steepens to 17 degrees at the northern flank of the trough with the central portion of the trough positioned just below sea level. The southern flank of the trough is gently inclined to the north and the rupture surface rises back up above sea level. Ehlig and Yen (1997) reported that a near vertical, north-south tear fault forms the boundary between the West-Central and East-Central subslides. The rupture surface of the West-Central subslide is generally uniformly gently dipping at approximately 7 degrees. An anticlinal undulation produces a 30 to 40 foot rise in the rupture surface which produces a buttressing effect on the subslide as the mass must climb to reach the crest of the fold (Leighton and Associates, 2000). The rupture surface of the Seaward subslide generally dips 5 degrees seaward and accommodates rotation of the slide blocks as wave erosion removes the toe of the active PBLC.

Geologic cross-sections presented by Ehlig and Yen (1997) show that the topography (as of 1995) was nearly parallel to the underlying active rupture surface. The sections indicate that the



thickness of the landslide mass is relatively uniform and averages approximately 100 feet above the rupture surface. However, Douglas (2013) states that, in places, the landslide complex is over 200 feet thick. Ehlig and Yen (1997) estimated that the total volume of PBLC mass is approximately 40 million cubic yards. Subsurface data indicate that the rupture surface is underlain by bedrock east of Portuguese Canyon and Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex debris west of Portuguese Canyon (Leighton and Associates, 2000). As a result, there are deeper slide and multiple slide planes present beneath the subslides located west of Portuguese Canyon, which coincides with the West-Central and East-Central boundary.

Borings drilled by Ehlig and Yen, 1997 indicate that the Portuguese Tuff is at depth beneath the rupture surface throughout the northern portion of the PBLC. The portion of strata that are positioned between the rupture surface and the underlying Portuguese Tuff consists of relatively stronger strata derived from Catalina Schist debris and siliceous biogenic material. The rupture surface occurs along a sheared bentonite bed approximately 30 to 40 feet above the top of the Portuguese Tuff in the PBLC except for the northernmost portion and at the coast (Ehlig and Yen, 1997). The clay material of the rupture surface consists of both calcium-rich and sodium-rich montmorillonite clay (Ehlig and Yen, 1997; Leighton and Associates, 2000). The sodium-rich clay holds more water and is weaker than clay calcium-rich clay. Due to this fact, Ehlig and Yen (1997) proposed a lime injection program to increase the amount of calcium cations in the clay, which would strengthen the rupture surface clay. However, Leighton and Associates (2000) determined that the rupture surface consists of a substantial amount of calcium-rich clay and the lime injection may not yield desired stabilization results.

### **3.6 Hydrogeology**

Studies of the PBLC have consistently concluded that water moving in the subsurface is a significant contributing factor to the PBLC landslide instability. Subsurface water exists in the pores of soils and unconsolidated sediments and in fractures that exist in both unconsolidated sediments and hard rock. When water does not completely fill the pores that exist in soils, the moisture condition is referred to as “unsaturated.” The balance of the pore space is filled with soil vapor, which is typically in communication with the surface. When water completely fills the pores spaces, the moisture condition is termed “saturated.” Like any other free water surface



(such as a pond or lake surface), a water table surface has a pore pressure, or static head, of zero. The water pressure increases linearly with depth below the water table. Water pressure can also build up as groundwater rises and encounters an overlying low-permeability zone that “confines” the groundwater. In this case, water in a drilled borehole would rise up above the level at which it was first encountered. If the water rose sufficiently high enough to encounter the surface, the water pressure would be termed “artesian.”

Subsurface water includes water in soils that exists under conditions less than saturation above a water table and water that exists under saturated conditions below a water table or below a confining layer. Subsurface water is part of the continuous circulation of water between the ocean, atmosphere, and land called the hydrologic cycle.

### **3.6.1 Groundwater Recharge**

At the PBLC, water enters the subsurface by:

- Direct precipitation and infiltration through soils
- Drainage of surface water from locations upslope and subsequent infiltration and percolation
- Percolation of water from private residential on-site wastewater treatment systems such as septic systems
- Groundwater flow from upgradient locations, termed “underflow”

A preliminary groundwater balance was developed for a golf course project proposed for an area in the east-southeastern PBLC (Leighton and Associates, 1998). The information available to support this analysis was limited but deemed sufficient to provide a first order approximation of the amount of water entering and leaving the proposed project site (the golf course project was never completed).

Rainfall data from the Los Angeles County Fire Station at the top of the watershed on Crest Road were used for the water balance calculations. Based on historical precipitation data for



the years 1947 to 1996, the average annual rainfall at the station was estimated to be 14.1 inches. This represents the amount of water (after deductions for the amounts that runoff, evaporate, or transpire from plants) that can potentially infiltrate and percolate into the subsurface of the PBLC. The area of the PBLC watershed is approximately 620 acres (Section 6.2) (Figure 5). The resulting volume of water that falls on the PBLC watershed in an average year is approximately 728 acre-feet of water (1.175 feet x 620 acres), the equivalent of about 234 million gallons of water.

As calculated from the estimates presented in Leighton and Associates (1998), approximately 10 percent of the rain that fell on their proposed project area in an average rainfall year recharges and becomes groundwater. Extrapolating that percentage to the case of the PBLC area results in approximately 71.8 acre-feet, or 23.4 million gallons, of recharge. In addition, Leighton and Associates (1998) also determined for their proposed project site that the average annual rainfall of the 10 wettest years was 26.3 inches. In the 10 wettest years, Leighton and Associates (1998) calculated that approximately 29 percent of the rain that fell recharged and became groundwater. Using a wet-year rainfall of 26.3 inches for the PBLC, the recharge to groundwater that results on the PBLC watershed area would be about 388 acre-feet, or 127 million gallons. These recharge estimates do not separate the rainfall water that infiltrates and percolates directly from water that runs off from upgradient locations and subsequently infiltrates and percolates into the Red Zone of the PBLC. Rather, these values represent estimates of the recharge that occurs over the entire watershed. These recharge values are likely conservative, and a more detailed analysis would likely reveal that the percentage of rainfall that results in recharge is higher than estimated by Leighton and Associates. This is because an important limitation of the method used by Leighton and Associates (1998) is the assumption that rainfall stored within the soil is subject to evapotranspiration until the soil moisture capacity is exceeded. However, existing conditions at Portuguese Bend include desiccation cracks, fractures, and fissures caused by landslide movement that may permit water to migrate beyond the depth of evapotranspiration before the soil reaches its moisture capacity. This limitation in the method may result in an underestimate of groundwater recharge.

Leighton and Associates (1998) also estimated the contribution to groundwater recharge by septic systems based on (1) the presence of 80 homes upslope of the project, (2) an estimated



annual indoor consumption of 1,350 cubic feet of water per month, and (3) the assumption that all indoor water flowed to the septic system. The resulting contribution to subsurface water by percolation from private septic systems was estimated to be about 30 acre-feet per year. Based on the estimates for total project area recharge presented by Leighton and Associates (1998), septic tanks contribute about 30 percent of the total groundwater recharge in dry years, and about 7.2 percent of the total groundwater recharge in the 10 wettest years. While additional study of the PBLC groundwater budget is merited to clarify the water budgets of both shallow and deep groundwater, the preliminary water budget work suggests that there is a substantial amount of recharge into the PBLC, particularly in wet years, and that groundwater recharge from septic tanks can be significant in dry to average water years.

During periods of heavy rainfall, large quantities of runoff flow onto the landslide from the tributary canyons. Field observation indicates that, although the water from these canyons was conveyed across the landslide through a combination of natural and improved drainage courses, it appears that significant sections of corrugated metal pipe (CMP) used for surface drainage are broken and inoperable and that significant quantities of runoff infiltrate and percolate into the ground within and around the periphery of the PBLC. Douglas (2013) stated that "In Portuguese and Paint Brush Canyons, the lower reaches of the canyons have been destroyed and 100 percent of the storm water from these canyon flows directly into the head of the Portuguese Bend landslide." Our field observations are consistent with this statement.

Leighton and Associates (1998) estimated the amount of recharge contributed by irrigation. Because the northern border of their project area was at the upper end of the watershed, it represented a no flow groundwater (and surface water) boundary in their analysis. In other words, no water flowed south into the area from north of the boundary. As a result, all groundwater flowing south into their proposed project site was the result of groundwater recharge from areas between the north end of the study area (and watershed) and the project site itself. The same is true for the PBLC. All groundwater inflow into the PBLC results from recharge occurring upslope. Leighton and Associates (1998) estimated that up to 77 acre-feet per year could be entering their project area from upslope irrigation recharge. Extrapolated to the PBLC, and similar to septic tanks, irrigation return flow represents a significant source of



groundwater recharge to the PBLC. This component of recharge should be investigated further in a water balance study developed to support the final design of a land stabilization solution.

### **3.6.2 Groundwater Occurrence**

Groundwater generally occurs in two water-bearing zones at the Site. “Shallow” groundwater typically flows above the bentonite layers (shear zones) that form the main slip or rupture zones (failure surfaces) and is fed by general recharge, preferential recharge through local fractures, recharge through the canyon bottoms, and recharge that occurs where the canyons dump storm water onto alluvial fans, head slopes, sag ponds, and hummocky areas of the slide area. Douglas (2013) reported that wells pumping from this layer respond quickly (days to weeks) to major rain storms. A second water-bearing zone consisting of “deep” groundwater originates in the upper part of the drainage basin and is largely confined to below the rupture zones. This deep groundwater is confined and groundwater builds up pressure over time. Douglas (2013) also reported that wells drilled deep enough often encounter pressurized groundwater zones below the basal rupture surface.

Leighton and Associates (1998) reported that unconfined groundwater of the shallow water-bearing zone occurs across the Site, and that it has historically been observed at depths ranging from approximately 5 to 15 feet below ground surface (bgs), at monitoring wells PBS-7, B88-4, and B96-12, to approximately 90 to 110 feet bgs, at monitoring wells PBS-2, PBS-3, C-4, C-5, and C-6. In general, the shallowest occurrences of groundwater have been observed in the Landward subsidence, above the heads of the East-Central and West-Central subsides. The deepest occurrences of groundwater have been observed north of the active landslide area (monitoring wells C-4 through C-6), and underlying the north-south trending topographic ridge where monitoring wells PBS-2 through PBS-4 are located.

The horizontal hydraulic gradient of the unconfined groundwater of the shallow water-bearing zone trends north to south and has a magnitude of approximately 0.10 foot of vertical head loss per horizontal foot (Leighton and Associates, 1998), similar to the general site topographic gradient. Experience indicates that, in general, horizontal groundwater hydraulic gradients typically range from 0.01 to 0.00001. By comparison, the gradient at the PBLC is therefore



unusually high. High horizontal hydraulic gradients can be indicative of low-permeability conditions, areas of intensive groundwater recharge, high topographic relief, and/or groundwater extraction. Under homogeneous conditions, the direction of groundwater flow is generally parallel to the direction of the hydraulic gradient, in this case north to south. Appendix C shows the contoured piezometric surface of the water table at the site based on interpolation of groundwater elevations measured in wells at the site.

The occurrence of groundwater in the deep water-bearing zone beneath the rupture zone is less well understood and additional characterization of site deep groundwater is needed to facilitate a clear understanding of the hydraulic forces that deep groundwater is exerting on PBLC land stability. Ehlig and Yen (1997) reported that nested piezometers have been completed on the PBLC at four locations, and that at each location pneumatic pressure transducer readings indicate that groundwater occurs below the slide plane. Ehlig and Yen (1997) also reported that vertical hydraulic head measurements indicate that a downward vertical gradient occurs within the landslide mass and an even greater downward vertical gradient exists across the slide plane. The presence of these downward vertical gradients at the lower end of the hillslope was potentially attributed to increased groundwater recharge rates along the landscape of the landslide, including the presence of extensional ground fractures.

Ehlig (1992) (as cited in Ehlig and Yen, 1997) reported on a well that was constructed and screened at the toe of the Klondike Canyon landslide and yielded artesian groundwater flow. The interpretation was given that slope stability analyses pertaining to the Seaward subslide need to consider that confined groundwater conditions occur beneath the slide plane.

Ehlig and Yen (1997) generally concluded that groundwater occurrence beneath the site slide rupture plane was consistent with groundwater recharge occurring at the upper end of the hill slope and subsequent deeper migration beneath the slide plane towards the ocean.

Groundwater occurrence at the regional scale is shown in Appendix C. Crest Road located north of the PBLC is approximately located at the topographic crest of the hill and is the approximate location of the surface water and groundwater flow divide. Surface water and groundwater that occurs north of Crest Road generally flows inland towards the Pacific Coast



Highway. Surface water and groundwater that occurs south of Crest Road generally flows southward, through the PBLC, and toward the Pacific Ocean. Surface water that falls or flows south of Crest Road has the opportunity to infiltrate and percolate into the subsurface of the PBLC and become groundwater. This is the water that is the focus of concern regarding PBLC land stability.

Leighton and Associates (2000) present a detailed cross-sectional view (UU-UU') that traverses through the main body of the PBLC from the upland area where the scarp of the slide headwall is located to the Pacific Ocean. The relationship is shown between the existing surface topography (existing grade), the interpreted water table (indicated by inverse triangles), and the interpreted recent below-grade active failure surface of the PBLC, as interpreted in 1999. As depicted, the water table surface is located above the interpreted active failure surface with a gradient that roughly mimics the gradient of the surface topography. The area of greatest thickness of the saturated zone within the PBLC was reported to be located inland (north) of PVDS. The maximum interpreted saturated zone thickness is approximately 90 feet, and the top of the saturated zone, at the point of maximum saturated zone thickness, was reported to be located about 100 feet bgs (Leighton and Associates, 2000). Though additional work needs to be accomplished to evaluate and delineate the specific occurrence of groundwater in the PBLC, the previous work done to evaluate the occurrence of groundwater in the PBLC provides the conceptual basis to evaluate and select technologies that can be used to stabilize land movement.

### **3.6.3 Water Wells**

Limited documented information is available on the number, construction details, and spatial distribution of the water wells in the PBLC. Information provided by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes indicates that up to 20 water wells have been constructed and installed within the PBLC. Except for four recent wells installed in 2016, no information could be located which documents the well construction details, last surveyed location, purpose of well (monitoring or dewatering), date of installation, well temporal monitoring data, or the current status of the well. That limitation represents a significant data gap that should be aggressively addressed moving forward. A map of currently known extraction well locations is presented as Figure 11.



A well inspection survey should be conducted, including well soundings and video survey where necessary, in order to construct one consolidated, comprehensive database of site water well information and to provide the basis to initiate a monitoring program moving forward. An assessment should be prepared of the adequacy of the well network for spatial and temporal monitoring of groundwater within the PBLC. Based on that assessment, the monitoring well network should be augmented and a monitoring program initiated and maintained to provide data that will guide and evaluate the performance of the selected program to stabilize the PBLC. Regular, periodic well inspection surveys are also recommended to evaluate the impact of land movement on the monitoring network and the need for monitoring network maintenance.

Ehlig and Yen (1997) report that groundwater elevations in the East-Central subslide area are thought to have risen about 50 feet between the slide activation in 1956 and 1968. They attributed the rise in groundwater elevations to an increase in the rate of groundwater recharge within the landslide area caused by the disruption of drainage patterns and the opening of fissures and cracks following the 1956 onset of movement. Water well elevation data presented for four PBLC wells with close correlation of groundwater elevation increases to high rainfall months indicate that groundwater recharge is occurring within a month of high rainfall events. In other wells, particularly one located in the East-Central subslide area, the lag between rainfall occurrence and water elevation response was longer, up to 5 months.

Changes in groundwater elevation with time and in relation to rainfall events vary depending upon the well (Leighton and Associates, 2000). This suggests that multiple processes are involved in the delivery and removal of groundwater from the site and highlights the need to institute and formalize a monitoring program with the ability to record short and long term cyclic events. Such a formalized monitoring program and the resulting database would facilitate the collection, storage, and data interpretation critical to developing a detailed comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms which control the stability of the PBLC.

### **3.7 Geotechnical Modeling**

Slope stability evaluations of the PBLC have been performed in the past in support of development of various remedial measures (e.g., Ehlig and Yen, 1997; Leighton, 2000). Past



studies, however, were subject to significant limitations. For example, prior models of the PBLC were two-dimensional cross sections and hence could not capture the true three-dimensional nature of the PBLC. Stability evaluations could not replicate the observed conditions. Attempts were made to back-calculate shear strength parameters, but different results were obtained for each two-dimensional cross section evaluated, further impeding development of viable remedial measures.

Recently (over the past five years), significant advances have been made in three-dimensional modeling of slope stability. It is now possible to develop a three-dimensional stability model of a multi-acre site such as the PBLC based upon three-dimensional surfaces rather than two-dimensional cross sections. Review of available studies as discussed Sections 2 and 3 indicates that, with reasonable data processing, available information is suitable and sufficient to develop a preliminary 3D stability model of the PBLC using the following surfaces:

- Ground surface (topography)
- Groundwater elevation surface
- Basal shear plane surface

The ground surface topography of the PBLC was provided by the City (Section 2). The groundwater surface map produced by Ehlig and Yen (1997) was selected as the most comprehensive and representative for the modeling effort. Groundwater elevations were laterally extrapolated to the perimeter of the model area (approximately 10 percent of the lateral model area) based on the mapped water level data measured within the PBLC area. The 1997 basal rupture surface map also from Ehlig and Yen (1997) was selected as the most appropriate basal shear plane map for the modeling effort. Basal rupture surface elevations were also laterally extrapolated (approximately 10 percent of the lateral model area) based on mapped data measured within the PBLC area.

An image of the preliminary three-dimensional stability model of the PBLC is shown in Figure 12. This model image was generated using SVSlope from SoilVision, Inc. (<https://www.soilvision.com/>), which is the latest generation three-dimensional slope stability evaluation program. Additional imagery from the modeling effort is provided in Appendix C,



including the approximate mapped limits of landsliding, several lateral cross-sections (A-A' to I-I'), and one transverse cross-section (1-1'). These images show that groundwater occurs above the basal rupture surface within the PBLC. DBS&A performed the following preliminary evaluations using the model software:

- Back-analysis of the PBLC
- Forward-analysis of the PBLC

The back-analysis was performed to estimate shear strength parameters along the basal failure surface. Cohesion was set to zero, while friction angle was iterated until the calculated FOS reached 1 (unity), which corresponds to the incipient failure of the landslide complex. An FOS greater than 1.0 theoretically corresponds to the cessation of landsliding. Each model iteration consumed approximately 3 hours of computational time. Back-analysis modeling indicates the following:

- Back-calculated friction angle equals 6.7 degrees, which is within the range of values reported in prior laboratory testing (Leighton, 2000).
- The direction of sliding (roughly north to south) is consistent with observations.
- The shape of the failure surface based on model calculations is consistent with observations and interpretations (i.e., Ehlig and Yen, 1997).

Forward-analysis was performed to evaluate the effect of groundwater elevation on the stability of the PBLC. The results indicate a strong correlation in which the FOS increases with a corresponding decrease in groundwater elevation (Figure 13):

- An elevation decline of 5 feet results in an increase in the FOS of approximately 3 percent (FOS increases from 1 to 1.03).
- An elevation decline of 40 feet results in an increase in the FOS of approximately 13 percent (FOS increases from 1 to 1.13).



Model limitations include the following:

- The 1997 groundwater elevation map may not be representative of current conditions; it especially may not be representative of rainy periods that precede accelerated landsliding.
- The steady-state seepage option within the three-dimensional stability model was not used due to the lack of data and their interpretation.
- It was assumed that groundwater elevation (i.e., surface) is not affected by artesian pressures, although there is historical evidence that the basal failure surface may be subject to artesian pressure (Douglas, 2013).
- As noted above, the 1997 groundwater and basal failure surfaces were laterally extended by extrapolation of existing data. Both groundwater elevation contour maps and contour maps of the basal rupture surface can be improved and refined based upon the results of supplemental investigation and data interpretation.
- The elevation of the groundwater surface that will exist upon implementation of proposed remedial measures (Section 4.6) is not known at this point.

Importantly, the preliminary three-dimensional slope modeling confirms that a reasonable reduction in the elevation of the groundwater surface (i.e., 10 to 20 feet) could result in a significant reduction in land movement in the PBLC area (an increase in FOS up to approximately 8 percent) (Figure 13).



## **4. Feasibility Study**

The FS presented below consists of the following sections:

- ARARs
- Remedial Action Objective
- General Response Actions
- Identification and Screening of Technology Alternatives
- Detailed Analysis of Remedial Technologies
- Preferred Alternative

### **4.1 ARARs**

In accordance with the CERCLA-analogous process for selecting an appropriate remedy being implemented in this document, remedial actions must meet the requirements of relevant federal environmental laws or more stringent state environmental laws referred to as ARARs. Remedial alternative screening must include ARARs evaluation.

#### **4.1.1 Definitions**

As defined previously, ARARs is an acronym for Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements. Applicable requirements are those “cleanup standards, standards of control, and other substantive requirements, criteria, or limitations promulgated under federal environmental or state environmental or facility siting laws that specifically address a hazardous substance, pollutant, contaminant, remedial action, location, or other circumstance. Only those state standards that are identified by a state in a timely manner and that are more stringent than federal requirements may be applicable” (CFR 300.5).

If a requirement is not applicable, it still may be relevant and appropriate and address issues at the site such that their use is well suited to the particular site (U.S. EPA, 1991b). As summarized by U.S. EPA, environmental laws and regulations can in part be broadly classified into three categories:



- Laws and regulations that restrict activities at a given location
- Laws and regulations that control specific actions

There are therefore two types of ARARs:

- *Location-Specific ARARs:* Intended to protect unique or sensitive areas, such as wetlands, riparian areas, historic places, and fragile ecosystems, and restrict or prohibit activities that are potentially harmful to such areas.
- *Action-Specific ARARs:* Activity or technology based. These ARARs control remedial activities involving the design or use of certain equipment or technology or regulate discrete actions and are used in remedial technology alternatives screening.

To-be-considered criteria (TBCs) are also identified in addition to ARARs. TBCs are advisories, guidance, policies, and/or proposed regulations or standards that might be applicable or applicable in the future. Finally, local permitting requirements and ordinances are also applicable when performing remedial actions.

#### **4.1.2 Identified ARARs**

ARARs are summarized in Table 1 and include:

1. 1961 California Lake and Streambed Alteration Program
2. 1968 California Anti-degradation Policy
3. 1969 California Porter-Cologne Act
4. 1970 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
5. 1970 California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
6. 1972 Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)
7. 1973 Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)
8. 1973 USFWS Habitat Conservation Plans
9. 1993 USEPA Non-point Pollution (NPS) Management Guidance
10. 1995 SWRCB Water Quality Policy, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries



11. 1998 California Coastal Zone Management Act
12. 2002 SWRCB Lake and Streambed Alteration Program 1602
13. 2004 SWRCB Water Quality Enforcement Policy, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries
14. 2007 RWQCB Los Angeles Basin Plan
15. 2011 California NPS Pollution Control Policy
16. 2011 SWRCB NPDES Program
17. 2015 SWRCB 303(d) Listing Policy of 2004, amended 2015
18. 2015 California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations (Cal-OSHA)
19. 2015 SWRCB/RWQCB 401 Water Quality Certifications and Wetlands Program
20. 2017 City of Rancho Palos Verdes Grading permit program
21. 1991 Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) (draft)

## **4.2 Remedial Action Objective**

As discussed in Section 1.3, the specific purpose of this FS is to identify viable conceptual solution options for the City's consideration that will accomplish the following overall project goals:

- Provide the geotechnical conditions that reduce the risk of damage to public and private property and would allow for the significant improvement of roadway infrastructure, safety, and stability.
- Significantly reduce human health risk and improve safety in the City.
- Significantly reduce sediment deposition into the Pacific Ocean that is causing unacceptable turbidity in the coastal and marine environment.
- Select remedy options that will be consistent with the City's NCCP/HCP, specifically Section 4.1.2.

Remedial action objectives (RAOs) as defined by CERCLA and adapted for this FS are one or more defined, specific project end-points or specific goals. The single RAO defined for the Project Area is as follows:



- RAO1: Significantly reduce project area land movement

The project area is defined as the southeastern PBLC area (Red Zone) where land movement has consistently been measured at the greatest rate. A significant reduction in land movement in the project area would address each overall project goal. Infrastructure operation and maintenance, including repair, redesign, and stabilization of PVDS, could be conducted with a more regular, less frequent, and more cost-effective schedule. A stabilized roadway would clearly be much safer for motorists and ensure the expedited transit of emergency vehicles as necessary.

Infrastructure in the project area could also be upgraded, including sewer, water, and electrical lines, with significantly reduced land movement. Once land movement is significantly reduced, the coastal shore cliff would no longer be regularly driven into the surf zone by ongoing mass movement upslope; thus, sediment turbidity in the coastal and marine environment would be decreased. In addition, the proposed remedy will stabilize the land within the City's Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Further, remedy options will be identified consistent with the NCCP/HCP.

### **4.3 General Response Actions**

General response actions (GRAs) as defined by CERCLA and adapted for this FS describe broad, general categories of technologies that will satisfy the RAO and provide a framework for identifying specific remedial technologies for screening and detailed analysis. The GRAs identified to address the RAO are:

- Subsurface dewatering
- Stormwater control
- Engineered slope stabilization measures
- Eliminate septic system discharge



#### **4.3.1 Subsurface Dewatering**

Preventing new water from entering the PBLC can be achieved by stormwater control and extracting existing groundwater in the subsurface as much as possible to reduce soil saturation and reduce continued landslide movement. Preliminary three-dimensional slope modeling confirms that a reasonable reduction in the elevation of the groundwater surface of 5 to 15 percent would result in a significant reduction in land movement in the PBLC area (Section 3.7). Subsurface dewatering through groundwater extraction should be conducted where surface water infiltration and groundwater recharge has historically had the greatest impact, such as in the head scarp area, the project area perimeter, and/or within the interior of the project area. Groundwater extraction could be coupled with regional stormwater capture as discussed below to optimize the effectiveness of the overall subsurface dewatering effort.

Subsurface dewatering is typically conducted with either or both horizontal and vertical groundwater extraction wells. Horizontal groundwater extraction wells are also termed horizontal drains, directional drains, hydraugers, or hydro-augers. In geotechnical engineering, the term horizontal drains is typically used.

Vertical groundwater extraction wells are also termed pumping wells or dewatering wells. Dewatering wells are installed using conventional well-drilling rigs using such drilling methods as air or wet rotary tri-cone, auger, percussion, or sonic. Extraction well installation needs to be designed and field-supervised by a licensed Professional Geologist, Engineering Geologist or Geotechnical Engineer. Wells would be located based on an understanding of area hydrogeology and stratigraphy.

#### **4.3.2 Stormwater Control**

Preventing stormwater infiltration is a key to reducing overall slope failure and ongoing surface water loading to the project area. Stormwater originating upslope in Portuguese Canyon, Paintbrush Canyon, and Ishibashi Canyon (east of Peacock Flat) has historically been flowing directly into the head scarp of the PBLC just south of Burma Road where surface fractures are present.



Stormwater infiltration also recharges groundwater, to varying degrees, in the upper, central, and lower canyon areas, which then flows in the subsurface downgradient to the southeastern PBLC area where land movement is the greatest. Stormwater with the potential to result in significant recharge in these areas should be captured and/or controlled, and discharged to the ocean to prevent future recharge to surface fractures and groundwater.

Stormwater discharge from lower Klondike Canyon also recharges groundwater in the vicinity of the southeastern Red Zone near where land movement is typically occurring at the greatest rate. Stormwater in lower Klondike Canyon should be captured and discharged to the ocean to prevent further groundwater recharge to this area of the PBLC.

GRAs that are used to address stormwater control can include one or any combination of surface water infrastructure such as box culverts, channels, gabions, drainage ditches, subdrains, velocity or energy dissipation structures, sedimentation basins, pipes, and drainways. Much of this type of regional drainage infrastructure is typically constructed with concrete, supplemented with metal or plastic piping, and designed for gravity flow.

However, due to the sensitive surrounding flora and fauna, alternatively, geotextiles and engineered composite materials, such as geosynthetic clay liners (GCLs), can be used for stormwater control where applicable in areas requiring substantial infiltration control. GCLs and geotextiles can be used in constructed or restored wetlands environments or stream restoration designs. Stormwater control GRAs also include segmented pre-fabricated channels that can be specified, transported to a work area, and connected in series to form a streamway or channel with controlled flow.

Surface water control measures also includes infilling of surface fractures on an annual basis as a maintenance item before winter rains commence. Surface fractures in the PBLC head scarp area can be filled in a number of ways, for example a grouting operation involving a long-reach boom pumping truck delivering a slurried earthen filler material. The principal goal is to remove preferential pathways through which rain or runoff water can rapidly percolate to the deep subsurface past the zone of plant root uptake and subsequent transpiration.



### **4.3.3 Engineered Slope Stabilization Measures**

Numerous engineering measures for slope stabilization are currently in use in California. The feasibility of implementation regarding a specific engineering measure depends upon several factors. For example, in some situations, an extent of landsliding, geologic and groundwater conditions, the composition of the landslide mass, and/or the thickness of the landslide mass may limit implementation of a certain measure, while in other cases, terrain, topography, the cost of implementation and maintenance and/or environmental constraints may be a deciding factor. Engineered slope stabilization measures that could be considered for PBLC include the following:

- Buttrressing (engineered fill)
- Mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall
- Drilled piers (caissons)

### **4.3.4 Eliminate Septic System Discharge**

As discussed in Section 3.6.1, septic tanks contribute a significant amount of groundwater recharge in relatively dry water years. A centralized sewer system that eliminates septic tanks in the PBLC area would significantly reduce future dry weather groundwater recharge. A centralized sewer system is needed in portions of both the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the City Rolling Hills within the Portuguese Bend watershed (Figure 7).

The properties within the PBLC area between Peppertree Drive and PVDS currently use septic tanks. A centralized sewer system would be beneficial in this neighborhood that is directly adjacent to the northwest portion of the project area. Recharged groundwater in this neighborhood flows downgradient directly into the project area.

The properties northeast of the PBLC area and south of Crest Road, primarily in the City of Rolling Hills, currently use septic tanks. A centralized sewer system would be beneficial in this neighborhood that is directly upgradient of the PBLC. Recharged groundwater in this neighborhood eventually flows downgradient into the project area. It is recommended that the



City of Rancho Palos Verdes encourage the City of Rolling Hills to construct a centralized sewer system.

#### **4.3.5 Coastal Erosion Control**

An offshore breakwater could be installed in Portuguese Bend east or southeast of Inspiration Point to dissipate offshore wave energy and reduce coastal wave-cut bluff erosion. This option was studied in detail by the USACE to address marine habitat restoration in an FS dated 2000 (USACE, 2000).

### **4.4 Identification and Screening of Technology Alternatives**

This section describes technologies commonly used in industry to address the RAO. This section also provides an initial screening of these technologies to identify and eliminate technologies that have a sufficiently obvious flaw, based on known conditions, such that it can be determined early on in the remedy selection process that the technology could not be reasonably implemented. Technologies that are retained as the result of the analysis presented in this section are then carried forward to the detailed analysis of technology alternatives. Prior to implementation, the alternatives would require further engineering analysis, reports, and project plans. Screened technologies discussed below are also compared to effectiveness, implementability, and cost criteria in Table 2.

#### **4.4.1 Stormwater Control Option 1 – Repair Existing Corrugated Piping System**

##### *4.4.1.1 Description*

The existing CMP system in the PBLC area could be repaired to capture stormwater and direct discharge to the ocean. The piping network was appropriately installed in the areas of greatest stormwater flow along the axes of Paintbrush, Ishibashi, and Portuguese Canyons. The loose piping segments could be re-connected and refurbished and/or replaced so that the overall system would be reinstated in its original design. Repairing and refurbishing and/or replacing the piping would be a relatively straight-forward task with readily available equipment and labor.



#### *4.4.1.2 Screening Summary*

The existing piping network has been out of maintenance for nearly 20 years. When originally installed, the piping segments were relatively easily dismantled by continuing land movement in the PBLC area. In addition, surface water flow in the PBLC was not fully captured by the piping network since the upslope headworks were apparently under-designed. The piping diameter may have been undersized as well. Also, the network likely did not cover enough area in the PBLC. Though the original piping network was envisioned with the intention of capturing stormwater and preventing groundwater recharge, it was installed as a preliminary engineering solution. Resurrecting the former system does not address the design scale issues, and it would not fully capture stormwater. If rebuilt, the metal piping would again be subject to damage from ongoing land movement. A more substantially designed and flexible system is needed for full stormwater capture and control. As a result, this option has been eliminated from further consideration.

#### **4.4.2 Stormwater Control Option 2 – Install Concrete Channels**

##### *4.4.2.1 Description*

Traditionally, stormwater and flood control infrastructure is constructed with concrete channels and associated metal or plastic piping. Stormwater flow is captured upslope and directed to flood control basins where it infiltrates to groundwater or passes downgradient under gravity flow to a supplemental basin or concrete channel or box culverts. Concrete channels and box culverts are highly effective in capturing and directing stormwater flow and controlling design floods of a pre-specified size and frequency. Concrete channels and culverts are an established technology with available equipment, materials, and labor.

##### *4.4.2.2 Screening Summary*

Concrete channels and culverts are effective in geotechnically stable areas. However, where there is land movement, concrete structures are prone to damage from tensional cracking, shearing, subsidence, upheaval, and associated stresses. Once damaged, the channels would no longer prevent groundwater infiltration. Routine maintenance and repair would not be cost-effective in the long term. In addition, concrete structures do not typically allow for native habitat to thrive nor do they receive widespread aesthetic acceptance. However, concrete structures



are highly effective and efficient on controlling flow and may be appropriate in some portion of the PBLC area such as the canyons south of Burma Road, or in mid-canyon areas that are not prone to land movement. As a result, this option has been retained for further consideration in limited areas of the PBLC.

#### **4.4.3 Stormwater Control Option 3 – Install Liner and Channel System**

##### *4.4.3.1 Description*

A canyon liner system consisting of engineered flexible geotextile composite fabrics or GCLs would allow for both stormwater infiltration control and habitat development within the PBLC and Preserve properties. Some associated engineering components would also be needed in mid-canyon high-flow or flow-convergence areas such as velocity dissipation structures, flow control channeling, streambank stabilization, vegetated gabions, or subsurface piping. Portions of Portuguese, Paintbrush, and Ishibashi Canyons would be lined to direct flow away from the PBLC head scarp area and away from the Project Area. High-flow in the mid-canyon area near Burma Road would be captured and directed by gravity flow into a single channel downgradient that ultimately connects to piping under the PVDS that discharges into the ocean. The flexible composite fabrics are not prone to damage from land movement. The mid-canyon flow control structures would be installed where land movement is minimal and acceptable. Habitat could be partially integrated into the design of the canyon liner system. This option could be installed with readily available equipment, materials, and labor, and designed to comply with the minimization measures set forth in the City's NCCP/HCP.

##### *4.4.3.2 Screening Summary*

This option would effectively prevent stormwater infiltration and groundwater recharge while allowing for habitat establishment within the PBLC and Preserve properties. This technology is readily available and could be cost-effectively installed and maintained, and could be designed to comply with the minimization measures set forth in the City's NCCP/HCP. Once installed, the structures would be structurally flexible and not prone to damage from land movement. For these reasons, this option has been retained for further consideration.



#### **4.4.4 Stormwater Control Option 4 – Seal Surface Fractures**

##### *4.4.4.1 Description*

This option involves using a long-reach boom truck and/or conventional pumping truck, or other method, to deliver a slurried earthen material to major surface fractures in the PBLC head scarp area and other key areas where surface water infiltration needs to be minimized. A survey of fractures and fracture sealing would be conducted on an annual basis as a maintenance item before winter rains commence.

##### *4.4.4.2 Screening Summary*

This option could be conducted with limited or no impacts to existing habitat, with staging placed in disturbed areas, and would help reduce groundwater recharge in the project area and in the head scarp area. This technology is readily available and could be implemented for reasonable cost with industry standard equipment, materials, and labor. For these reasons, this option has been retained for further consideration.

#### **4.4.5 Subsurface Dewatering Option 1 – Groundwater Extraction Pits**

##### *4.4.5.1 Description*

This option involves completing semi-permanent linear excavations of subsurface soils below groundwater in order to facilitate groundwater extraction from low-permeability soils over the long term. Excavations would be completed with a roughly rectangular configuration where groundwater extraction is needed in the southeastern PBLC area within the project area. Extraction pits are effective in relatively low permeability formations as they allow for slow groundwater seepage into the pit and incremental extraction by automated pumping to the surface. Typically, multiple long pits aligned in parallel would be needed to effectively dewater a relatively large area. Groundwater extraction pits are typically installed where the depth to groundwater is less than 25 feet below grade so that excavation engineering and groundwater extraction is less complex. However, deeper pits are also possible.



#### *4.4.5.2 Screening Summary*

Groundwater extraction pits can be effective over the long term in low permeability formations where groundwater extraction through traditional pumping wells is too problematic due to very low well yields. However, multiple pits would likely be needed in the relatively large project area and vicinity. Multiple aligned pits would be fairly disruptive to the existing properties. Excavations are also inherently hazardous and require significant safety engineering during design, implementation, oversight, and long-term maintenance. In addition, the depth to groundwater in the PBLC area exceeds 50 feet below grade, further complicating this option and significantly increasing the implementation cost. For these reasons, this option has been eliminated from further consideration.

### **4.4.6 Subsurface Dewatering Option 2 – Groundwater Extraction Wells**

#### *4.4.6.1 Description*

Vertical groundwater extraction wells are a proven and traditional technology for groundwater dewatering. Typically, multiple wells are installed by drilling rig in a network pattern to effectively extract groundwater from a design target area and depth. The radius-of-influence (ROI) of each individual well is estimated from field measurements and coupled with the ROI from adjacent wells so that the entire well network covers the target area with some ROI overlap. Downhole electrical submersible pumps would deliver groundwater to the surface for ultimate gravity flow or surface pump-assisted gravity flow to the ocean. Downhole pumps require electrical power. Wells installed in key areas and depths can relieve subsurface artesian pressure which can alleviate land movement.

#### *4.4.6.2 Screening Summary*

While extraction wells have been successful in the adjacent Abalone Cove area, extraction wells have had limited success historically in the PBLC area due to low soil permeability, low well yields, and pump clogging due to fine sediments and probable iron bacterial growth. Wells are also prone to deformation or vertical shearing due to ongoing land movement. In addition, the depth to groundwater in some portions of the PBLC exceeds 100 feet, which significantly increases drilling, well installation, and operational costs.



However, extraction wells can be very effective if installed in an area of little or no land movement or where groundwater is present in relatively high permeability soils. Wells would be more effective in historically slide-prone areas once land movement is significantly reduced through other technologies. Wells could be effective if coupled with other technologies such as stormwater control. In addition, extraction wells are one of the few cost-effective technologies actually available for subsurface dewatering. Extraction wells also required a relatively low surface footprint for implementation, and less for operation, this being compatible with habitat conservation and aesthetic goals. For these reasons, this option is retained for further consideration.

#### ***4.4.7 Subsurface Dewatering Option 3 – Directional Subsurface Drains***

##### *4.4.7.1 Description*

Directional subsurface drains are also termed hydraugers, hydro-augers, horizontal wells, or horizontal drains. This technology involves the installation of relatively long, linear well casing inclined to grade and extending up to 1,500 feet in the subsurface where conditions allow. The casing is slotted like a vertical well screen so that groundwater passively enters the screen slots then flows under gravity to the wellhead where it is directed to a pipe to the ocean. Several lengths of slotted well casing can be installed from one work area as multiple runs of separate slotted casing are oriented in a radial fan-like pattern extending up and into subsurface soils. Horizontal extraction wells could be installed at several locations in the project area and in the greater PBLC area where subsurface groundwater needs to be extracted. Drain casing can also be installed with relatively large outer casing covering smaller inner casing to help promote longevity and stability of the drain in a subsurface environment prone to land movement.

##### *4.4.7.2 Screening Summary*

Directional drains have a number of advantages for the PBLC area. Numerous drains can be installed from one work area, and the resulting infrastructure is below grade so that no surface habitat is disturbed above the casing. No pumps or electrical components are needed as groundwater passively enters the drains and flows under gravity to an exit point at the work area. Several drains could be installed from the coastal bluff south of PVDS that would extend beneath the road and into and under the project area and other key areas where groundwater



needs to be extracted. Additional drains could be installed further north at the base of the slopes in the upper project area to extract groundwater in the mid-canyon areas. Drains could be installed to cover nearly the entire project area subsurface if needed at a specified depth or, perhaps, multiple depths. In addition, if aligned parallel with or sub-parallel to the primary direction of regional land movement, drain casing would be less susceptible to shearing and deformation due to land movement compared to vertical wells. As land movement eventually slows due to dewatering, however, both wells and drains would be more stable over time.

The challenge would be where drains are needed at significant working depths such as depths approaching 100 feet below grade or more. The drilling and casing installation work area typically must be at the lowest point of elevation so that the casing can be inclined to grade to enable gravity flow. For example, if groundwater extraction is required at a significant depth below grade in relatively flat terrain, the work area must be designed within a temporary excavation in order to achieve the appropriate geometry during installation. In some cases, directional drilling from the surface can be used to help accommodate deeper casing depths.

Although working depth can complicate casing installation, this technology is cost effective, has relatively little operation and maintenance, can cover large areas, and is highly effective in groundwater dewatering. Moreover, minimal habitat loss would occur with this option, and like vertical groundwater extraction wells, directional drains are one of the few cost-effective technologies actually available for subsurface dewatering. For these reasons, this option is retained for further consideration.

#### **4.4.8 Engineering Slope Stabilization - Buttressing (Engineered Fill)**

##### *4.4.8.1 Description*

Landslide mitigation by buttressing is probably the most commonly used method of landslide stabilization in California. Depending on the size and shape of the landslide and borrow source materials available, a relatively large buttress might be required. In some cases, especially where space for construction of buttress fill is limited, other, complementary engineering measures might be required. These measures might include soil (i.e., engineered fill) reinforcement by means of geogrids and stabilization of temporary cuts for buttress fill



construction by soil nails or rock anchors. These measures allow for construction of buttress fills with nearly vertical slopes and very steep temporary cuts required for construction of these slopes. Leighton (2000) proposed a major buttress along the coastline south of PVDS that is nearly half a mile across and a smaller buttress along the southern and northeastern perimeter of the project area.

#### *4.4.8.2 Screening Summary*

Buttress fills, when properly sized, keyed, benched and constructed, in most cases, stabilize landslides for an extended period of time. Slope movements, including lateral displacements, settlement and creep are, in most cases, minimal.

Past studies (e.g., Leighton, 2000) considered construction of a very large buttress fill to mitigate the PBLC. Based upon review of past studies and the results of preliminary evaluation of slope stability using a three-dimensional model, it was confirmed that a relatively large buttress fill would be required for the PBLC. Due to location and size constraints, such a buttress fill would require keying below groundwater which, in turn, would require dewatering during construction. Due to its relatively large size, a buttress fill would be significantly disruptive to protected habitat and residents during construction and would likely not be aesthetically acceptable after construction. Construction of a buttress would be burdensome and disruptive to regional transportation for an extended period of time. For these reasons, this option has been eliminated from further consideration.

### ***4.4.9 Engineering Slope Stabilization Measures - Mechanically Stabilized Earth Wall***

#### *4.4.9.1 Description*

Mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls (gravity earth-retaining walls) are a common and effective technology when applied in the appropriate geotechnical setting. MSE walls have been successfully applied to mitigate slope failure at numerous locations in California. An MSE wall is basically surface soil stabilized with engineered components such as reinforcing geotextiles, panels, or precast blocks installed downslope as a support or anchoring structure to mitigate upslope land movement or to counter forces associated with an upslope containment (such as from water storage). One of the primary advantages of MSE walls is that they can be



constructed as modular components in a relatively short period of time compared to other technologies. MSE walls are commonly constructed in roadside slope stabilization projects, as secondary tank containment, and in dams and levees.

#### *4.4.9.2 Screening Summary*

MSE walls are cost-effective and can be rapidly constructed to mitigate slope failure or counter design forces upslope in appropriate environments such as where the rupture surface is relatively shallow, and/or where substantial footings or keying to stable bedrock is not required. At the PBLC, the depth to the basal rupture surface exceeds 60 feet in some areas. A surficial MSE wall would not stabilize land movement originating at depth. Although MSE walls are attractive from a cost perspective and are relatively simple to install, due to the depth to the basal rupture surface at the PBLC, along with the relatively large PBLC area that requires stabilization, MSE walls are not an appropriate alternative and will not be considered further.

#### **4.4.10 Engineering Slope Stabilization Measures – Drilled Piers (Caissons)**

##### *4.4.10.1 Description*

Soil improvement techniques like piles, rock anchors, soil nails, and drilled piers (caissons), are commonly used to stabilize slopes and/or to mitigate areas affected by landsliding. Given the size of the area affected by landsliding, the only potentially feasible, soil-improvement based slope mitigation option for the PBLC is mitigation with drilled piers. Drilled piers (caissons) are constructed by drilling and installing vertical reinforcement bars surrounded by poured concrete. Several rows of closely-spaced piers (typically separated by a distance equal to 1.5 to 3 pier-diameters) are installed along the bottom third of sliding mass below the basal rupture surface. Drilled piers must extend below the basal failure surface (the total depth depends on the mechanical properties of the material below the basal failure surface). Drilled piers with diameters of up to 8 feet and up to 60 feet long have been installed at various sites across coastal California in the past, including the PBLC (Section 2.1).

##### *4.4.10.2 Screening Summary*

Drilled piers can be installed in areas where access is limited or where there is not enough room to construct a properly keyed and benched engineered buttress. Preliminary evaluation,



consistent with past studies, indicates that numerous large diameter drilled piers would be required for PBLC mitigation. In addition, the required caisson depth, advanced below the basal failure surface, would be excessive (at many locations over 60 feet). Therefore, the cost of implementation of this measure, and the associated disruption to the environment, traffic, and residents, is a basis for elimination of this remedial measure from further consideration.

#### **4.4.11 Centralized Sewer System**

##### *4.4.11.1 Description*

As discussed in Section 4.5.2, septic tanks contribute a significant amount of groundwater recharge in relatively dry water years. Septic tanks are located at properties in both the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the City of Rolling Hills. A centralized sewer system that eliminates septic tanks in the PBLC area would significantly reduce future dry weather groundwater recharge. Residential septic systems would be incrementally and systematically removed only once a new centralized sewer is installed along streets in the target neighborhoods. The new sewer system would be installed under the center or along the side of existing streets and connected by laterals to each home within the network. Sewer line flow would ultimately be directed to a centralized sewer treatment plant such as the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson, California. This option would have to be fully evaluated in a separate engineering study to develop specific objectives, design options, costs, and regulatory requirements for both the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the City of Rolling Hills.

##### *4.4.11.2 Screening Summary*

This option would help reduce groundwater recharge in both the immediate vicinity of the Project Area and in the upper canyon areas over the long term. This technology is readily available and could be installed and maintained with industry standard equipment, materials, and labor. For these reasons, this option has been retained for further consideration.



#### **4.4.12 Coastal Erosion Control (Breakwater)**

##### *4.4.12.1 Description*

An offshore breakwater installed in Portuguese Bend east or southeast of Inspiration Point would dissipate offshore wave energy and reduce coastal bluff erosion. This engineered structure would consist of a containment dike or similar feature. This option was studied in detail by the USACE in their FS dated 2000 (USACE, 2000).

##### *4.4.12.2 Screening Summary*

While this option would reduce wave erosion along the bluff south of PVDS, overall landslide mitigation would not be addressed. As a result, the landslide complex would continue to advance generally towards the south after breakwater construction. For this reason, a breakwater option has not been retained for further consideration.

#### **4.4.13 Summary of Retained Technologies**

The following technology alternatives have been retained for detailed evaluation, after completion of the screening process:

- Stormwater Control – Concrete Channels
- Stormwater Control – Flexible Liner System and Components
- Stormwater Control – Seal Surface Fractures
- Subsurface Dewatering – Groundwater Extraction Wells
- Subsurface Dewatering – Directional Subsurface Drains
- Eliminate Septic System Discharge – Centralized Sewer System

The detailed analysis of each option is presented in the following section.

## **4.5 Detailed Analysis of Remedial Technologies**

The evaluation criteria that were used to conduct an analysis of the candidate alternative technologies are listed below:



- Overall protection of human health and the environment
- Compliance with ARARs
- Long-term effectiveness and permanence
- Short-term effectiveness
- Implementability
- Cost
- State and community acceptance

The options presented in this section are ranked and numerically scored for each evaluation criteria (Table 3). The individual scores are summed to arrive at a total technology score. The options that received the higher total scores and relative lowest cost were identified as a preferred option for the City's consideration. Approximate order-of-magnitude costs for each option are included in Table 4.

#### **4.5.1 Concrete Channels**

- *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment.* Concrete channels are protective of human health but can impact the natural environment once constructed. Construction permanently displaces otherwise native habitat and has an adverse impact on the aesthetic value of the open Preserve land.
- *Compliance with ARARs.* This option would likely meet most of the requirements of the identified ARARs. However, converting a blue line stream such as the upper canyon, mid-canyon, or lower canyon areas into a concrete channel would likely not be a permitted project.
- *Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence.* Concrete channels would be effective and permanent in the long term if built in areas with little to no land movement.
- *Short-Term Effectiveness.* Concrete channels would be effective in the short term if built in areas with little to no land movement.



- *Implementability.* This option is standard technology that is easily implemented with readily available equipment, materials, and labor.
- *Cost.* This option does not involve specialty equipment, materials, or labor and is routinely implemented for stormwater control in appropriate areas. As a result, the option should not be cost-prohibitive.
- *State and community acceptance.* This option is likely unacceptable to the state and the community because it would significantly alter the appearance of the Preserve properties and permanently eliminate habitat acreage within the Preserve.

This option would be effective and could be installed for manageable costs. Over the longer term, maintenance costs would be high to repair damage caused by land movement. However, it would likely not be permitted within a native habitat area. In addition, it is not aesthetically acceptable for placement within a preserve with protected habitat. As a result of the detailed analysis of this option discussed above, it has been eliminated from further consideration.

#### **4.5.2 Liner and Channel System**

- *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment.* Flexible material lining the canyons, where appropriate, would be protective of human health and integrated into the environment after construction. Engineered substrate could be incorporated into the design to allow for acceptable habitat development within the lined stormwater channel network.
- *Compliance with ARARs.* This option would likely meet most or all of the requirements of the identified ARARs. It is anticipated that work within a blue line stream could be permitted in part under a stream restoration program.
- *Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence.* This option would be effective and permanent in the long term. The proposed materials are flexible and are not susceptible to damage from land movement. The surface area can be planted with native vegetation



that can be designed to accommodate various root systems depending on the depth of the top soil.

- *Short-Term Effectiveness.* This option would be effective and permanent in the short term. If land movement occurs early in the program before longer term land movement is significantly reduced, a flexible liner system is designed to withstand damage by allowing some liner movement.
- *Implementability.* This option is standard technology that is easily implemented with readily available equipment, materials, and labor.
- *Cost.* This option does not involve specialty equipment, materials, or labor and is routinely implemented for infiltration control in appropriate areas. As a result, the option should not be cost-prohibitive.
- *State and community acceptance.* This option would likely be acceptable to the state and to the community because it partially integrates habitat and stream restoration into a design for stormwater capture and control.

#### **4.5.3 Seal Surface Fractures**

- *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment.* Sealing surface fractures each year in the PBLC head scarp and project area, where appropriate, would be protective of human health and the environment as the contribution to overall land movement due to stormwater infiltration would be reduced.
- *Compliance with ARARs.* This option would likely meet most or all of the requirements of the identified ARARs.
- *Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence.* This option would be effective and permanent in the long term. Additional sealing may be needed each year if additional



fractures are identified. Eventually as land movement is significantly reduced, the need to continue fracture sealing would become increasingly reduced.

- *Short-Term Effectiveness.* This option would be effective and permanent in the short term once sealing material is introduced into fractures.
- *Implementability.* This option is standard technology that is easily implemented with readily available equipment, materials, and labor. The staging area would take up relatively minimal surface area with minimal impact to protected habitat.
- *Cost.* This option does not involve specialty equipment, materials, or labor and is routinely implemented for infiltration control in appropriate areas. As a result, the option should not be cost-prohibitive.
- *State and community acceptance.* This option would likely be acceptable to the state and to the community because it does not significantly impact the surrounding surface environment or habitat, and provided that the staging area is located where little to no impact to protected habitat would occur.

#### **4.5.4 Groundwater Extraction Wells**

- *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment.* Groundwater extraction wells are protective of human health and the environment when properly designed, installed, and maintained. This option would result in relatively minimal impacts to the native habitat or open land.
- *Compliance with ARARs.* Well installation is routinely permitted and would meet requirements of the identified ARARs.
- *Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence.* Groundwater extraction wells have been problematic over the long term in the PBLC area due to clogging and damage due to land movement. Wells could be sustainable and permanent over the long term if the



clogging issue can be resolved through such measures as periodic sterilization with oxidants and redevelopment. In addition, groundwater yield has been problematically low in the PBLC area due to naturally occurring low permeability soils in the subsurface. However, if installed in the appropriate area and at the appropriate depth where soils are sufficiently permeable and where groundwater is present, extraction wells are highly effective in removing subsurface groundwater.

- *Short-Term Effectiveness.* Wells are effective over the short term if installed and maintained where groundwater is present in sufficiently permeable soils.
- *Implementability.* This option is standard technology that is easily implemented with readily available equipment, materials, and labor. This technology is one of the few available for subsurface dewatering. However, low permeability soils can be problematic in the subsurface at the PBLC.
- *Cost.* This option does not involve specialty equipment, materials, or labor and is routinely implemented for infiltration control in appropriate areas. As a result, the option should not be cost-prohibitive.
- *State and community acceptance.* This option would likely be acceptable to the state and to the community because wells currently exist within the PBLC, and in adjacent areas, and are installed and maintained within a relatively small area footprint.

#### **4.5.5 Directional Subsurface Drains**

- *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment.* Horizontal groundwater extraction wells are protective of human health and the environment because they are installed nearly entirely in the subsurface. Installation can be conducted within a relatively limited area footprint with relatively minimal impacts to the native habitat or open land, and would not result in an adverse aesthetic value because the drains are mostly located below the surface.



- *Compliance with ARARs.* Horizontal well installation is routinely permitted and would meet requirements of the identified ARARs.
- *Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence.* Horizontal groundwater extraction wells are effective over the long term because they are essentially a passive technology with no moving parts, relatively limited operation and maintenance, and are mostly underground where the potential for damage from surface activities is eliminated. Groundwater continues to be extracted as long as the well is not damaged from lateral land movement transverse to the well casing. Horizontal wells can be installed with concentric casings aligned parallel to prevailing land movement to help minimize damage from land movement. As the wells remove groundwater land movement is anticipated to be significantly reduced incrementally over time so that the potential for well damage is also incrementally reduced. As with vertical wells, horizontal wells could be sustainable and permanent over the long term if the clogging issue can be resolved through such measures as periodic sterilization with oxidants and redevelopment.

If installed in the appropriate area and at the appropriate depth where soils are sufficiently permeable and where groundwater is present, horizontal extraction wells are highly effective in removing subsurface groundwater over the long-term. This technology has not been implemented in the PBLC area before, although it is highly effective when appropriately installed and monitored.

- *Short-Term Effectiveness.* Horizontal wells are also effective over the short term if installed where groundwater is present. In some installations, groundwater flow into the horizontal wells can take up to several months before discharge is observed.
- *Implementability.* This option is standard technology that is easily implemented with readily available equipment, materials, and labor. This technology is also one of the few available for subsurface dewatering. However, low permeability soils can be problematic in the subsurface at the PBLC.



- *Cost.* This option does not involve non-standard specialty equipment, materials, or labor and is routinely implemented for groundwater extraction control in landslide repair or landslide-prone areas. Multiple horizontal wells, directed out radially and extending up to approximately 1,000 feet or more of lateral length, can be installed from one work area. As a result, this option is highly cost-effective.
- *State and community acceptance.* This option would likely be acceptable to the state and to the community because horizontal wells are mostly underground, out of sight, do not impact habitat or open space, and are installed and maintained within a relatively small area footprint. Only relatively minor surface piping would be associated with each wellhead to direct captured groundwater by gravity flow to a nearby surface water channel or pipe discharge to the ocean.

#### **4.5.6 Centralized Sewer System**

- *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment.* Centralized sewer systems are protective of human health and the environment as they control and contain raw sewage flow to regional treatment plants instead of directing the liquid flow into the subsurface environment.
- *Compliance with ARARs.* This alternative would likely meet most or all of the requirements of the identified ARARs. This option likely involves significant permitting from multiple jurisdictions, however.
- *Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence.* This option would be effective and permanent in the long term. Some periodic maintenance is required.
- *Short-Term Effectiveness.* This option would be effective and permanent in the short term once constructed.
- *Implementability.* This option is standard technology that is easily implemented with readily available equipment, materials, and labor.



- *Cost.* This option does not involve specialty equipment, materials or labor and is routinely implemented in new developments and in retro-fit areas. This option involves significant planning, permitting, design engineering, and construction work, and, as a result, costs are relatively high. Moreover, permitting and construction would occur in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the City of Rolling Hills.
- *State and community acceptance.* This option would likely be acceptable to the state due to the elimination of ongoing liquid infiltration that contributes to regional land movement. While the community will understand and support cessation of land movement, conversion costs from OWTS to city sewer will likely be an issue that would need to be addressed by City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the City of Rolling Hills.

## **4.6 Preferred Options**

### **4.6.1 Description and Conceptual Design**

Based on the evaluation and discussion presented in the previous sections, the following preferred options have been identified for the City's consideration:

- Seal Surface Fractures
- Directional Subsurface Drains
- Flexible Liner System and Components
- Groundwater Extraction Wells
- Centralized Sewer System

The sequence of the remedy options has been organized to correspond with an iterative construction cycle or a phased-approach to overall design, construction and installation. That is, sealing surface fractures a relatively straight-forward and cost-effective remedy that could be readily implemented before other options are pursued or while other options are in design, permitting, or construction. Second, directional drains are a conventional and cost-effective solution that could be installed while the more complex stormwater control liner and channel system would be in design, permitting, or construction. Directional drains would be installed in a



phased manner to allow for additional drains installed over time once earlier designs are installed, pilot-tested, and assessed on its effectiveness.

Finally, after key fractures are sealed, directional subsurface drains are in place, and stormwater control is in place, the remedy program may be supplemented with an expansion of the existing groundwater extraction well network. Wells would be installed last in the sequence so that potential well damage from ongoing land movement would be minimized as the earlier components incrementally take effect.

The first three remedy options (sealing fractures, directional drains, and stormwater liner/channel system) would be pilot-tested before full-scale design and construction to allow for design refinement and adjustment as needed based on field conditions. Pilot testing is discussed below in Section 4.6.3. Each remedy component is further described in the following subsections.

#### *4.6.1.1 Seal Surface Fractures*

This technology consists of in-filling existing surface fractures on an annual basis primarily in the vicinity of the project area (Red Zone) and in the PBLC head scarp area to reduce stormwater infiltration to groundwater. Other areas of the PBLC such as south of PVDS or within the interior of the slide area itself could also be included if appropriate. Relatively large fractures would be infilled before the rainy winter season each year using a long-reach pumping truck, conventional pumping rig, or other method. Surface fractures would be identified in advance each fall through an on-site visual inspection survey, recent aerial photograph review, or potentially, with photographic data collected with an aerial drone fly-over.

#### *4.6.1.2 Directional Subsurface Drains*

Directional drains have the potential to have a significant effect on lowering the groundwater surface within the PBLC project area. Drains would be installed in a phased approach to target groundwater removal in the southern project area where land movement has historically been measured at the greatest rate. Drains could be installed at two or more locations at the southern edge of the coastal bluff south of Palos Verdes Drive, for example, and would be drilled radially approximately 1,200 to 1,500 feet northwest, north, and northeast extending



beneath PVDS (Figure 14). Drains in this area would be installed using a conventional, track-mounted horizontal drilling rig that can safely and reliably access the rocky beach area. Other drains could be installed north of the beach from low-lying areas south of PVDS. The drain design would have to include infrastructure to collect and discharge groundwater flow from the drains, such as piping runs to an ocean discharge location on the beach.

An engineering study would need to be prepared to support identification of exact drilling locations and drain installation geometry. Additional data gaps related to this and other options are discussed in Section 4.6.2.

#### *4.6.1.3 Liner and Channel System*

This technology consists of the following components (Appendix D):

- Canyon Liner
- Lapped Liner System
- Lapped Channel Liner Under-Drain System
- Native Vegetation

The ultimate goal of this technology is to minimize or eliminate stormwater infiltration and percolation to groundwater in the Portuguese Bend watershed and in the PBLC Project Area. The canyon liner would extend just north of the Burma Road Trail at an appropriate distance upgradient into Portuguese, Paintbrush, and Ishibashi Canyons in order to capture and control stormwater surface flow and direct it to the ocean (described below) (Appendix D). The canyon liner system as envisioned would be an impervious layer with an underdrain and an armored stone riprap surface in relatively high surface water flow segments. Lower Portuguese Canyon in the northern Project Area would also be lined and the canyon liners can be vegetated to blend into the native habitat. The depth of the top soil will determine the size of the feasible root system supporting the native habitat. The subsurface liner material, such as engineered geomembrane, could be expected to have a lifetime expectancy of at least several hundred years (Benson, 2014).



The canyon liner would direct flow into a lower channel installed across the northern edge of the PBLC area and leading under gravity flow to a road culvert under PVDS (Appendix D). Similar to the canyon liner, the outlet channel would be installed with an underlying lapped geotextile liner and surface rock armoring. The outlet channel could also be vegetated to blend into the native habitat. Vegetation islands can be installed mid-stream where the overall design and flow conditions allow.

This option would also include a drainage and engineering study to support a final design that will promote surface water flow along the northern roadside of PVDS where storm water has historically been ponding and infiltrating to groundwater in the Red Zone area.

Ultimately, additional areas in the adjacent watersheds could also be lined, such as eastern Altamira Canyon or lower Klondike Canyon, where stormwater continues to infiltrate to groundwater in the vicinity of the project area. The described liner and channel system is only a conceptual design. A full engineering and hydrologic study would be needed to support final design and sizing of the liner and channel system.

#### *4.6.1.4 Groundwater Extraction Wells*

Supplemental groundwater extraction wells would be installed in the project area once drains and stormwater control are in place (Figure 14). Groundwater extraction wells would be installed with conventional track-mounted or truck-mounted well drilling rigs using sonic drilling methods. The sonic method is preferred since soil sampling and characterization can be continually conducted while drilling commences, groundwater is readily observed, and well installation can proceed without the potential for drilling-induced permeability reduction associated with other methods such as mud rotary. Companion borings for geologic or geotechnical investigation may also need to be completed in advance by other methods to collect well design information such as geologic, stratigraphic, or hydrogeologic data. Groundwater monitoring wells will also need to be installed to routinely monitor groundwater levels in the PBLC area. At this conceptual stage of the overall project, based on the areal extent of the PBLC area and historical well yields, it is estimated that approximately 25 extraction wells would be needed in the project area with a network of approximately 10 to 15 additional monitoring wells within and adjacent to the project area. The number, depth, and



design of the extraction and monitoring wells would be based on site-specific aquifer testing conducted to determine well design parameters as well as overall hydrogeologic and stratigraphic data based on historical work or supplemental site investigation.

#### *4.6.1.5 Centralized Sewer System*

Approximately 2 miles of new subsurface sewer lines and associated manholes and junctions need to be installed in the Portuguese Bend neighborhood east of lower Altamira Canyon and west of lower Portuguese Canyon. This area includes those roads generally southeast of Peppertree Drive and north of Palos Verdes Drive South (Figure 7). In addition, approximately 1.5 miles of new subsurface sewer lines are needed in the upper Portuguese Canyon Watershed. New sewer lines are needed in this area where upper Portuguese Canyon extends north to the northern watershed boundary at Crest Road and where upper Ishibashi Canyon splits into four sub-canyons that extend east-northeast to the northern watershed boundary. Both upper Portuguese Canyon and upper Ishibashi Canyon are located within the City of Rolling Hills. The new sewer line installation would need to be synchronized with private lateral installation and connection as well as septic system removal in both neighborhoods. The new lines would likely be connected to nearby exiting lines that direct sewage to the Los Angeles County Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson. New sewer line installation and septic tank removal would have to be fully designed in a separate engineering study to develop specific objectives, design options, costs, and regulatory requirements.

#### **4.6.2 Data Gaps**

In addition, the following final design input is needed, at a minimum, to develop a detailed scope of work and engineering cost estimate for construction bidding for the City's consideration:

- Hydrologic analysis and floodplain mapping
- Geologic, hydrogeologic, and stratigraphic characterization

Hydrologic analysis, floodplain mapping, and watershed modeling are needed to appropriately characterize and specify the design flood for canyon lining and channel sizing engineering.



These data include stream flow measurements, flood frequency, rainfall data analysis, and related tasks.

Geologic, hydrogeologic, and stratigraphic data are needed to understand subsurface conditions before drain and well drilling commences. Historical data are also needed, if available, including extraction well construction data, extraction well production records, boring logs, a master soil boring and well location map, groundwater elevation data (historical and current), and groundwater quality sampling data.

Data gap information is typically further specified in a data gap investigation work plan that outlines the required information and how it can be collected before final design engineering commences.

#### **4.6.3 Pilot Testing**

The remedy options selected by the City should be pilot tested before full-scale implementation. Pilot testing should be completed to simulate full-scale implementation as much as possible while obtaining the design data needed to scale-up and cost the remedy for complete implementation. Pilot testing should be completed before full-scale implementation of the canyon liner and collector channel system, the surface fracture sealing, and subsurface drain remedy options. Pilot testing and associated baseline and performance monitoring is typically specified and detailed in a separate plan. The pilot test plan could be combined with the data gap investigation work plan discussed above.

#### **4.6.4 Approximate Implementation Costs**

The approximate order-of-magnitude costs (2018 dollars) associated with the preferred alternative is provided in Table 4. Estimated costs are based on industry literature where possible and from professional experience with similar projects.



#### *4.6.4.1 Seal Surface Fractures*

Pilot testing for a surface fracture sealing program is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000. Planning, permitting, construction and initial reporting for a full-scale program is estimated at approximately \$250,000. Operation and maintenance (O&M) (fracture sealing, monitoring, and reporting each year thereafter) costs are estimated at approximately \$50,000. Extended for 10 years (2018 dollars), O&M would cost approximately \$625,000. The total cost for this option is thus approximately \$975,000.

#### *4.6.4.2 Directional Subsurface Drains*

Directional drains require a data gap investigation to characterize groundwater and identify the appropriate stratigraphic zone for drain installation. Data gap investigation and pilot testing for a drain program is estimated to cost approximately \$656,000. Planning, permitting, construction and reporting of a full-scale program of 10 drains extending 1,200 feet is estimated at approximately \$6.4 million. O&M (including monitoring and reporting each year thereafter) is estimated at approximately \$125,000. Extended for 30 years (2018 dollars) (without major reconstruction) this component would cost approximately \$11.7 million. Major reconstruction for additional drains or replacement drains would be basically comparable to the initial program cost rates and total costs.

#### *4.6.4.3 Liner and Channel System*

Pilot testing for a liner and channel system is estimated at approximately \$512,000. Planning, permitting, and construction of a full-scale program of lining the canyons (Portuguese, Paintbrush, Ishibashi) with a perimeter channel and culvert directing flow to the ocean is estimated to cost approximately \$13.5 million. O&M (including monitoring and reporting each year thereafter) is estimated at approximately \$75,000. Extended for 30 years (2018 dollars) (without major reconstruction) this component would cost approximately \$16.8 million.

#### *4.6.4.4 Groundwater Extraction and Monitoring Wells*

Groundwater extraction wells require a data gap investigation to characterize groundwater and identify the appropriate stratigraphic zone(s) for well installation. Data gap investigation and pilot testing for supplemental groundwater extraction wells is estimated at approximately \$556,000 (supplemental to the drain data gap investigation). Planning, permitting, and



construction of a full-scale program (20 wells to 200 feet with 10 companion monitoring wells [30 wells total]) is estimated to cost approximately \$4 million. O&M (including monitoring and reporting each year thereafter) is estimated at approximately \$325,000. Extended for 30 years (2018 dollars) (without major reconstruction) this component would cost approximately \$12 million.

#### *4.6.4.5 Centralized Sewer System*

Residential sewer costs are approximately \$200 per linear foot overall including manholes and related infrastructure. Approximately 1.5 miles of sewer line are needed in the Portuguese Bend neighborhood and approximately 2 miles of sewer line are needed in the upper Portuguese Bend watershed area (within the City of Rolling Hills) (total of approximately 18,480 feet). Planning, permitting, and construction of a full-scale program in both the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and Rolling Hills is estimated to cost approximately \$5 million. O&M (including monitoring and reporting each year thereafter) is estimated at approximately \$50,000. Extended for 30 years (2018 dollars) (without major reconstruction) this component would cost approximately \$7 million.

#### *4.6.4.6 Total Estimated Project Cost*

The estimated order-of-magnitude cost for all components of the preferred remedy totals \$31.3 million for initial planning, permitting, data gap investigation, pilot testing, design, and construction. With O&M, monitoring, and reporting extended for 30 years (2018 dollars) (without major reconstruction) the estimated order-of-magnitude cost totals \$53.5 million.



## References

- Benson, Craig H., 2014. *Performance of Engineered Barriers: Lessons Learned*. University of Wisconsin Madison, 2014, accessed July 2018 at <https://www.energy.gov/>.
- California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA). 2003. *Stormwater best management practice handbook: New development and redevelopment*. January 2003.
- Charles Abbot Associates, Inc., 1997. Portuguese Bend Shore Protection Feasibility Study, Analysis of Landslide Material Loss. Prepared for City of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Chesapeake Stormwater Network (CSN). Undated. *Session 4: Retrofit costs, delivery and maintenance*. Workshop presentation available at <[http://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/06/Session-4-Retrofit-Costs-Delivery-and-Maintenance\\_060112.pdf](http://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/06/Session-4-Retrofit-Costs-Delivery-and-Maintenance_060112.pdf)>.
- City of Rancho Palos Verdes, 1987. Draft Environmental Impact Report for a Grading, Drainage, and Road Relocation Project, September, 1987.
- Clary, J., M. Leisenring, A. Poresky, A. Earles, and J. Jones. 2011. *BMP performance analysis results for the International Stormwater BMP Database*. American Society of Civil Engineers. World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2011, Palm Springs, California, United States. May 22-26, 2011.
- Douglas, Robert, 2007. Abalone Cove Landslide Abatement District (ACLAD). Unpublished presentation.
- Douglas, Robert, 2013. The Creepy (Slow Moving) Landslides of Portuguese Bend. The Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists, AEG Special Publication, v. 24, Los Angeles, California.



EDAW, 1994a. Initial Study, Portuguese Bend Grading Project, Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Lead Agency: City of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, September 9, 1994.

EDAW, 1994b. Initial Study, Portuguese Canyon Erosion Control Project, Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Lead Agency: City of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, August 5, 1994

Ehlig, Perry L., 1992. Evolution, mechanics and mitigation of the Portuguese Bend Landslide, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. In (Pipkin, Bernard W. and R. J. Proctor, eds.) Engineering Geology Practice in Southern California, Special Publication No. 4, Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section.

Ehlig, Perry L., and B.C. Yen, 1997. A Joint Preliminary Geology and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report: Feasibility of Stabilizing Portuguese Bend Landslide, March 3, 1997.

Leighton and Associates, 2000. Updated feasibility study for the Portuguese Bend Landslide remediation project at Peacock Hill and Portuguese Bend, City of Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Project No. 1881922-26; prepared for Palos Verdes Portuguese Bend Company, 25200 La Paz Road, Suite 210, Laguna Hills, California 92653, January 19, 2000.

MacKintosh & MacKintosh, 1957. Report of Earth Movement, Portuguese Bend, California, April 26, 1957. MacKintosh & MacKintosh, Consulting Engineers, Los Angeles 4, California.

Maestre, A., R. Pitt, and Center for Watershed Protection. 2005. *The National Stormwater Quality Database, Version 1.1, A compilation and analysis of NPDES stormwater monitoring information*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water. September 4, 2005.

National Weather Service (NWS). 2015. Climate Prediction Center, Frequently asked questions about El Niño and La Niña. Accessed June 4, 2015. <[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/ensostuff/ensofaq.shtml](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ensofaq.shtml)>.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 2007. Chapter 7: Hydrologic soil groups. *Part 630 Hydrology, National Engineering Handbook*. 210–VI–NEH. May 2007.



National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 2017. Custom Soil Resource Report for Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part, Portuguese Bend. Downloaded from <<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>> on November 6, 2017, PDF copy of report for custom area on file with DBS&A.

RBF Consulting, 2015. City of Rancho Palos Verdes Master Plan of Drainage, Final Report. Prepared for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes Public Works Department, June 5, 2015, by RBF Consulting, a Michael Baker International company.

Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (RWQCB). 1994. Water quality control plan for the San Diego Basin (9). As amended.

RWQCB, 2009. Clean Water Act Section 305(b) and Section 303(d) Integrated Report for the San Diego Region, Staff Report. December 2009.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), 2004. *Policy for implementation and enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program: Guidance for developing an integrated program for implementing and enforcing the "Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program"*. May 20, 2004.

SWRCB, 2013. *Resolution No. 2013-0003: Adoption of an amendment to the policy for water quality control for recycled water concerning monitoring requirements for constituents of emerging concern*. January 22, 2013.

SWRCB, 2015. *State Water Boards bacterial objectives*. <<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/>>. Last updated February 19, 2015.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 2000. Rancho Palos Verdes, Los Angeles County, California, Draft Feasibility Report, Los Angeles District, June.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), 1988. Guidance for conducting remedial investigations and feasibility studies under CERCLA (Interim final). EPA/540/G89/004, October 1988.

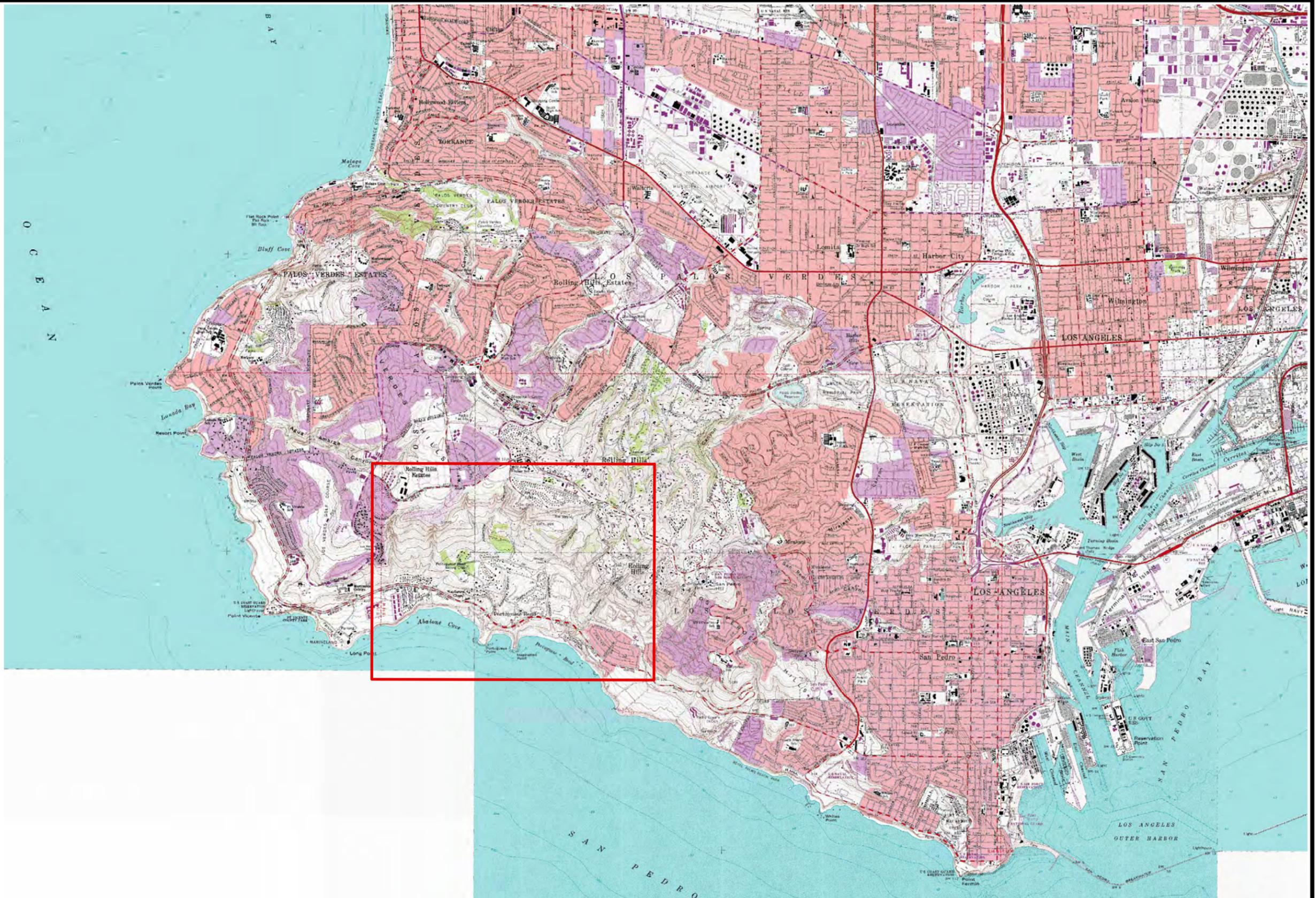
Vonder Linden, Karl, 1972. An analysis of the Portuguese Bend Landslide, Palos Verdes Hills, California, A Dissertation submitted to the Department of Geology, Stanford University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, 271 pp.

URS, undated. Draft Report entitled, Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan. URS Project No. 27644296.08000, prepared for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

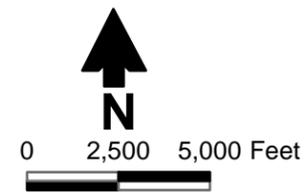
Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF). 2015. International Stormwater BMP Database. <<http://www.bmpdatabase.org/>>.

## Figures

S:\PROJECTS\171171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG01\_REGIONAL\_SITE\_LOCATION.MXD



Source: USGS topographic map



**Explanation**

 Site area

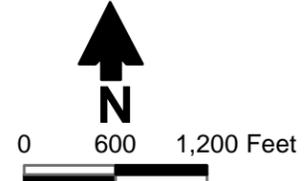


**Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.**  
10/11/2017 JN DB17.1171

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
Regional Site Location**

Figure 1

S:\PROJECTS\171171\_RPV\GIS\MXDS\FIGURES\FIG02\_AERIAL\_PHOTO\_WITH\_GEOGRAPHIC\_FEATURES.MXD



**Explanation**

- Street
- Major canyon
- PVP Land Conservancy foot trail
- Active landslide area
- Park
- PVP Land Conservancy property
- City boundary

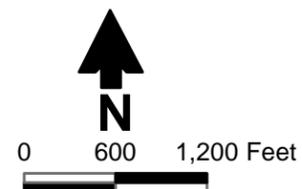
Source: City of Rancho Palos Verdes (2017)



**Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.**  
 11/10/2017 JN DB17.1171

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES**  
**Aerial Photograph with Geographic Features**

Figure 2



**Explanation**

-  Street
-  Portuguese Bend Landslide area
-  Portuguese Bend Landslide subarea
-  Approximate Ancient Altamira Landslide Complex
-  Abalone Cove Landslide

Source: Douglas (2013)

S:\PROJECTS\DB17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG03\_LANDSLIDE\_SUBAREAS.MXD

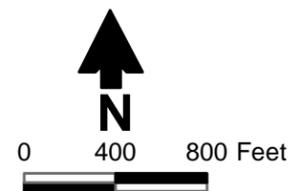


**Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.**  
11/10/2017 JN DB17.1171

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
Landslide Subareas**

Figure 3

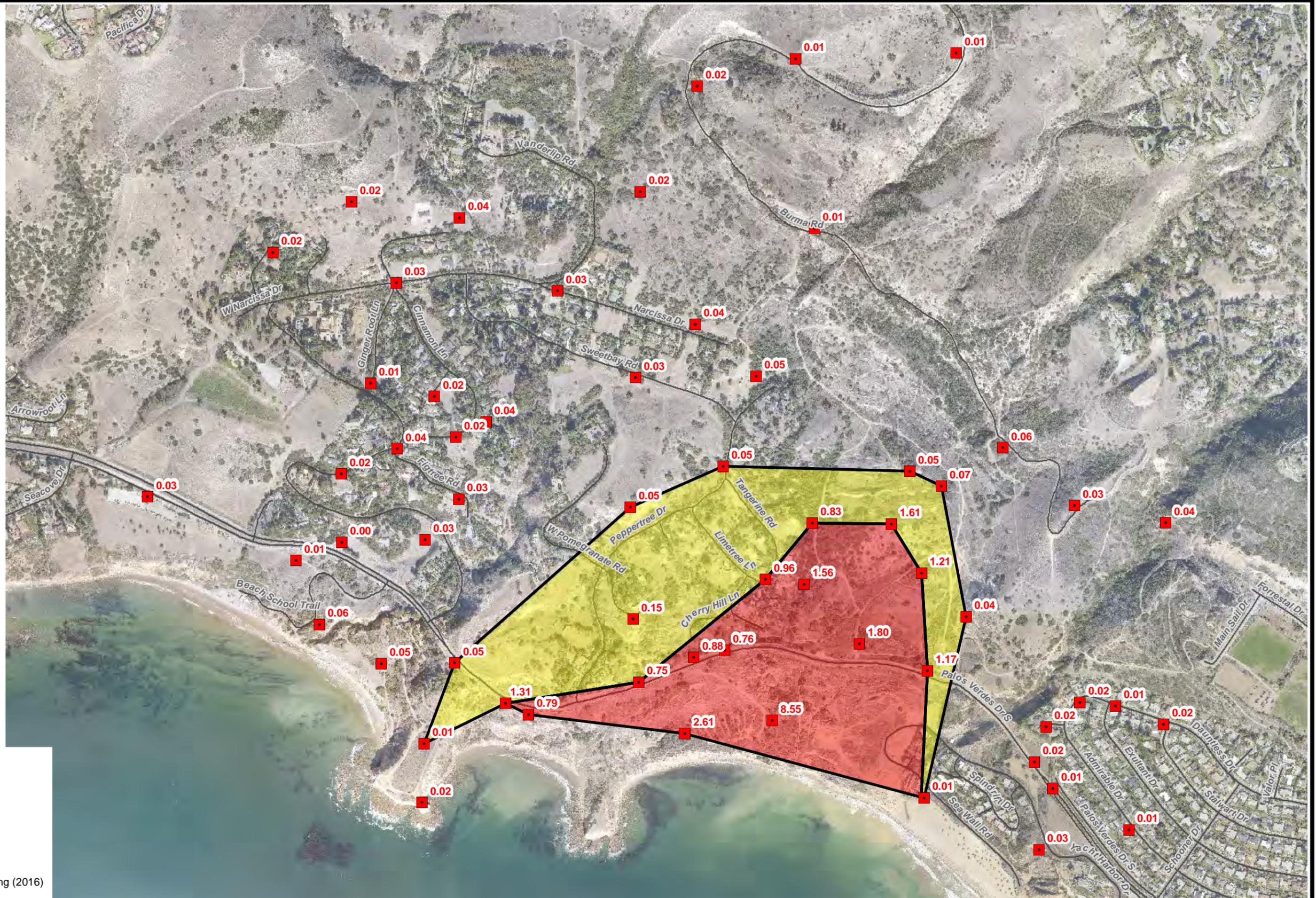
S:\PROJECTS\DB17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG09\_HORIZONTAL\_MOVEMENT.MXD



**Explanation**

- Street
- GPS point
- Movements vary
- 1'10" to 8'7"
- 3/4" to 1'10"

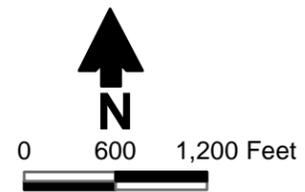
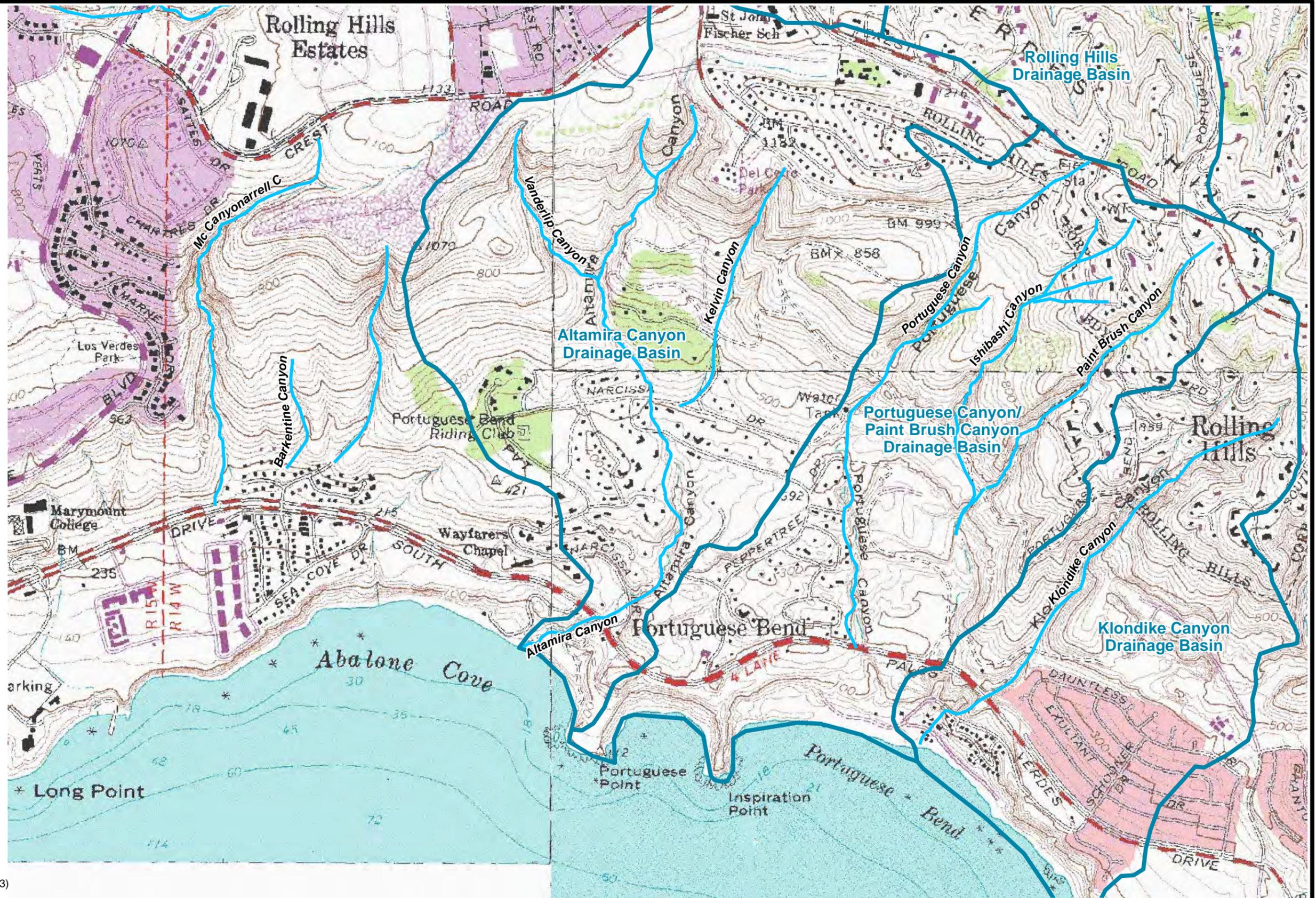
Source: McGee Surveying Consulting (2016)



Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.  
11/8/2017 JN DB17.1171

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
**Measured Horizontal Movement 2013-2014**

Figure 4



**Explanation**

-  Watershed
-  Major canyon

Source: Adapted from Douglas (2013)

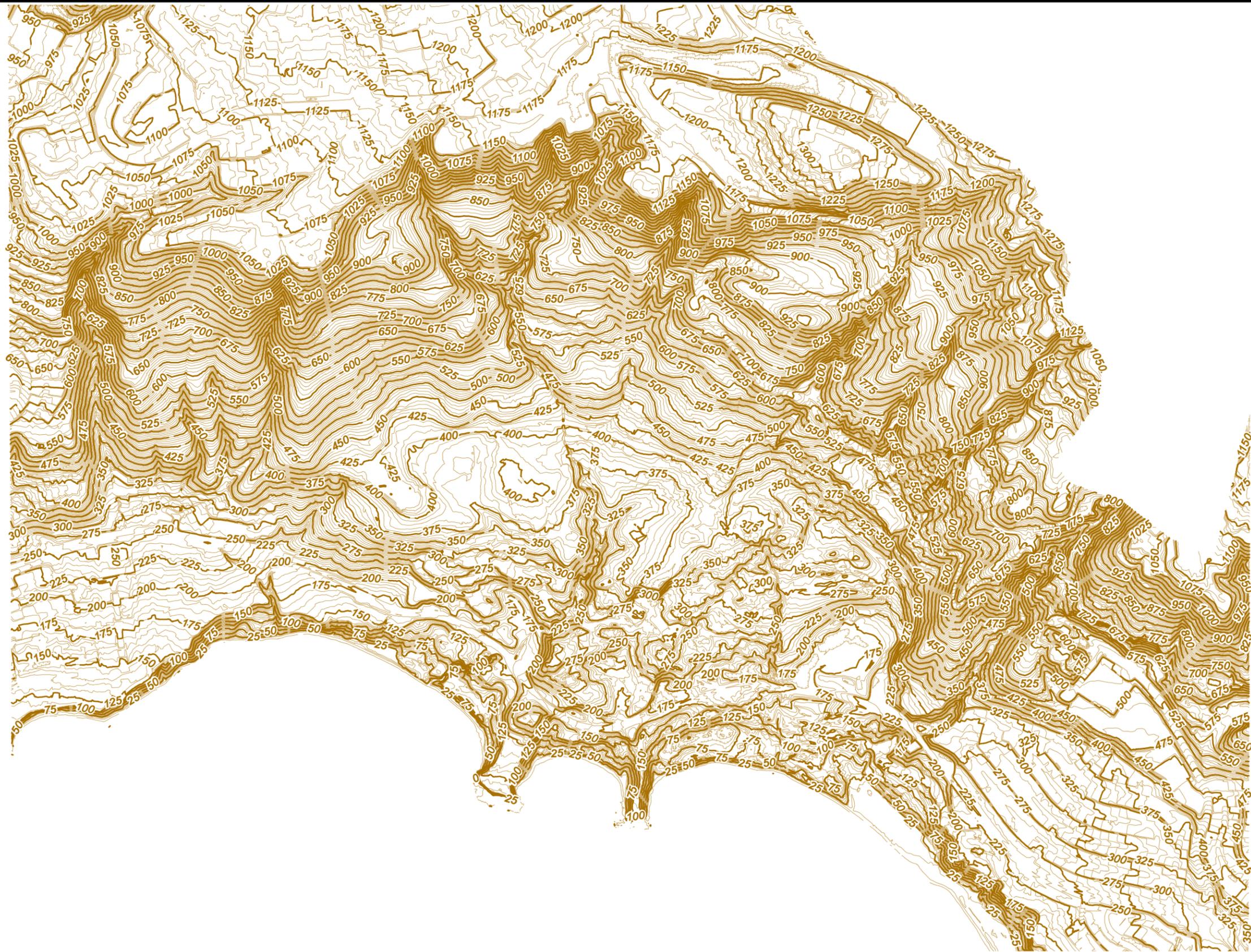
S:\PROJECTS\DB17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG07\_WATERSHEDS.MXD



**Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.**  
11/17/2017 JN DB17.1171

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
Watersheds**

Figure 5



0 600 1,200 Feet



**Explanation**

— Elevation contour (interval 5 feet)

Source: City of Rancho Palos Verdes (2017)

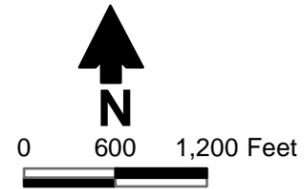
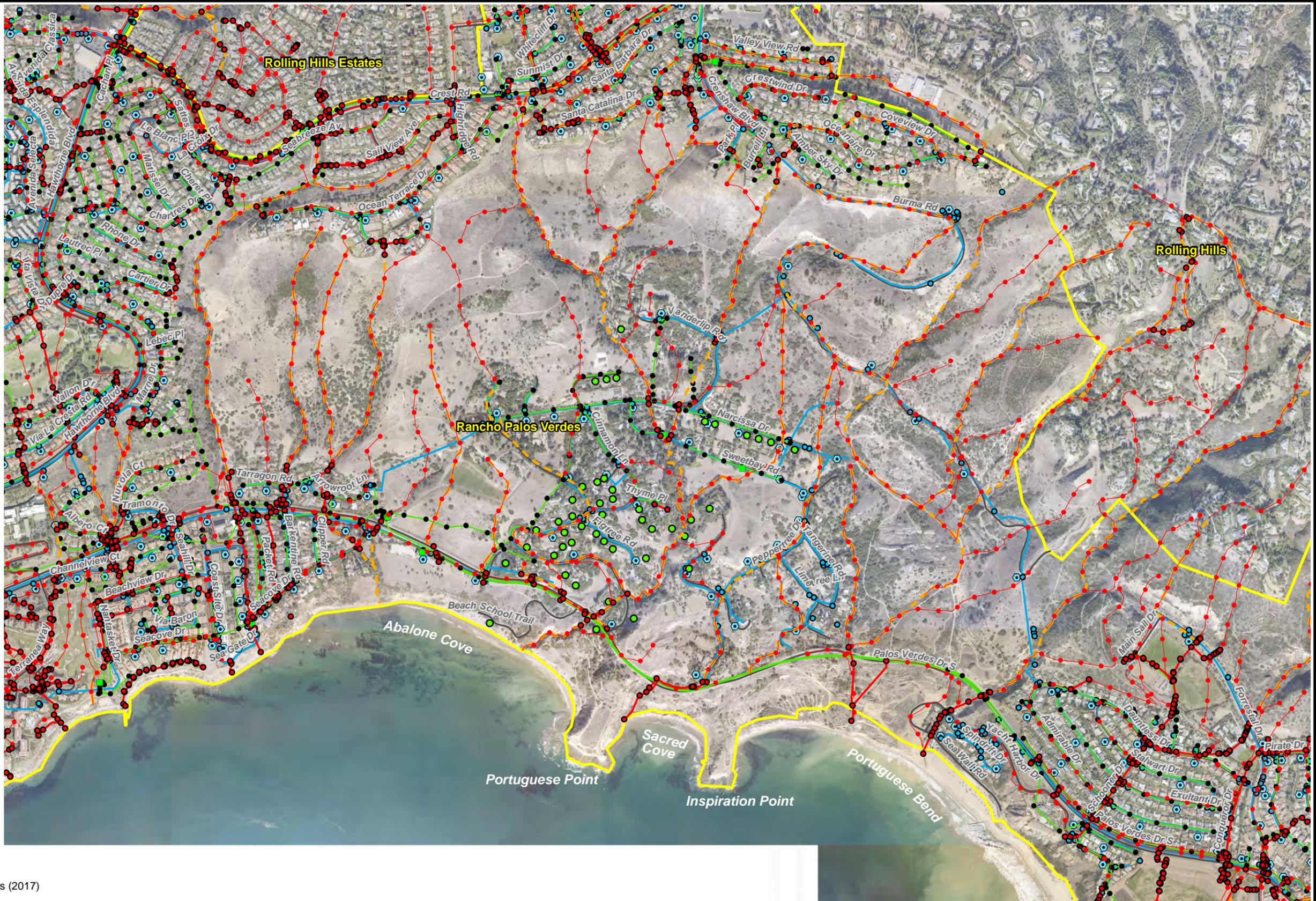
S:\PROJECTS\171171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG06\_TOPOGRAPHY.MXD



**Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.**  
10/12/2017 JN DB17.1171

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
Topography**

Figure 6

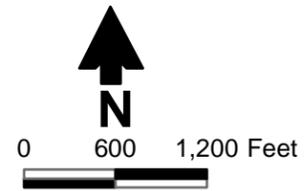
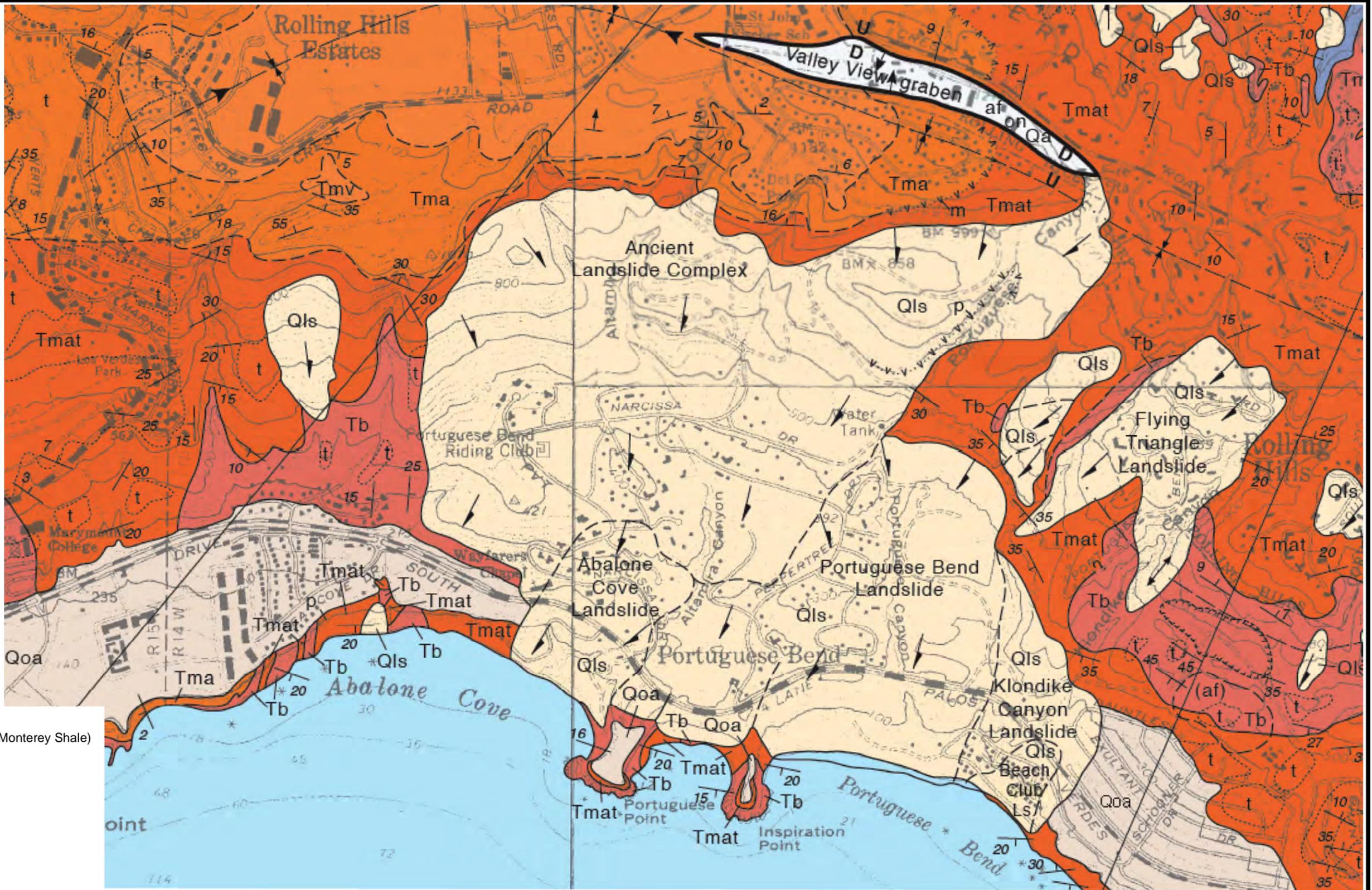


**Explanation**

- Street
- ▭ City boundary
- Valve
- ⊕ Hydrant
- Pressurized main
- Storm drain structure
- Storm drain hydro catchment flow
- Storm drain hydro flow
- Storm drain pipe
- Sewer facility
- Grinder Pump
- Lift Station
- ◆ Pump Plant
- Sewer manhole
- Sewer pipe

Source: City of Rancho Palos Verdes (2017)

S:\PROJECTS\171171\_RPV\GIS\MXDS\FIGURES\FIG05\_MAJOR\_UTILITIES.MXD



**Explanation**

- af Artificial fill
- Qls Landslide debris (mostly Monterey Shale)
- Qoa Older Alluvium
- Tmv Valmonte Diatomite
- TMat Altamire Shale
- m Miraleste Tuff
- Tb Basalt
- sc Catalina Schist

Source: Dibblee (1999)

S:\PROJECTS\DB17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG08\_REGIONAL\_GEOLOGY.MXD

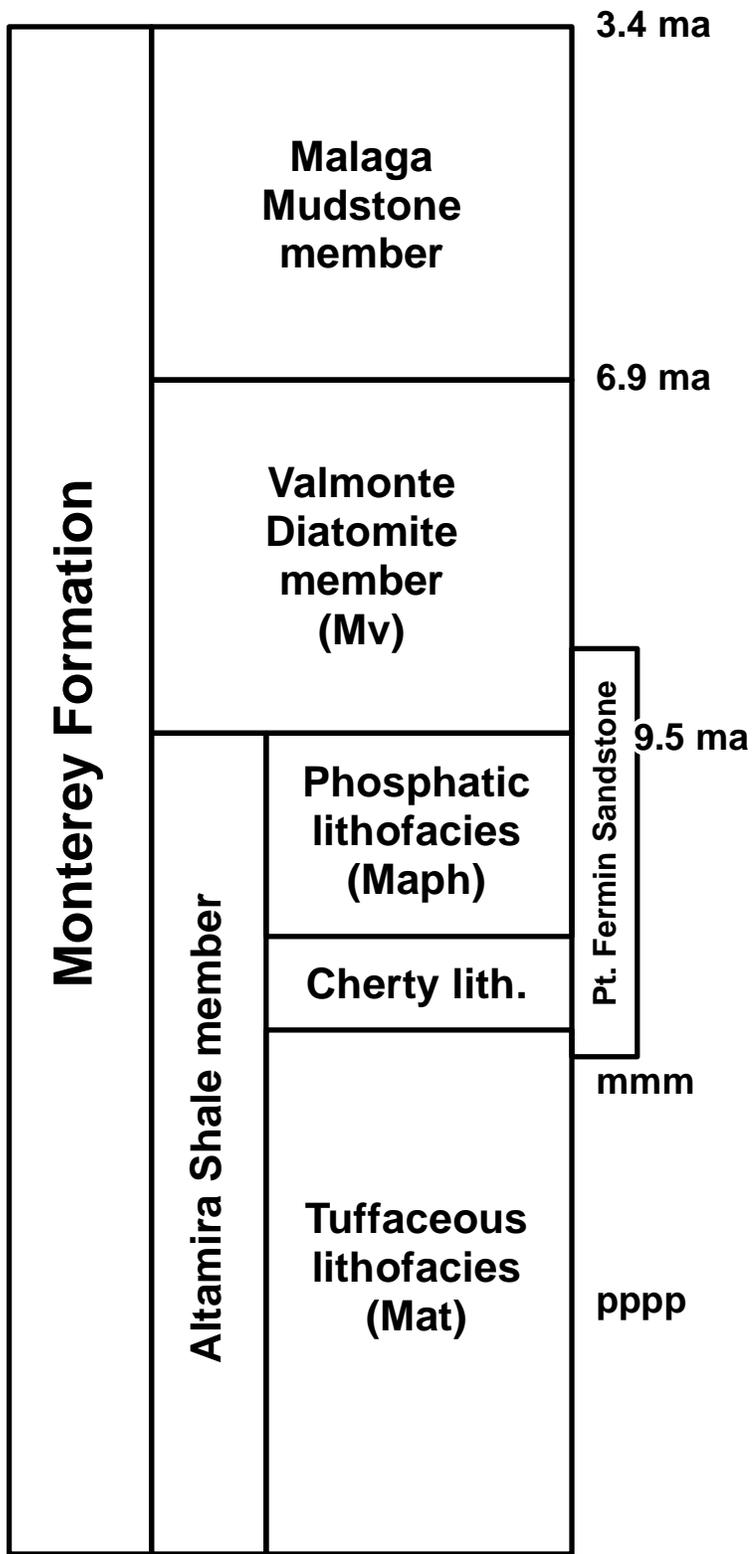


**Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.**  
10/13/2017 JN DB17.1171

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
Regional Geology**

Figure 8

S:\PROJECTS\DB17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG03-7A\_STRATIGRAPHIC\_COLUMN.MXD



Source: modified from Conrad and Ehlig (1983) (in Douglas, 2013)

- Notes:
1. Ma = megannum (millions of years before present)
  2. mmm = Miraleste Tuff
  3. pppp = Portuguese Tuff

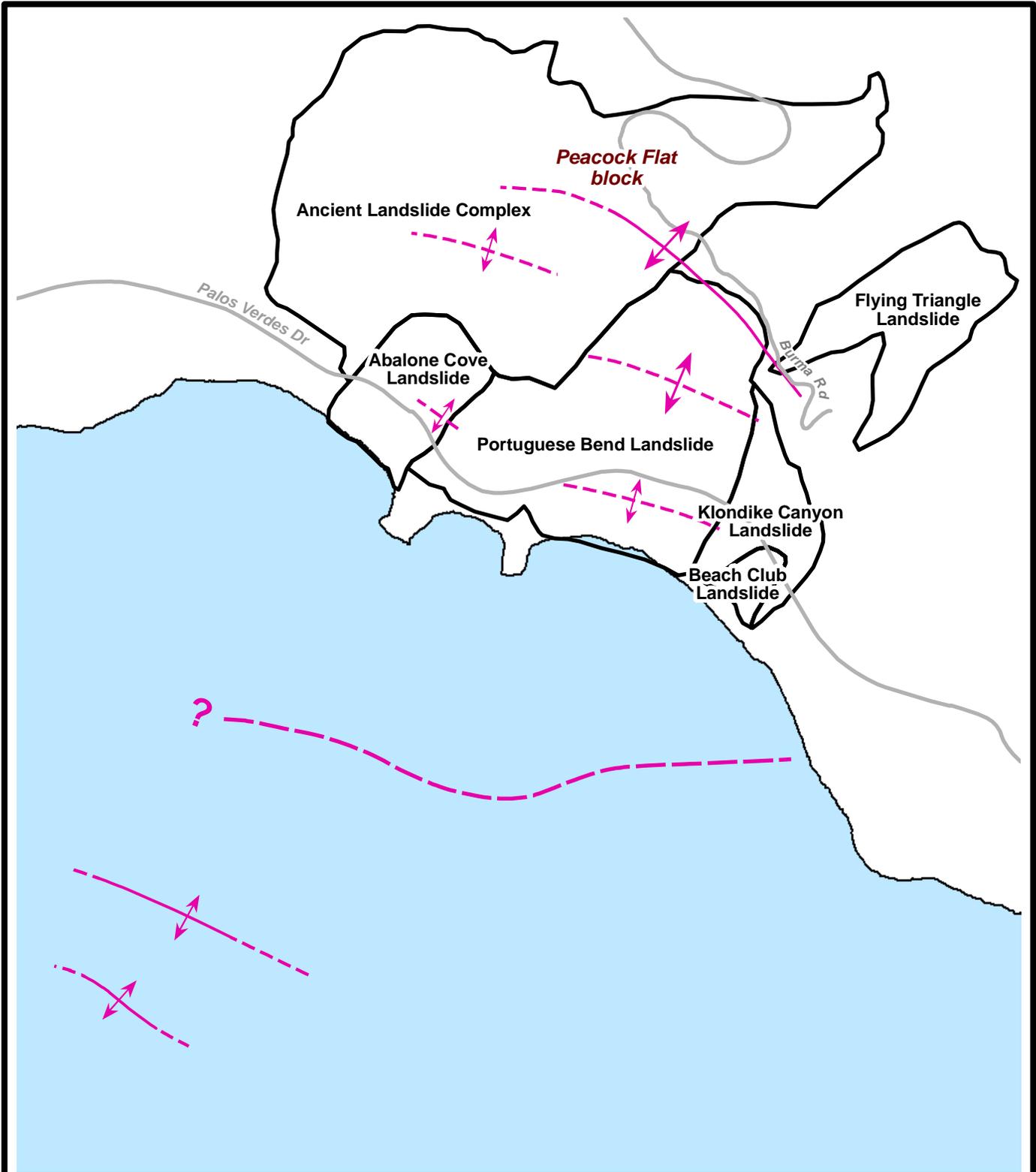
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
**Stratigraphic Column**  
**Monterey Formation**



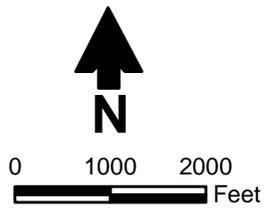
**Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.**  
 11/8/2017 JN DB17.1171

Figure 9

S:\PROJECTS\DB17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG03-7C\_ONSHORE\_OFFSHORE\_FAULTS\_FOLDS.MXD



Source: modified from Dill Geomarine (1989) (in Douglas, 2013)



**Explanation**

- Antiform
- Fault
- Road

Note: Fault and fold axes locations approximate

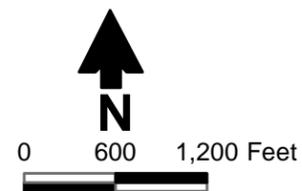
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
**Onshore/Offshore  
 Faults and Folds**



**Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.**  
 11/10/2017 JN DB17.1171

Figure 10

S:\PROJECTS\DB17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG04\_EXISTING\_DEWATERING\_WELLS.MXD



**Explanation**

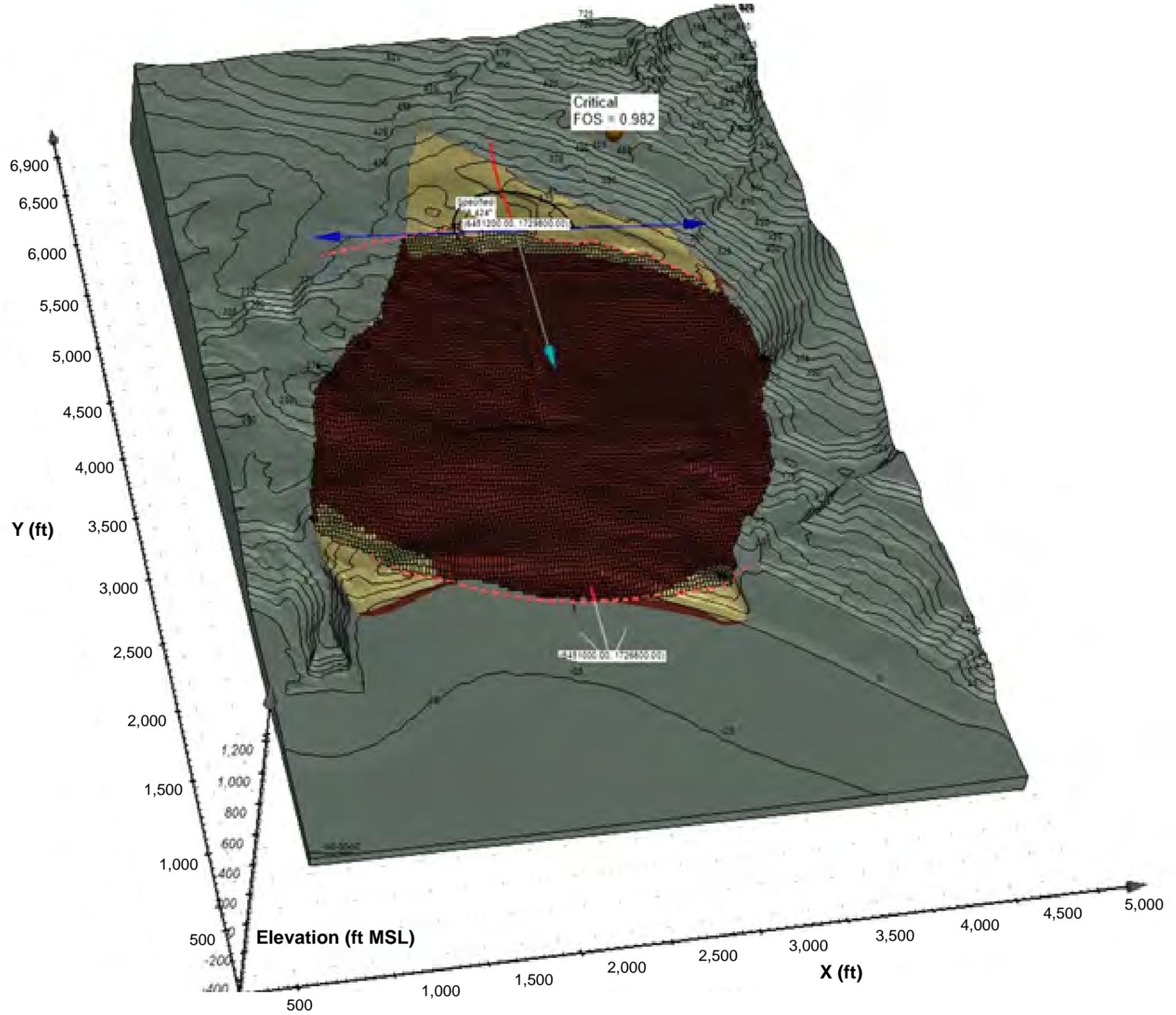
Dewatering well

- ACLAD
- City
- RDA
- Street
- City boundary

Source: City of Rancho Palos Verdes (2017)



S:\PROJECTS\B17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG03-7-1\_SLOPE\_STABILITY\_MODEL.MXD

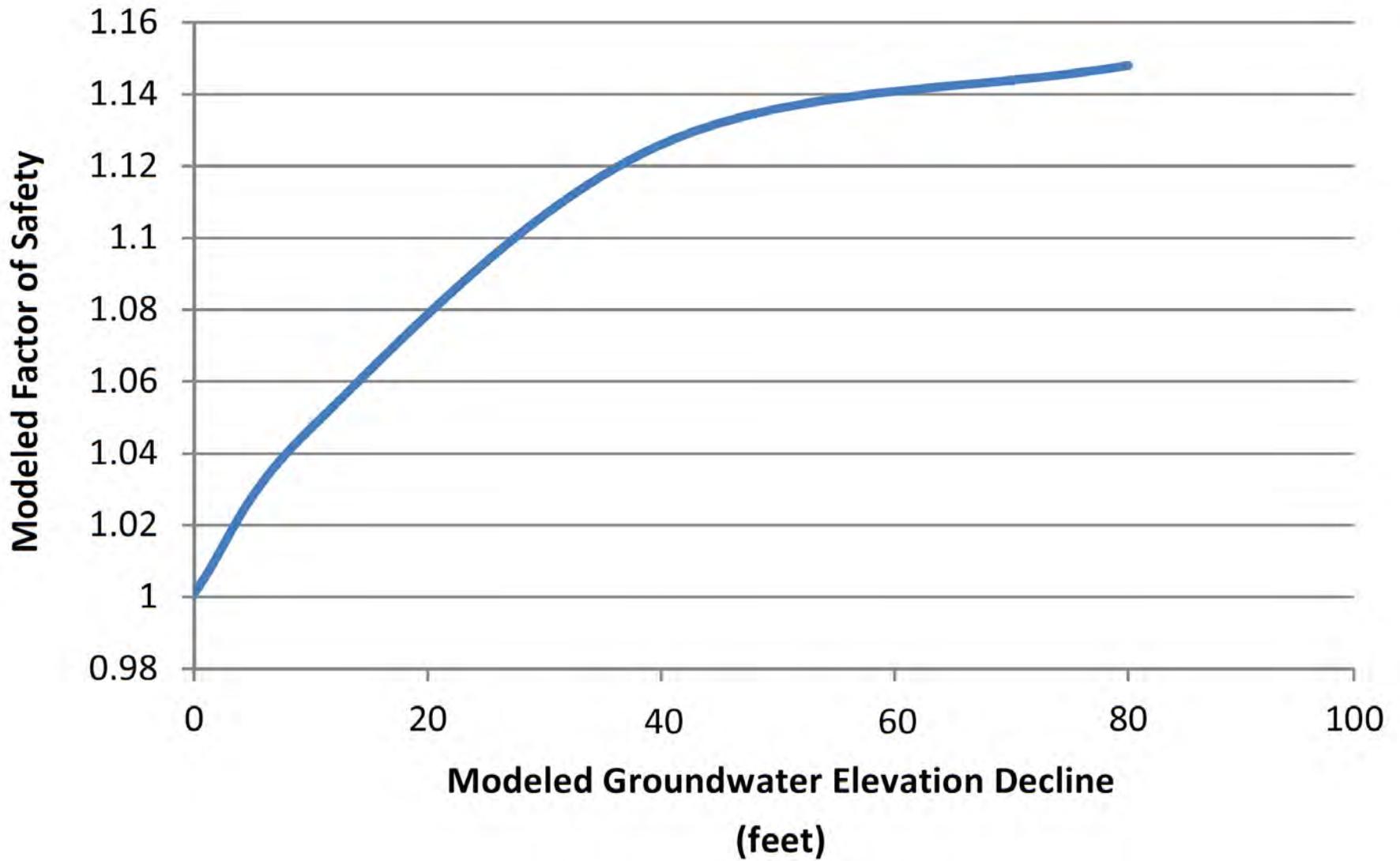


**Explanation**

- Area within limits of basal rupture surface
- Critical failure surface as evaluated by 3D slope stability analysis program
- Land topography contour
- Model coordinate system
- Direction of movement

Note: FOS = factor of safety



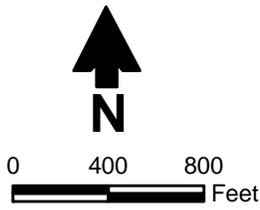
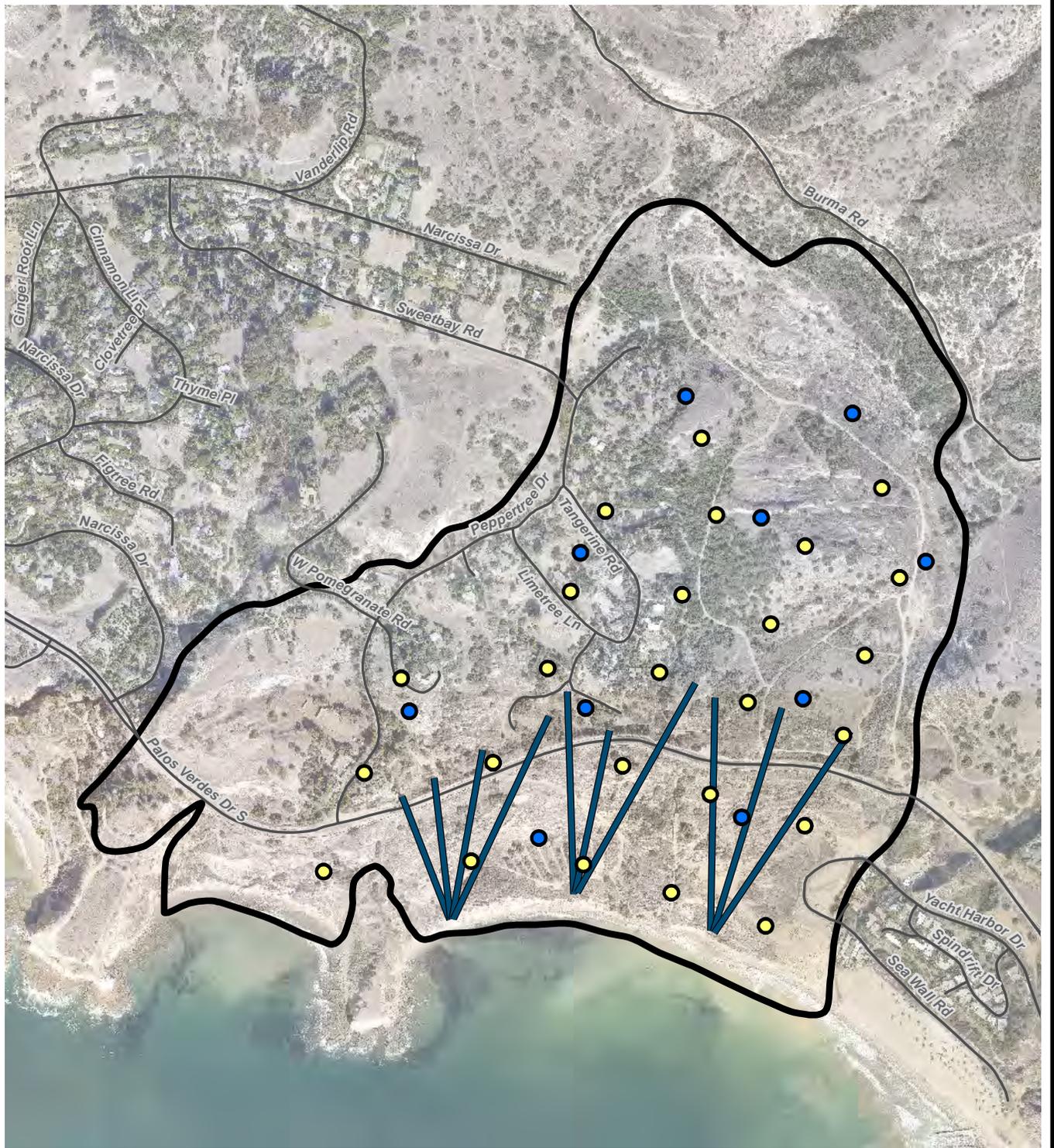


CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
**Modeled Increase in Factor of Safety with  
Decline in Groundwater Elevation**

Figure 13



S:\PROJECTS\B17.1171\_RPV\GIS\MXD\FIGURES\FIG04-6\_CONCEPTUAL\_HORIZ\_DRAINS\_AND\_WELLS.MXD



- Explanation**
- Proposed monitoring well
  - Proposed extraction well
  - Proposed horizontal drain
  - Portuguese Bend Landslide area

Note: Drain width and well diameters not drawn to scale.

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
**Conceptual Horizontal Drains,  
 Extraction Wells, and Monitoring Wells**

Figure 14

## Tables



**Table 1. Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)**  
**Page 1 of 3**

No.	ARAR?	Date	Agency	Name	Title	Goals/Objectives/Features
1	Applicable	1961	CDFG	DFG Lake and Streambed Alteration Program, amended	DFG Lake and Streambed Alteration Program	Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream or lake; substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or deposit debris, waste, or other materials that could pass into any river, stream, or lake.
2	Applicable	1968	CA	Anti-degradation Policy	Resolution 68-16	State water discharges be regulated to achieve the "highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state." Satisfies federal CWA 40 CFR 131.12. Incorporated into Basin Plans.
3	Applicable	1969	SWRCB	Porter-Cologne Act	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (CA Water Code)	Porter-Cologne grants the SWRCB and RWQCBs the authority to implement and enforce the water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans to protect the groundwater and surface waters of the state. The Act is the principal law governing water quality control in California and establishes comprehensive program to protect water quality and the beneficial uses of waters of the State. The Act applies broadly to all State waters, including surface waters, wetlands, and ground water, waste discharges to land, surface water, and groundwater, and applies to both point and nonpoint sources of pollution.
4	Applicable	1970	CA	CEQA, amended 1983	California Environmental Quality Act	Requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. CEQA applies to certain activities of state and local public agencies who must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a "project." A project is an activity undertaken by a public agency or a private activity for which the agency has the authority to deny the requested permit or approval that may cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment. Environmental review requires at a minimum an initial review of the project and its environmental effects. A more substantial review may be conducted as an environmental impact report (EIR). Requires feasible alternatives or mitigation measures to substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of the project.
5	To-be-considered (TBC)	1970	CDFG	California Endangered Species Act (CESA)	California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code Sections 2050-2116) amended 1984	The goal of CESA, Section 2050 of the California Fish and Game Code, is to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance any endangered or threatened species and its habitat. Regarding the birds likely to nest or feed in the area, most of those that are listed as endangered or threatened by the state are also listed federally. If presence of endangered/ threatened species on the PBLIC, the substantive requirements of the California Endangered Species Act, Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code, may be applicable.
6	Applicable	1972	USEPA	Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)	Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (Clean Water Act amended 1977, 1981, 1987, 1988)	Section 403 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1343 and associated regulations at 40CFR Part 125, Subpart M regulate discharges into marine waters that have the potential to degrade the marine environment. These provisions prohibit discharges unless limits can be established to prevent unreasonable degradation or irreparable harm to the marine environment. The substantive requirements of the Section 403 may be applicable for remedial alternatives that involve dredging, placement, or dewatering of sediment.
7	TBC	1973	USFWS/NOAA	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) amended 1982	The goal of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. Section 1531 et seq. is the conservation and recovery of species of fish, wildlife, and plants that are threatened with extinction. EPA has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to identify threatened and endangered species and ensure that any response action is not likely to jeopardize listed species or adversely modify critical habitat. Because of the presence of endangered/threatened species on the PV Shelf, the substantive requirements at Sections 7 and 9 of the Endangered Species Act may be applicable. 16 U.S.C. §§1536 & 1538.
8	Applicable	1973	USFWS	Section 10(a)(1)(B)	Habitat Conservation Plans	Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act provide for partnerships with non-Federal parties to conserve the ecosystems upon which listed species depend, ultimately contributing to their recovery.
9	TBC	1993	USEPA	EPA NPS Management Guidance	Guidance Specifying Management Measures For Sources Of Nonpoint Pollution In Coastal Waters	Guidance specifying management measures for sources of nonpoint pollution in coastal waters



**Table 1. Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)**  
**Page 2 of 3**

No.	ARAR?	Date	Agency	Name	Title	Goals/Objectives/Features
10	TBC	1995	SWRCB	Water Quality Policy Enclosed Bays and Estuaries	Water Quality Control Policy for the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of CA as Adopted by Resolution No. 95-84 11/16/95	Water quality principles and guidelines to prevent water quality degradation and to protect the beneficial uses of waters of enclosed bays and estuaries (does not apply to wastes from land runoff except as specifically indicated for siltation (Chapter III 4.) and combined sewer flows (Chapter III 7)). Discharge of municipal wastewaters and industrial process waters (exclusive of cooling waste discharges) to enclosed bays and estuaries (except San Francisco Bay-Delta) shall be phased out. Persistent or cumulative toxic substances shall be removed from waste to the maximum extent practicable through source control or adequate treatment prior to discharge. Nonpoint sources of pollutants shall be controlled to the maximum practicable extent. Requires self-monitoring/reporting.
11	TBC	1998	California Fish and Game Code	Section 307(c)(1) 40 CFR 300.5, 300.430(f)(1)(ii)(B)	Coastal Zone Management Act	Section 307(c)(1) of the CZMA requires that federal agencies conducting or supporting activities affecting land and water resources of the coastal zone do so in a manner that is consistent with approved state coastal zone management programs.
12	Applicable	2002	SWRCB	Lake and Streambed Alteration Program Section 1602	Lake and Streambed Alteration Program Notification/Agreement	Prohibits the substantial diversion or obstruction of the natural flow or substantial changes to the bed, or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by the Department of Fish and Game, or the use of any material from the streambeds, without first notifying the Department and otherwise complying with the statute.
13	TBC	2004	SWRCB	Water Quality Policy Enclosed Bays and Estuaries	Water Quality Enforcement Policy February 19, 2002	Creates framework for identifying and investigating instances of noncompliance and taking enforcement actions that are appropriate in relation to the nature and severity of the violation, and for prioritizing enforcement resources to achieve maximum environmental benefits. Other state agencies (Fish and Game) can enforce water quality provisions and state law allows for members of the public to bring enforcement matters to the attention of the state and authorizes aggrieved persons to petition the state to review most actions or inactions by the RWQCB. In addition, state and federal statutes provide for public participation in the issuance of most orders, policies, and water quality control plans.
14	Applicable	2007	RWQCB	Basin Plan	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan	Establishes comprehensive program to preserve, enhance, and restore water quality in all water bodies within the state as master planning document for each RWQCB. Designates beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater, as well as water quality objectives (WQOs).
15	Applicable	2011	USEPA	Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Policy	Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program 5/20/04	NPS Plan implementation. RWQCBs have primary responsibility for ensuring that appropriate NPS control implementation programs are in place throughout the State. RWQCB responsibilities include, but are not limited to, issuing WDRs or a waiver of WDRs for individual discharges or a category of NPS discharges, or adopting a basin plan amendment that addresses NPS discharges. Provides guidelines for development of third-party NPS control programs such as a mix of public and private partnership efforts.
16	Applicable	2015	SWRCB	40 CFR 122.44(a)	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	Use of best available technology (BAT) economically achievable is required to control toxic and non-conventional pollutants. Use of best conventional pollutant control technology (BCT) is required to control conventional pollutants. Technology-based limitations may be determined on a case-by-case basis. Applicable federally approved state water quality standards must be complied with; these standards may be in addition to or more stringent than other federal standards under the CWA. Discharge limitations must be established at more stringent levels than technology-based standards for toxic pollutants.
17	Applicable	2015	SWRCB/RWQCB	303(d) Listing Policy of 2004, amended 2015	Water Quality Control Policy Developing CA CWA Section 303d List	Establishes standardized SWRCB/RWQCB approach and process for developing listing requirements of section 303(d) of CWA. CWA section 303(d) requires states to identify waters that do not meet, or are not expected to meet by the next listing cycle, applicable water quality standards (WQOs or beneficial uses) after the application of certain technology-based controls, and schedule such waters for development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). States are required to assemble and evaluate water quality data and information to develop the list and to provide documentation for listing or not listing a state's waters. Establishes methodology to develop list including Listing Factors and Delisting Factors, the process for gathering and evaluating readily available data and information, and TMDL scheduling.
18	Applicable	2015	Cal-OSHA	CA Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) regulations (various)	Various regulations regarding safety	Protects workers from health and safety hazards in the workplace in California. Sets permissible exposure levels (PELs) and other numerical values. Numerous requirements for worker safety and health.



**Table 1. Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)**  
**Page 3 of 3**

No.	ARAR?	Date	Agency	Name	Title	Goals/Objectives/Features
19	Applicable	2015	SWRCB/RWQCB	401 WQC Program	401 Water Quality Certifications and Wetlands Program	Regulates discharges of fill and dredged material under CWA Section 401 and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Protects all waters with special responsibility for wetlands, riparian areas, and headwaters of high resource value; protection of special-status species; regulation of hydromodification impacts; pollutant removal; flood water retention; and habitat connectivity.
20	Applicable	2017	City of Rancho Palos Verdes	Grading Code 17.76.030	Grading Permits	A minor grading permit is required for an excavation, fill, or combination thereof in excess of 20 cubic yards but less than 50 cubic yards, in any two-year period, on a slope of less than 35 percent, or an excavation 3 feet or more, but less than 5 feet, below natural grade or a fill 3 feet or more, but less than 5 feet, above natural grade on a slope of less than 35 percent. A major grading permit is required for an excavation, fill or combination thereof, in excess of 50 cubic yards in any two-year period; an excavation 5 feet or more below natural grade or a fill 5 feet or more above natural grade; any excavation or fill that encroaches on or alters a natural drainage channel or watercourse, and unless otherwise exempted by subsection C of this section, an excavation or fill on an extreme slope (35 percent or more).
21	Applicable	2017	California Fish and Wildlife; USFWS; City of Rancho Palos Verdes	Code Section 2800	Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)	NCCP identifies and provides for the regional protection of plants, animals, and their habitats, while allowing compatible and appropriate economic activity. Working with landowners, environmental organizations, and other interested parties, a local agency oversees the numerous activities that compose the development of an NCCP. CDFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provide the necessary support, direction, and guidance to NCCP participants. The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is included in the plan area for NCCPs/HCPs.



**Table 2. Screening Evaluation of Remedial Technologies**  
Page 1 of 4

General Response Action	Remedial Technology	Effectiveness	Implementability	Cost	Retained for Detailed Screening Analysis?
Stormwater Control	Repair Existing Corrugated Piping System	<b>Low:</b> Does not adequately capture regional surface stormwater. Prone to damage and high maintenance.	<b>High:</b> Readily implemented with industry standard equipment, materials, and labor.	<b>Low:</b> Lowest cost option.	Not retained due to poor effectiveness.
	Concrete Channels	<b>High:</b> Highly effective in capturing and controlling surface water flow and infiltration.	<b>Low:</b> Displaces habitat or open space. Not readily permitted. Prone to damage with land movement.	<b>High:</b> Standard technology subject to market rate bidding.	Not retained due to poor implementability.
	Liner and Channel System	<b>High:</b> Highly effective in capturing and controlling surface water flow and infiltration.	<b>High:</b> Can be partially integrated into native or engineered habitat. Can be permitted under stream restoration or engineered habitat regulations. Flexible components can be installed in areas prone to land movement if needed.	<b>Moderate/High:</b> Lower material costs compared to standard concrete channeling. Design costs can be significant.	Retained due to high implementability.
	Seal Surface Fractures	<b>High:</b> Highly effective in capturing and controlling surface water infiltration.	<b>High:</b> Readily implemented with industry standard equipment, materials, and labor.	<b>Low:</b> Relatively low annual costs for work in before rainy season.	Retained due to high implementability and relatively low cost.
Subsurface Dewatering	Groundwater Extraction Pits	<b>Medium/Low:</b> Effective in low-permeability formations but extraction rate can be low. Can be installed across broad areas if needed. Effective in highly permeable formations. Poor regional groundwater capture. Can promote slope instability.	<b>Medium/Low:</b> Established technology. Simple construction and operation. Can be high maintenance due to clogging. Can occupy relatively large areas for several years. Deep pits can be hazardous.	<b>Medium:</b> Relatively low cost construction. Permanent shoring or sheet piling around the perimeter can escalate costs.	Not retained due to poor effectiveness and implementability.



**Table 2. Screening Evaluation of Remedial Technologies**  
**Page 2 of 4**

General Response Action	Remedial Technology	Effectiveness	Implementability	Cost	Retained for Detailed Screening Analysis?
Subsurface Dewatering (cont.)	Groundwater Extraction Wells	<b>High:</b> Actively lowers groundwater table where subsurface geology is relatively permeable and appropriate horizontal and vertical spacing can be maintained.	<b>Medium:</b> Established technology. Requires permeable geology but some portions of project area have low permeability. Pump clogging is common. Continual land movement damages wells. Could be installed in key areas only.	<b>High/Medium:</b> Well drilling costs escalate with multiple wells needed to develop an extraction well field. Costs increase with depth also. Subject to competitive market-based cost control.	Retained since some project area locations may be suitable. One of few dewatering technologies available.
	Directional Subsurface Drains	<b>High/Medium:</b> Passively removes groundwater through gravity drainage. Can be installed in radial clusters with of long casing segments covering relatively large areas. Flow can be slow in some areas.	<b>High:</b> Established technology. Active pumping not required. Low maintenance. Can be installed across relatively long horizontal distances. Readily implementable.	<b>Medium:</b> Multiple drains can be installed at one location with one work area setup. Costs increase if working depth is problematic due to site geometry.	Retained due to high effectiveness and implementability plus medium costs. One of few dewatering technologies available.
Engineered Slope Stabilization Measures	Buttressing (engineered fill)	<b>Medium:</b> Could be effective for some sub-areas of the Site, however, one large buttress may not be effective in resisting the entire mass of the PBLC. In addition, this technology alone would not address groundwater which is a primary driver for slope failure at PBLC.	<b>Low:</b> Such a large single buttress would be needed that PVDS would be shut down for months while excavations and fill emplacement is completed. Deep excavation and construction dewatering below the basal rupture surface would be difficult.	<b>High:</b> Substantial costs are associated with this option due to major site preparation, deep excavation, soil stockpiling, and roadway management.	Not retained due to medium effectiveness in combination with low implementability and high cost.



**Table 2. Screening Evaluation of Remedial Technologies**  
Page 3 of 4

General Response Action	Remedial Technology	Effectiveness	Implementability	Cost	Retained for Detailed Screening Analysis?
Engineered Slope Stabilization Measures (cont.)	Mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls	<b>Low:</b> Not effective for slope stability projects as large and as deep as PBLC. In addition, this technology alone would not address groundwater which is a primary driver for slope failure at PBLC.	<b>High:</b> This is a standard technology that is relatively easy to install as modular components.	<b>Low:</b> This is a relatively low-cost alternative due to readily available products, materials and labor.	Although this is a low-cost and readily implementable option, it is not retained because it would not be effective for a slope stability problem as large and as deep at the PBLC.
	Driller piers (caissons)	<b>Medium/Low:</b> Caissons can be effective, however, numerous caissons would be needed at substantial depth to be sufficiently effective at the PBLC. In addition, this technology alone would not address groundwater which is a primary driver for slope failure at PBLC.	<b>Medium:</b> This is a readily implementable technology but would be somewhat complicated by the substantial depth required at the PBLC.	<b>Medium:</b> This is typically a fairly reasonable cost alternative, however, costs would escalate with the depths required at PBLC.	This option is not retained due to the total estimated number of caissons and the depth of the caissons that would be required for this technology to be effective.
Eliminate Septic System Discharge	Centralized Sewer System	<b>High:</b> Highly effective in removing septic tank discharge since tanks are removed.	<b>High:</b> Readily implemented with industry standard equipment, materials, and labor.	<b>High:</b> Septic tank removal on private property and centralized sewer system installation involves significant engineering planning, design permitting, and field construction. Can be cost-prohibitive for any one organization without significant funding assistance.	Retained due to high effectiveness and implementability. Also permanent over the long term.



**Table 2. Screening Evaluation of Remedial Technologies**  
**Page 4 of 4**

General Response Action	Remedial Technology	Effectiveness	Implementability	Cost	Retained for Detailed Screening Analysis?
Coastal Erosion Control	Offshore Breakwater	<b>Low:</b> Effective in dispersing shoreline wave energy and reducing wave-cut coastal bluff erosion but does not address landslide dewatering or PBLC movement.	<b>High:</b> Proven and readily available technology.	<b>High:</b> Significant engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance costs	This option is not retained due to low effectiveness and high cost.



**Table 3. Detailed Analysis of Remedial Alternatives**

Criterion	Alternative					
	Stormwater Control			Dewatering		Eliminate Septic System Discharge
	Concrete Channels	Liner and Channel System	Seal Surface Fractures	Groundwater Extraction Wells	Directional Subsurface Drains	Centralized Sewer System
Overall protection of human health and the environment	1	2	2	3	3	3
Compliance with ARARs	1	3	3	3	3	3
Long-term effectiveness and permanence	3	3	3	2	3	3
Short-term effectiveness	3	3	3	2	3	3
Protection of community during remedial actions	2	3	3	3	3	3
Protection of workers during remedial actions	2	3	3	3	3	3
Environmental impacts	0	2	2	3	3	3
Time until remedial response objectives are achieved	3	3	3	2	3	3
Implementability	3	3	3	2	3	3
Technical feasibility	3	3	3	2	2	3
Administrative feasibility	2	3	2	3	3	3
Availability of services and materials	3	3	3	3	3	3
State acceptance	1	2	2	3	3	3
Community acceptance	0	1	1	3	3	2
Score	23	30	29	28	32	33
Cost	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Conclusion	Discard	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain

Criterion scoring: 3 = Excellent  
 2 = Good  
 1 = Fair  
 0 = Poor



**Table 4. Approximate Order-of-Magnitude Costs for Preferred Alternatives**

Scope Item	Stormwater Control		Dewatering		Eliminate Septic System Discharge
	Liner and Channel System	Seal Surface Fractures	Groundwater Extraction Wells	Directional Subsurface Drains	Centralized Sewer System
<i>Data Gap Investigation and Pilot Testing</i>					
Data gap investigation work plan	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Data gap investigation field work	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$0
Data gap investigation data analysis/reporting	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Pilot testing work plan development	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Pilot test permitting	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Pilot test field work	\$250,000	\$25,000	\$160,000	\$240,000	\$0
Pilot test data analysis/reporting	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Full-scale design report	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Contingency (25%)	\$102,500	\$20,000	\$111,250	\$131,250	\$0
Data Gap Investigation and Pilot Testing Subtotals	\$512,500	\$100,000	\$556,250	\$656,250	\$0
<i>Subtotal for Data Gap Investigation and Pilot Testing</i>			\$1,825,000		
<i>Full-Scale Planning, Permitting, Construction, and Reporting</i>					
Full-scale planning	\$150,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Full-scale permitting	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Full-scale field construction (mid and lower canyons)	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Full-scale field construction (upper, mid, and lower canyons)	\$10,400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Full-scale field construction (10 drains in 3 areas to 1,200 feet)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,800,000	\$0
Full-scale field construction (30 wells to 200 feet) (extraction and monitoring)	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0
Full-scale field construction (18,480 feet of residential lines)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,696,000
Reporting and project management	\$175,000	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Contingency (25%)	\$2,700,000	\$50,000	\$837,500	\$1,287,500	\$1,024,000
Full-Scale Planning, Permitting, Construction, and Reporting Subtotals	\$13,500,000	\$250,000	\$4,187,500	\$6,437,500	\$5,120,000
<i>Subtotal for Planning, Permitting, Construction, and Reporting</i>			\$29,495,000		
<i>Operation and Maintenance</i>					
Annual Operation and maintenance (per year, including monitoring)	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
Annual Reporting (per year)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$0
Operation and maintenance (10 years)	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operation and maintenance (30 years)	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$7,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,500,000
Reporting (10 years)	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Reporting (30 years)	\$750,000	\$0	\$2,250,000	\$750,000	\$0
Contingency (25%)	\$562,500	\$125,000	\$2,437,500	\$937,500	\$375,000
Operation and Maintenance Subtotals	\$2,812,500	\$625,000	\$12,187,500	\$4,687,500	\$1,875,000
<i>Subtotal for Operation and Maintenance</i>			\$22,187,500		
<b>Alternative Totals</b>	<b>\$16,825,000</b>	<b>\$975,000</b>	<b>\$16,931,250</b>	<b>\$11,781,250</b>	<b>\$6,995,000</b>
<b>Total for Preferred Remedy</b>			<b>\$53,507,500</b>		

## **Appendix A**

# **USGS Landslide Types and Processes**

# Landslide Types and Processes

Landslides in the United States occur in all 50 States. The primary regions of landslide occurrence and potential are the coastal and mountainous areas of California, Oregon, and Washington, the States comprising the intermountain west, and the mountainous and hilly regions of the Eastern United States. Alaska and Hawaii also experience all types of landslides.

Landslides in the United States cause approximately \$3.5 billion (year 2001 dollars) in damage, and kill between 25 and 50 people annually. Casualties in the United States are primarily caused by rockfalls, rock slides, and debris flows. Worldwide, landslides occur and cause thousands of casualties and billions in monetary losses annually.

The information in this publication provides an introductory primer on understanding basic scientific facts about landslides—the different types of landslides, how they are initiated, and some basic information about how they can begin to be managed as a hazard.

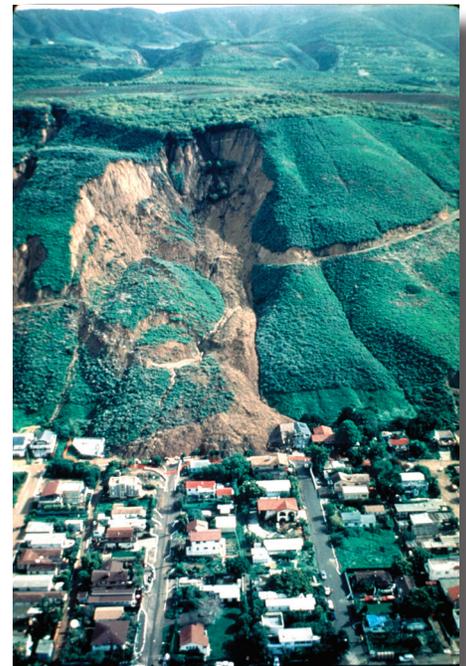
## TYPES OF LANDSLIDES

The term “landslide” describes a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of slope-forming materials including rock, soil, artificial fill, or a combination of these. The materials may move by falling, toppling, sliding, spreading, or flowing. Figure 1 shows a graphic illustration of a landslide, with the commonly accepted terminology describing its features.

The various types of landslides can be differentiated by the kinds of material involved and the mode of movement. A classification system based on these parameters is shown in figure 2. Other classification systems incor-

porate additional variables, such as the rate of movement and the water, air, or ice content of the landslide material.

Although landslides are primarily associated with mountainous regions, they can also occur in areas of generally low relief. In low-relief areas, landslides occur as cut-and-fill failures (roadway and building excavations), river bluff failures, lateral spreading landslides, collapse of mine-waste piles (especially coal), and a wide variety of slope failures associated with quarries and open-pit mines. The most common types of landslides are described as follows and are illustrated in figure 3.



La Conchita, coastal area of southern California. This landslide and earthflow occurred in the spring of 1995. People were evacuated and the houses nearest the slide were completely destroyed. This is a typical type of landslide. Photo by R.L. Schuster, U.S. Geological Survey.

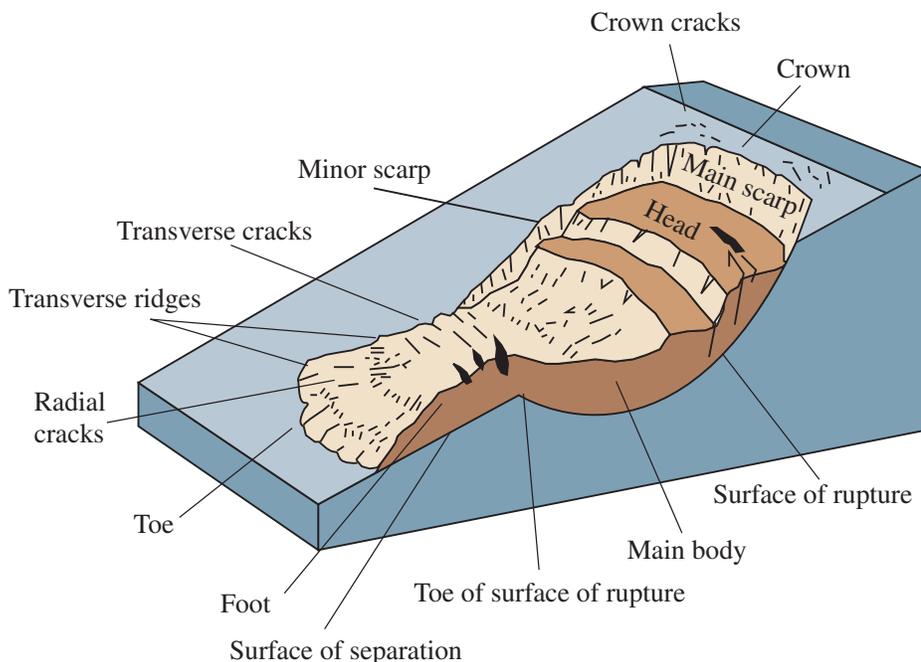


Figure 1. An idealized slump-earth flow showing commonly used nomenclature for labeling the parts of a landslide.

**SLIDES:** Although many types of mass movements are included in the general term “landslide,” the more restrictive use of the term refers only to mass movements, where there is a distinct zone of weakness that separates the slide material from more stable underlying material. The two major types of slides are rotational slides and translational slides.

**Rotational slide:** This is a slide in which the surface of rupture is curved concavely upward and the slide movement is roughly rotational about an axis that is parallel to the ground surface and transverse across the slide (fig. 3A).

**Translational slide:** In this type of slide, the landslide mass moves along a roughly planar surface with little rotation or backward tilting (fig. 3B). A *block slide* is a translational slide in which the moving mass consists of a single unit or a few closely related units that move downslope as a relatively coherent mass (fig. 3C).

**FALLS:** Falls are abrupt movements of masses of geologic materials, such as rocks and boulders, that become detached from steep slopes or cliffs (fig. 3D).

TYPE OF MOVEMENT		TYPE OF MATERIAL		
		BEDROCK	ENGINEERING SOILS	
			Predominantly coarse	Predominantly fine
FALLS		Rock fall	Debris fall	Earth fall
TOPPLES		Rock topple	Debris topple	Earth topple
SLIDES	ROTATIONAL	Rock slide	Debris slide	Earth slide
	TRANSLATIONAL			
LATERAL SPREADS		Rock spread	Debris spread	Earth spread
FLOWS		Rock flow (deep creep)	Debris flow (soil creep)	Earth flow
COMPLEX		Combination of two or more principal types of movement		

Figure 2. Types of landslides. Abbreviated version of Varnes' classification of slope movements (Varnes, 1978).

Separation occurs along discontinuities such as fractures, joints, and bedding planes, and movement occurs by free-fall, bouncing, and rolling. Falls are strongly influenced by gravity, mechanical weathering, and the presence of interstitial water.

**TOPPLES:** Toppling failures are distinguished by the forward rotation of a unit or units about some pivotal point, below or low in the unit, under the actions of gravity and forces exerted by adjacent units or by fluids in cracks (fig. 3E).

**FLOWS:** There are five basic categories of flows that differ from one another in fundamental ways.

*a. Debris flow:* A debris flow is a form of rapid mass movement in which a combination of loose soil, rock, organic matter, air, and water mobilize as a slurry that flows downslope (fig. 3F). Debris flows include <50% fines. Debris flows are commonly caused by intense surface-water flow, due to heavy precipitation or rapid snowmelt, that erodes and mobilizes loose soil or rock on steep slopes. Debris flows also commonly mobilize from other types of landslides that occur on steep slopes, are nearly saturated, and consist of a large proportion of silt- and sand-sized material. Debris-flow source areas are often associated with steep gullies, and debris-flow deposits are usually indicated by the presence of debris fans at the mouths of gullies. Fires that denude slopes of vegetation intensify the susceptibility of slopes to debris flows.

*b. Debris avalanche:* This is a variety of very rapid to extremely rapid debris flow (fig. 3G).

*c. Earthflow:* Earthflows have a characteristic "hourglass" shape (fig. 3H). The slope material liquefies and runs out, forming a bowl or depression at the head. The flow itself is elongate and usually occurs in fine-grained materials or clay-bearing rocks on moderate slopes

and under saturated conditions. However, dry flows of granular material are also possible.

*d. Mudflow:* A mudflow is an earthflow consisting of material that is wet enough to flow rapidly and that contains at least 50 percent sand-, silt-, and clay-sized particles. In some instances, for example in many newspaper reports, mudflows and debris flows are commonly referred to as "mudslides."

*e. Creep:* Creep is the imperceptibly slow, steady, downward movement of slope-forming soil or rock. Movement is caused by shear stress sufficient to produce permanent deformation, but too small to produce shear failure. There are generally three types of creep: (1) seasonal, where movement is within the depth of soil affected by seasonal changes in soil moisture and soil temperature; (2) continuous, where shear stress continuously exceeds the strength of the material; and (3) progressive, where slopes are reaching the point of failure as other types of mass movements. Creep is indicated by curved tree trunks, bent fences or retaining walls, tilted poles or fences, and small soil ripples or ridges (fig. 3I).

**LATERAL SPREADS:** Lateral spreads are distinctive because they usually occur on very gentle slopes or flat terrain (fig. 3J). The dominant mode of movement is lateral extension accompanied by shear or tensile fractures. The failure is caused by liquefaction, the process whereby saturated, loose, cohesionless sediments (usually sands and silts) are transformed from a solid into a liquefied state. Failure is usually triggered by rapid ground motion, such as that experienced during an earthquake, but can also be artificially induced. When coherent material, either bedrock or soil, rests on materials that liquefy, the upper units may undergo fracturing and extension and may then subside, translate, rotate, disintegrate, or liquefy and flow. Lateral spreading in fine-grained materi-

als on shallow slopes is usually progressive. The failure starts suddenly in a small area and spreads rapidly. Often the initial failure is a slump, but in some materials movement occurs for no apparent reason. Combination of two or more of the above types is known as a complex landslide.

## LANDSLIDE CAUSES

### 1. Geological causes

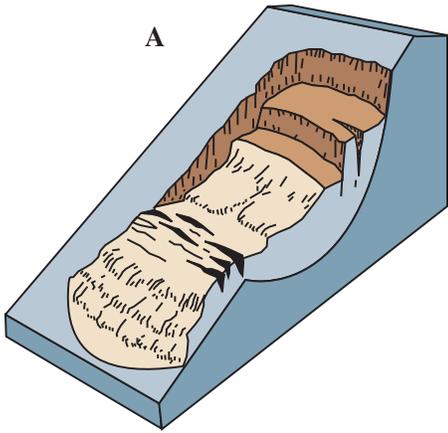
- Weak or sensitive materials
- Weathered materials
- Sheared, jointed, or fissured materials
- Adversely oriented discontinuity (bedding, schistosity, fault, unconformity, contact, and so forth)
- Contrast in permeability and/or stiffness of materials

### 2. Morphological causes

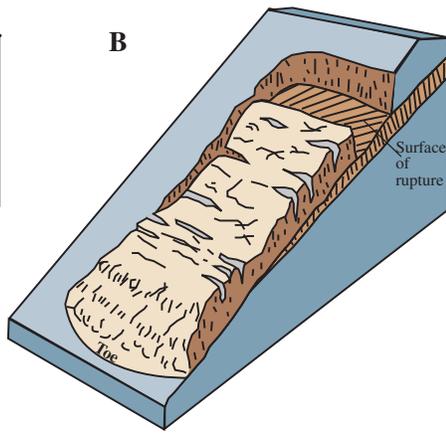
- Tectonic or volcanic uplift
- Glacial rebound
- Fluvial, wave, or glacial erosion of slope toe or lateral margins
- Subterranean erosion (solution, piping)
- Deposition loading slope or its crest
- Vegetation removal (by fire, drought)
- Thawing
- Freeze-and-thaw weathering
- Shrink-and-swell weathering

### 3. Human causes

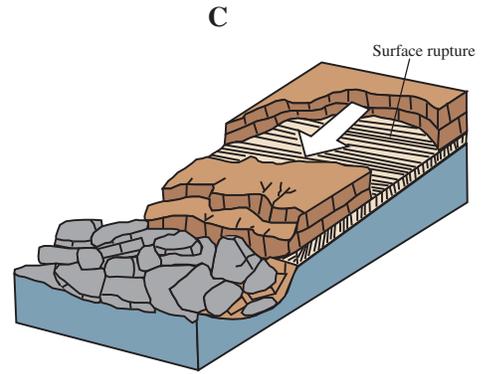
- Excavation of slope or its toe
- Loading of slope or its crest
- Drawdown (of reservoirs)
- Deforestation
- Irrigation
- Mining
- Artificial vibration
- Water leakage from utilities



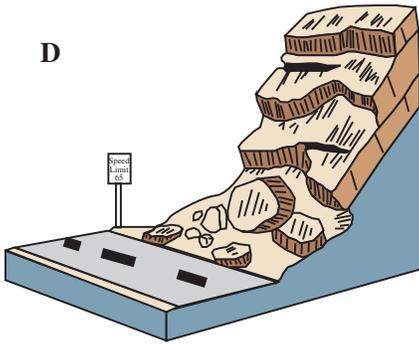
**Rotational landslide**



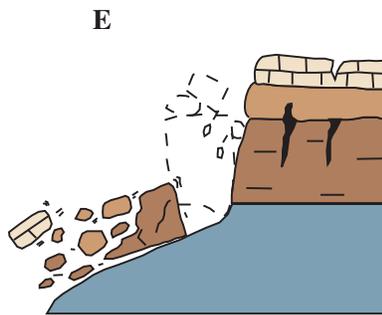
**Translational landslide**



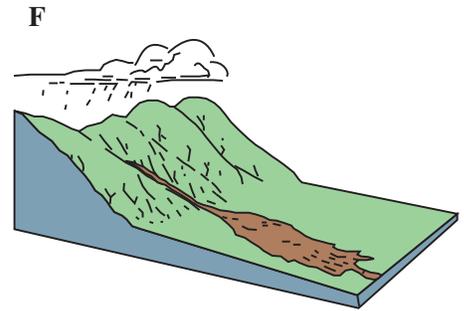
**Block slide**



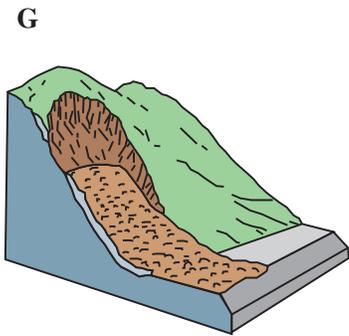
**Rockfall**



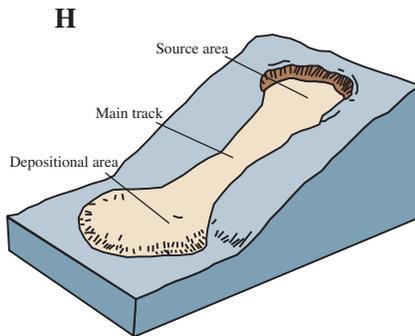
**Topple**



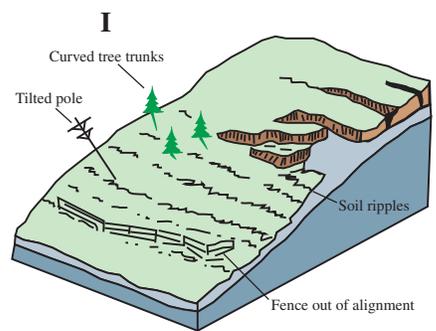
**Debris flow**



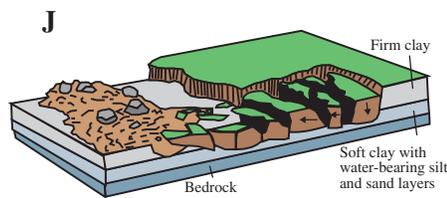
**Debris avalanche**



**Earthflow**



**Creep**



**Lateral spread**

Figure 3. These schematics illustrate the major types of landslide movement that are described in the previous pages. For additional information on these processes and where to find photos, please see "Where to Go For More Information" at the end of this fact sheet.

Although there are multiple types of causes of landslides, the three that cause most of the damaging landslides around the world are these:

### **Landslides and Water**

Slope saturation by water is a primary cause of landslides. This effect can occur in the form of intense rainfall, snowmelt, changes in ground-water levels, and water-level changes along coastlines, earth dams, and the banks of lakes, reservoirs, canals, and rivers.

Landsliding and flooding are closely allied because both are related to precipitation, runoff, and the saturation of ground by water. In addition, debris flows and mudflows usually occur in small, steep stream channels and often are mistaken for floods; in fact, these two events often occur simultaneously in the same area.

Landslides can cause flooding by forming landslide dams that block valleys and stream channels, allowing large amounts of water to back up. This causes backwater flooding and, if the dam fails, subsequent downstream flooding. Also, solid landslide debris can “bulk” or add volume and density to otherwise normal streamflow or cause channel blockages and diversions creating flood conditions or localized erosion. Landslides can also cause overtopping of reservoirs and/or reduced capacity of reservoirs to store water.

### **Landslides and Seismic Activity**

Many mountainous areas that are vulnerable to landslides have also experienced at least moderate rates of earthquake occurrence in recorded times. The occurrence of earthquakes in steep landslide-prone areas greatly increases the likelihood that landslides will occur, due to ground shaking alone or shaking-caused dilation of soil materials, which allows rapid infiltration of water. The 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake caused widespread landsliding and other ground failure, which caused most of the monetary loss due to the earthquake. Other areas of the United States, such as California and the Puget Sound region in Washington, have experienced slides, lateral spreading, and other types of ground failure due to moderate to large earthquakes. Widespread rockfalls also are caused by loosening of rocks as a result of ground shaking. Worldwide, landslides caused by earthquakes kill people and damage structures at higher rates than in the United States.

### **Landslides and Volcanic Activity**

Landslides due to volcanic activity are some of the most devastating types. Volcanic lava may melt snow at a rapid rate, causing a deluge of rock, soil, ash, and water that accelerates rapidly on the steep slopes of volcanoes, devastating anything in its path. These volcanic debris flows (also known as lahars) reach great distances, once they leave the flanks of the volcano, and can damage structures in flat areas surrounding the volcanoes. The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens, in Washington triggered a massive landslide on the north flank of the volcano, the largest landslide in recorded times.

### **Landslide Mitigation—How to Reduce the Effects of Landslides**

Vulnerability to landslide hazards is a function of location, type of human activity, use, and frequency of landslide events. The effects of landslides on people and structures can be lessened by total avoidance of landslide hazard areas or by restricting, prohibiting, or imposing conditions on hazard-zone activity. Local governments can reduce landslide effects through land-use policies and regulations. Individuals can reduce their exposure to hazards by educating themselves on the past hazard history of a site and by making inquiries to planning and engineering departments of local governments. They can also obtain the professional services of an engineering geologist, a geotechnical engineer, or a civil engineer, who can properly evaluate the hazard potential of a site, built or unbuilt.

The hazard from landslides can be reduced by avoiding construction on steep slopes and existing landslides, or by stabilizing the slopes. Stability increases when ground water is prevented from rising in the landslide mass by (1) covering the landslide with an impermeable membrane, (2) directing surface water away from the landslide, (3) draining ground water away from the landslide, and (4) minimizing surface irrigation. Slope stability is also increased when a retaining structure and/or the weight of a soil/rock berm are placed at the toe of the landslide or when mass is removed from the top of the slope.

Compiled by Lynn Highland  
Graphics and layout design by Margo Johnson

This fact sheet is available online at  
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2004/3072/>

### **Where to go for more information**

1. The U.S. Geological Survey Landslide Program has information, publications, and educational information on its Web site. Please see:  
<http://landslides.usgs.gov>  
or phone toll-free:  
1-800-654-4966
2. For general information about slides, debris flows, rock falls, or other types of landslides in your area, contact your city or county geology or planning office. In addition, all 50 States have State Geological Surveys that can be accessed through a link at the USGS Web site,  
<http://landslides.usgs.gov>
3. For an assessment of the landslide risk to an individual property or homesite, obtain the services of a State-licensed geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist. These professionals can be found through the membership listings of two professional societies, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), <http://www.asce.org> and the Association of Engineering Geologists <http://www.aegweb.org>. Often, personnel in State or county planning or engineering departments can refer competent geotechnical engineers or engineering geologists.
4. For more information about the design and construction of debris-flow mitigation measures which may include debris basins, debris fences, deflection walls, or other protective works, consult your city or county engineer, local flood-control agency, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service:  
<http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/>
5. For photos of landslide types please see:  
[http://landslides.usgs.gov/html\\_files/nlic/nlicmisc.html](http://landslides.usgs.gov/html_files/nlic/nlicmisc.html)
6. For more detailed information: two excellent publications that very clearly describe the processes of landslides were consulted for this fact sheet:  
Varnes, D.J., 1978, Slope movement types and processes, in Schuster, R.L., and Krizek, R.J., eds., *Landslides—Analysis and control*: National Research Council, Washington, D.C., Transportation Research Board, Special Report 176, p. 11–33.  
Turner, Keith A., and Schuster, Robert L., 1996, *Landslides—Investigation and mitigation*: Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, National Academy Press.

## **Appendix B**

### **Custom Soil Resource Report for Los Angeles County, California Southeastern Part, Portugese Bend**

# Custom Soil Resource Report for Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part Portuguese Bend



# Preface

---

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/>) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist ([http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053951](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951)).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require

alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Contents

---

<b>Preface</b> .....	2
<b>How Soil Surveys Are Made</b> .....	5
<b>Soil Map</b> .....	8
Soil Map.....	9
Legend.....	10
Map Unit Legend.....	11
Map Unit Descriptions.....	11
Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part.....	14
1155—Beaches, rocky.....	14
1168—Haploxerepts, 10 to 35 percent slopes.....	14
1169—Lunada-San Benito, warm complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes.....	16
1172—Lunada-Zaca complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes.....	18
1177—Mollic Haploxerafals, coastal-Topdeck-Urban land complex, 20 to 55 percent slopes.....	20
1178—Oceanaire-Filiorum complex, 10 to 35 percent slopes.....	23
1179—Zaca-Ballast complex, 10 to 50 percent slopes.....	25
1271—Urban land-Dapplegray complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes, terraced.....	27
1272—Dapplegray-Urban land complex, 10 to 35 percent slopes, terraced.....	29
1273—Dapplegray-Urban land-Lunada complex, 20 to 55 percent slopes.....	31
9996—Rock outcrop, marine terrace escarpments.....	33
W—Water.....	34
<b>References</b> .....	35

# How Soil Surveys Are Made

---

Soil surveys are made to provide information about the soils and miscellaneous areas in a specific area. They include a description of the soils and miscellaneous areas and their location on the landscape and tables that show soil properties and limitations affecting various uses. Soil scientists observed the steepness, length, and shape of the slopes; the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of crops and native plants; and the kinds of bedrock. They observed and described many soil profiles. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. The profile extends from the surface down into the unconsolidated material in which the soil formed or from the surface down to bedrock. The unconsolidated material is devoid of roots and other living organisms and has not been changed by other biological activity.

Currently, soils are mapped according to the boundaries of major land resource areas (MLRAs). MLRAs are geographically associated land resource units that share common characteristics related to physiography, geology, climate, water resources, soils, biological resources, and land uses (USDA, 2006). Soil survey areas typically consist of parts of one or more MLRA.

The soils and miscellaneous areas in a survey area occur in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the survey area and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept, or model, of how they were formed. Thus, during mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location on the landscape.

Commonly, individual soils on the landscape merge into one another as their characteristics gradually change. To construct an accurate soil map, however, soil scientists must determine the boundaries between the soils. They can observe only a limited number of soil profiles. Nevertheless, these observations, supplemented by an understanding of the soil-vegetation-landscape relationship, are sufficient to verify predictions of the kinds of soil in an area and to determine the boundaries.

Soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the soil profiles that they studied. They noted soil color, texture, size and shape of soil aggregates, kind and amount of rock fragments, distribution of plant roots, reaction, and other features that enable them to identify soils. After describing the soils in the survey area and determining their properties, the soil scientists assigned the soils to taxonomic classes (units). Taxonomic classes are concepts. Each taxonomic class has a set of soil characteristics with precisely defined limits. The classes are used as a basis for comparison to classify soils systematically. Soil taxonomy, the system of taxonomic classification used in the United States, is based mainly on the kind and character of soil properties and the arrangement of horizons within the profile. After the soil

## Custom Soil Resource Report

scientists classified and named the soils in the survey area, they compared the individual soils with similar soils in the same taxonomic class in other areas so that they could confirm data and assemble additional data based on experience and research.

The objective of soil mapping is not to delineate pure map unit components; the objective is to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. Each map unit is defined by a unique combination of soil components and/or miscellaneous areas in predictable proportions. Some components may be highly contrasting to the other components of the map unit. The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The delineation of such landforms and landform segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

Soil scientists make many field observations in the process of producing a soil map. The frequency of observation is dependent upon several factors, including scale of mapping, intensity of mapping, design of map units, complexity of the landscape, and experience of the soil scientist. Observations are made to test and refine the soil-landscape model and predictions and to verify the classification of the soils at specific locations. Once the soil-landscape model is refined, a significantly smaller number of measurements of individual soil properties are made and recorded. These measurements may include field measurements, such as those for color, depth to bedrock, and texture, and laboratory measurements, such as those for content of sand, silt, clay, salt, and other components. Properties of each soil typically vary from one point to another across the landscape.

Observations for map unit components are aggregated to develop ranges of characteristics for the components. The aggregated values are presented. Direct measurements do not exist for every property presented for every map unit component. Values for some properties are estimated from combinations of other properties.

While a soil survey is in progress, samples of some of the soils in the area generally are collected for laboratory analyses and for engineering tests. Soil scientists interpret the data from these analyses and tests as well as the field-observed characteristics and the soil properties to determine the expected behavior of the soils under different uses. Interpretations for all of the soils are field tested through observation of the soils in different uses and under different levels of management. Some interpretations are modified to fit local conditions, and some new interpretations are developed to meet local needs. Data are assembled from other sources, such as research information, production records, and field experience of specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined levels of management are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil.

Predictions about soil behavior are based not only on soil properties but also on such variables as climate and biological activity. Soil conditions are predictable over long periods of time, but they are not predictable from year to year. For example, soil scientists can predict with a fairly high degree of accuracy that a given soil will have a high water table within certain depths in most years, but they cannot predict that a high water table will always be at a specific level in the soil on a specific date.

After soil scientists located and identified the significant natural bodies of soil in the survey area, they drew the boundaries of these bodies on aerial photographs and

## Custom Soil Resource Report

identified each as a specific map unit. Aerial photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and rivers, all of which help in locating boundaries accurately.

# Soil Map

---

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.



### MAP LEGEND

**Area of Interest (AOI)**

 Area of Interest (AOI)

**Soils**

 Soil Map Unit Polygons

 Soil Map Unit Lines

 Soil Map Unit Points

**Special Point Features**

-  Blowout
-  Borrow Pit
-  Clay Spot
-  Closed Depression
-  Gravel Pit
-  Gravelly Spot
-  Landfill
-  Lava Flow
-  Marsh or swamp
-  Mine or Quarry
-  Miscellaneous Water
-  Perennial Water
-  Rock Outcrop
-  Saline Spot
-  Sandy Spot
-  Severely Eroded Spot
-  Sinkhole
-  Slide or Slip
-  Sodic Spot

-  Spoil Area
-  Stony Spot
-  Very Stony Spot
-  Wet Spot
-  Other
-  Special Line Features

**Water Features**

 Streams and Canals

**Transportation**

-  Rails
-  Interstate Highways
-  US Routes
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads

**Background**

 Aerial Photography

### MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Web Soil Survey URL:  
 Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part  
 Survey Area Data: Version 4, Sep 12, 2017

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: May 25, 2010—Nov 24, 2014

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

## Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
1155	Beaches, rocky	8.8	0.6%
1168	Haploxerepts, 10 to 35 percent slopes	461.1	30.4%
1169	Lunada-San Benito, warm complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes	101.6	6.7%
1172	Lunada-Zaca complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes	17.2	1.1%
1177	Mollic Haploxerafls, coastal-Topdeck-Urban land complex, 20 to 55 percent slopes	77.5	5.1%
1178	Oceanaire-Filiorum complex, 10 to 35 percent slopes	74.0	4.9%
1179	Zaca-Ballast complex, 10 to 50 percent slopes	246.2	16.2%
1271	Urban land-Dapplegray complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes, terraced	191.5	12.6%
1272	Dapplegray-Urban land complex, 10 to 35 percent slopes, terraced	39.3	2.6%
1273	Dapplegray-Urban land-Lunada complex, 20 to 55 percent slopes	229.2	15.1%
9996	Rock outcrop, marine terrace escarpments	2.4	0.2%
W	Water	4.7	0.3%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>1,518.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made

## Custom Soil Resource Report

up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

## Custom Soil Resource Report

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

## Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part

### 1155—Beaches, rocky

#### Map Unit Setting

*National map unit symbol:* 2w62z

*Elevation:* 0 to 20 feet

*Mean annual precipitation:* 11 to 15 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F

*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days

*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

#### Map Unit Composition

*Beaches, rocky:* 85 percent

*Minor components:* 15 percent

*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

#### Description of Beaches, Rocky

##### Setting

*Landform:* Beaches

*Parent material:* Beach sand

##### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 8

*Hydric soil rating:* No

#### Minor Components

##### Beaches

*Percent of map unit:* 10 percent

*Landform:* Beaches

*Hydric soil rating:* No

##### Abaft

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent

*Landform:* Dunes

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope, base slope, crest

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Hydric soil rating:* No

### 1168—Haploxerepts, 10 to 35 percent slopes

#### Map Unit Setting

*National map unit symbol:* 2w62h

*Elevation:* 0 to 1,210 feet

*Mean annual precipitation:* 13 to 17 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days

*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

### Map Unit Composition

*Haploxerepts and similar soils:* 90 percent

*Minor components:* 10 percent

*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

### Description of Haploxerepts

#### Setting

*Landform:* Landslides

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope

*Down-slope shape:* Linear

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Parent material:* Mixed slide deposits derived mostly from calcareous shale

#### Typical profile

*A - 0 to 7 inches:* loam

*Bw1 - 7 to 20 inches:* loam

*Bw2 - 20 to 37 inches:* channery loam

*Bw3 - 37 to 79 inches:* channery loam

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 10 to 35 percent

*Depth to restrictive feature:* More than 80 inches

*Natural drainage class:* Well drained

*Runoff class:* High

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Moderately high to high (0.60 to 2.00 in/hr)

*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches

*Frequency of flooding:* None

*Frequency of ponding:* None

*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 15 percent

*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)

*Available water storage in profile:* Moderate (about 8.3 inches)

#### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 4e

*Hydrologic Soil Group:* B

*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Minor Components

#### Lunada

*Percent of map unit:* 10 percent

*Landform:* Hillslopes

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Footslope, backslope

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Hydric soil rating:* No

## 1169—Lunada-San Benito, warm complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes

### Map Unit Setting

*National map unit symbol:* 2w62j  
*Elevation:* 200 to 1,310 feet  
*Mean annual precipitation:* 14 to 16 inches  
*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F  
*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days  
*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

### Map Unit Composition

*Lunada and similar soils:* 60 percent  
*San benito, warm, and similar soils:* 30 percent  
*Minor components:* 10 percent  
*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

### Description of Lunada

#### Setting

*Landform:* Canyons, hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Parent material:* Colluvium derived from calcareous shale

#### Typical profile

*A1 - 0 to 5 inches:* loam  
*A2 - 5 to 15 inches:* channery loam  
*Bk1 - 15 to 26 inches:* very channery loam  
*Bk2 - 26 to 47 inches:* very channery loam  
*Bk3 - 47 to 54 inches:* very channery loam  
*R - 54 to 64 inches:* bedrock

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 30 to 75 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 31 to 79 inches to lithic bedrock  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* Very high  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 30 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)  
*Available water storage in profile:* Moderate (about 6.5 inches)

#### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 7e*  
*Hydrologic Soil Group: B*  
*Hydric soil rating: No*

### Description of San Benito, Warm

#### Setting

*Landform: Hillslopes*  
*Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope*  
*Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope*  
*Down-slope shape: Convex*  
*Across-slope shape: Convex*  
*Parent material: Colluvium and/or residuum weathered from calcareous shale*

#### Typical profile

*A - 0 to 10 inches: clay loam*  
*Btk1 - 10 to 24 inches: clay loam*  
*Btk2 - 24 to 47 inches: loam*  
*Cr - 47 to 57 inches: bedrock*

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope: 30 to 75 percent*  
*Depth to restrictive feature: 39 to 59 inches to paralithic bedrock*  
*Natural drainage class: Well drained*  
*Runoff class: Very high*  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low to moderately low (0.00 to 0.06 in/hr)*  
*Depth to water table: More than 80 inches*  
*Frequency of flooding: None*  
*Frequency of ponding: None*  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile: 3 percent*  
*Salinity, maximum in profile: Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)*  
*Available water storage in profile: Moderate (about 8.0 inches)*

#### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified*  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 7e*  
*Hydrologic Soil Group: C*  
*Hydric soil rating: No*

### Minor Components

#### Lunada, stony

*Percent of map unit: 5 percent*  
*Landform: Hillslopes, canyons*  
*Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope*  
*Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope*  
*Down-slope shape: Convex*  
*Across-slope shape: Convex*  
*Hydric soil rating: No*

#### Calcic argixerolls

*Percent of map unit: 5 percent*  
*Landform: Hillslopes*  
*Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope*  
*Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope*  
*Down-slope shape: Convex*

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### 1172—Lunada-Zaca complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes

#### Map Unit Setting

*National map unit symbol:* 2w61r  
*Elevation:* 80 to 1,400 feet  
*Mean annual precipitation:* 13 to 16 inches  
*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F  
*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days  
*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

#### Map Unit Composition

*Lunada and similar soils:* 55 percent  
*Zaca and similar soils:* 20 percent  
*Minor components:* 25 percent  
*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

#### Description of Lunada

##### Setting

*Landform:* Canyons  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Footslope, backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Parent material:* Colluvium derived from calcareous shale

##### Typical profile

*Oi - 0 to 1 inches:* slightly decomposed plant material  
*A - 1 to 3 inches:* loam  
*Bk1 - 3 to 17 inches:* channery loam  
*Bk2 - 17 to 26 inches:* very channery loam  
*Bk3 - 26 to 33 inches:* very channery loam  
*Bk4 - 33 to 47 inches:* extremely channery loam  
*R - 47 to 57 inches:* bedrock

##### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 30 to 75 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 39 to 79 inches to lithic bedrock  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* Very high  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 25 percent

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)  
*Available water storage in profile:* Low (about 4.9 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 7e  
*Hydrologic Soil Group:* B  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Description of Zaca

#### Setting

*Landform:* Hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Parent material:* Colluvium and/or residuum weathered from calcareous shale

#### Typical profile

*A - 0 to 6 inches:* clay loam  
*Bkss1 - 6 to 20 inches:* clay  
*Bkss2 - 20 to 47 inches:* clay  
*Cr - 47 to 57 inches:* bedrock

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 30 to 75 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 39 to 59 inches to paralithic bedrock  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* Very high  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to moderately low (0.00 to 0.06 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 15 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)  
*Available water storage in profile:* Moderate (about 7.6 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 7e  
*Hydrologic Soil Group:* C  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Minor Components

#### Typic haploxerepts, channery

*Percent of map unit:* 10 percent  
*Landform:* Canyons  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Shoulder, backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

#### Oceanaire

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Landform:* Hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### **Typic argixerolls, very channery**

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent  
*Landform:* Canyons  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Footslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Base slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Concave  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### **Dapplegray**

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent  
*Landform:* Hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope, tread, riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Linear  
*Across-slope shape:* Linear  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

## **1177—Mollic Haploxeralfs, coastal-Topdeck-Urban land complex, 20 to 55 percent slopes**

### **Map Unit Setting**

*National map unit symbol:* 2w61x  
*Elevation:* 130 to 1,190 feet  
*Mean annual precipitation:* 11 to 16 inches  
*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F  
*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days  
*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

### **Map Unit Composition**

*Mollic haploxeralfs, coastal, and similar soils:* 50 percent  
*Topdeck and similar soils:* 30 percent  
*Urban land:* 15 percent  
*Minor components:* 5 percent  
*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

### **Description of Mollic Haploxeralfs, Coastal**

#### **Setting**

*Landform:* Marine terraces  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Parent material:* Colluvium and/or residuum weathered from volcanic and sedimentary rock

### Typical profile

*A - 0 to 5 inches:* loam  
*Btk1 - 5 to 18 inches:* clay loam  
*Btk2 - 18 to 39 inches:* clay loam  
*R - 39 to 48 inches:* bedrock

### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 20 to 55 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 31 to 40 inches to lithic bedrock  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* Very high  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 12 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)  
*Available water storage in profile:* Moderate (about 6.9 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 7e  
*Hydrologic Soil Group:* C  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

## Description of Topdeck

### Setting

*Landform:* Marine terraces  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Parent material:* Colluvium and/or residuum weathered from volcanic and sedimentary rock

### Typical profile

*A - 0 to 3 inches:* loam  
*Btk - 3 to 12 inches:* gravelly clay loam  
*R - 12 to 22 inches:* bedrock

### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 20 to 55 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 8 to 24 inches to lithic bedrock  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* High  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 8 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)  
*Available water storage in profile:* Very low (about 2.1 inches)

### **Interpretive groups**

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 7e  
*Hydrologic Soil Group:* D  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### **Description of Urban Land**

#### **Setting**

*Landform:* Marine terraces  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex

#### **Properties and qualities**

*Slope:* 0 to 15 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 0 inches to manufactured layer  
*Runoff class:* Very high

#### **Interpretive groups**

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 8  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### **Minor Components**

#### **Typic calcixerepts**

*Percent of map unit:* 3 percent  
*Landform:* Marine terraces  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

#### **Typic calcixerepts, moderately deep**

*Percent of map unit:* 2 percent  
*Landform:* Marine terraces  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

## 1178—Oceanaire-Filiorum complex, 10 to 35 percent slopes

### Map Unit Setting

*National map unit symbol:* 2w61y  
*Elevation:* 80 to 920 feet  
*Mean annual precipitation:* 12 to 16 inches  
*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F  
*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days  
*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

### Map Unit Composition

*Oceanaire and similar soils:* 60 percent  
*Filiorum and similar soils:* 30 percent  
*Minor components:* 10 percent  
*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

### Description of Oceanaire

#### Setting

*Landform:* Marine terraces  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Parent material:* Colluvium and/or residuum weathered from limestone and shale

#### Typical profile

*A - 0 to 4 inches:* loam  
*Bt - 4 to 11 inches:* loam  
*Btk1 - 11 to 26 inches:* loam  
*Btk2 - 26 to 51 inches:* loam  
*Cr - 51 to 55 inches:* bedrock  
*R - 55 to 65 inches:* bedrock

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 10 to 35 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 39 to 59 inches to lithic bedrock; 39 to 59 inches to paralithic bedrock  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* High  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 30 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Available water storage in profile:* High (about 9.2 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 7e

*Hydrologic Soil Group:* B

*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Description of Filiorum

#### Setting

*Landform:* Marine terraces

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Tread

*Microfeatures of landform position:* Terracettes

*Down-slope shape:* Linear

*Across-slope shape:* Linear

*Parent material:* Colluvium and/or residuum weathered from calcareous shale

#### Typical profile

*A - 0 to 3 inches:* clay loam

*Bkss - 3 to 35 inches:* clay

*Bk - 35 to 48 inches:* clay

*R - 48 to 58 inches:* bedrock

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 10 to 20 percent

*Depth to restrictive feature:* 39 to 79 inches to lithic bedrock

*Natural drainage class:* Well drained

*Runoff class:* High

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)

*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches

*Frequency of flooding:* None

*Frequency of ponding:* None

*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 5 percent

*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)

*Available water storage in profile:* Moderate (about 7.7 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 4e

*Hydrologic Soil Group:* C

*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Minor Components

#### Mollic haploxeralfs, deep

*Percent of map unit:* 4 percent

*Landform:* Marine terraces

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Hydric soil rating:* No

#### Typic calcixerepts

*Percent of map unit:* 4 percent

*Landform:* Marine terraces

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### **Lunada**

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent  
*Landform:* Canyons  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Foothlope, backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### **Calcic pachic haploxerolls, clay loam**

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent  
*Landform:* Marine terraces  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Tread, riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

## **1179—Zaca-Ballast complex, 10 to 50 percent slopes**

### **Map Unit Setting**

*National map unit symbol:* 2w61z  
*Elevation:* 180 to 1,250 feet  
*Mean annual precipitation:* 14 to 16 inches  
*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F  
*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days  
*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

### **Map Unit Composition**

*Zaca and similar soils:* 65 percent  
*Ballast and similar soils:* 20 percent  
*Minor components:* 15 percent  
*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

### **Description of Zaca**

#### **Setting**

*Landform:* Slump blocks, hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Concave, convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Concave, convex  
*Parent material:* Colluvium and/or slump block derived from calcareous shale

## Custom Soil Resource Report

### Typical profile

*A1 - 0 to 11 inches:* clay loam  
*A2 - 11 to 16 inches:* clay loam  
*Bss - 16 to 37 inches:* clay loam  
*Bk1 - 37 to 53 inches:* clay loam  
*Bk2 - 53 to 69 inches:* clay loam

### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 10 to 50 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* More than 80 inches  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* Very high  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Moderately low to moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 8 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)  
*Available water storage in profile:* High (about 9.9 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 6e  
*Hydrologic Soil Group:* C  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Description of Ballast

#### Setting

*Landform:* Slump blocks, hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Concave  
*Across-slope shape:* Concave  
*Parent material:* Colluvium and/or slump block derived from calcareous shale

#### Typical profile

*A - 0 to 7 inches:* clay loam  
*Btk1 - 7 to 22 inches:* clay  
*Btk2 - 22 to 35 inches:* very channery clay loam  
*R - 35 to 44 inches:* bedrock

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 10 to 50 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 24 to 49 inches to lithic bedrock  
*Natural drainage class:* Moderately well drained  
*Runoff class:* Very high  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 25 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Available water storage in profile:* Low (about 5.2 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 6e

*Hydrologic Soil Group:* D

*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Minor Components

#### Calcic pachic haploxerolls, clay loam

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent

*Landform:* Hillslopes

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Hydric soil rating:* No

#### Lunada

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent

*Landform:* Canyons

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Footslope, backslope

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Hydric soil rating:* No

#### Oceanaire

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent

*Landform:* Hillslopes

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Hydric soil rating:* No

## 1271—Urban land-Dapplegray complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes, terraced

### Map Unit Setting

*National map unit symbol:* 2w623

*Elevation:* 100 to 1,460 feet

*Mean annual precipitation:* 13 to 16 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F

*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days

*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

### Map Unit Composition

*Urban land:* 45 percent

*Dapplegray and similar soils:* 45 percent

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Minor components: 10 percent*

*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

### Description of Urban Land

#### Setting

*Landform: Hillslopes*

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope: 0 to 20 percent*

*Depth to restrictive feature: 0 inches to manufactured layer*

*Runoff class: Very high*

#### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified*

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 8*

*Hydric soil rating: No*

### Description of Dapplegray

#### Setting

*Landform: Hillslopes*

*Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope*

*Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope, tread, riser*

*Down-slope shape: Linear*

*Across-slope shape: Linear*

*Parent material: Human-transported material consisting mostly of colluvium and/or residuum weathered from calcareous shale*

#### Typical profile

*^A - 0 to 3 inches: fine sandy loam*

*^C - 3 to 7 inches: loam*

*^Cu1 - 7 to 23 inches: gravelly sandy clay loam*

*^Cu2 - 23 to 35 inches: gravelly clay loam*

*^Cu3 - 35 to 55 inches: gravelly clay*

*^Cu4 - 55 to 79 inches: gravelly silty clay loam*

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope: 5 to 20 percent*

*Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches*

*Natural drainage class: Well drained*

*Runoff class: High*

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low to moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)*

*Depth to water table: More than 80 inches*

*Frequency of flooding: None*

*Frequency of ponding: None*

*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile: 8 percent*

*Salinity, maximum in profile: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)*

*Available water storage in profile: Moderate (about 8.4 inches)*

#### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified*

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 4e*

*Hydrologic Soil Group: C*

*Hydric soil rating: No*

**Minor Components**

**Calcic pachic haploxerolls, clay loam**

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent  
*Landform:* Hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

**Lithic calcixerepts**

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent  
*Landform:* Hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

**1272—Dapplegray-Urban land complex, 10 to 35 percent slopes, terraced**

**Map Unit Setting**

*National map unit symbol:* 2w624  
*Elevation:* 140 to 1,480 feet  
*Mean annual precipitation:* 12 to 16 inches  
*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F  
*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days  
*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

**Map Unit Composition**

*Urban land:* 60 percent  
*Dapplegray and similar soils:* 35 percent  
*Minor components:* 5 percent  
*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

**Description of Urban Land**

**Setting**

*Landform:* Hillslopes

**Properties and qualities**

*Slope:* 0 to 10 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 0 inches to manufactured layer  
*Runoff class:* Very high

**Interpretive groups**

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 8*  
*Hydric soil rating: No*

### Description of Dapplegray

#### Setting

*Landform: Hillslopes*  
*Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope*  
*Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope, tread, riser*  
*Down-slope shape: Linear*  
*Across-slope shape: Linear*  
*Parent material: Human-transported material consisting mostly of colluvium and/or residuum weathered from calcareous shale*

#### Typical profile

*^A - 0 to 4 inches: fine sandy loam*  
*^Cu1 - 4 to 12 inches: clay loam*  
*^Cu2 - 12 to 79 inches: gravelly loam*

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope: 10 to 35 percent*  
*Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches*  
*Natural drainage class: Well drained*  
*Runoff class: High*  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.60 in/hr)*  
*Depth to water table: More than 80 inches*  
*Frequency of flooding: None*  
*Frequency of ponding: None*  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile: 5 percent*  
*Salinity, maximum in profile: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)*  
*Available water storage in profile: Moderate (about 8.3 inches)*

#### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified*  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 4e*  
*Hydrologic Soil Group: C*  
*Hydric soil rating: No*

### Minor Components

#### Calcic haploxerepts, very channery

*Percent of map unit: 5 percent*  
*Landform: Hillslopes*  
*Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope*  
*Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope, tread, riser*  
*Down-slope shape: Linear*  
*Across-slope shape: Linear*  
*Hydric soil rating: No*

## 1273—Dapplegray-Urban land-Lunada complex, 20 to 55 percent slopes

### Map Unit Setting

*National map unit symbol:* 2w625  
*Elevation:* 290 to 1,370 feet  
*Mean annual precipitation:* 15 to 16 inches  
*Mean annual air temperature:* 63 to 64 degrees F  
*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days  
*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

### Map Unit Composition

*Urban land:* 40 percent  
*Dapplegray and similar soils:* 35 percent  
*Lunada and similar soils:* 15 percent  
*Minor components:* 10 percent  
*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

### Description of Urban Land

#### Setting

*Landform:* Hillslopes

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 15 to 35 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 0 inches to manufactured layer  
*Runoff class:* Very high

#### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 8  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Description of Dapplegray

#### Setting

*Landform:* Hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope, tread, riser  
*Down-slope shape:* Linear  
*Across-slope shape:* Linear  
*Parent material:* Human-transported material consisting mostly of colluvium and/or residuum weathered from calcareous shale

#### Typical profile

*^A - 0 to 4 inches:* loam  
*^Cu1 - 4 to 22 inches:* loam  
*^Cu2 - 22 to 79 inches:* clay loam

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 15 to 35 percent

## Custom Soil Resource Report

*Depth to restrictive feature:* More than 80 inches  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* High  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Moderately high (0.20 to 0.60 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 3 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)  
*Available water storage in profile:* High (about 9.6 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 6e  
*Hydrologic Soil Group:* C  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

### Description of Lunada

#### Setting

*Landform:* Canyons  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Parent material:* Colluvium derived from calcareous shale

#### Typical profile

*Oi - 0 to 1 inches:* slightly decomposed plant material  
*A - 1 to 3 inches:* loam  
*Bk1 - 3 to 17 inches:* channery loam  
*Bk2 - 17 to 26 inches:* very channery loam  
*Bk3 - 26 to 33 inches:* very channery loam  
*Bk4 - 33 to 47 inches:* extremely channery loam  
*R - 47 to 57 inches:* bedrock

#### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 30 to 75 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 39 to 79 inches to lithic bedrock  
*Natural drainage class:* Well drained  
*Runoff class:* Very high  
*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)  
*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches  
*Frequency of flooding:* None  
*Frequency of ponding:* None  
*Calcium carbonate, maximum in profile:* 25 percent  
*Salinity, maximum in profile:* Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)  
*Available water storage in profile:* Low (about 4.9 inches)

#### Interpretive groups

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified  
*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 7e  
*Hydrologic Soil Group:* B  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

**Minor Components**

**Calcic pachic haploxerolls, clay loam**

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent  
*Landform:* Hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

**Zaca**

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent  
*Landform:* Hillslopes  
*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope  
*Down-slope shape:* Convex  
*Across-slope shape:* Convex  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

**9996—Rock outcrop, marine terrace escarpments**

**Map Unit Setting**

*National map unit symbol:* 2w630  
*Elevation:* 0 to 310 feet  
*Mean annual precipitation:* 11 to 15 inches  
*Mean annual air temperature:* 62 to 64 degrees F  
*Frost-free period:* 360 to 365 days  
*Farmland classification:* Not prime farmland

**Map Unit Composition**

*Rock outcrop, marine terrace escarpments:* 90 percent  
*Minor components:* 10 percent  
*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

**Description of Rock Outcrop, Marine Terrace Escarpments**

**Setting**

*Landform:* Escarpments  
*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Riser  
*Parent material:* Calcareous shale

**Properties and qualities**

*Slope:* 50 to 100 percent  
*Depth to restrictive feature:* 0 inches to lithic bedrock  
*Runoff class:* Very high

**Interpretive groups**

*Land capability classification (irrigated):* None specified

*Land capability classification (nonirrigated):* 8

*Hydric soil rating:* No

**Minor Components**

**Lunada**

*Percent of map unit:* 4 percent

*Landform:* Canyons, hillslopes

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Foothlope, backslope

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Hydric soil rating:* No

**Haploxerepts**

*Percent of map unit:* 4 percent

*Landform:* Landslides

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Backslope

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope

*Down-slope shape:* Linear

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Hydric soil rating:* No

**Beaches**

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent

*Landform:* Beaches

*Hydric soil rating:* No

**Beaches, rocky**

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent

*Landform:* Beaches

*Hydric soil rating:* No

**W—Water**

**Map Unit Composition**

*Water:* 100 percent

*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

# References

---

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). 2004. Standard specifications for transportation materials and methods of sampling and testing. 24th edition.
- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). 2005. Standard classification of soils for engineering purposes. ASTM Standard D2487-00.
- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deep-water habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FWS/OBS-79/31.
- Federal Register. July 13, 1994. Changes in hydric soils of the United States.
- Federal Register. September 18, 2002. Hydric soils of the United States.
- Hurt, G.W., and L.M. Vasilas, editors. Version 6.0, 2006. Field indicators of hydric soils in the United States.
- National Research Council. 1995. Wetlands: Characteristics and boundaries.
- Soil Survey Division Staff. 1993. Soil survey manual. Soil Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 18. [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_054262](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2_054262)
- Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd edition. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 436. [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053577](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2_053577)
- Soil Survey Staff. 2010. Keys to soil taxonomy. 11th edition. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053580](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2_053580)
- Tiner, R.W., Jr. 1985. Wetlands of Delaware. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Wetlands Section.
- United States Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Laboratory. 1987. Corps of Engineers wetlands delineation manual. Waterways Experiment Station Technical Report Y-87-1.
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. National forestry manual. [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/home/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053374](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/home/?cid=nrcs142p2_053374)
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. National range and pasture handbook. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/landuse/rangepasture/?cid=stelprdb1043084>

## Custom Soil Resource Report

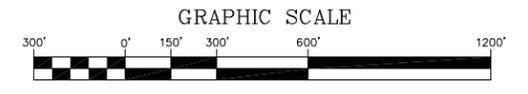
United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. National soil survey handbook, title 430-VI. [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/scientists/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_054242](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/scientists/?cid=nrcs142p2_054242)

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2006. Land resource regions and major land resource areas of the United States, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 296. [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053624](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2_053624)

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1961. Land capability classification. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 210. [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2\\_052290.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_052290.pdf)

**Appendix C**  
**Geotechnical Modeling**  
**Figures**

LOCATION: D:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:43 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USFR



**LEGEND**

	EXISTING 25 FT CONTOUR
	EXISTING 5 FT CONTOUR
	APPROXIMATE SLIDE BOUNDARY
	BOTTOM OF SLIDE BOUNDARY

REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

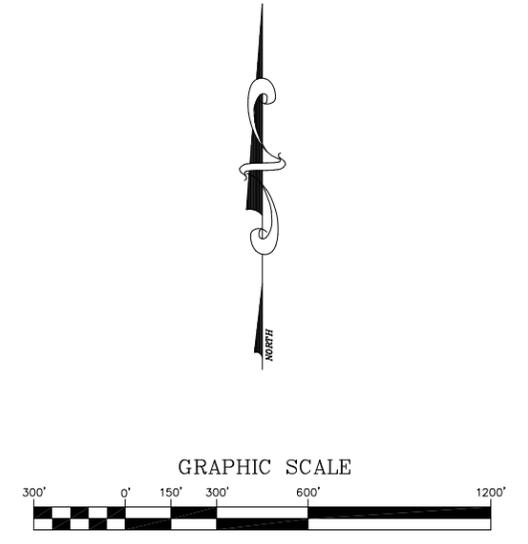
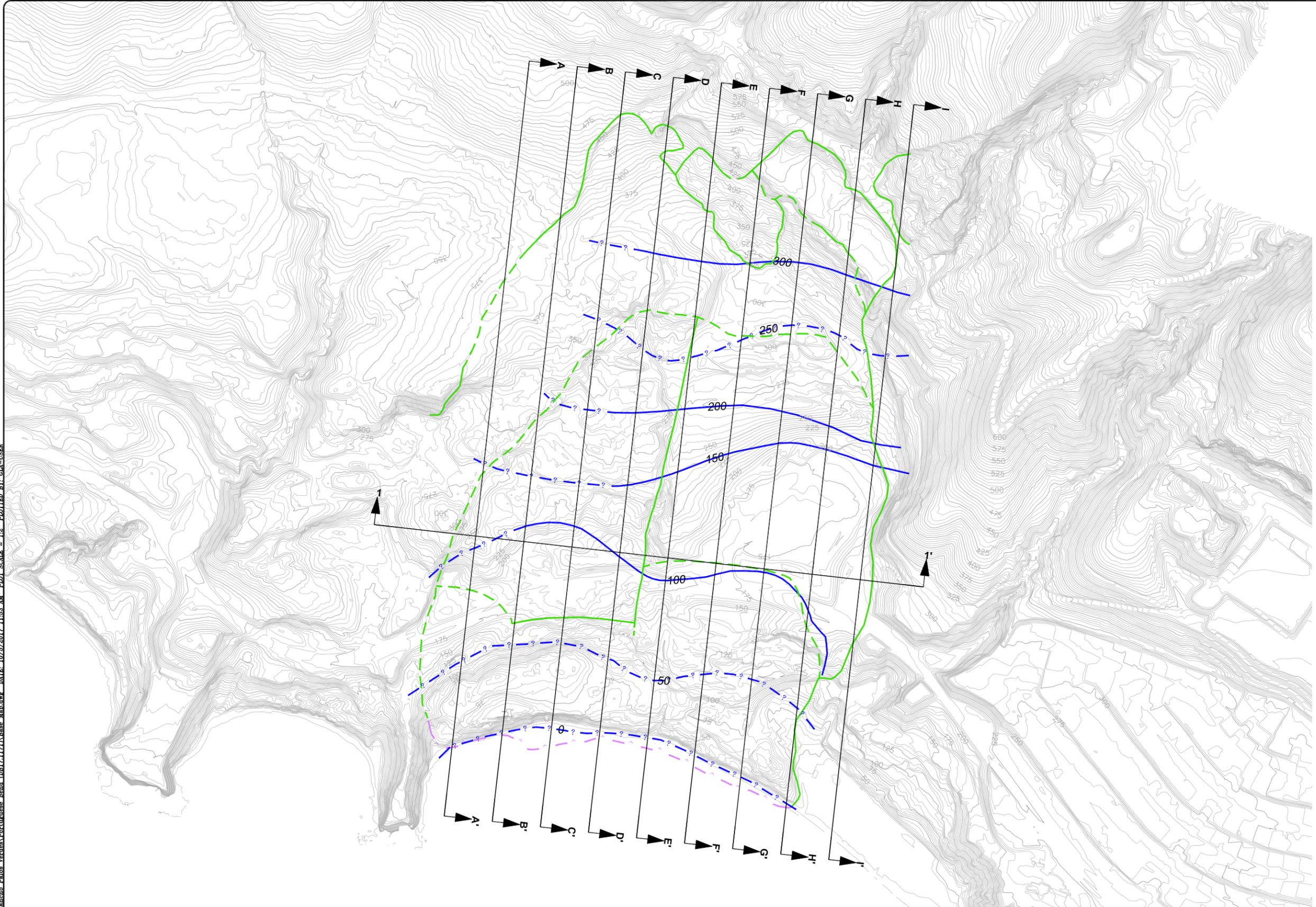
DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -

3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES PORTUGUESE BEND LANDSLIDE RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA APPROXIMATE LIMITS OF LANDSLIDE	FIGURE NO. 1 PROJECT NO. DB17.1171
---	---

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

**ISSUED FOR REVIEW**



**LEGEND**

	EXISTING 25 FT CONTOUR
	EXISTING 5 FT CONTOUR
	APPROXIMATE SLIDE BOUNDARY
	BOTTOM OF SLIDE BOUNDARY
	GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOUR

LOCATION: E:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:43 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USFR

REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -

3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

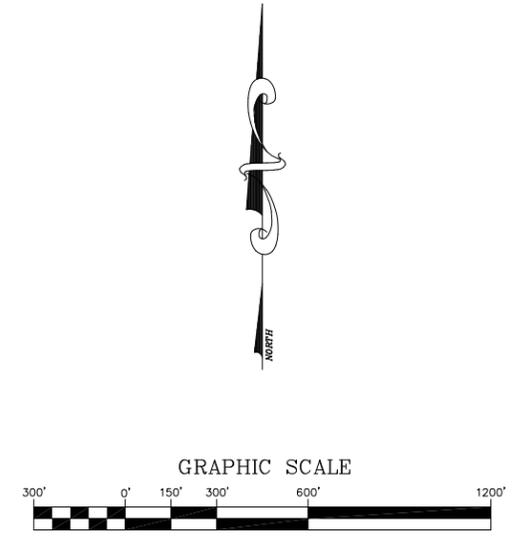
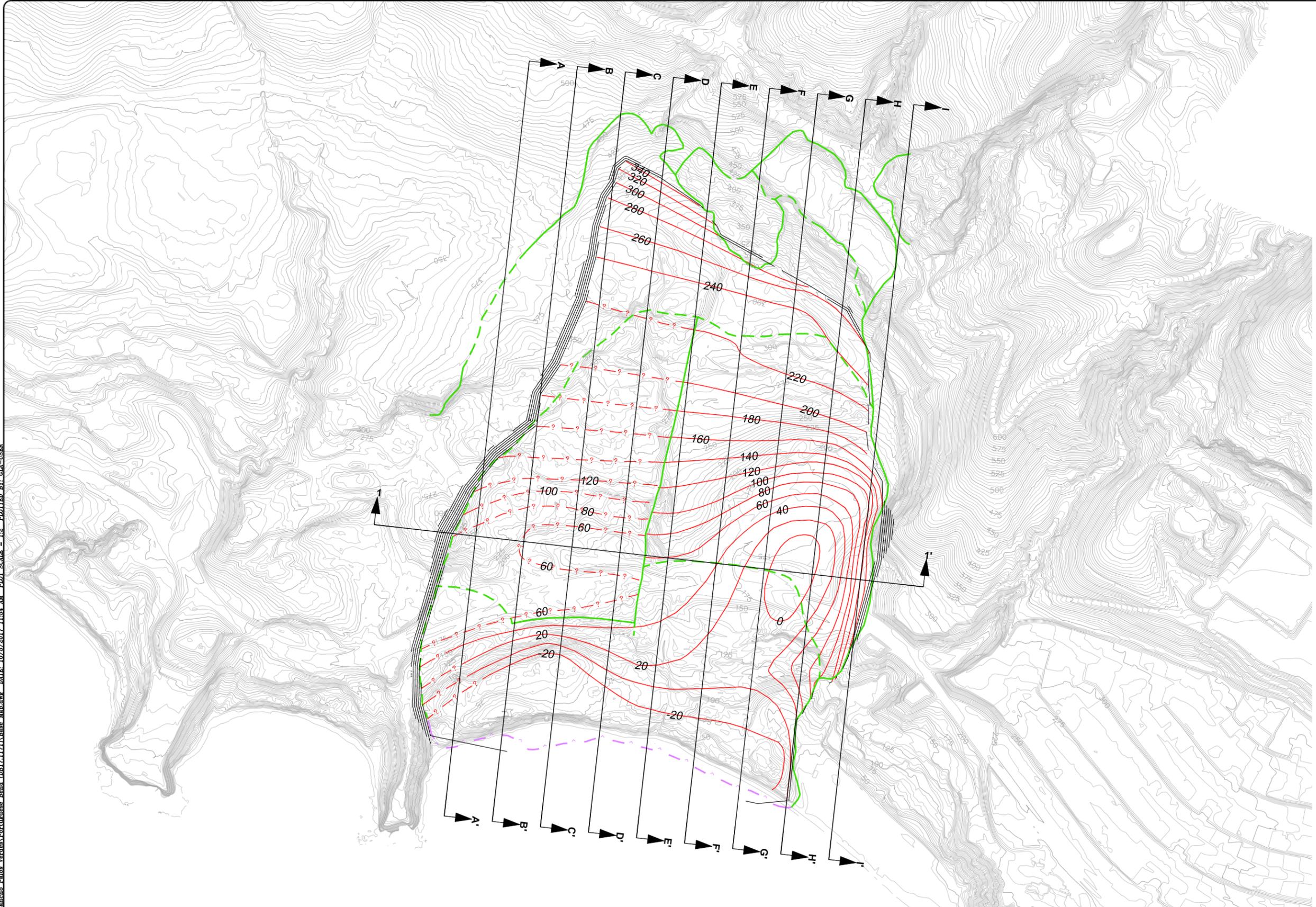
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
 PORTUGUESE BEND  
 LANDSLIDE  
 RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA

APPROXIMATE GROUNDWATER ELEVATIONS

FIGURE NO.  
 2  
 PROJECT NO.  
 DB17.1171

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

**ISSUED FOR REVIEW**



**LEGEND**

	EXISTING 25 FT CONTOUR
	EXISTING 5 FT CONTOUR
	APPROXIMATE SLIDE BOUNDARY
	BOTTOM OF SLIDE BOUNDARY
	BASAL RUPTURE SURFACE CONTOUR
	PROJECTED BASAL RUPTURE SURFACE 25 FT CONTOUR

LOCATION: E:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:54 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USFR

REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -

**Geo-Logic**  
ASSOCIATES

3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
 PORTUGUESE BEND  
 LANDSLIDE  
 RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA

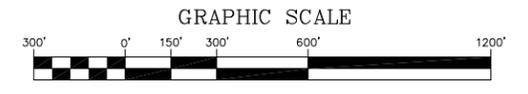
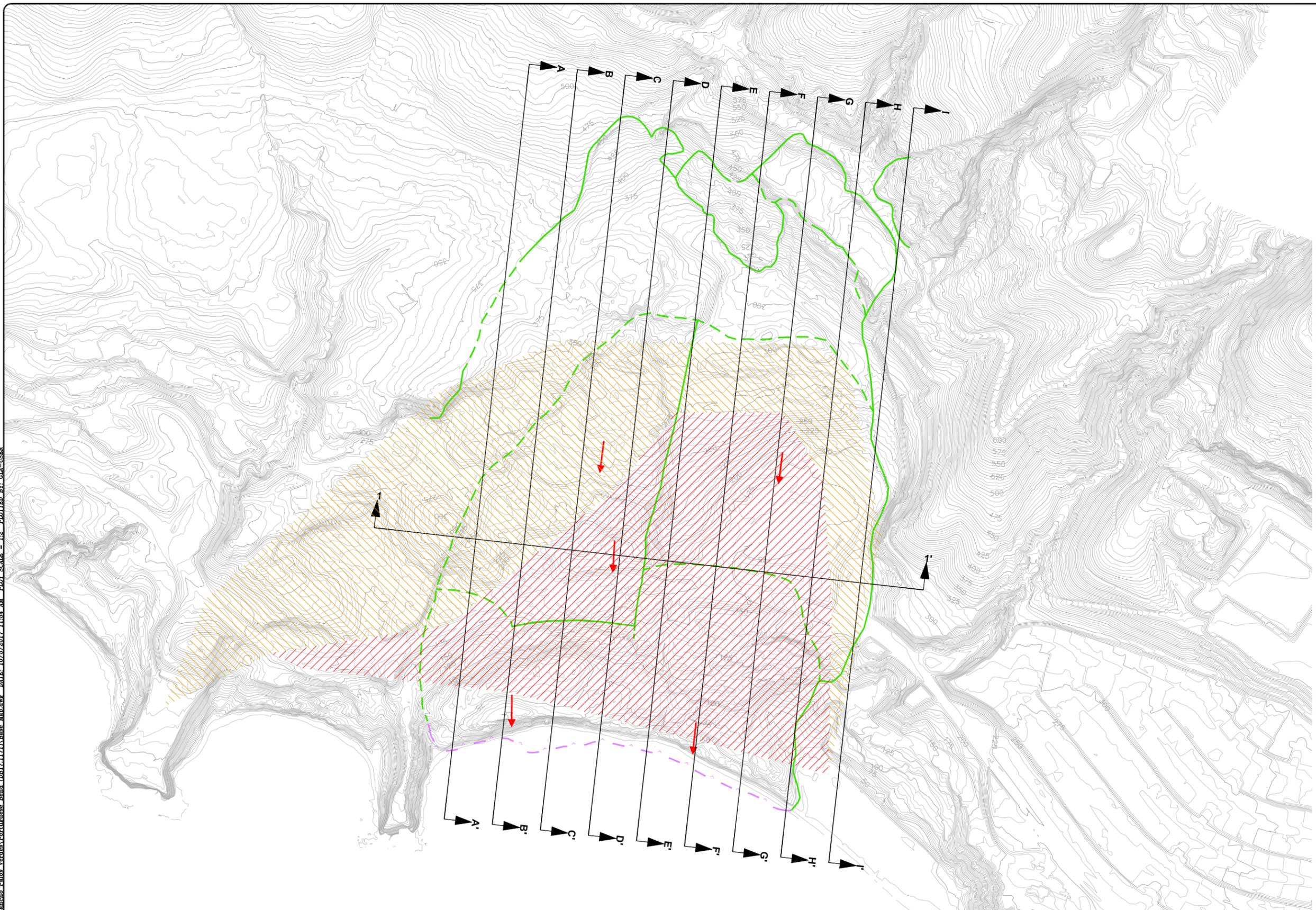
APPROXIMATE BASAL RUPTURE SURFACE

FIGURE NO.  
3  
PROJECT NO.  
DB17.1171

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

**ISSUED FOR REVIEW**

LOCATION: D:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:54 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USFR



**LEGEND**

	EXISTING 25 FT CONTOUR
	EXISTING 5 FT CONTOUR
	APPROXIMATE SLIDE BOUNDARY
	BOTTOM OF SLIDE BOUNDARY
	DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT
	MOVEMENT ZONE 1'10" to 8'7"
	MOVEMENT ZONE 3/4" to 1'10"

REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

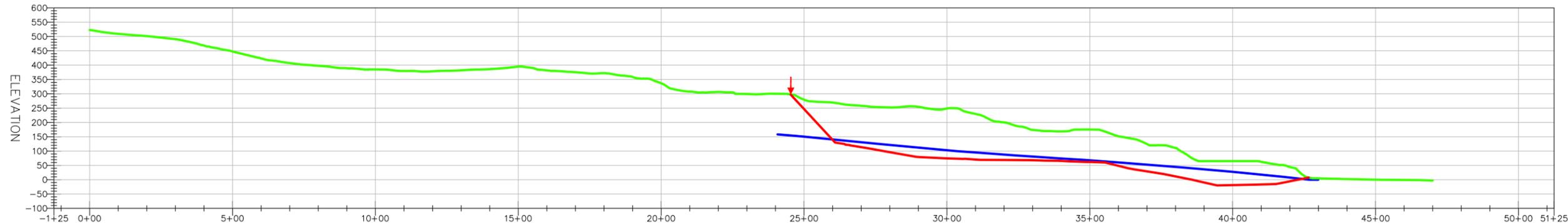
DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -

3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

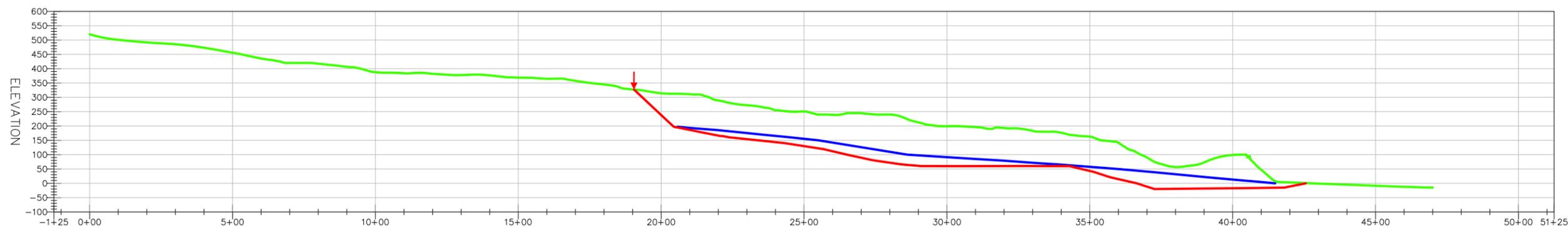
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES PORTUGUESE BEND LANDSLIDE RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA	FIGURE NO. 4 PROJECT NO. DB17.1171
DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT	

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

LOCATION: D:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:54 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USBR



SECTION A-A'



SECTION B-B'

LEGEND

- EXISTING GROUND PROFILE
- GROUNDWATER PROFILE
- BASAL RUPTURE SURFACE PROFILE

GRAPHIC SCALE



REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -



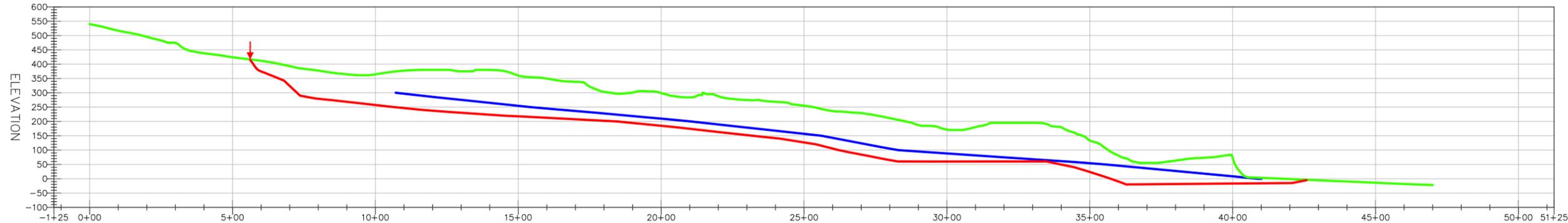
3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
 PORTUGUESE BEND  
 LANDSLIDE  
 RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA  
 CROSS SECTIONS

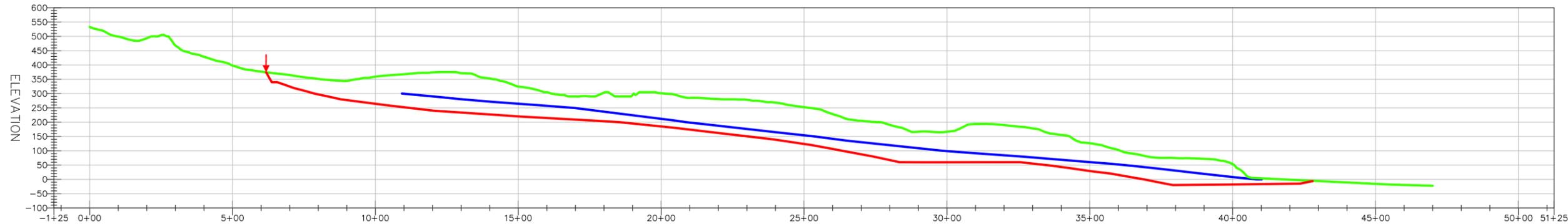
FIGURE NO.  
 5  
 PROJECT NO.  
 DB17.1171

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

LOCATION: D:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:54 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USBR



SECTION C-C'



SECTION D-D'

LEGEND

- EXISTING GROUND PROFILE
- GROUNDWATER PROFILE
- BASAL RUPTURE SURFACE PROFILE

GRAPHIC SCALE



REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -



3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

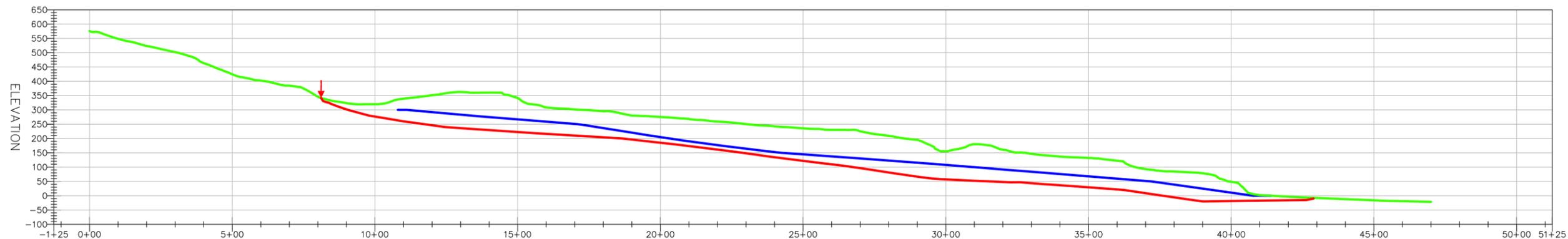
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
 PORTUGUESE BEND  
 LANDSLIDE  
 RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA

FIGURE NO.  
 6  
 PROJECT NO.  
 DB17.1171

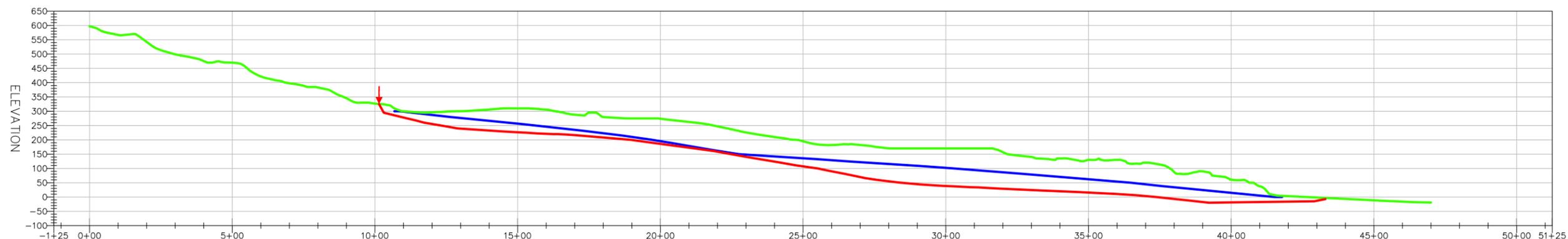
CROSS SECTIONS

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

LOCATION: D:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:54 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USBR



SECTION E-E'



SECTION F-F'

LEGEND

- EXISTING GROUND PROFILE
- GROUNDWATER PROFILE
- BASAL RUPTURE SURFACE PROFILE

GRAPHIC SCALE



REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -



3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
 PORTUGUESE BEND  
 LANDSLIDE  
 RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA

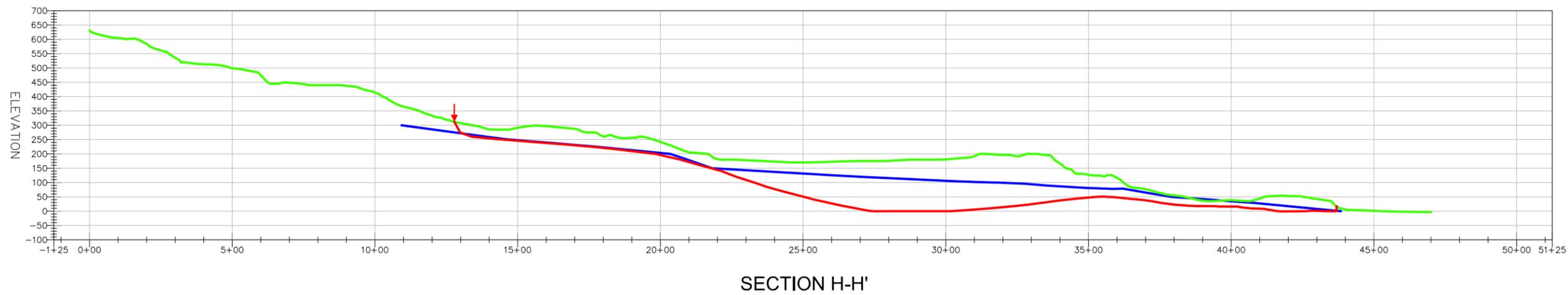
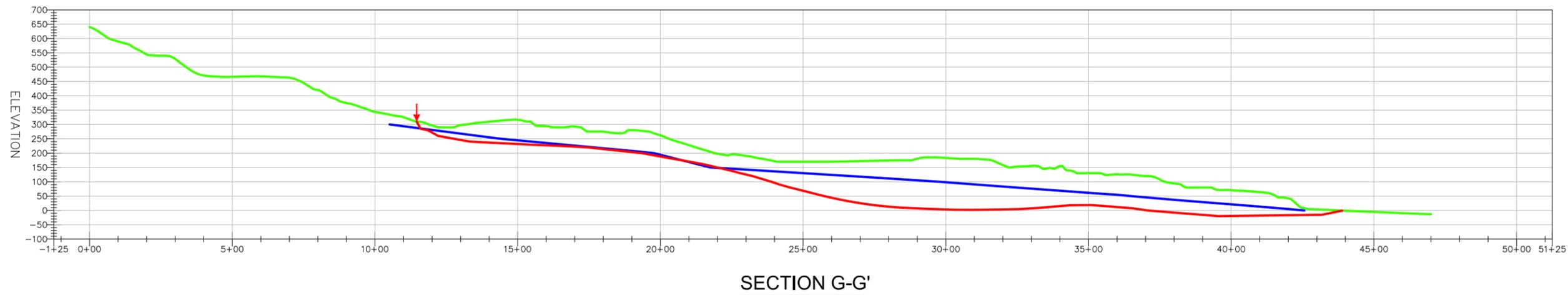
FIGURE NO.  
 7  
 PROJECT NO.  
 DB17.1171

CROSS SECTIONS

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

ISSUED FOR REVIEW

LOCATION: D:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:54 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USBR



LEGEND

- EXISTING GROUND PROFILE
- GROUNDWATER PROFILE
- BASAL RUPTURE SURFACE PROFILE

GRAPHIC SCALE



REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -



3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

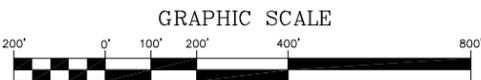
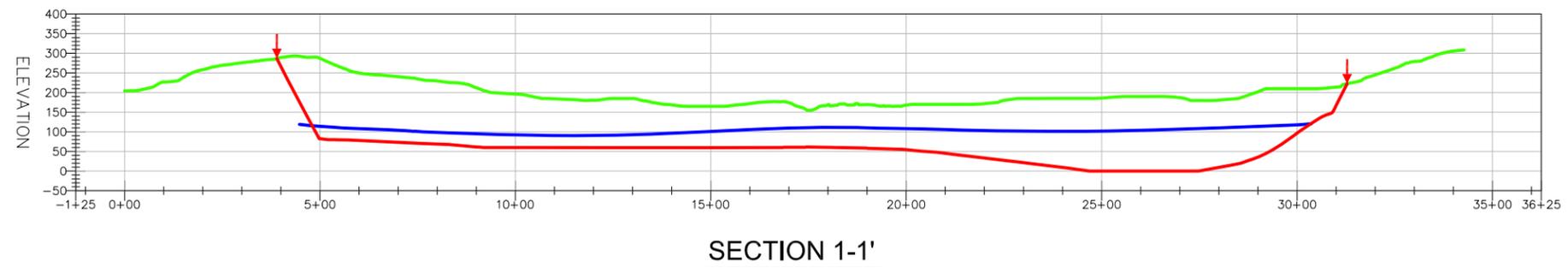
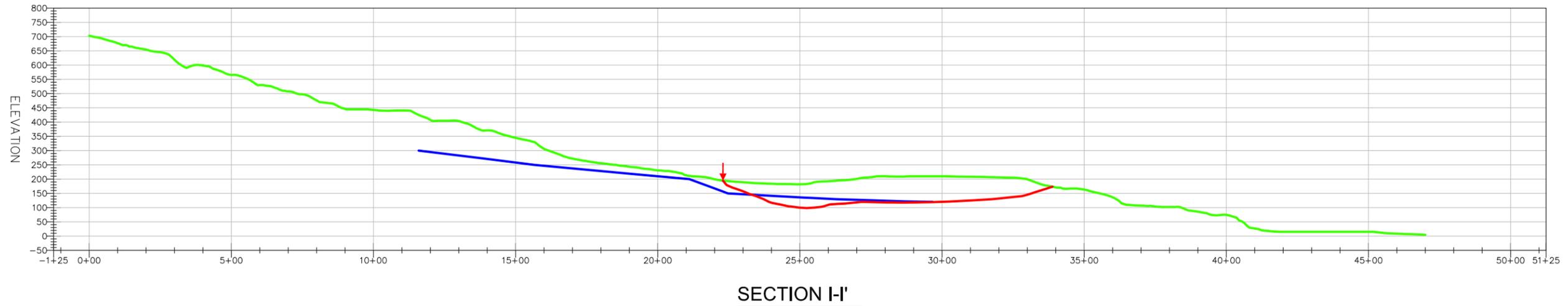
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
 PORTUGUESE BEND  
 LANDSLIDE  
 RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA

FIGURE NO.  
 8  
 PROJECT NO.  
 DB17.1171

CROSS SECTIONS

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

LOCATION: D:\Projects\Palos Verdes\Portuguese Bend (DB17.1171)\Base Map.dwg DATE: 10/05/2017 11:54 AM PLOT SCALE = 1:2 PLOTTED BY: CIA-USBR



**LEGEND**

<span style="color: green;">—</span>	EXISTING GROUND PROFILE
<span style="color: blue;">—</span>	GROUNDWATER PROFILE
<span style="color: red;">—</span>	BASAL RUPTURE SURFACE PROFILE

REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
A	09/11/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	-	-	-	-

DATE OF ISSUE: 09/11/17  
 DESIGNED BY: -  
 DRAWN BY: -  
 CHECKED BY: -  
 APPROVED BY: -

**Geo-Logic ASSOCIATES**  
 3150 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
 geo-logic.com | 657.218.4708

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
 PORTUGUESE BEND  
 LANDSLIDE  
 RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA  
 CROSS SECTIONS

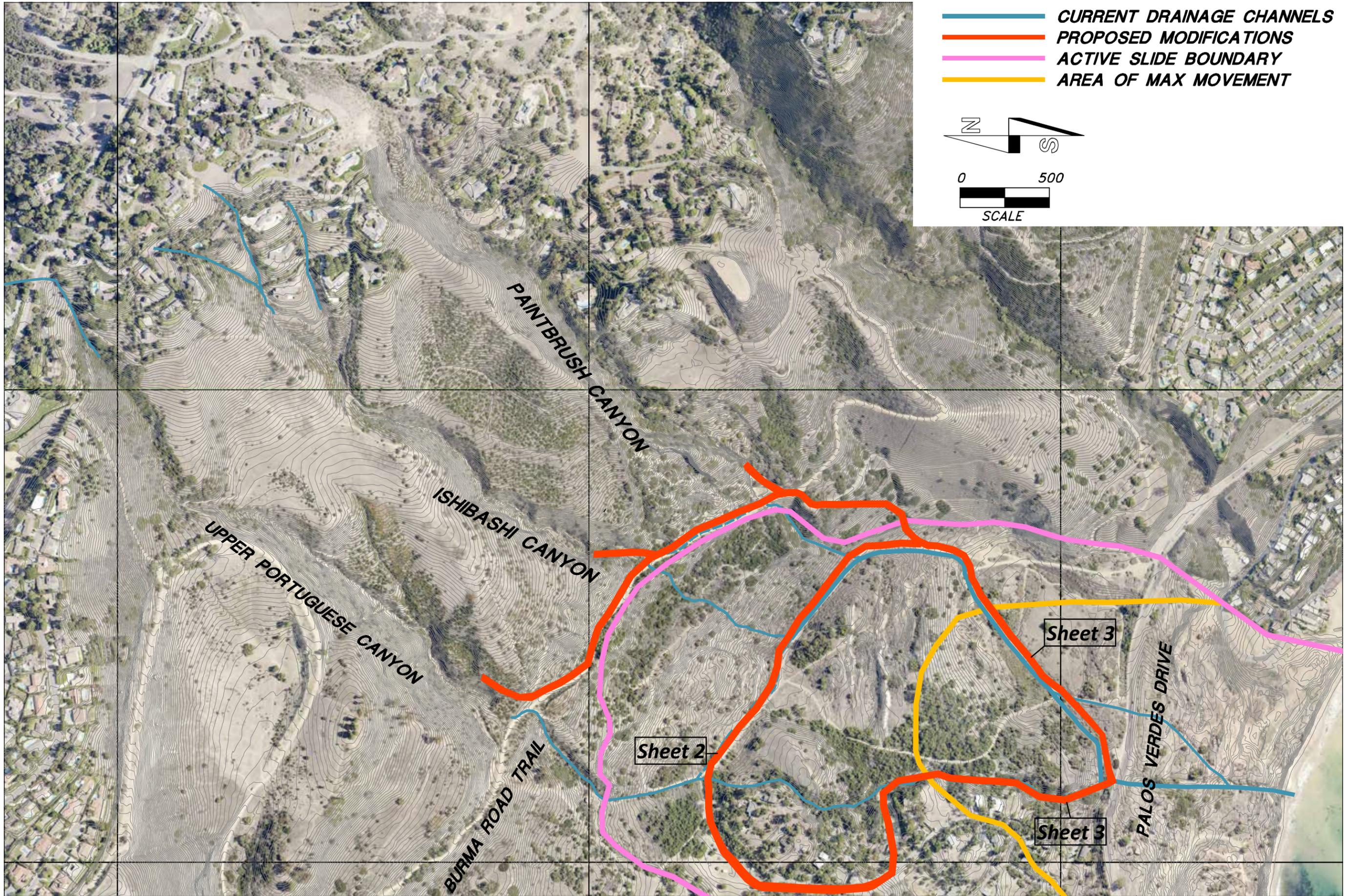
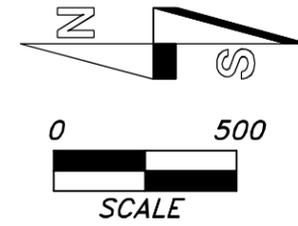
FIGURE NO.  
 9  
 PROJECT NO.  
 DB17.1171

This drawing has not been published but rather has been prepared by Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. for use by the client named in the title block, solely in respect of the construction operation, and maintenance of the facility named in the title block. Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. shall not be liable for the use of this drawing on any other facility or for any other purpose.

## **Appendix D**

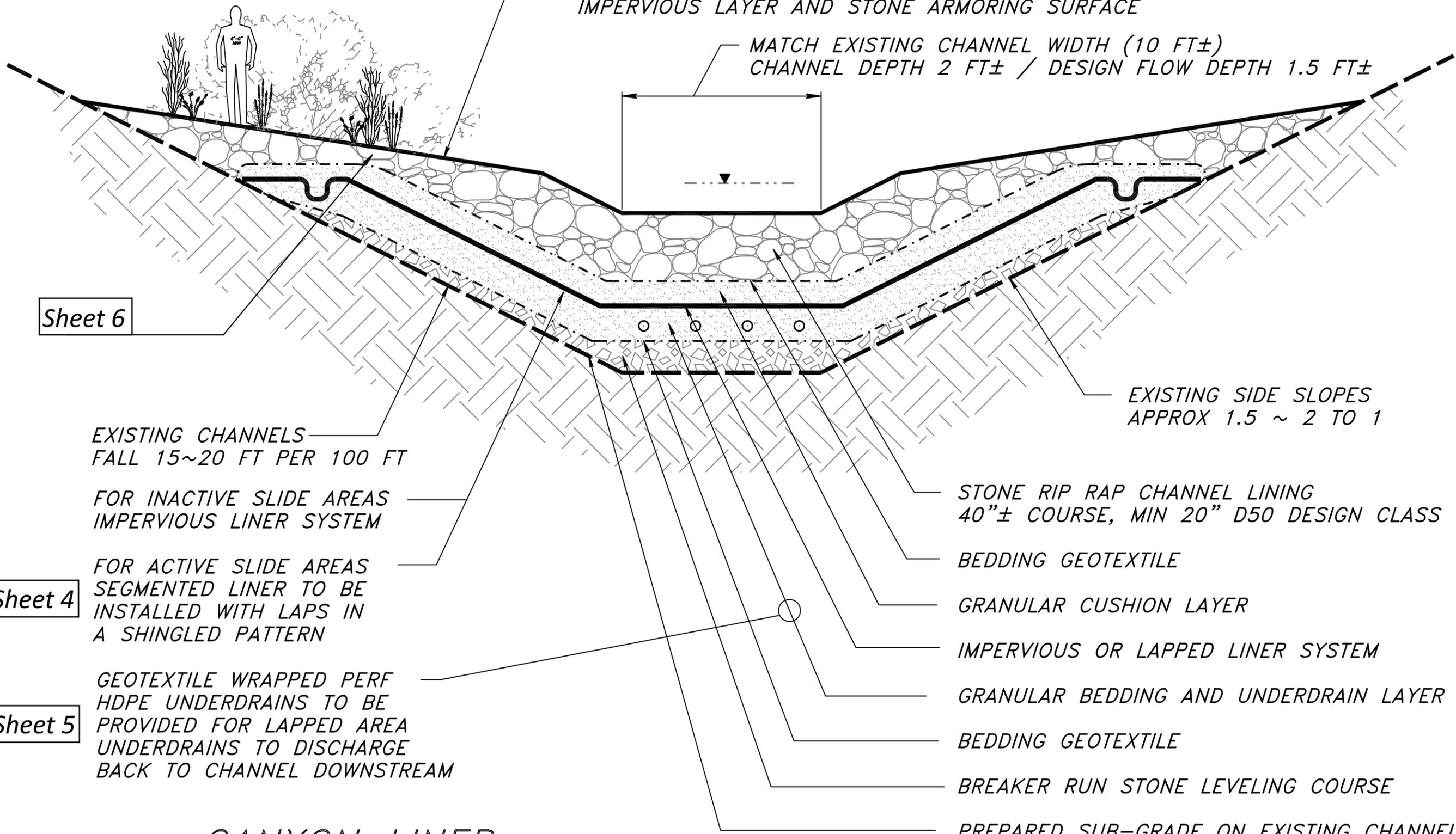
# **Conceptual Liner and Channel Specifications**

- CURRENT DRAINAGE CHANNELS
- PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS
- ACTIVE SLIDE BOUNDARY
- AREA OF MAX MOVEMENT



BUILD UP EXISTING CANYON CHANNEL TO INSTALL IMPERVIOUS LAYER AND STONE ARMORING SURFACE

MATCH EXISTING CHANNEL WIDTH (10 FT±)  
CHANNEL DEPTH 2 FT± / DESIGN FLOW DEPTH 1.5 FT±



Sheet 6

EXISTING CHANNELS  
FALL 15~20 FT PER 100 FT

FOR INACTIVE SLIDE AREAS  
IMPERVIOUS LINER SYSTEM

FOR ACTIVE SLIDE AREAS  
SEGMENTED LINER TO BE  
INSTALLED WITH LAPS IN  
A SHINGLED PATTERN

GEOTEXTILE WRAPPED PERF  
HDPE UNDERDRAINS TO BE  
PROVIDED FOR LAPPED AREA  
UNDERDRAINS TO DISCHARGE  
BACK TO CHANNEL DOWNSTREAM

Sheet 4

Sheet 5

# CANYON LINER

STONE RIP RAP CHANNEL LINING  
40"± COURSE, MIN 20" D50 DESIGN CLASS

BEDDING GEOTEXTILE

GRANULAR CUSHION LAYER

IMPERVIOUS OR LAPPED LINER SYSTEM

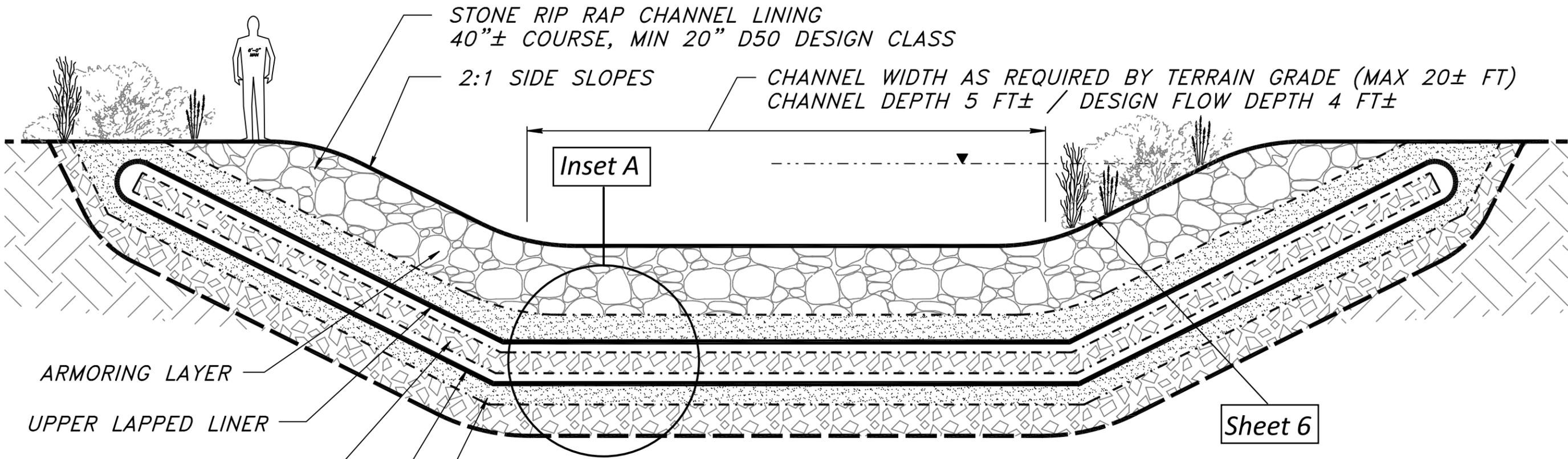
GRANULAR BEDDING AND UNDERDRAIN LAYER

BEDDING GEOTEXTILE

BREAKER RUN STONE LEVELING COURSE

PREPARED SUB-GRADE ON EXISTING CHANNEL

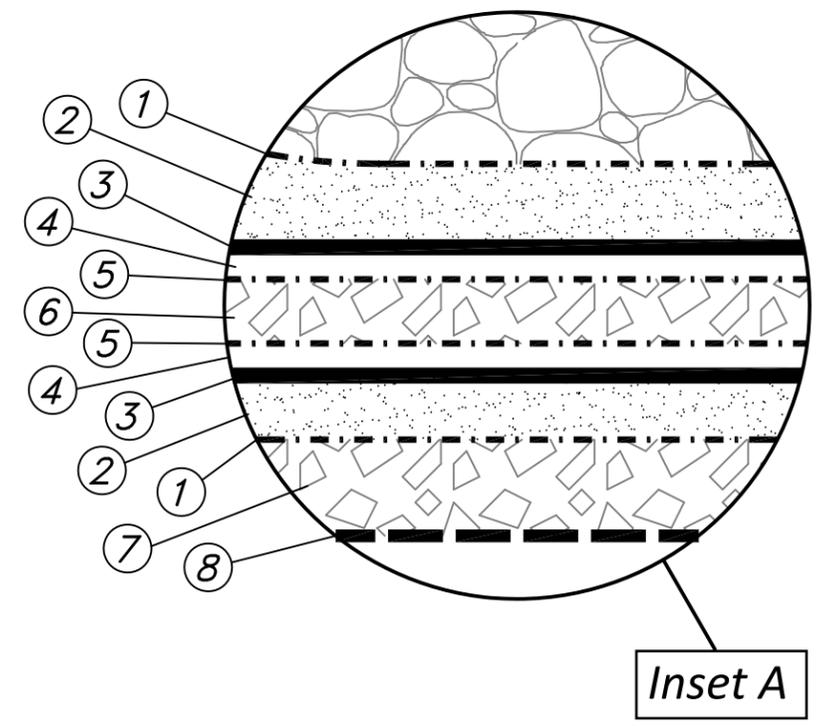
EXISTING SIDE SLOPES  
APPROX 1.5 ~ 2 TO 1



ARMORING LAYER  
 UPPER LAPPED LINER  
 LEAKAGE UNDER CHANNEL  
 LOWER LAPPED LINER  
 FOUNDATION LAYERS

STONE RIP RAP CHANNEL LINING  
 40"± COURSE, MIN 20" D50 DESIGN CLASS  
 2:1 SIDE SLOPES  
 CHANNEL WIDTH AS REQUIRED BY TERRAIN GRADE (MAX 20± FT)  
 CHANNEL DEPTH 5 FT± / DESIGN FLOW DEPTH 4 FT±

- BEDDING GEOTEXTILE ①
- GRANULAR CUSHION LAYER ②
- TWO LAYER LAPPED LINER SYSTEM ③
- GRANULAR BEDDING LAYER ④
- NON-WOVEN GEOTEXTILE ⑤
- BREAKER RUN STONE DRAINAGE LAVER ⑥
- BREAKER RUN STONE LEVELING COURSE ⑦
- PREPARED SUB-GRADE ⑧

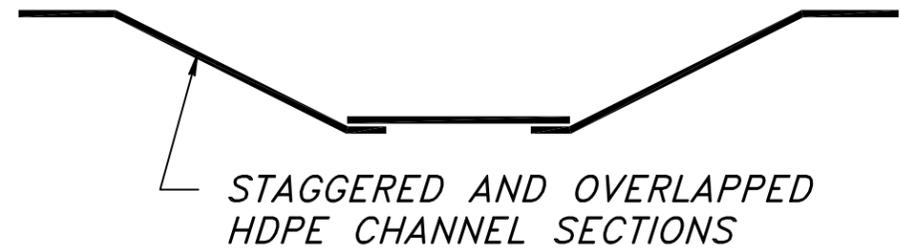
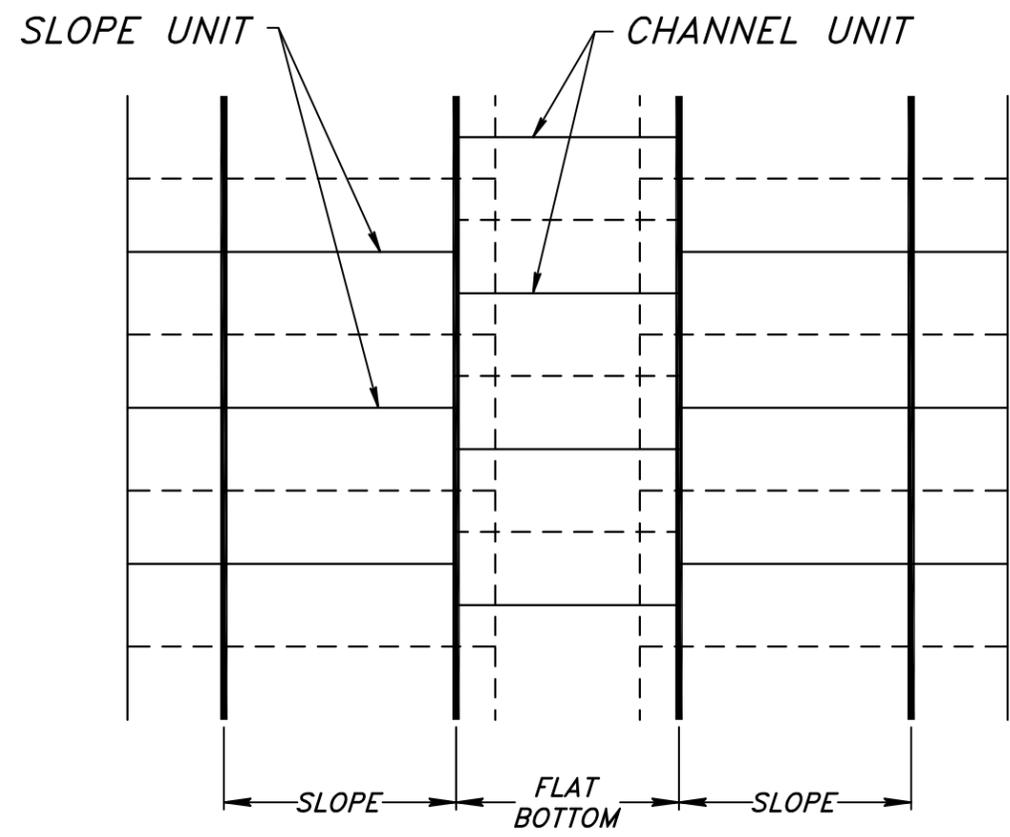


OUTLET CHANNEL THROUGH  
 ACTIVE SLIDE AREA

Sheet 6

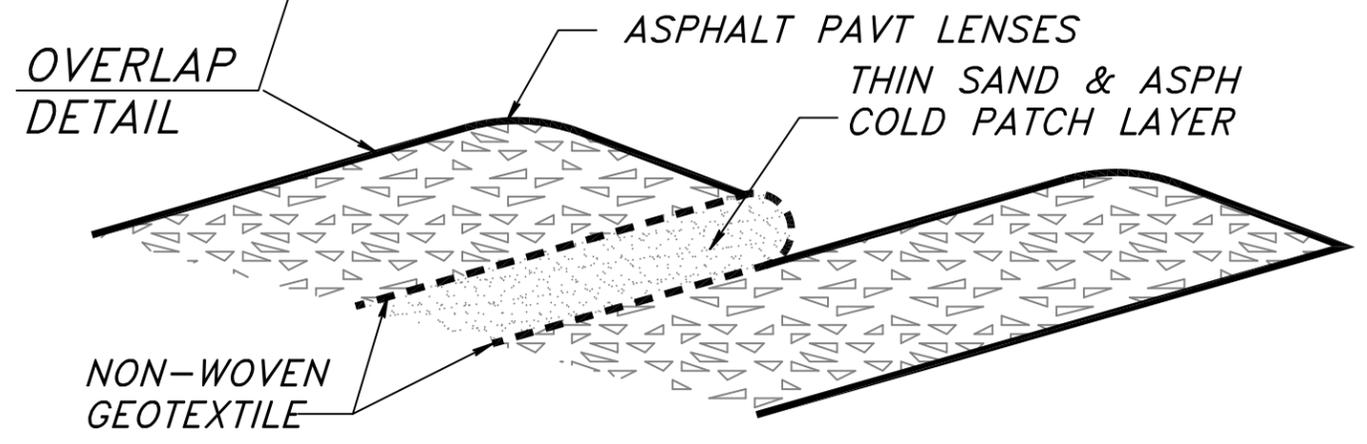
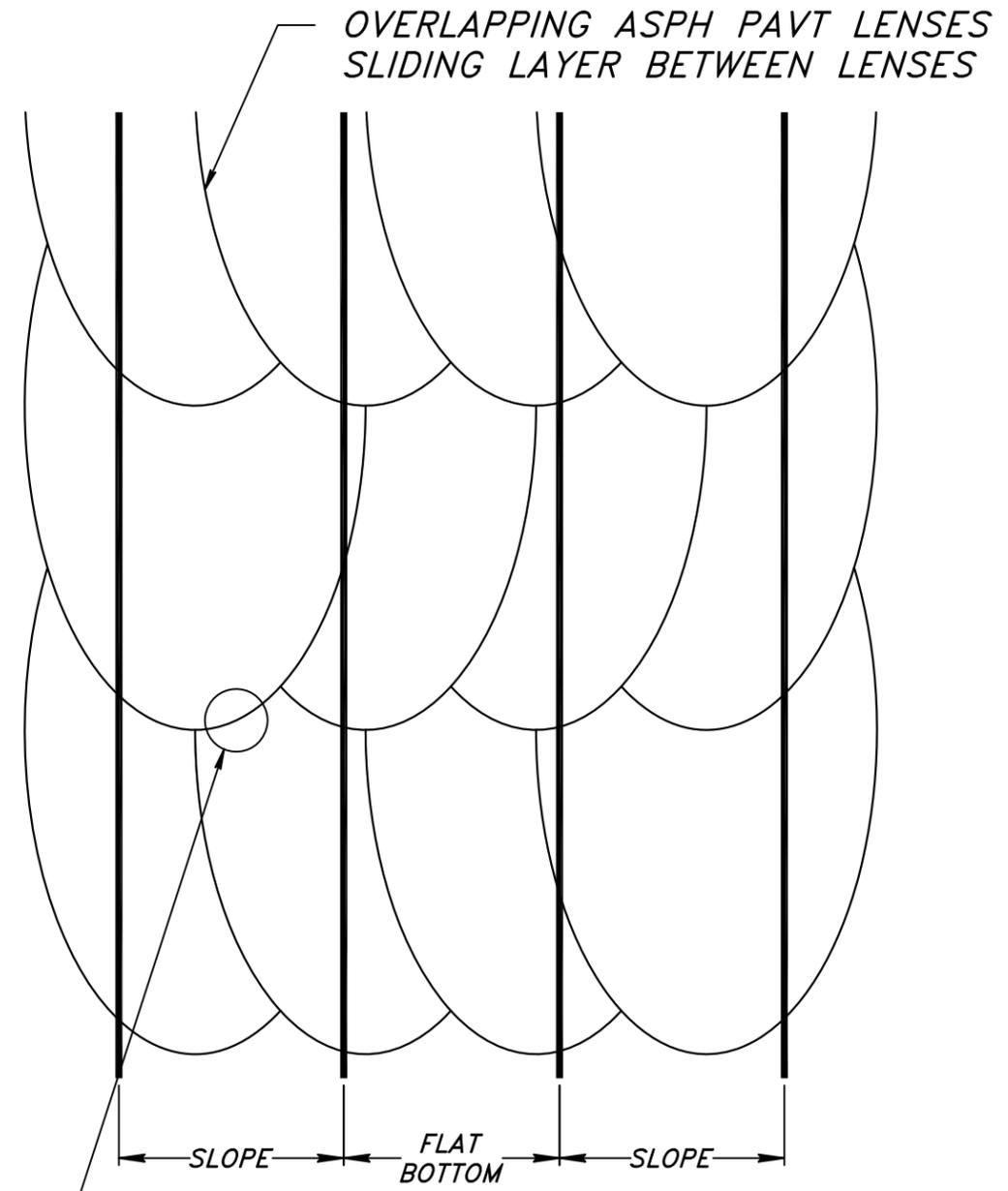
Inset A

Inset A

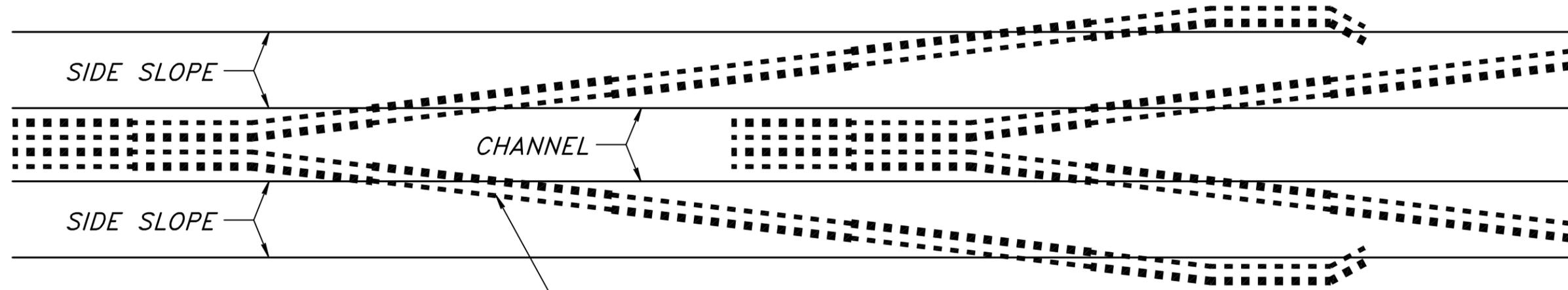


ALTERNATE LAPPED HDPE SECTIONS

LAPPED LINER SYSTEMS

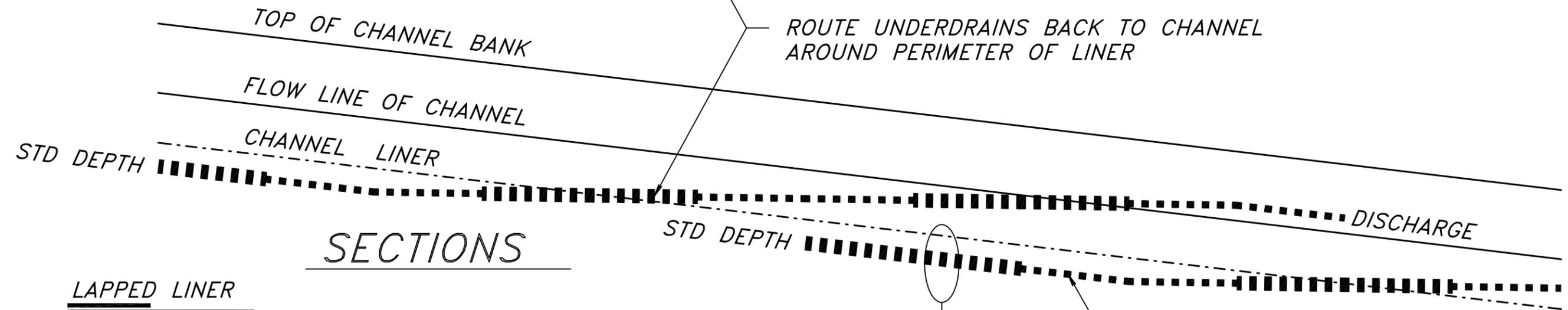


ALTERNATE - LAPPED ASPHALT LENSES

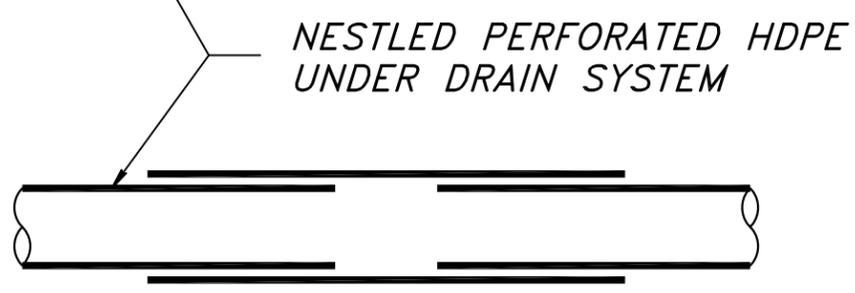
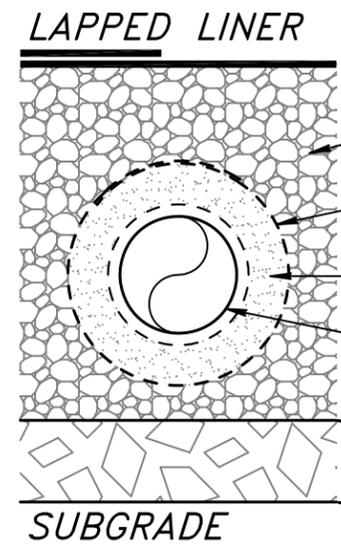


PLAN VIEW

### LAPPED CHANNEL LINER UNDER-DRAIN SYSTEM



SECTIONS



- BEDDING STONE
- FILTER FABRIC FIELD INSTALLED
- SAND SLIDING LAYER
- PERF UNDERDRAIN WITH FABRIC SOCK
- BEDDING GEOTEXTILE
- BREAKER RUN LEVELING COURSE

NESTLED PERFORATED HDPE  
UNDER DRAIN SYSTEM

