



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SAN DIEGO FIELD OFFICE
10845 RANCHO BERNARDO RD, SUITE 210
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92127

July 22, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Office of the Chief
Regulatory Branch

John Rieger
California Department of Transportation, District 11
P.o. Box 85406
San Diego, CA 92186-5406

Dear Mr. Rieger:

The Corps has reviewed the materials submitted in your April 27, 1998 letter in accordance with the NEPA/404 Integration Process MOU (MOU). As stipulated by the MOU, your letter seeks Corps agreement on the project's NEPA purpose and need/404 basic and overall project purpose, criteria for alternative selection, project alternatives to be evaluated in the draft EIS, the Corps involvement, and Corps verification of the jurisdictional determination, for the preparation of a draft EIS.

Based on our review the materials provided, the Corps concurs with the NEPA purpose and need/404 basic and overall project purpose, and criteria for alternative selection. Regarding project alternatives to be evaluated in the draft EIS, the Corps concurs with the three alternative alignments, which have been discussed in previous meetings. However, the Corps is uncertain of the need and/or sufficiency of the three alternative project designs, all of which appear to ultimately impact the same footprint. Also, we do not understand how the Major Investment Study (MIS) relates to the draft EIS, and if alternatives reviewed in the MIS will be included in the EIS. Also, the Corps can participate in the preparation of the EIS as time and staffing allow.

The Wetland Delineation provided is insufficient for the Corps to make a final jurisdictional determination. Specifically, the delineation should include: 1) tables that itemize the dimensions and acreage of each jurisdictional area; 2) larger topographic based maps that show each jurisdictional area with a scale that allows clear definition of the jurisdictional limits; 3) details on what changes were made to the delineation based on Corps comments from the February 10, 1998 site visit; and 4) all delineation data sheets.

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If you have any questions, please contact David A. Zoutendyk of my staff at (619) 674-5384. Please refer to this letter and 95-20151-DZ in your reply.

Sincerely,

Mark Durham
Chief, South Coast Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure(s)