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December 24, 2024

Project No: 24-16251

Christopher Solis, P.E.
Engineering Manager, Roads & Transportation
Ventura County Public Works Agency
800 S Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009
Via email: christopher.solis@ventura.org

**Subject: Statutory Exemption Memorandum under the California Environmental Quality Act
for the Lockwood Valley Road Emergency Repairs Project
Ventura County, California**

Dear Mr. Solis:

Rincon Consultants, Inc. is pleased to submit this memorandum for the Lockwood Valley Road Emergency Repairs Project (project), located at mile point (MP) 1.75 and MP 12.69 in unincorporated Ventura County, California. The purpose of this memorandum is to verify that the project meets the provisions of a Statutory Exemption under Section 15269(d) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This memorandum will accompany the Notice of Exemption for the project.

Project Overview

Following severe storm events that occurred in February 2024, Lockwood Valley Road requires permanent emergency repairs in two areas, the first at MP 1.75 and the second at MP 12.69 (Attachment A, Figures 1-3). At MP 1.75, the Cuyama River undermined the roadbed, breaking apart the asphalt and causing severe damage, leading to the closure of the road in both directions. The southern shoulder at MP 1.75 has been backfilled and fortified with road base allowing residents to drive onto the shoulder and around the damaged roadway. Non-resident drivers must detour around the closure, resulting in increased commute times and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The roadway needs to be repaired to facilitate safe reopening. At MP 12.69, the corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert passing beneath the roadway was damaged by high water pressure during the storm events. The culvert needs to be repaired for proper stormwater management, and to prevent additional erosion and undercutting of the roadway. Representative site photographs depicting existing conditions are provided in Attachment B.

The Ventura County Public Works Agency – Roads and Transportation (Agency) intends to complete repair work within existing Agency rights of way or within temporary construction easements obtained by the Agency, as illustrated in the attached project plans (Attachment C).

Improvements at MP 1.75 include the reconstruction and repair of an approximately 310-linear foot segment of Lockwood Valley Road. The repairs necessitate removal and recycling of damaged road material, excavation and placement of rock rip-rap revetment with a buried rock toe along the Cuyama River, re-creation of the road foundation, and reconstruction of the roadway with asphalt concrete (AC) and processed miscellaneous base (PMB). Temporary diversion of river water would be required to facilitate these improvements; a project-specific water diversion plan would be prepared in compliance with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District's Water



Diversion Guide¹. The project would also entail reconstruction of the southerly shoulder, restriping of the road, and re-construction of a rumble strip along the roadway centerline. Erosion and slope control measures would include armored rock riprap to protect the soil and road from erosion caused by future water flow. These proposed improvements would not expand the existing roadway. Following completion, the lane widths at MP 1.75 would remain 12 feet, and the southern shoulder width would remain 10 feet.

At MP 12.69, the project involves removal and disposal of an existing rusted CMP that ruptured on the south side roadway embankment, construction of a new headwall, installation of a reinforced concrete pipe connecting to the existing functional CMP with a concrete collar, placement of Class IV rock riprap with filter fabric, backfill with controlled low-strength material, and implementation of erosion control measures, including hydroseeding, to mitigate future erosion around the new culvert.

Consistency Analysis

Section 15269(d) of the *CEQA Guidelines* provides a Statutory Exemption for emergency projects. Specifically, Section 15269(d), exempts the following emergency projects from the requirements of CEQA:

“(d) Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, provided that the project is within the existing right of way of that highway and is initiated within one year of the damage occurring. This exemption does not apply to highways designated as official state scenic highways, nor any project undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to expand or widen a highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide.”

The Lockwood Valley Road Emergency Repairs Project qualifies for a Statutory Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(d) as a project being undertaken by a public agency to repair an existing highway damaged by flood and storm. A project exempt from CEQA under Section 15269(d) must also be in conformance with the following requirements:

(1) *The project is within the existing right of way.*

The project area is located entirely within the Agency’s existing right of way, including within temporary construction easements previously obtained by the Agency, as illustrated in the attached project plans in Attachment C.

(2) *The project is initiated within one year of the damage occurring.*

The damage to Lockwood Valley Road occurred during the storm events of February 2024. The development of construction plans for the repair and the initiation of the environmental approval process have occurred within 12 months of the initial damage. Therefore, the project has been initiated within one year of the damage occurring.

(3) *The project is not located on a highway designated as official state scenic highways.*

¹ Ventura County Watershed Protection District. 2019. Water Diversion Guide for the Ventura County Maintenance Program EIR. December 2007.



Lockwood Valley Road is not designated as an official state scenic highway².

(4) *The project is not undertaken to expand or widen a damaged highway.*

The project would restore the road to its original condition with the addition of stormwater management and erosion control features. As shown in the project plans in Attachment C, the project would not add extra lanes. Following construction, lanes would be restored to their original widths.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis documented in this memorandum, the proposed Lockwood Valley Road Emergency Repairs Project meets all criteria for a Statutory Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(d). Therefore, it is concluded that the project is statutorily exempt from CEQA.

Sincerely,

Rincon Consultants, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Freeman".

Taylor Freeman, MEERM
Senior Project Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim M. Avila".

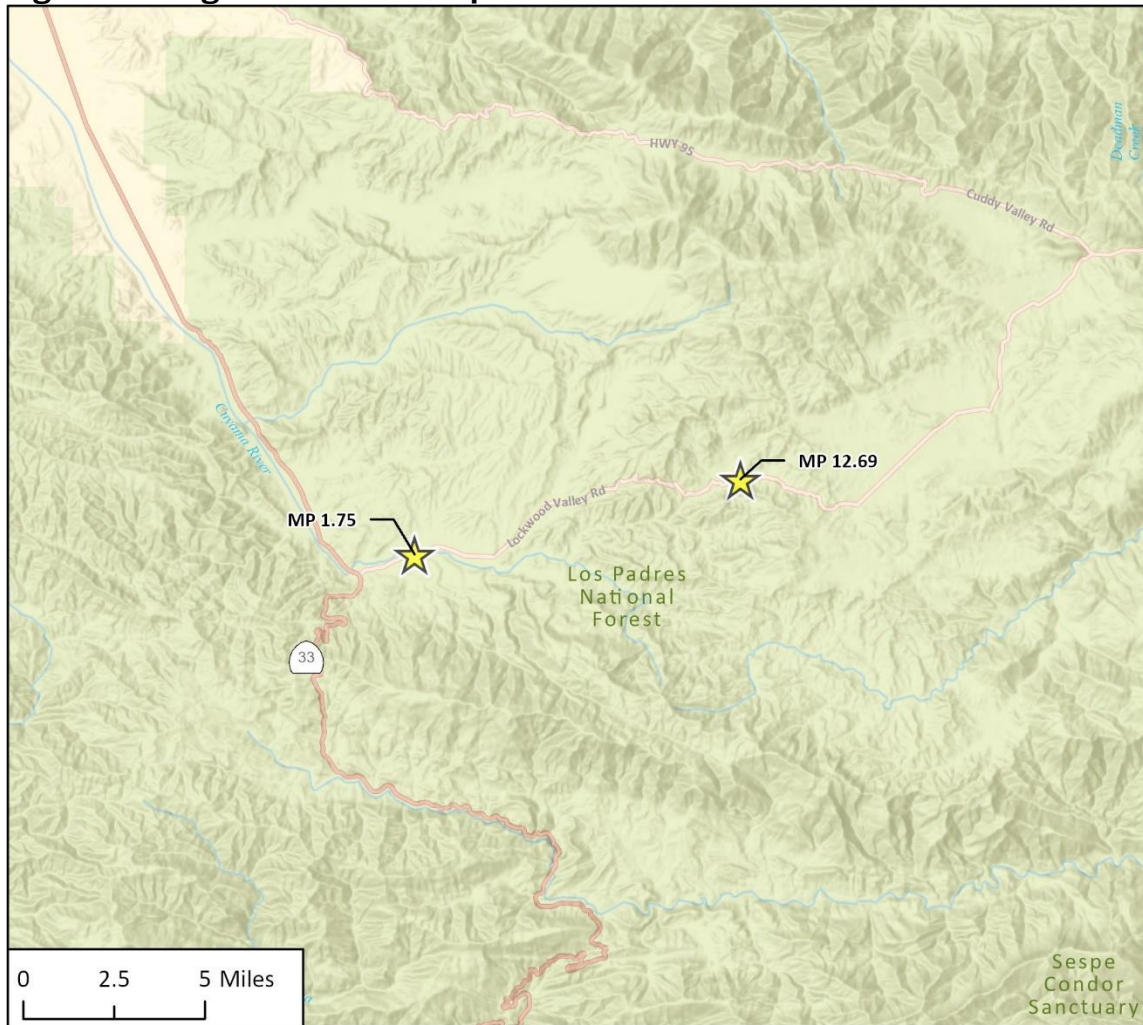
Kim Avila, AICP ENV SP
Principal

² California Department of Transportation. 2019. California State Scenic Highway System Map. Available: <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>.

Attachment A

Figures

Figure 1 Regional Location Map



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Fig.1 Regional Location

★ Project Location

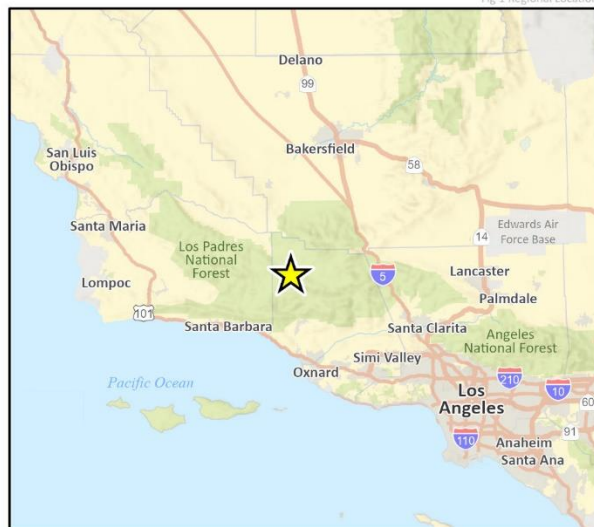
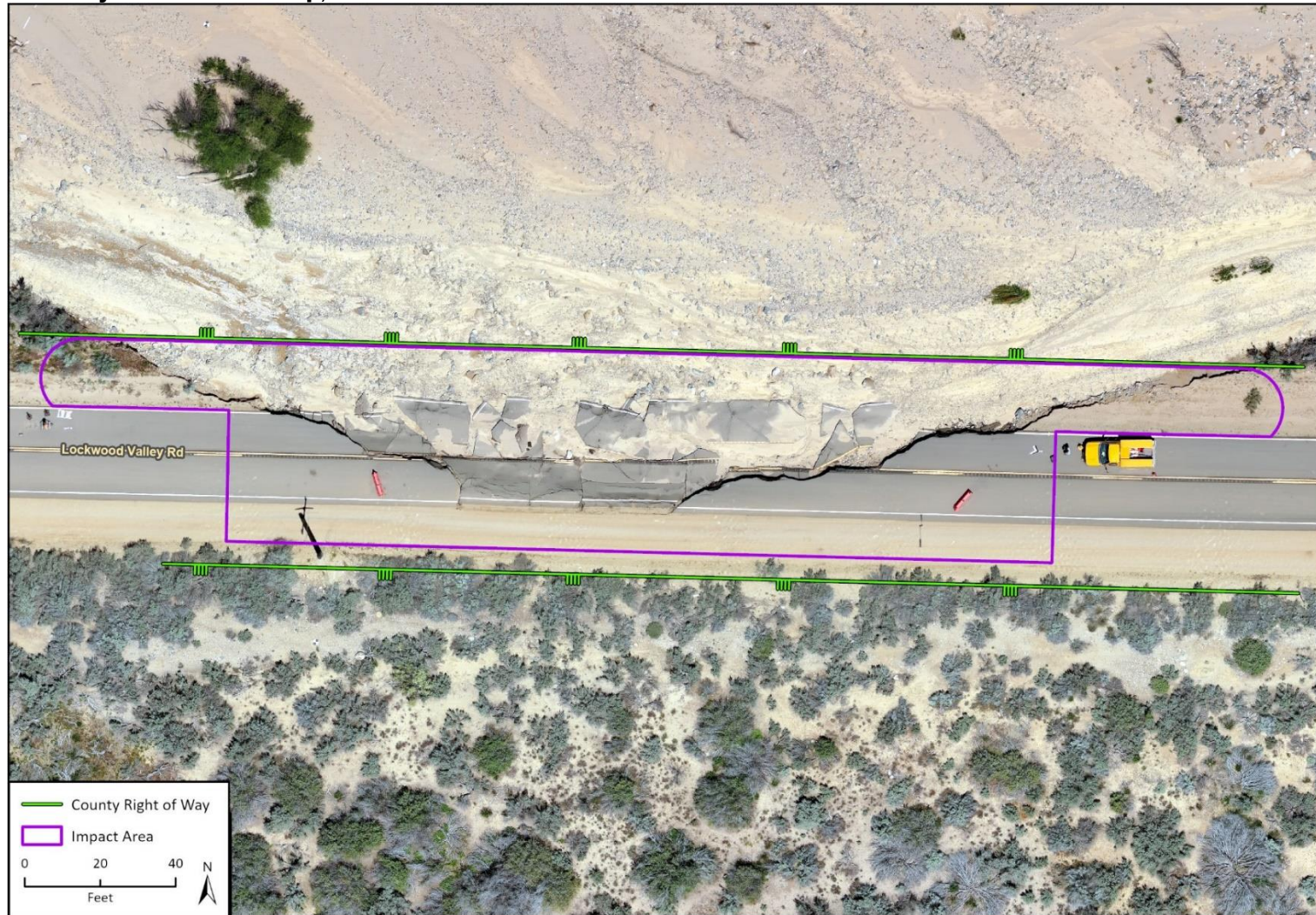


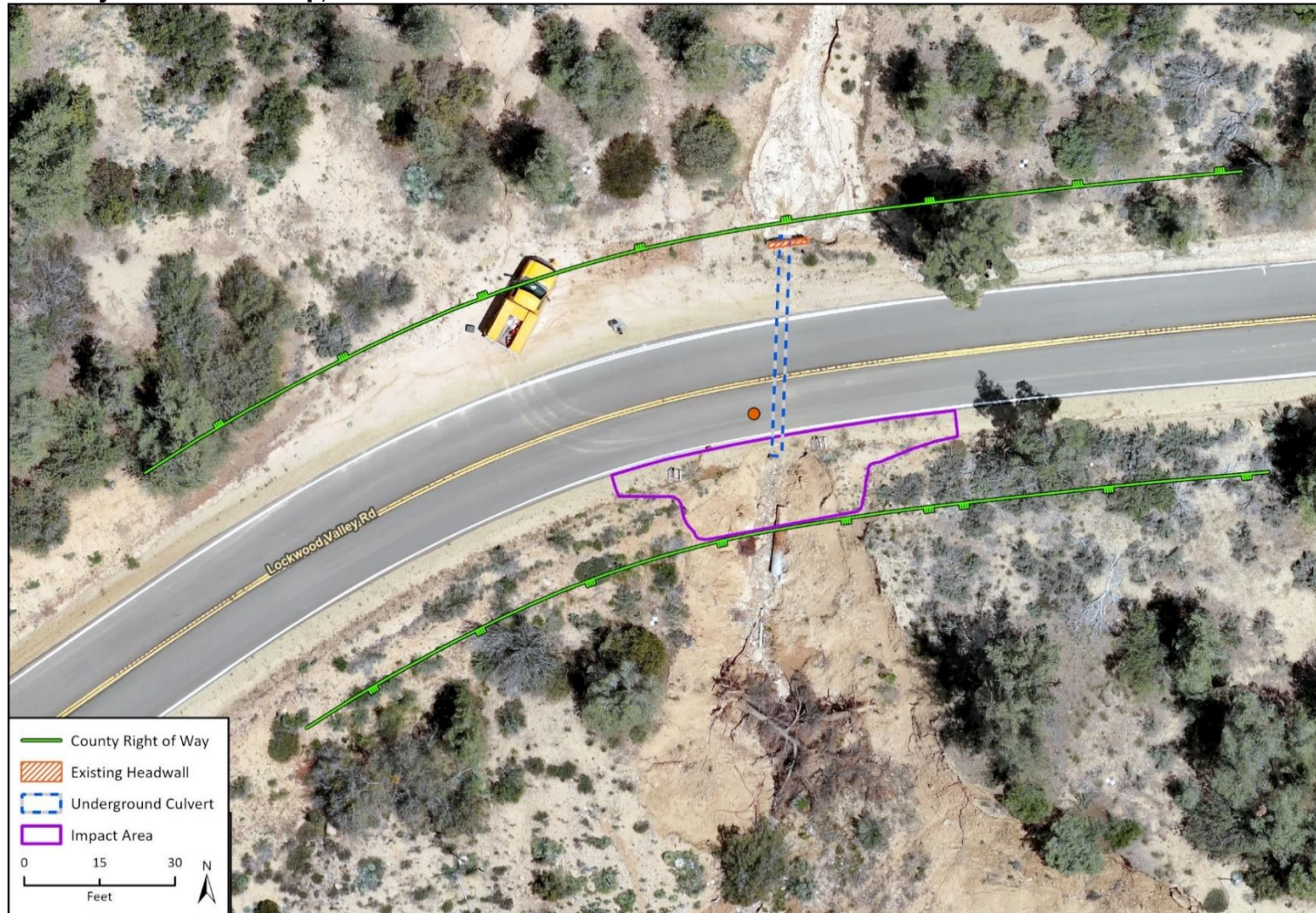
Figure 2 Project Location Map, MP 1.75



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2024.

24-16251 B10
Fig 2 Project Location MP 1.75 Landscape

Figure 3 Project Location Map, MP 12.69



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2024.

24-16251 B10
Fig 2 Project Location MP 12.69 Landscape

Attachment B

Representative Site Photos

MP 1.75, Existing Conditions

Image 1: Lockwood Valley Road looking east, showing the fortified southern shoulder adjacent to the eastbound travel lane



Image 2: Lockwood Valley Road looking east, showing damage to the westbound travel lane



Image 3: Lockwood Valley Road looking west, showing initial damage immediately following the severe storm event



MP 12.69, Existing Conditions

Images 1 and 2: Looking northeast and northwest toward Lockwood Valley Road, showing the erosion and blown-out culvert on the southern side of the roadway.



Images 3 and 4: Looking southeast and southwest toward Lockwood Valley Road, showing the existing headwall on the northern side of the roadway.

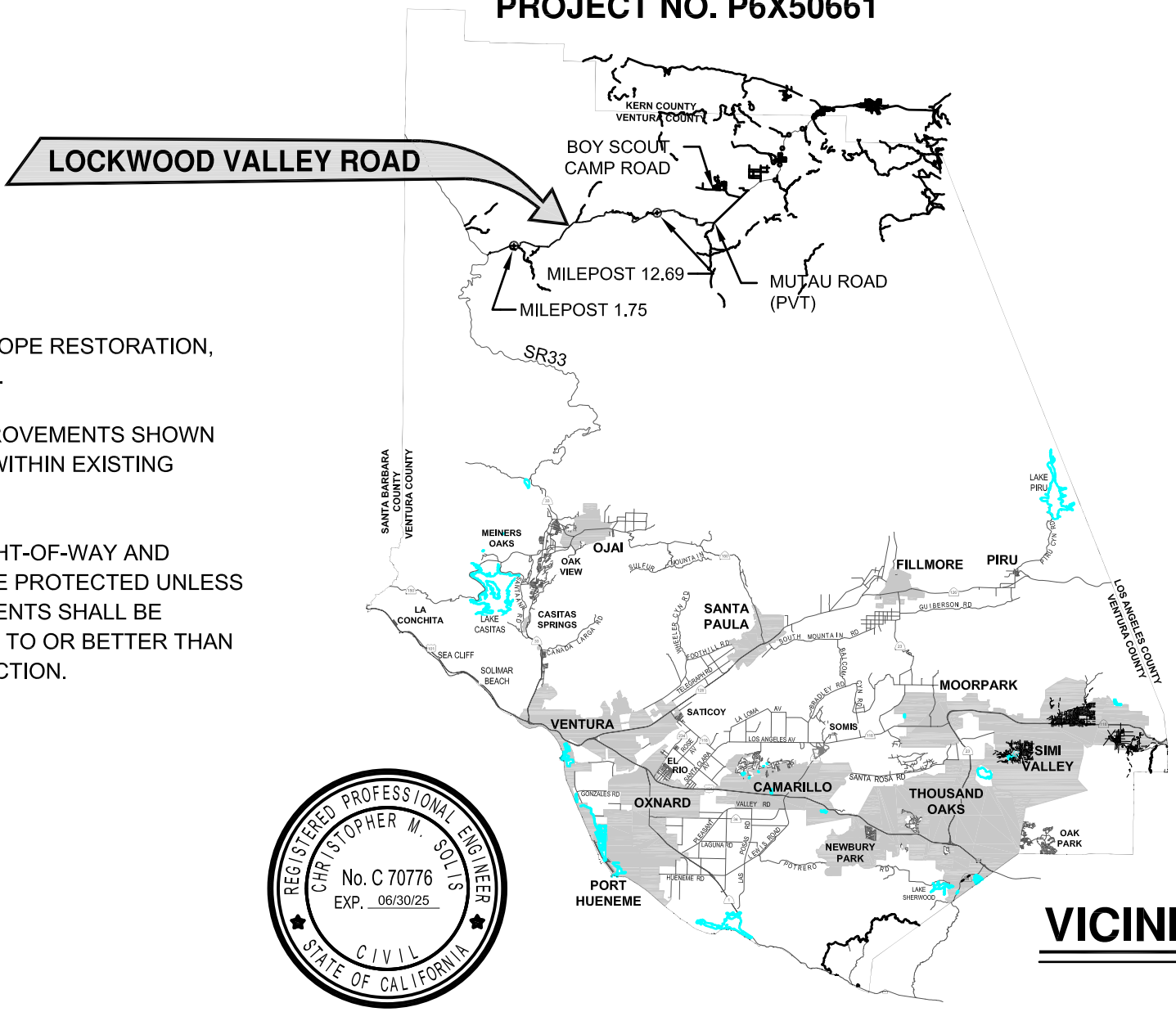


Appendix C

Project Plans

COUNTY OF VENTURA
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
LOCKWOOD VALLEY ROAD EMERGENCY REPAIR
MILEPOST 1.75 AND MILEPOST 12.69

SPECIFICATION NO. RD24-XX
PROJECT NO. P6X50661



GENERAL NOTES:

1. THIS PROJECT CONSISTS OF ROAD AND SLOPE RESTORATION, RIPRAP PLACEMENT AND CULVERT REPAIR.
2. ENGINEER HAS CONFIRMED THAT ALL IMPROVEMENTS SHOWN FOR CONSTRUCTION IN THESE PLANS LIE WITHIN EXISTING COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY.
3. EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND WORK AREAS SHALL REMAIN AND SHALL BE PROTECTED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. DAMAGED IMPROVEMENTS SHALL BE REPLACED IN KIND TO A CONDITION EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN THAT WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.

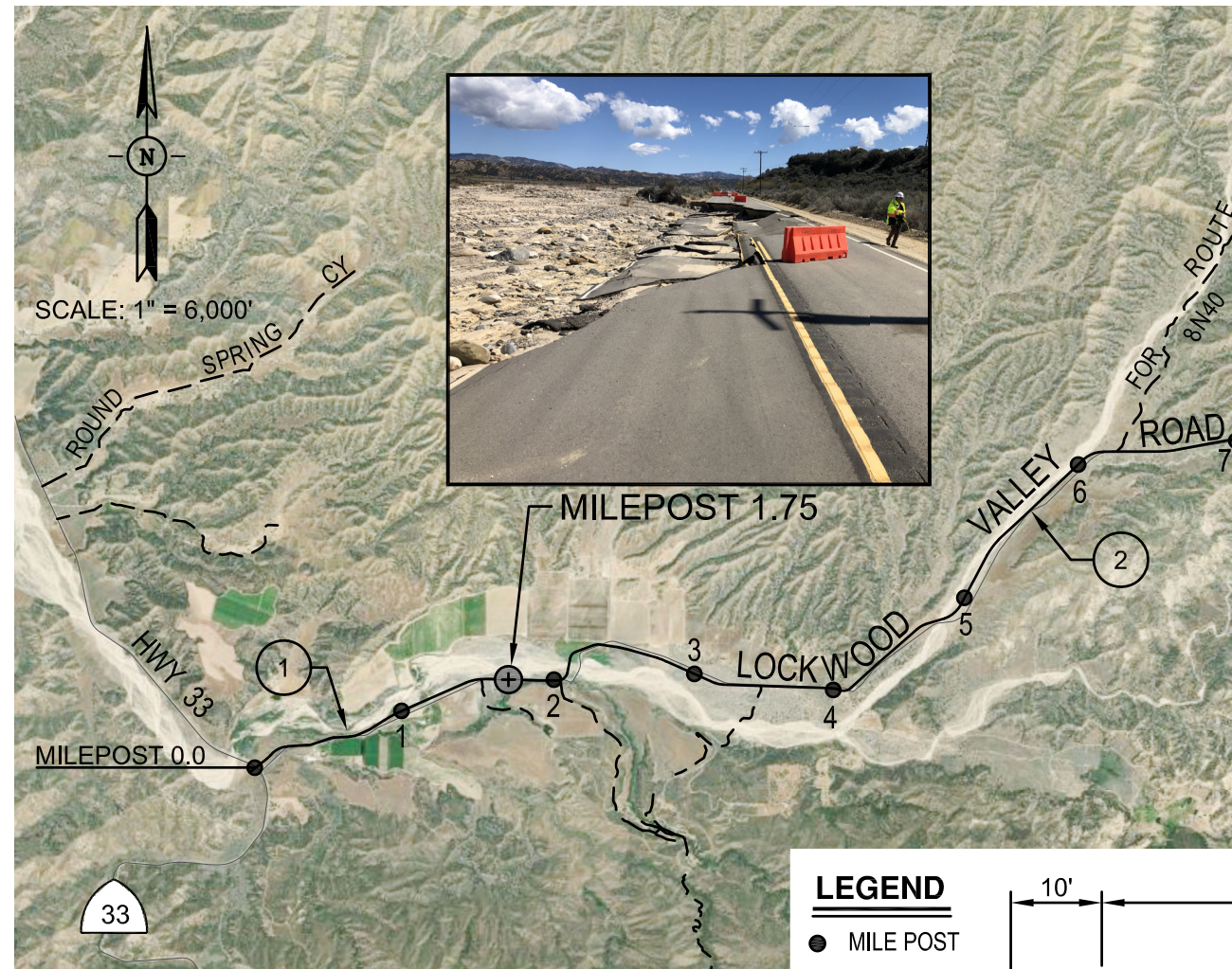


INDEX

SHT. NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	TITLE SHEET
2	MILEPOST 1.75 LOCATION MAP, PLAN AND DETAILS
3	SURVEY DATA AND MILEPOST 1.75 DETAILS
4	MILEPOST 12.69 LOCATION MAP AND DETAILS

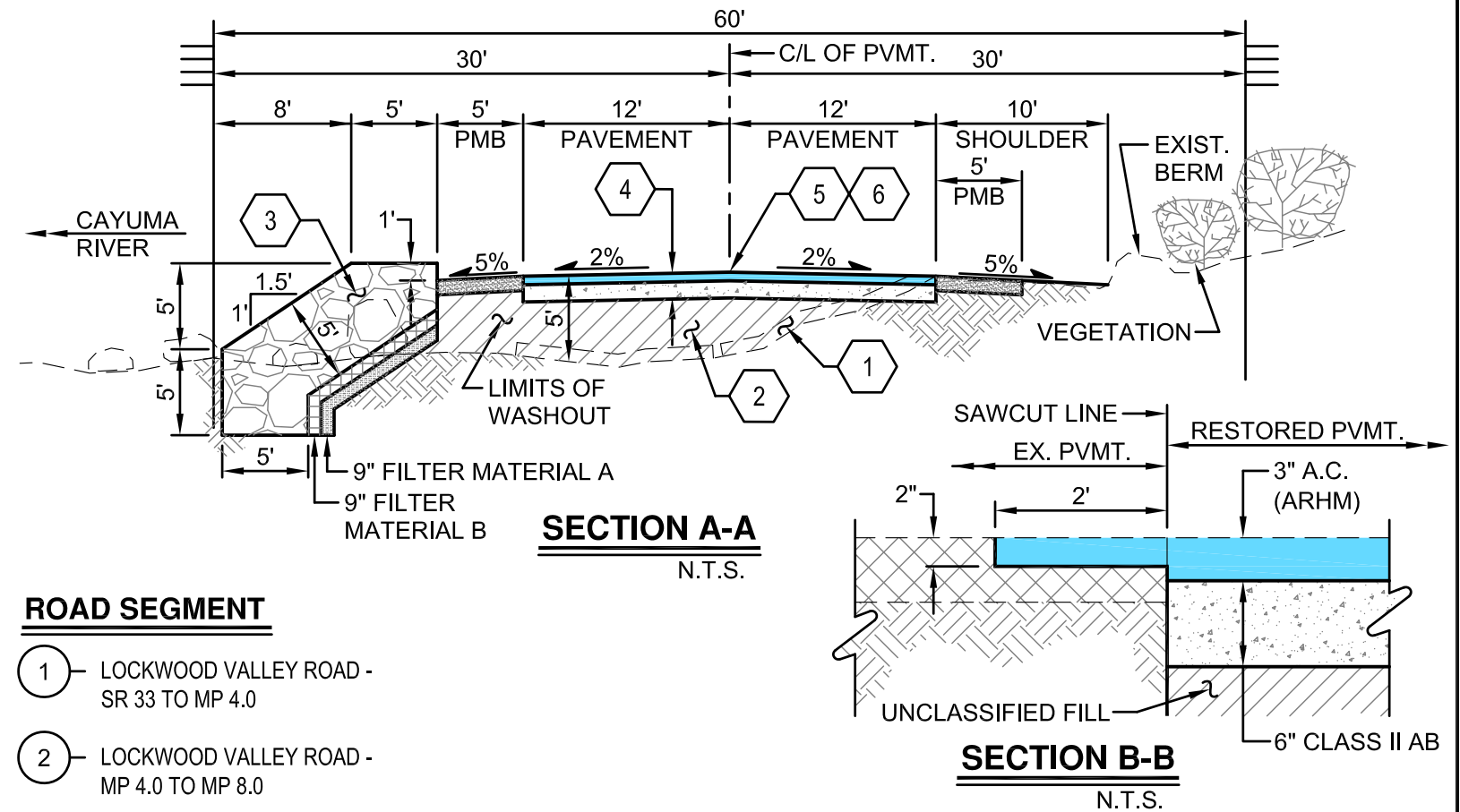
VICINITY MAP
1"=50,000'

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DESIGN DIVISION DIRECTOR OF ROADS & TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS	COUNTY OF VENTURA PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY ROADS & TRANSPORTATION	SPEC. NO. RD25-XX	LOCKWOOD VLY. RD. EMERGENCY REPAIR MILEPOST 1.75 AND MILEPOST 12.69 TITLE SHEET	SHEET 1 OF 4
		PROJ. NO. P6X50661		DRAWING NO. XXXXXX



CONSTRUCTION NOTES

- 1 SAWCUT PAVEMENT, PER SECTION B-B HEREON, AS MARKED IN THE FIELD OR AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER. REMOVE AND RECYCLE ALL DAMAGED ROAD SURFACE WITHIN THE PROJECT LIMITS.
- 2 PLACE UNCLASSIFIED FILL TO 95% RELATIVE COMPACTION TO CONSTRUCT NEW ROAD BED.
- 3 CONSTRUCT ROCK RIPRAP SLOPE PROTECTION PER DETAILS ON SHEET 3.
- 4 CONSTRUCT NEW ROAD SECTION, 3" A.C./6" PM.B.
- 5 CONSTRUCT RUMBLE STRIP ALONG CENTERLINE PER CALTRANS 2018 STD. PLANS A40D AND A40F AND DETAIL HEREON.
- 6 REPLACE STRIPING IN KIND WITHIN PROJECT LIMITS PER CALTRANS 2018 STD. PLANS A20A, DETAIL 18 AND A20B, DETAIL 27B. CENTERLINE AND EDGE LINE WIDTHS SHALL BE 4".

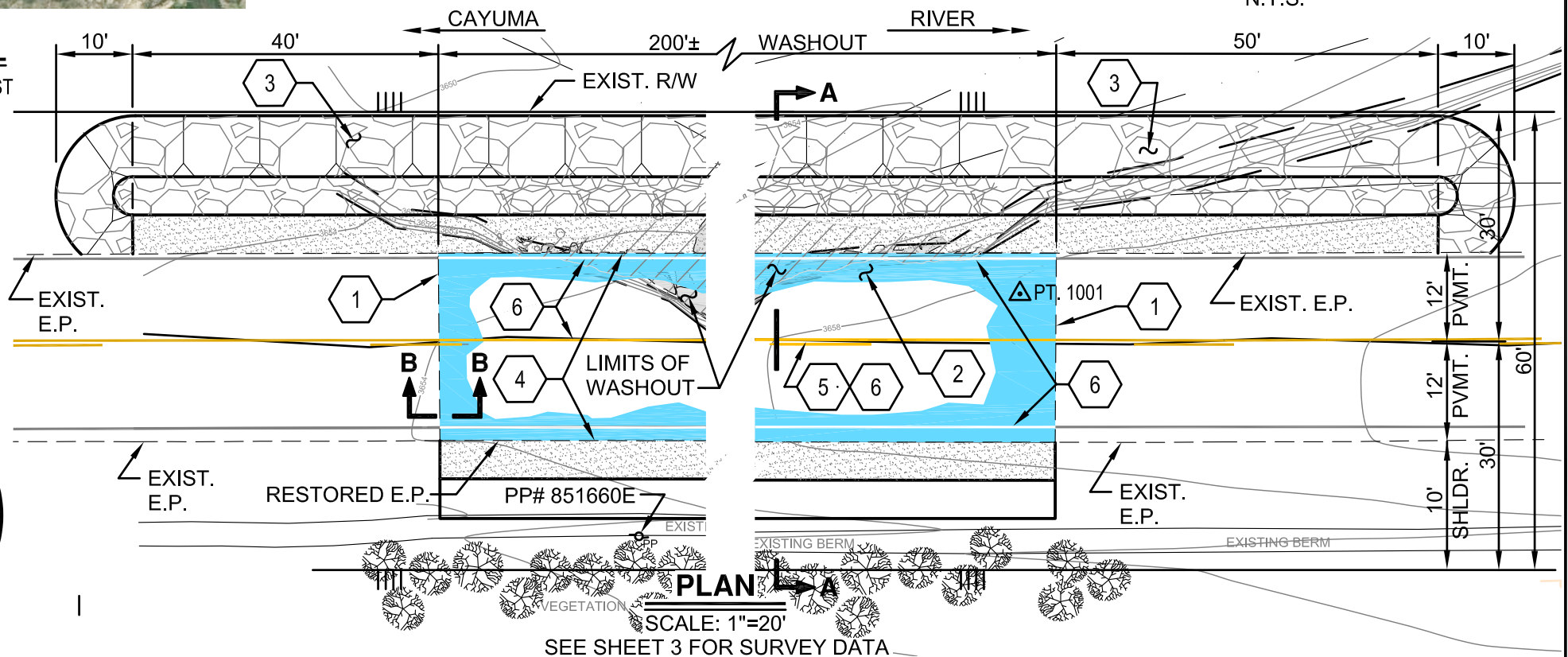


ROAD SEGMENT

- 1 LOCKWOOD VALLEY ROAD - SR 33 TO MP 4.0
- 2 LOCKWOOD VALLEY ROAD - MP 4.0 TO MP 8.0

LEGEND

- MILE POST



DESIGNED CHRISTOPHER SOLIS
 DRAWN JULIE STUART
 CHECKED XX
 APPROVED _____

COUNTY OF VENTURA
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

SPEC. NO.

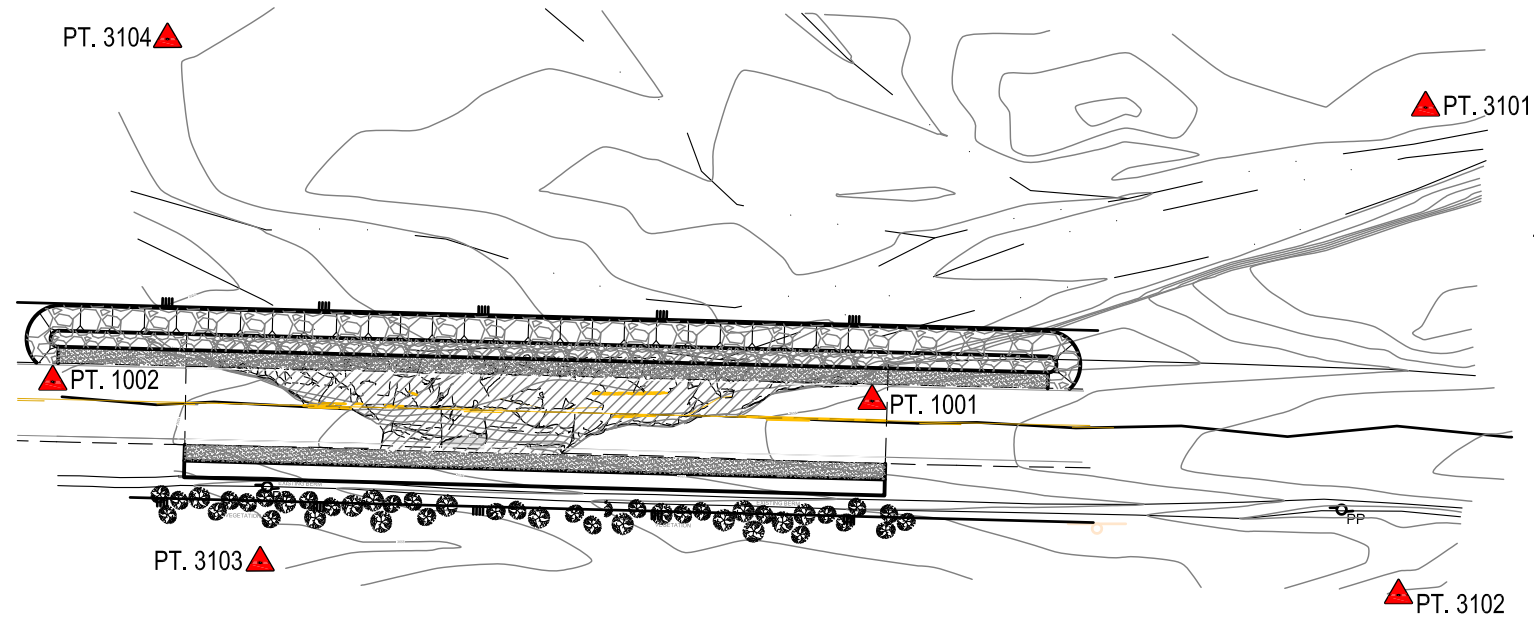
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PROJ. NO.

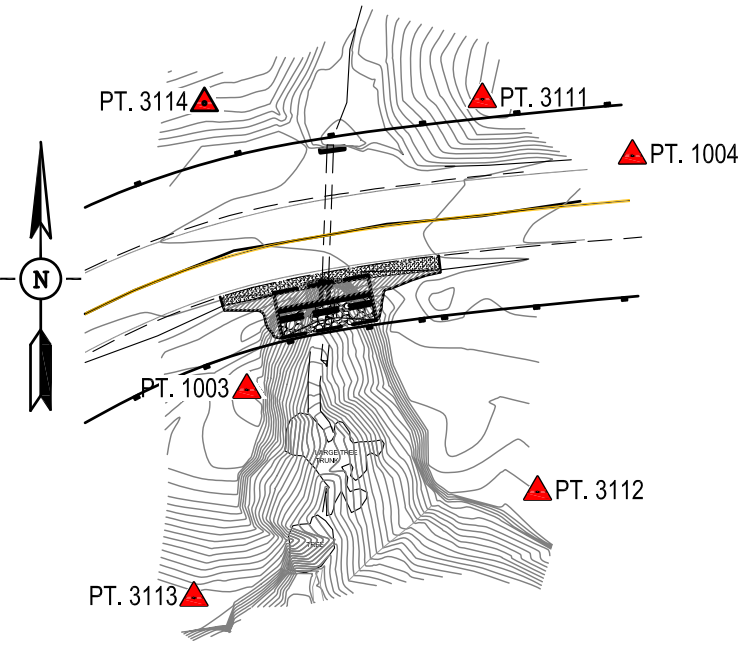
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LOCKWOOD VLY. RD. EMERGENCY REPAIR
MILEPOST 1.75
LOCATION MAP, PLAN AND DETAILS

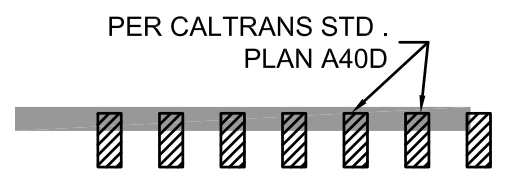
SHEET 2
 OF 4
 DRAWING NO.
XXXXXX



SURVEY PLAN - MILEPOST 1.75
SCALE: 1"=60'



SURVEY PLAN - MILEPOST 12.69
SCALE: 1"=60'



NOTE: CONSTRUCT RUMBLE STRIP ALONG CENTERLINE (ONLY) PER CALTRANS STD. PLANS A40D & A40F.

CENTERLINE RUMBLE STRIP
PER CALTRANS A40D & A40F N.T.S.

SURVEY CONTROL				
SURVEY PT.	NORTHING	EASTING	ELEV.	DESCRIPTION
1001	2078082.52	6162305.18	3658.14	mag & tin flush in ac
1002	2078088.58	6162049.14	3654.12	mag & tin flush in ac
1003	2088940.65	6209496.20	4910.01	60D FLUSH DIRT
1004	2089013.81	6209616.70	4914.87	60d flush in dirt
3101	2078174.25	6162478.14	3655.29	60d flush in dirt
3102	2078021.84	6162469.71	3661.22	60d flush in dirt
3103	2078032.01	6162113.94	3654.66	60d flush in dirt
3104	2078195.62	6162085.00	3651.86	60d flush in dirt
3111	2089031.48	6209569.80	4923.33	60D FLUSH DIRT
3112	2088908.78	6209587.04	4910.01	GCP
3113	2088875.67	6209479.66	4893.12	60D FLUSH DIRT
3114	2089030.24	6209482.93	4917.65	60D FLUSH DIRT

POINTS NOT SHOWN ON PLAN				
3003	2077960.50	6164061.38	3685.89	60d flush in dirt
5096	2079906.73	6176255.79	3935.35	BCM Z 594
5483	2089585.68	6194352.57	4880.63	BCM Z 1098
5488	2088237.65	6207066.56	4851.49	BCM H 595

HORIZONTAL DATUM - CCS83, ZONE 5, 2017.50 EPOCH (US FEET)
PER CSRC PUBLICATION
STATIONS CONNECTED

STATION	N	E	ELEV	DESCRIPTION
LVMS	2091177.10	6230079.58	5167.82	Lockwood Valley
NHRG	2005804.63	6217820.68	5520.58	NHRG_SCGN_CS2000
OZST	2073813.85	6154811.34	3583.56	OZST_SCGN_CS2000

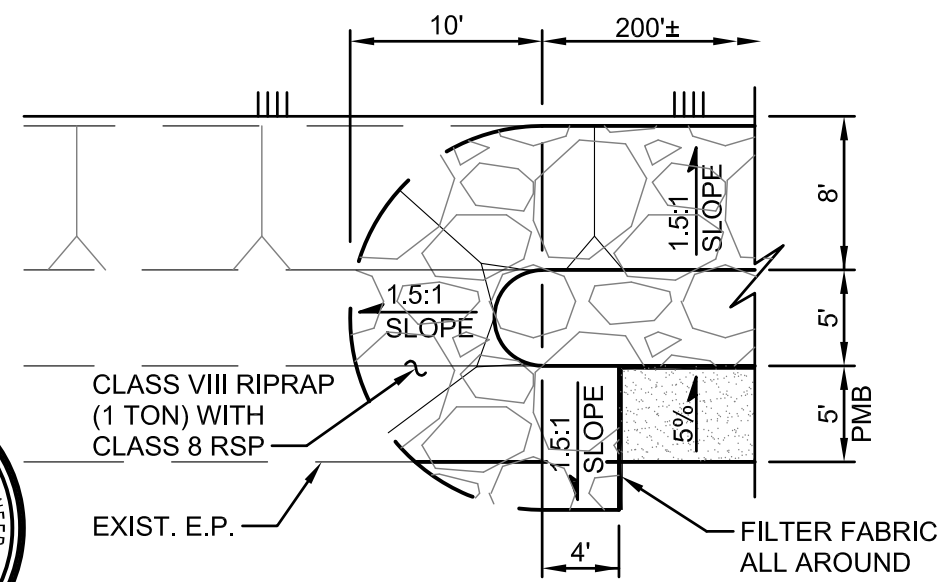
VERTICAL DATUM - NAVD88 PER NGS DATA SHEET
BENCHMARKS CONNECTED

STATION	ELEV	DESCRIPTION
5096	3935.35	BCM Z 594
5486	4880.63	BCM Z 1098
5488	4851.49	BCM H 595

CONVERGENCE ANGLE AND GRID FACTORS

STATION	ANGLE	CONVERGENCE	SCALE	X	ELEVATION	COMBINED
5096	-0-43-51.39	0.99992251	0.99981679	0.99973932		
5488	-0-40-21.72	0.99992223	0.99977290	0.99969515		

DISTANCES SHOWN HEREON ARE CCS83 ZONE 5 GRID DISTANCES.
TO APPROXIMATE LOCAL GROUND DISTANCES DIVIDE THE DISTANCES
BY THE COMBINED FACTOR.



DIKE CUTOFF WALL DETAIL
SCALE: 1"=10'

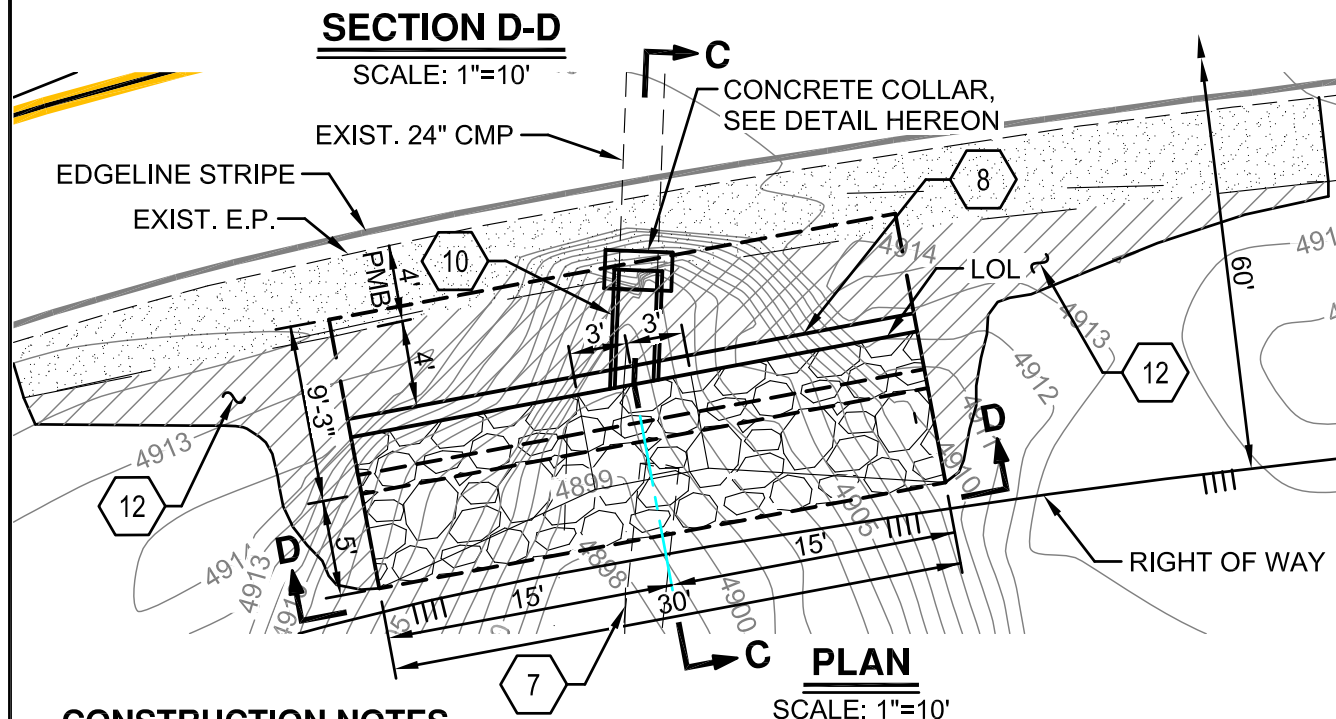
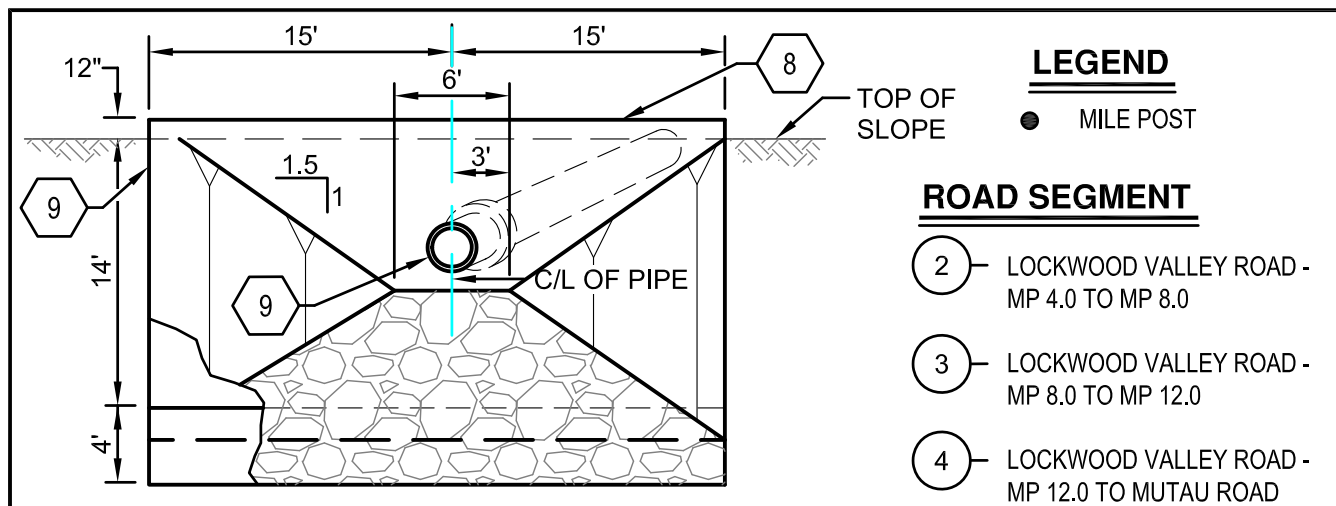
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DRAWN JULIE STUART
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COUNTY OF VENTURA
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

SPEC. NO.
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PROJ. NO.
P6X50661

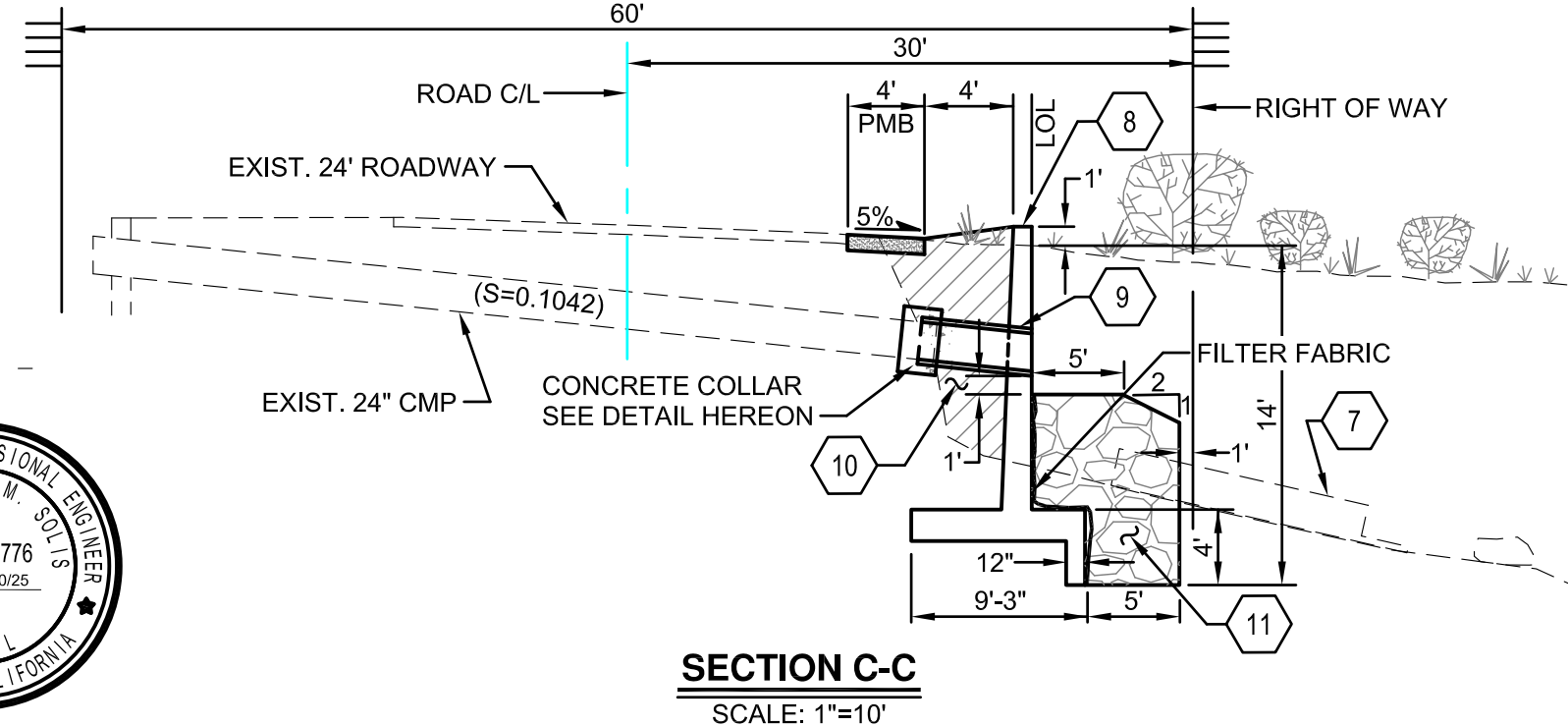
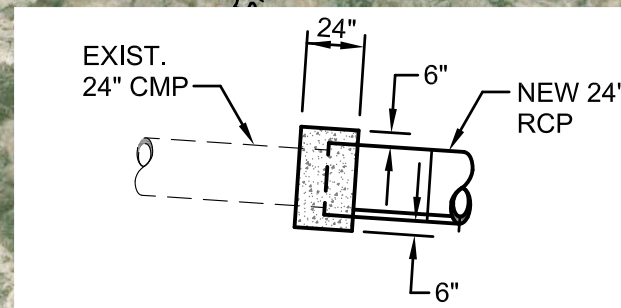
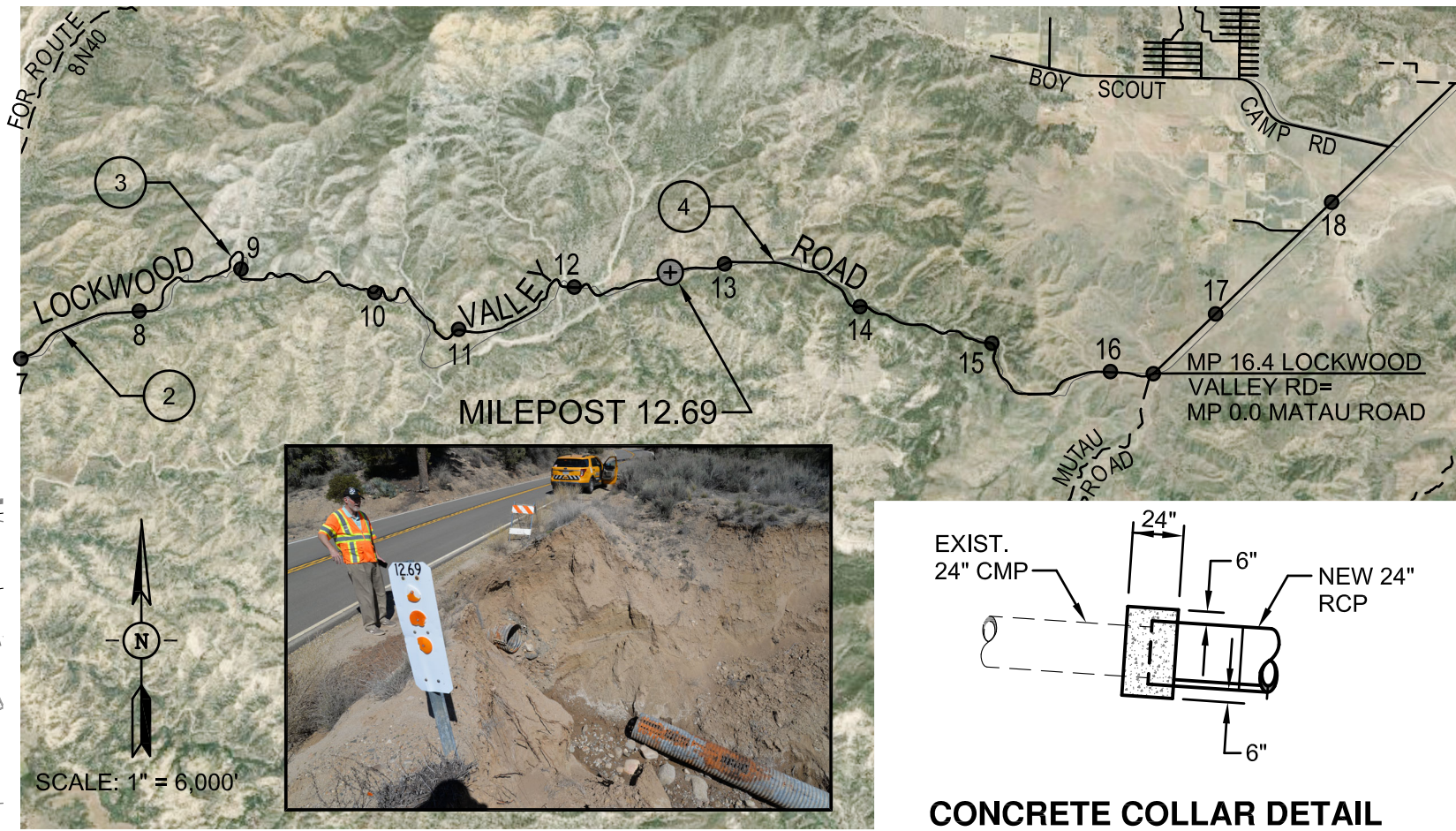
LOCKWOOD VLY. RD. EMERGENCY REPAIR
MILEPOST 1.75 AND MILEPOST 12.69
SURVEY DATA AND MILEPOST 1.75 DETAILS

SHEET 3
OF 4
DRAWING NO.
XXXXXX



CONSTRUCTION NOTES

- 7 REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF RUSTED CORRUGATED METAL PIPE.
- 8 CONSTRUCT PIPE CULVERT HEADWALL PER STATE STANDARD PLAN D90 (TYPE B) RETAINING WALL TYPE 1 (CASE 1) WITHOUT KEY PER STATE STANDARD PLAN B3-1A, H=14' AND W=9'-3".
- 9 PROVIDE AND INSTALL 24" DIA. BY 6± L.F. REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE AND CONNECT TO EXISTING 24" CMP WITH CONCRETE COLLAR PER DETAIL HEREON.
- 10 BACKFILL WALL WITH CLSM.
- 11 PROVIDE AND INSTALL CLASS IV ROCK RIPRAP WITH FILTER FABRIC AS SHOWN.
- 12 HYDROSEED AND COVER WITH RECP, EROSION CONTROL NETTING.



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ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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**LOCKWOOD VLY. RD. EMERGENCY REPAIR
MILEPOST 12.69
SURVEY DATA AND DETAILS**

SHEET 4
OF 4
DRAWING NO.
XXXXXX