

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Applicant: Roger MacGregor Gold Standard Venture Corp Published: August 26, 2025 Expires: September 25, 2025

Sacramento District
Permit Application No. SPK-2018-00673

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Sacramento District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

**APPLICANT:** Roger MacGregor

Gold Standard Ventures Corp.

2320 Last Chance Road

Elko, NV 89803

**AGENT:** Victor Ross

Stantec Consulting Services Inc. 401 Railroad Street Suite 410

Reno, NV 89511

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** The project would affect waters of the United States associated with Dixie Creek and the South Fork Humboldt River. The approximately 8,548-acre project area is located 25 miles southwest of Elko, Nevada; at Latitude 40.4764°N and Longitude 116.0428°W; in Elko County, Nevada.

Table 1: Proposed South Railroad Mine Location				
Township	Range	Sections		
30N	53E	1,2,11,12,13-16,20-28		
31N	53E	25,26,35		
	54E	3,4,9,10,16,17,19,20,30		
32N	54E	25-27,34-36		
	55E	16,17,19-21,29,30		

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The study area for the aquatic resources delineation report totaled 22,734 acres with an estimated 39.18 acres of stream, 50.48 acres of wetlands, 0.88 acres of ponds, and 21.98 acres of lake. The Corps has not verified the aquatic resources delineation. Approximately half of the project area is located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The site generally slopes from the southwest corner to the northeast corner, resulting in water draining into Dixie Creek, which flows to the Humboldt River.

#### **PROJECT PURPOSE:**

**Basic:** Mineral extraction.

**Overall:** The applicant has identified the overall purpose and need of the proposed

action:

[T]o allow Gold Standard Ventures Inc., a subsidiary of Orla Mining Ltd. to profitably extract gold from public lands where they have mining claims, as well as on private land controlled by Orla Mining Ltd. The need for the project is to meet the current market demand for gold, which is regularly adjusted commodity exchanges throughout the world.

The Corps will work with the applicant to further define the overall project purpose during review of the proposed action.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant requests authorization to discharge 3,533.2 cubic yards of fill material into 0.28 acres of wetlands and 0.45 acres of relatively permanent streams for the construction of a gold mine, access road, and attendant facilities.

Table 2: Project Impacts				
Resource Type	Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards of Fill	
Wetlands	0.28	-	1,355.2	
Intermittent Streams	0.40	9,514	1,936.0	
Perennial Streams	0.05	1,338	242	
Total	0.73	10,652	3,533.2	

Specifically, the proposed project includes four open pits, three waste rock disposal facilities, an ore-crushing and conveying system, a heap leach facility, an onsite power plant, water treatment and supply systems, and various ancillary infrastructure such as maintenance facilities, offices, and access roads. Approximately 211 million tons of material (52 million tons of ore and 159 million tons of waste rock) would be extracted using conventional open-pit methods, with ore processed through crushing, agglomeration, and heap leaching with cyanide solution. The resultant gold-bearing solution would be refined onsite before ore is shipped offsite. Dewatering of the Dark Star North pit would commence in year two, using a network of deep wells and in-pit sumps, with extracted groundwater used in operations or treated before discharge.

Project specific impacts that require a permit includes the culverting of jurisdictional streams for the construction of the access road which would impact approximately 3,219 linear feet or 0.16 acres of streambed. The construction of the attendant features would result in the discharge of fill material into approximately 0.57 acres of jurisdictional streambed and wetlands. These attendant features include heap leach pads, growth media stockpiles, waste rock disposal facilities, processing ponds, and administrative areas.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has stated that the mine project design has undergone several iterations to avoid impacts to aquatic resources. This included assessing alternative for the mine layout and access road designs. The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

Orla Mining will employ a suite of best management practices listed to further minimize anticipated impacts from the proposed project.

- 1. Implement Compensatory Mitigation Plan.
- 2. Culverts will be installed with size and installation requirements.
- 3. Natural drainages shall be maintained by appropriately sized and placed culverts.
- 4. Culverts along the existing access road will be evaluated and replaced, as necessary, to include ephemeral channels.
- 5. Develop appropriate measures to prevent erosion and sediment transport to waterways and wetlands.
- 6. Compliance with the State of Nevada 401 Water Quality Certification.
- 7. Fill material must be clean.
- 8. Maintain floodplain integrity and connectivity.
- 9. No material or equipment shall be stockpiled in unpermitted wetlands.
- 10. No mechanized clearing shall occur in wetlands out of the Mine Project footprint.
- 11. Minimize fugitive dust during life of project.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment through permittee responsible compensatory mitigation under the watershed approach. The applicant proposes to preserve, enhance, and restore intermittent and perennial stream reaches at ratios of 0.77:1 and 1:1.1 respectively. The applicant proposes a combination of riparian preservation and enhancements, cattle exclusion, bank grading, habitat improvements, and pattern and profile adjustments to stream geomorphology.

#### **CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

The Corps is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and other interested parties.

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur within the boundary of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project may affect species and critical habitat listed in Table 3. No other ESA-listed species or critical habitat will be affected by the proposed action.

Table 3: ESA-listed species and/or critical habitat potentially present in the action area.				
Species Common Name and/or Critical Habitat Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status		
Whitebark Pine	Pinus albicaulis	Threatened		
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi	Threatened		
Monarch Butterfly	Danaus plexippus	Proposed Threatened		
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	Bombus suckleyi	Proposed Endangered		

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

**NAVIGATION:** The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

**SECTION 408:** The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Water Quality Certification or waiver is required from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

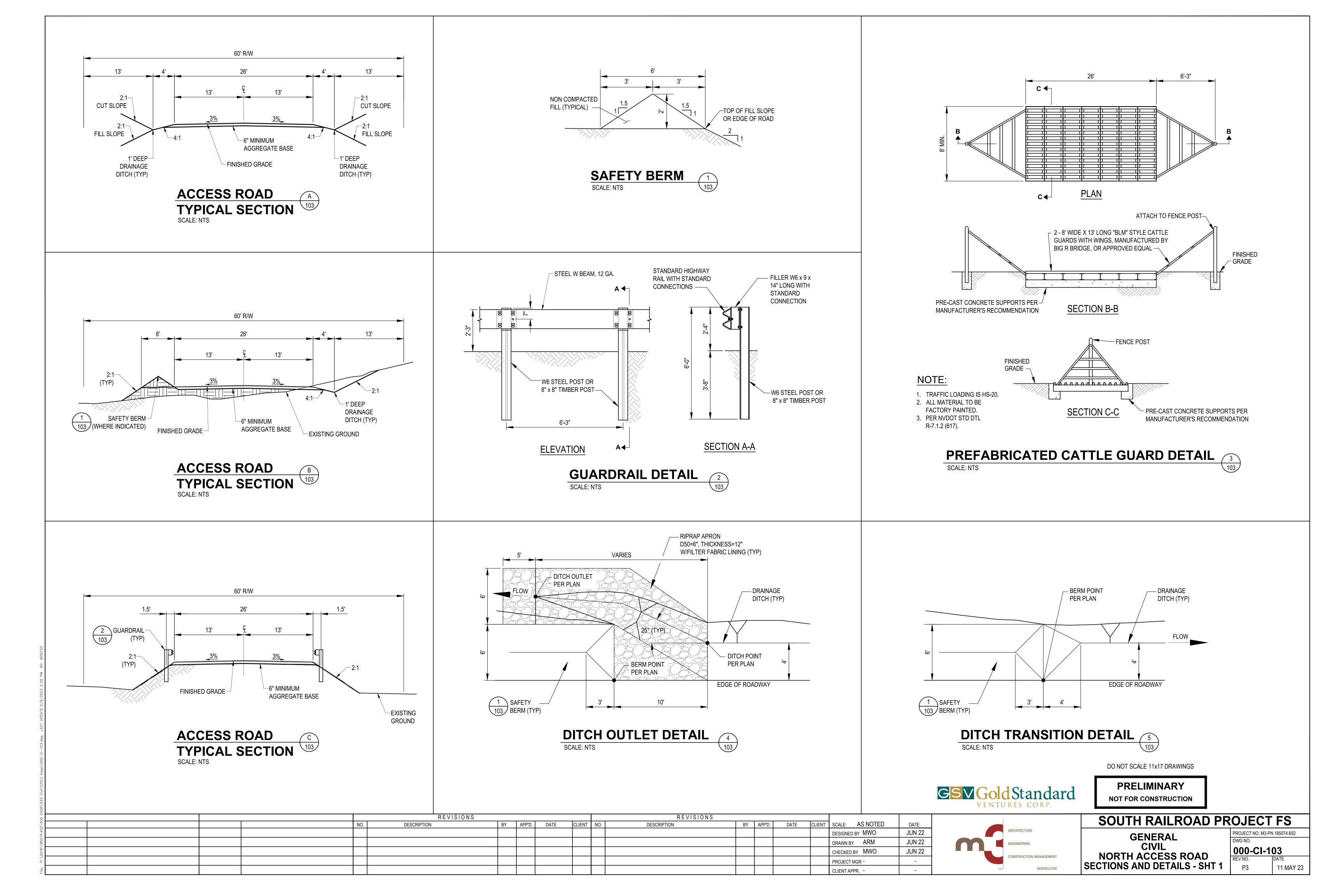
**NOTE:** This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has not been verified by Corps personnel.

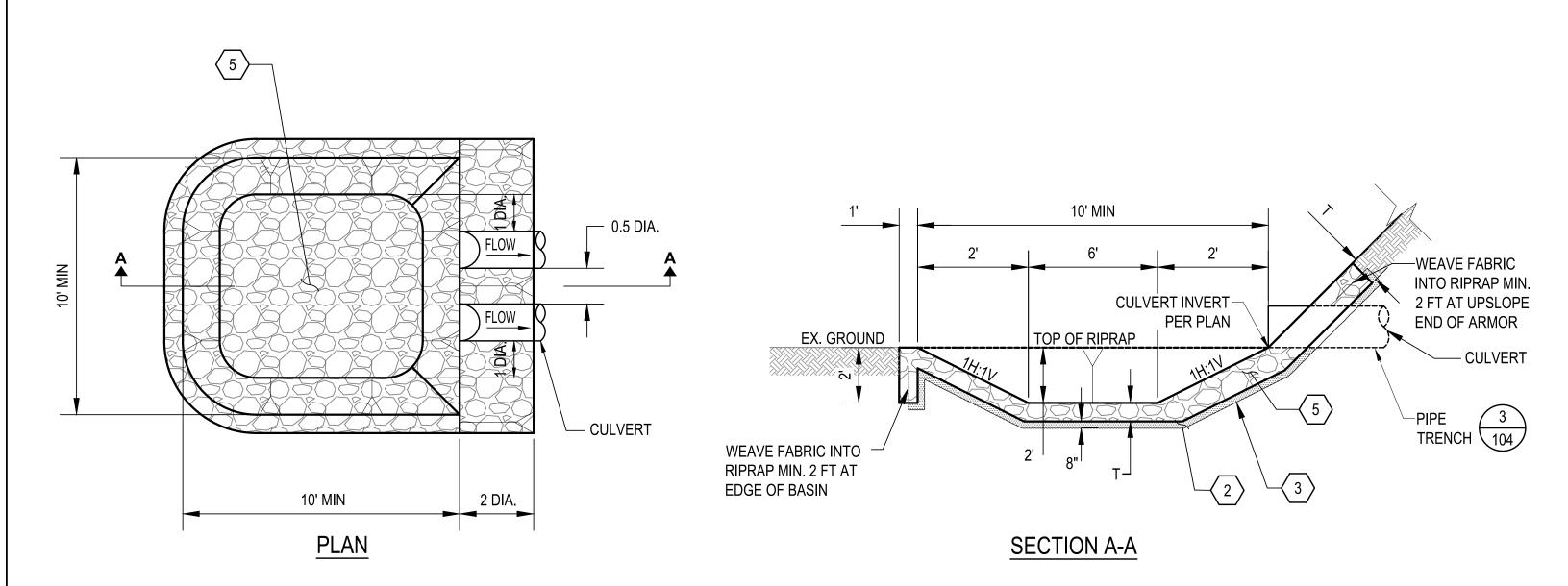
**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

**COMMENTS:** The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

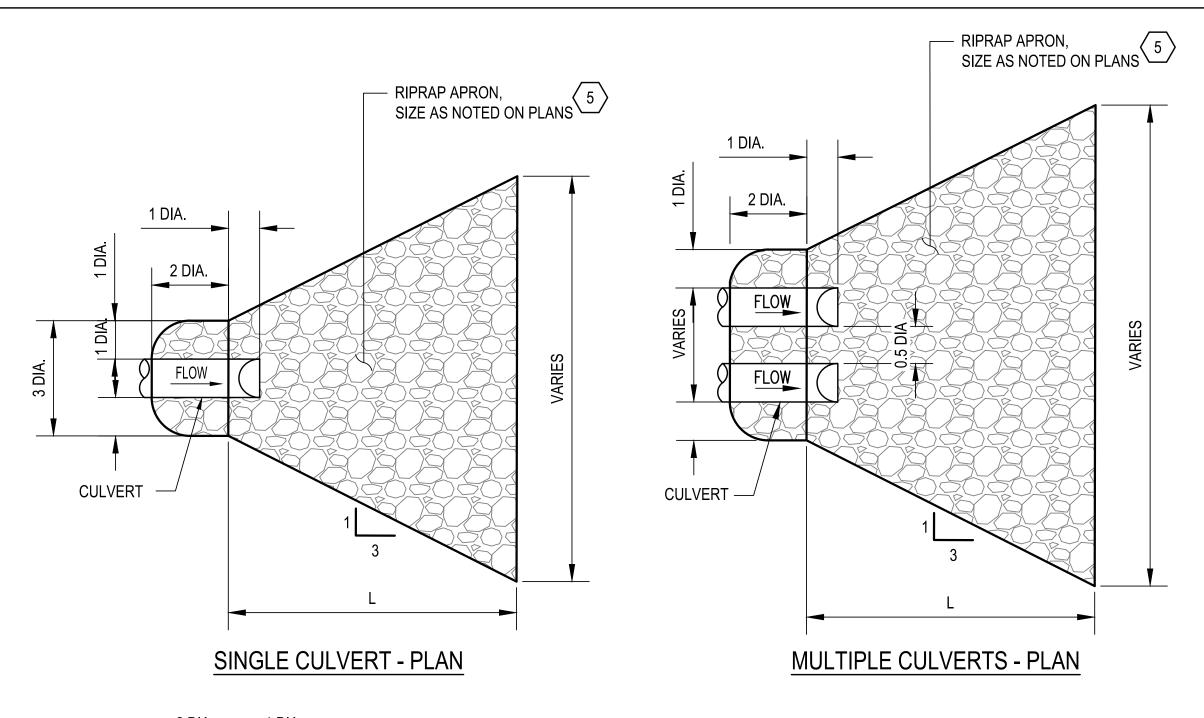
The Sacramento District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until **September 25, 2025**. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <a href="https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs">https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs</a> or to Ethan Schindler at <a href="https://ers.usace.army.mil">ethan.w.schindler@usace.army.mil</a>. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Attention: Ethan Schindler, 1325 J Street, Room 860, Sacramento, California 95814-2922. Please refer to the permit application number (SPK-2018-00673) in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

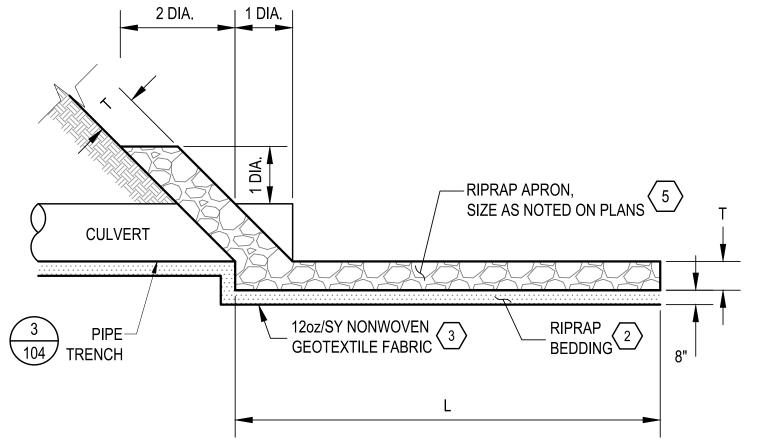








RIPRAP SIZING TABLE			
D50 (IN)	L (FT)	T (IN)	
6	4 x DIA	20	
10	5 x DIA	24	
14	6 x DIA	31	
20	7 x DIA	40	

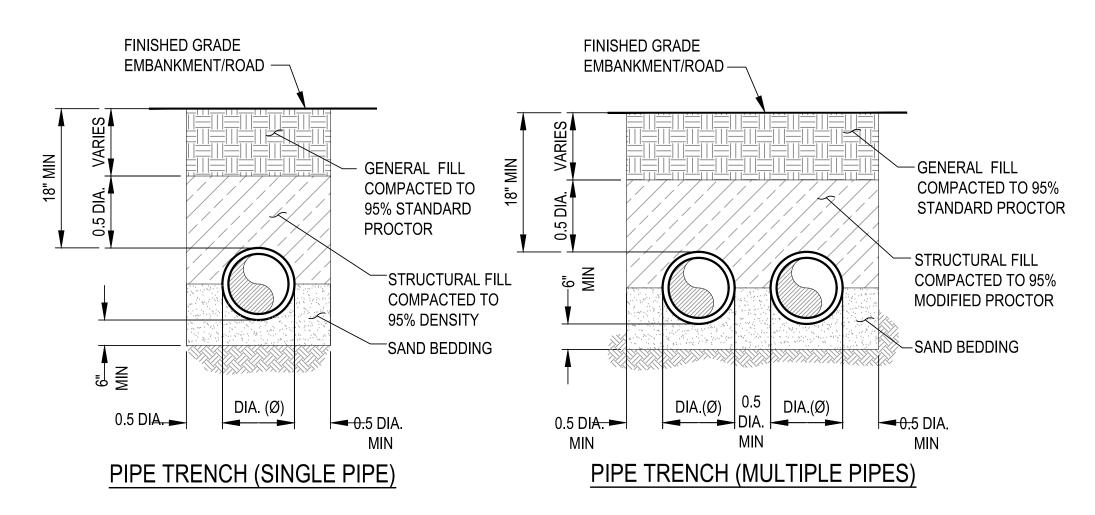


SINGLE OR MULTIPLE CULVERT - PROFILE

### CULVERT INLET/OUTLET KEY NOTES:

- ALL CULVERTS SHALL BE CORRUGATED METAL PIPE (CMP), SIZE AND LENGTH PER PLAN.
- GRANULAR BEDDING MATERIAL, TO BE COMPACTED TO 95% STANDARD PROCTOR.
- 12 OZ. NON-WOVEN GEOTEXTILE SHALL BE PLACED UNDER RIPRAP AT THE OUTLET OF THE CULVERT, TO PREVENT SCOUR.
- GENERAL FILL MATERIAL, IN EMBANKMENTS TO BE COMPACTED TO 95% STANDARD PROCTOR. GENERAL FILL MATERIAL, UNDER ROADWAYS TO BE COMPACTED TO 95% MODIFIED PROCTOR.
- RIPRAP SHALL BE HAND PLACED ROCK COBBLE ( D50 = 6 INCH MIN ), PLACEMENT IS TO BE DONE IN A MANNER TO ENSURE INTERLOCKING AND PREVENT VOIDS. REFER TO RIPRAP SIZING TABLE FOR DIMENSIONS. REFER TO PLANS FOR MEAN DIAMETER (D50) AND SQUARE FOOTAGE AT EACH LOCATION.

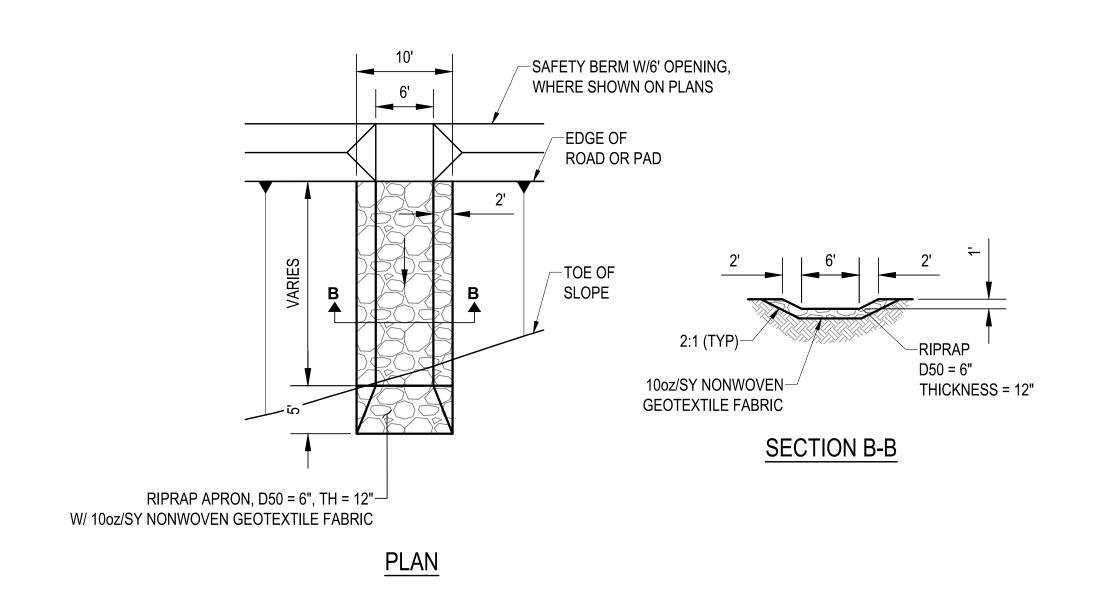
# CULVERT OUTLET RIPRAP DETAIL 2 SCALE: NTS



PIPE TRENCH DETAILS

SCALE: NTS

3
104



# RIPRAP SPILLWAY DETAIL SCALE: NTS



GSV Gold Standard

DO NOT SCALE 11x17 DRAWINGS

PRELIMINARY

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

REVISIONS
NO. DESCRIPTION
BY APPD DATE CLIENT NO. DESCRIPTION
BY APPD DATE CLIENT SCALE: AS NOTED DATE
DESIGNED BY MWO
JUN 22
DRAWN BY ARM
JUN 22
CHECKED BY MWO
JUN 22
DROUGH TAPPR. CLIENT APPR. -



SOUTH RAILROAD P	ROJECT FS
OFNEDAL	PROJECT NO. M3-PN 185074.602

11 MAY 23

GENERAL
CIVIL
NORTH ACCESS ROAD
SECTIONS AND DETAILS - SHT 2

PROJECT NO. M3-PN 1850
DWG NO.

000-CI-104
REV NO.
PROJECT NO. M3-PN 1850
DWG NO.

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