



Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**
Honolulu District

Public Notice No.
POH-2006-133

Date:
March 15, 2007

Reply to:
Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R)
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Respond by:
April 15, 2007

POH-2006-133

**APPLICATION OF DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT
FOR MATUU FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT AT AFUELO STREAM, MATUU,
TUTUILA, AMERICAN SAMOA**

- 1. APPLICANT:** Department of Public Works, American Samoa Government, Executive Office Building, 2nd Floor, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
- 2. AGENT:** None
- 3. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)
- 4. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The project site encompasses non-tidal portions of Afuelo Stream at Matuu Village, Tutuila, American Samoa (Sheet T-1).
- 5. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:**

The purpose of the project is to prevent future flood damages to homes and roadways bordering Afuelo Stream. To provide the desired protection, the applicant proposes to construct improvements to eight portions of the Afuelo Stream channel. The proposed improvements would involve excavation of the existing stream bed, construction of poured-in-place reinforced concrete flood walls, and lining of the excavated stream bed with armor rocks. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the project on June 27, 2006, and a final EA on July 19, 2006. As described below, the applicant proposes to utilize a layer of armor rock to line the channel rather than the gabion baskets proposed in the EA.

The planned improvements would follow the design shown in the attached drawings (Sheets C-1, C-2, and D-1). A total of approximately 1,350 CY of soil and rocks would be excavated from eight sites (reaches) of the Afuelo Stream bed, including 968 cubic yards (CY) for the armor rock lining and 759 CY for construction of the new flood walls. The total area of excavation would

be approximately 1,257 square yards (SY), including 968 SY for the armor rock lining and 572 SY for the new flood walls. If dewatering of the dredged material is needed, it would be accomplished so as to avoid direct return flow to the stream. The new reinforced concrete flood walls approximately 6 feet high and 10 inches thick would be poured in place at both sides of the excavated channel. A single layer of large rocks (1,000 to 1,700 pounds) rocks excavated from the stream or (plus additional rocks obtained as needed from an approved quarry) would be used to line the space between the new flood walls. Excavated materials would be used to backfill the flood walls, with unused material disposed of at an approved disposal site. The total area of fill in waters of the United States would be approximately 1,257 SY, including 968 SY for the armor rocks and 289 SY for the concrete flood walls. The estimated volume of fill would be approximately 1,350 CY, including 968 CY of armor rocks and 328 CY of reinforced concrete.

The applicant has considered other design alternatives, such as use of gabion baskets, but has determined that their use would take up too much land, considering the limited space at the project site, and would trap trash. The applicant has also determined that relocating homes away from the stream is not feasible because it would be too lengthy and costly.

6. IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IF AUTHORIZED:

The stream bed consists of soil and rock, and the estimated median stream flow during the period 1973-1990 was 0.3 cubic feet per second (American Samoa Watershed Protection Plan, Watershed 26, Matuu). Construction activities have the potential to cause a temporary increase in downstream turbidity and potential effects on the marine environment, but these potential impacts are expected to be minimized due to the applicant's planned scheduling of the work during dry weather and the applicant's requirement that the contractor implement a site-specific best management practices (BMPs) plan. The plan may include installation of turbidity barriers, silt fences, berms, or other measures as needed to control sediments (Sheet T-2). The applicant notes that for work that takes place in the stream, a silt fence is required at the (lower) end of construction. With implementation of appropriate BMPs, downstream movement of materials and their effects on the aquatic environment, including the marine environment, can be avoided or minimized. Stream organisms would be disrupted by construction activities, but the completed rock lining (in contrast to a smooth concrete lining) may provide new interstitial habitat for stream organisms. Project construction may cause temporary, localized increases in dust and noise.

The proposed project is expected to help reduce future soil erosion and downstream transport of sediments during flood events. It is intended to improve flood protection, and is not expected to have any significant long-term adverse impacts. The proposed project is designed to address the specific flood hazard conditions at Matuu Village and cumulative effects are not considered to be significant.

7. IMPACT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO), by letter to FEMA dated February 17, 2006, concurred with that agency's February 6, 2006 determination that the project (HMGP 1506-6: Department of Public Works (DPW) Matu'u Stream Flood Mitigation) would have "no effect" on historic properties. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the present project, which

incorporates an armor rock lining rather than the previously proposed gabion baskets, closely approximates that of the previously reviewed project and it appears that the revised undertaking would similarly have “no effect” on historic properties. This notice has been sent to the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO). Any additional comments ASHPO may have concerning archaeological or historic resources that may be lost or destroyed by work under the present project will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit application.

8. IMPACT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES:

No federally protected species is known to occur within the project site, which consists of non-tidal portions of Afuelo Stream. However, federally protected sea turtles are known to occur in the marine waters surrounding American Samoa. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in its letter to FEMA dated May 9, 2006, stated that the endangered leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), endangered hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and threatened green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) may occur in the project area. In their letter, the USFWS letter agreed with FEMA that there is no turtle nesting habitat near the outlet of the stream and, although the proposed project (as proposed, with the gabion basket design) may cause minimal temporary disturbance to foraging opportunities for sea turtles due to erosion and sedimentation from Afuelo Stream, this potential effect would only last during construction activities. The USFWS also noted that the project would apply best management practices (BMPs) such as installing silt fences, to minimize any impacts. Because there is no turtle nesting habitat near the outlet of the stream and the project may only cause minimal temporary disturbance to foraging opportunities, the USFWS concurred with FEMA’s determination that the project (with gabion basket design) is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed species under the ESA.

The currently proposed project, which incorporates an armor-rock lining in lieu of the gabion baskets, would potentially have similar downstream sedimentation effects during construction and would incorporate similar BMPs to minimize these effects. By controlling future erosion of the stream bed and banks, the completed project may reduce the long-term sedimentation of the marine environment. Based on the location and nature of the proposed work, the lack of turtle nesting habitat near the outlet of the stream, and the potential for only minimal disturbance to sea turtle foraging opportunities, it appears the project “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” sea turtles or other species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This notice has been sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Any comments they have on endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat, will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

9. IMPACT ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH):

The project site, consisting of eight non-tidal reaches of Afuelo Stream, does not include any designated EFH. Although the biological resources of Afuelo Stream have not been documented, it may be inhabited by at least some of the same diadromous species of fishes, mollusks, and crustaceans which have been found in other Tutuila streams, as reported in the American Samoa Stream Inventory (USACE, July 1981). Although the project reaches of the

stream would be disrupted during construction, the completed new rock lining would be ungrouted and is expected to be compatible with the long-term need to maintain the normal movement (migration) requirements of diadromous species, as well as providing rock surfaces upon which algae and other food organisms may settle.

Although the project site itself does not include any designated EFH, the marine environment lying seaward of the stream mouth includes coral reef EFH, consisting of typical fringing reef components which contribute to maintenance of fisheries. The magnitude of potential impacts of the proposed project on EFH are thus dependent on the degree of downstream movement of sediments or other materials disturbed during project construction. The applicant would require the contractor to incorporate best management practices (BMPs) (see section 6 above) to minimize effects of the work. With the incorporation of suitable BMPs to control downstream effects of the construction, the proposed project is not expected to adversely affect any Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) identified pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Management Act.

10. OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS:

Before a DA permit can be issued, the applicant must first obtain an American Samoa Coastal Management Program federal consistency certification issued by the Department of Commerce and a Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency.

11. EVALUATION FACTORS:

The decision whether to issue the requested permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, 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 benefit, 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 the cumulative effects thereof: among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic values, 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.

12. COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES:

Interested parties may submit in writing any comments that they have on the proposed permit. Comments should be forwarded so as to reach this District no later than the response date indicated on the first page of this notice. Mailed comments should cite this notice and should be sent to: Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Galloway); U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu; Building 230; Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440. Alternatively, comments may be transmitted via e-mail to CEPOH-EC-R@usace.army.mil or faxed to (808) 438-4060. If needed, further information may be obtained from Peter Galloway via telephone at (808) 438-8416. This notice is also available at the Honolulu District web site (www.poh.usace.army.mil).

13. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the proposed permit. Requests for public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Attachments:

Sheet T-1. Location map

Sheets C-1, C-2. Layout plan (proposed project)

Sheet D-1. Typical section

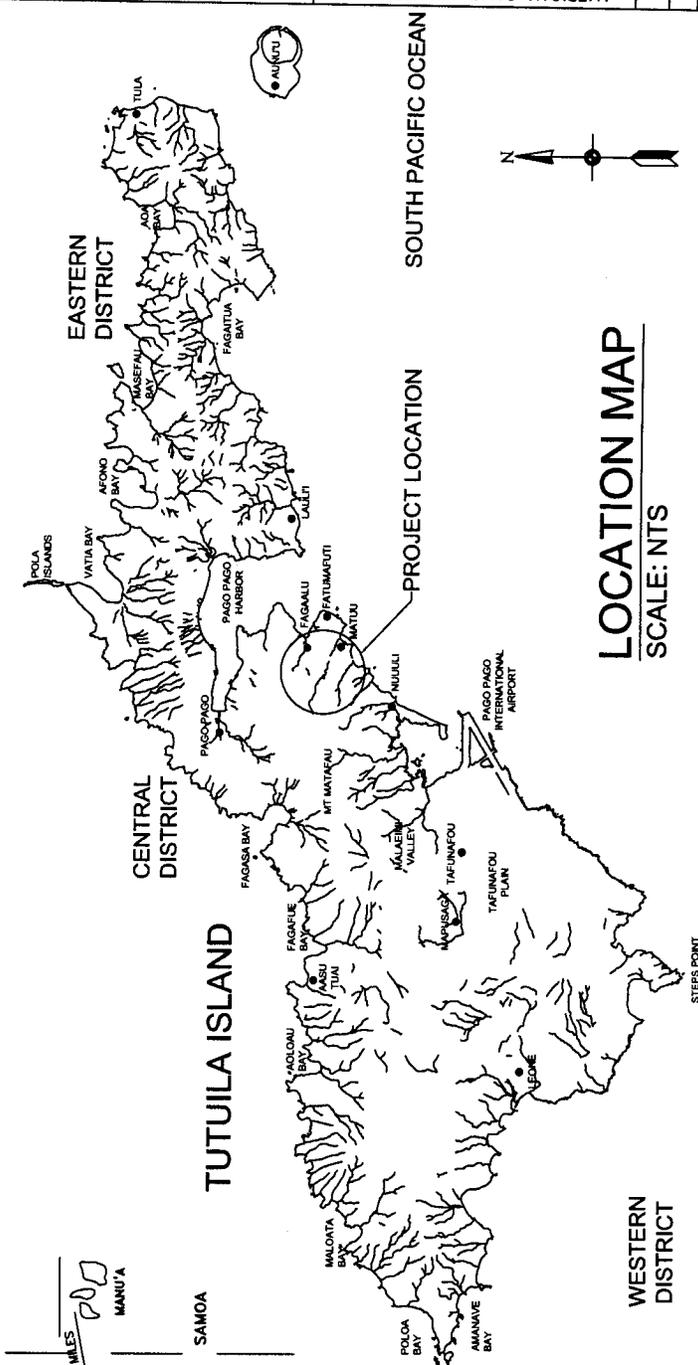
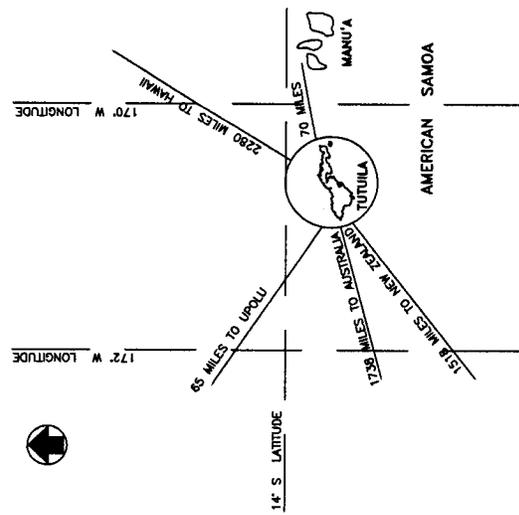
Sheet T-2. Suggested best management practices

MATUU STREAM FLOOD MANAGEMENT

MATUU

TUTUILA, AMERICAN SAMOA

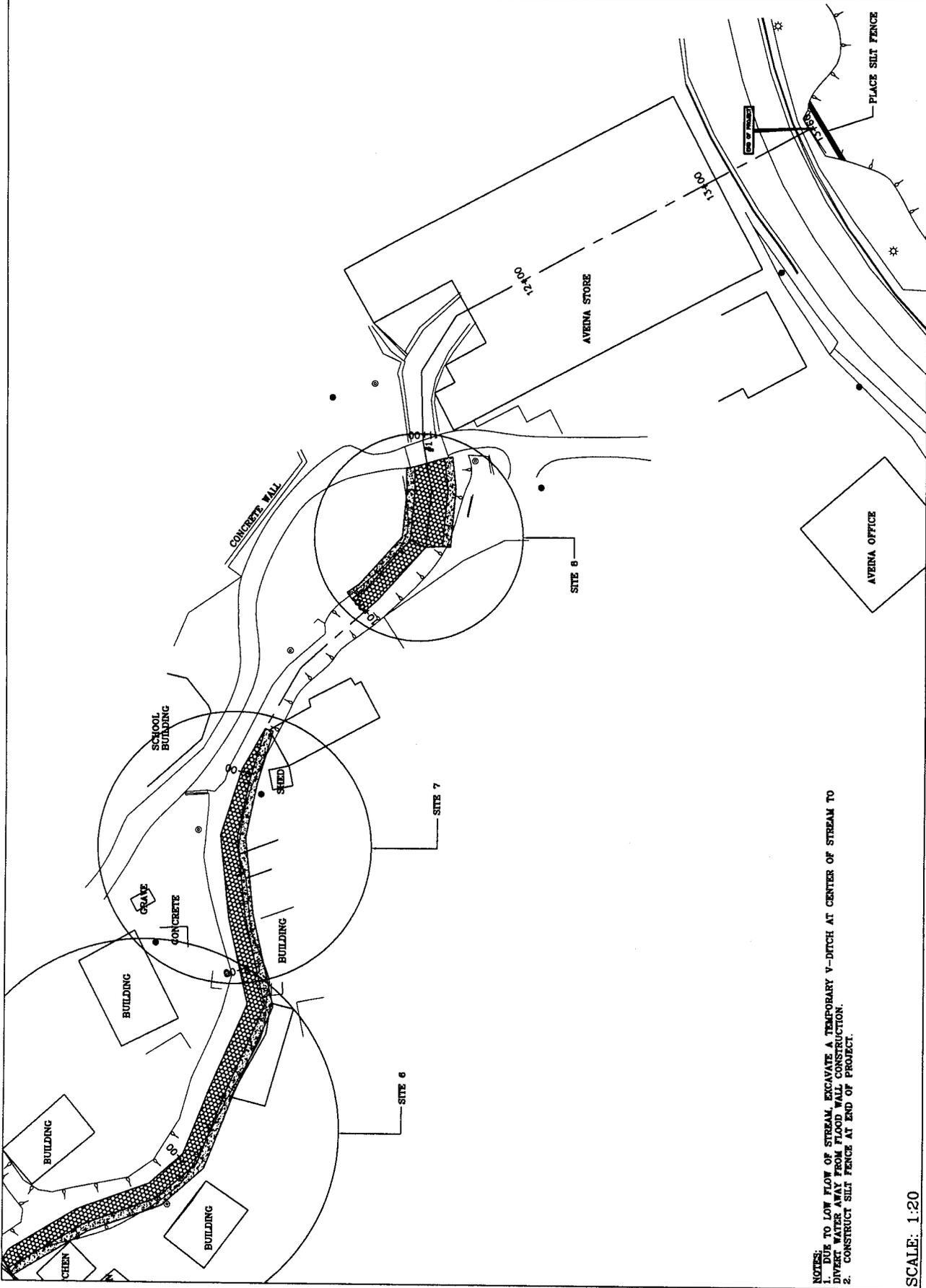
FEMA FUNDED PROJECT



LOCATION MAP
SCALE: NTS

AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION		PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA	
DRAWING NO.		PROJECT NO.		DATE		SHEET NO.	
1		1		1		1	
TITLE SHEET		MATUU STREAM FLOOD MANAGEMENT					
NO.		REVISIONS					
DATE		DRAWN BY: CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION		CHECKED BY: FHWA		DIRECTOR: TOWARD PHOENIX TRAIL	
COORDINATION APPROVALS							

AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION		PAO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA	
DRAWING NO.		PROJECT NO.		DATE		SHEET NO.	
C-2		C-2		C-2		C-2	
SHEET _ OF _		SHEET _ OF _		SHEET _ OF _		SHEET _ OF _	
NO.		REVISIONS		DATE		DRAWN BY: CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION	
CHECKED BY: PWA		DESIGNED BY: CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION		COORDINATION APPROVALS		DIRECTOR: Tereaki Fuaofa Tui	
PROJECT ENGINEER:		DEPUTY DIR. CIVIL HIGHWAY DIV.: Frederick Vaga		CONTRACTOR: Tereaki Fuaofa Tui		STA. 7+00.00 - 13+80.00	
PLAN		MATUS STREAM		FLOOD MANAGEMENT		PLAN	

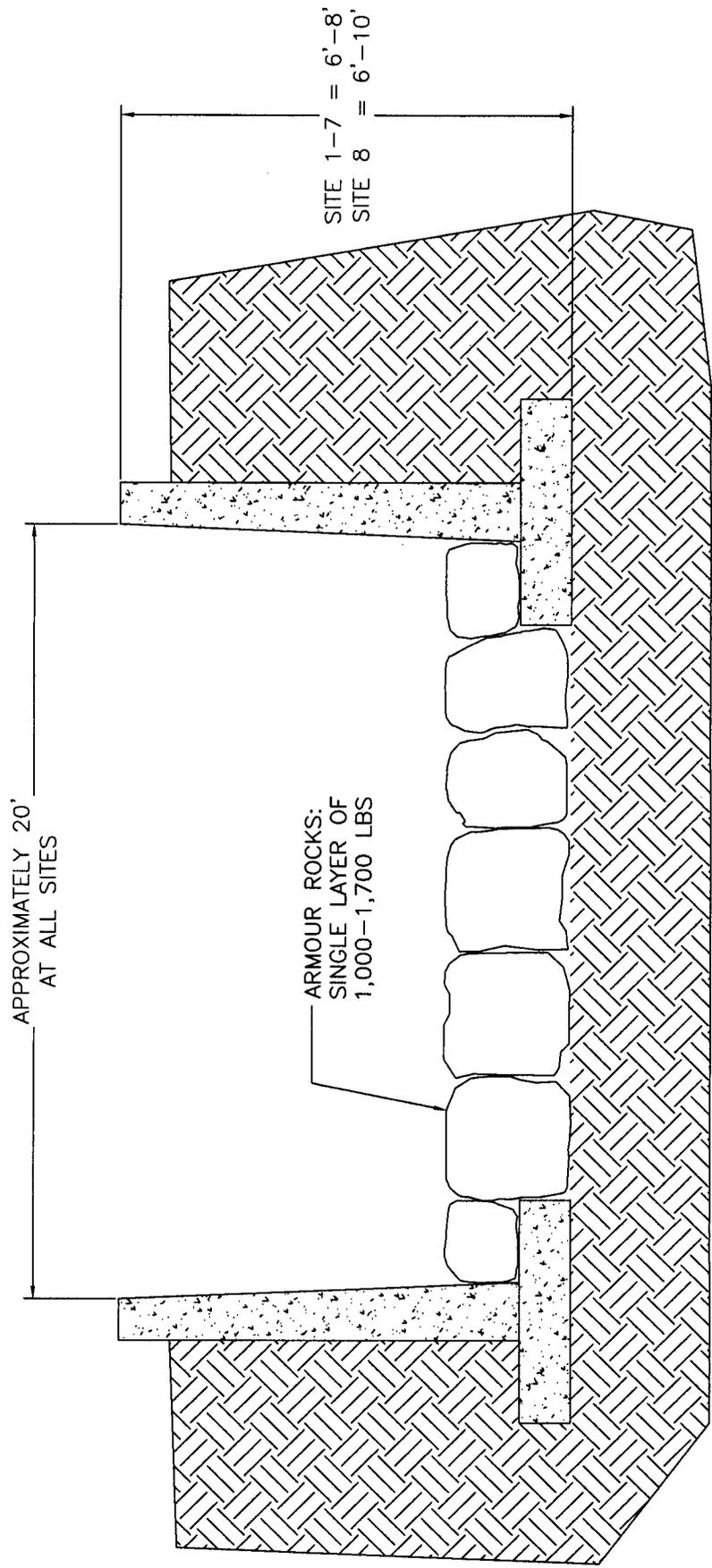


NOTES:
 1. DUE TO LOW FLOW OF STREAM, EXCAVATE A TEMPORARY V-DITCH AT CENTER OF STREAM TO DIVERT WATER AWAY FROM FLOOD WALL CONSTRUCTION.
 2. CONSTRUCT SILT FENCE AT END OF PROJECT.

SCALE: 1:20

AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		PAO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA	
CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION		PROJECT NO.		DATE	
DRAWING NO.		PROJECT NO.		DATE	
NO.		REVISIONS		DATE	
DRAWN BY: CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION		CHECKED BY: CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION		PROJECT ENGINEER	
COORDINATION APPROVALS		DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION DIVISION		DEPT. SEC. CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION	
DATE		DRAWN BY: CIVIL HIGHWAY DIVISION		PROJECT ENGINEER	
NO.		REVISIONS		DATE	

MATUO STREAM
FLOOD MANAGEMENT
TYPICAL SECTION
FLOOD WALL & ARMOUR ROCK



SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES NOTES:

1. WEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (WMP) PRESENTED ON THIS SHEET ARE FOR SUGGESTION ONLY. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL DEVELOP A SITE-SPECIFIC BMP PLAN FOR THE PROJECT AND OBTAIN ITS APPROVAL BY BOTH THE CONTRACTING OFFICER AND AS-LOW PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN THE BMP PLAN IN COMPLIANCE WITH SPEC SECTIONS 121, 123, 114.30 AND 01040.
2. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL OBTAIN A LAND USE PERMIT FROM THE PMS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE DESIGNATED WMP AREA. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN THE WMP AREA LOCATED OUTSIDE THE PROJECT BOUNDARY.
3. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL INSTALL TURBIDITY BARRIERS, SILT FENCES, BERMING, SANDBAGS, DRAIN INLET PROTECTION, EACH WITH FILTERS, CONSTRUCTION WASTES/DEBRIS AND THE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS SHALL BE INSTALLED PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR SEDIMENT BARRIERS CONTROL. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN THESE EROSION CONTROL MEASURES AS REQUIRED TO ENSURE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN DISTANCES AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE EFFECTIVENESS OF BARRIERS.
5. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE SILT FENCE AND CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE FOR EACH ACCESS/EXPRESS. THE CONSTRUCTION INGRESS AND EXPRESS SHALL HAVE AN 8" THICK CRUSHED ROCK (2) LAYER AND THE WINDING AS SHOWN IN DETAIL 1 ON THIS SHEET. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN THE WINDING AS SHOWN IN DETAIL 1 ON THIS SHEET. IN DETAIL 1, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE TO OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY APPROVALS, INCLUDING THAT FOR RELOCATION OF THE CRUSHED ROCK AREA AS REQUIRED.
6. MEASURES TO CONTROL EROSION AND OTHER POLLUTANTS SHALL BE IN PLACE BEFORE ANY EARTHWORK IS INITIATED.
7. SLOPE AND EXPOSED AREAS SHALL BE WATERED, MULCHED, SEEDS AS PLANTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT EROSION. EROSION CONTROL MEASURES SHALL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL ALL BACKFILLING AND FINAL GRADING HAS BEEN COMPLETED. BACKFILLING SHALL BE CONTINUED AND ANY AREA WITHIN WHICH WORK HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED OR DELAYED SHALL BE REPAIRED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE END OF THE WORK PERIOD. REPAIRS TO EROSION CONTROL MEASURES SHALL BE MAINTAINED UNDER THIS ITEM (OTHER THAN THAT SPECIFIED FOR LANDSCAPING) SHALL NOT BE PAID FOR DIRECTLY, BUT SHALL BE CONSIDERED INCIDENTAL TO AND INCLUDED IN THE PRICE BID FOR MASS GRADING.
8. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL NOT BACKFILL MORE THAN TEN (10) ACRES AT ONE TIME.
9. AT THE END OF EARTHWORK OPERATIONS, EXISTING OR NEW DRAIN STRUCTURES SHALL BE INSTALLED AND THE DRAIN STRUCTURES SHALL BE REMOVED, FLUSHING INTO THE CDM AND DRAIN ARE PREPARED.
10. TURBIDITY BARRIERS SHALL NOT BE REMOVED UNTIL ALL PERMANENT EROSION CONTROLS ARE IN PLACE AND ESTABLISHED.
11. ANY BACKFILLED AREA WHICH WILL BE LEFT BARE FOR THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS OR MORE SHALL BE MULCHED.
12. WASHING DOWN OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES AND FROM CONCRETE TRUCK DROUGS AT SITE IS PROHIBITED. WASHWATER FROM WASHING SHALL NOT BE DISCHARGED INTO DRAINAGE STRUCTURES FOR WATER COURSE.
13. SHOULD THE CONTRACTOR CHOOSE TO HAVE AN ON-SITE MAINTENANCE/STORAGE/STOCKPILE AREA, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN PROPER CONTROLS TO PREVENT TOXIC MATERIALS FROM BEING ACCUMULATED IN THE DESIGNATED AREA TO PREVENT STORMWATER CARRYING CONTAMINANTS INTO DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND GOVERNMENT WATERS. THE WASHWATER ACCUMULATED WITHIN THE DESIGNATED AREA SHALL BE NATURALLY EMPLOYED OR INFILTRATED INTO THE GROUND.
14. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE REQUIRED INFORMATION TO THE CONTRACTING OFFICER AND AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT (ASG) FOR DISBURSMENT OF STORMWATER ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION.
15. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL USE THE APPROPRIATE BMPs, AS REQUIRED, SHOWN ON THIS SHEET FOR HIS WORK TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACTING OFFICER AND AS-LOW.

