Public Notice

Public Notice No. 200300500	Date: **October 31, 2003**
Reply to: Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Galloway) U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu Building 230 Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440	Respond by: **November 30, 2003**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District

200300500

APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT FOR FAGAALU STREAM CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS AND REALIGNMENT AT LBJ TROPICAL MEDICAL CENTER, FAGAALU, AMERICAN SAMOA

1. APPLICANT: LBJ Tropical Medical Center, P.O Box LBJ, 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 proposed activity will involve an approximately 850-foot, non-tidal reach of Fagaalu Stream, which traverses the property of the LBJ Tropical Medical Center at Fagaalu, Tutuila, American Samoa (Figures 1, 2).

5. PROJECT PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the proposed activity is to reinforce the Fagaalu Stream bed and banks against erosion, provide additional usable land area for the medical center, and provide improved access for neighboring residents to their properties via hospital service roads. In addition to providing erosion protection throughout the project reach, the proposed activity would include realignment of the lower (downstream) portion of the project reach in order to maximize the use of the limited land available to the hospital. The proposed project is part of an overall improvement and upgrading of the LBJ Medical Center, the only hospital on the island, in order to meet the requirements of current medical standards and to respond to the expanding human population.

Portions of the project requiring DA authorization would be constructed in stages, as described below, and would follow the design sections shown in Figures 6 thru 8. Station locations noted in the description are taken from project plans and indicate distance from the mouth of Fagaalu

Stream, as shown in Figure 4 (for example, Station 6+70 refers to a location 670 feet from the mouth of the stream).

At the start of the project, a rock check dam would be constructed at Station 6+70, as shown in Figures 3 and 5, to create a stilling basin that would extend back to approximately Station 8+20.

Stage 1 of project construction would consist of modifications to the existing channel in the upstream portion of the project reach (Stations 11+80 to 16+00), which includes approximately 20 feet of a tributary stream at its confluence with Fagaalu Stream near Station 15+30. The south bank and full width of the stream bed would be excavated, graded, shaped and compacted, followed by the placement of geotextile filter fabric and new bedding rock. Stream flow would be temporarily directed along the north side of the channel. New rock-filled gabion mattresses would be placed along the south side of the channel, and installation of filling of the box gabions for the south embankment wall would be completed, working in an upstream direction. Upon completion of the south side of the channel, the stream will be diverted to it and work on the north side of the channel would be carried out. Two layers of 24-inch stone riprap would then be placed at the interface between the existing watercourse and the newly upgraded streambed. A 3-foot-deep concrete cut-off wall would be constructed at the termination of the new gabion mattresses. Stage 1 would also include concurrent construction of a new, flat-slab concrete bridge at Station 13+85, which would not involve any discharge of fill material into the stream.

State 2 of the project involves the realignment of the existing stream channel between Stations 8+30 and 11+80. The planned new channel would initially be excavated out of uplands between Stations 8+50 and 11+60, leaving the existing stream embankments intact at both ends of the work area to minimize flooding of the excavation and allowing the stream to follow its existing alignment. The full width of the newly excavated channel would be graded, shaped and compacted, followed by placement of geotextile filter fabric and new bedding rock. New rock-filled gabion mattresses would then be placed on the bedding and the new gabion embankment walls would be constructed. Upon completion of the work between Stations 8+50 and 11+60, the downstream barrier embankment would be removed so work can proceed to Station 8+30. The upstream barrier embankment would then be removed and work would proceed upstream to Station 11+80 as described above for Stage 1. Material excavated during Stage 2 (estimated to be about 2,758 cubic yards) would be stockpiled at an upland site and approximately 2,158 cubic yards of this material would be used to fill in the original stream channel at the end of this stage of the work (after flow is established in the new channel). Approximately 0.15 acre of the existing stream would be filled for the realignment. Stage 2 would also include concurrent construction of a new, flat-slab concrete bridge at Station 11+50, which would not involve any discharge of fill into the stream.

Stage 3 of the project would involve work at the lower end of the project reach. The temporary rock check dam located at Station 6+70 would be removed to allow work to proceed in this area. Temporary cotton or coconut fiber bales would be set up downstream to restrict the movement of sediment and any accidentally spilled petroleum products from the work site. Between Stations 7+65 and 8+30, Stage 3 would include excavation, shaping and compaction of subgrade; placement of geotextile and bedding; and construction of gabion mattresses. New gabion embankment walls would be constructed between Stations 7+80 and 8+30. An existing concrete bridge at Station 7+72 would remain. Two layers of 24-inch diameter riprap would be placed on shaped and compacted subgrade and geotextile between Stations 7+40 and &+65. An existing

rock outcrop would be removed at Station 6+70 and the embankment shaped and faced with riprap. A 3-foot deep concrete cut-off wall would be constructed at the beginning of the new gabion mattresses (at a point coinciding with the downstream edge of the existing bridge abutment).

Overall, the project would involve the discharge of approximately 7,032 cubic yards (CY) of fill material, consisting of excavated material (3,130 CY), bedding rock (851 CY), rock-filled gabions (2,895 CY), riprap (80 CY), and concrete (76 CY), plus approximately 4,100 square yards of geotextile filter fabric. The source of the riprap stones has not yet been specified.

6. IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IF AUTHORIZED:

Construction activities have the potential to cause a temporary increase in turbidity in Fagaalu Stream which could be transported downstream; this potential impact may be avoided or minimized by including suitable measures in the project to mitigate effects on the aquatic environment. The applicant's planned construction of a rock check dam to create a stilling basin at the lower end of the project reach during Stage 1 and Stage 2 construction activities, and the planned setting up of cotton or coconut fiber bales downstream during Stage 3 activities, are two such measures. The biological community of the project reach would be temporarily disrupted by construction activities but is expected to re-establish itself following project completion. The project area does not include any special aquatic sites. In addition to potential effects on the aquatic environment, construction activities may generate temporary, localized increases in dust and noise.

The proposed project is not expected to have any significant long-term adverse impacts. Although the project would involve a fair amount of excavation and fill activities, the total length of the stream would not be significantly changed. There would be no net loss of waters of the United States. Due to the unique nature of the project, cumulative effects are not considered to be significant.

7. IMPACT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office has concurred (via letter dated August 11, 2003) with a determination by the Department of the Interior that the LBJ Tropical Medical Center is not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and with the DOI determination that there are no historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect for the proposed undertaking. In the event that discovery of potential historic properties occurs during project execution, the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office will be immediately notified; this is a general condition that would be included in the Department of Army permit.

8. IMPACT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Fagaalu Stream is not known to harbor any Federally protected species. The project will include a check dam to minimize downstream transport of sediments or other potential effects of construction activities on marine waters. Based on the location and nature of the proposed work, the project is not likely to adversely affect the green or hawksbill turtles or any other species which is candidate, proposed or 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:

The project is not expected to adversely affect any Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) identified pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Management Act (MSFCMA). This notice has been sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to coordination requirements of the MSFCMA. Any conservation recommendations they make concerning EFH will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

10. OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS:

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency issued a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the project on September 6, 2003. The American Samoa Department of Commerce issued a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program consistency certification for the project on July 28, 2003.

11. EVALUATION FACTORS:

The decision whether to issue a 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:

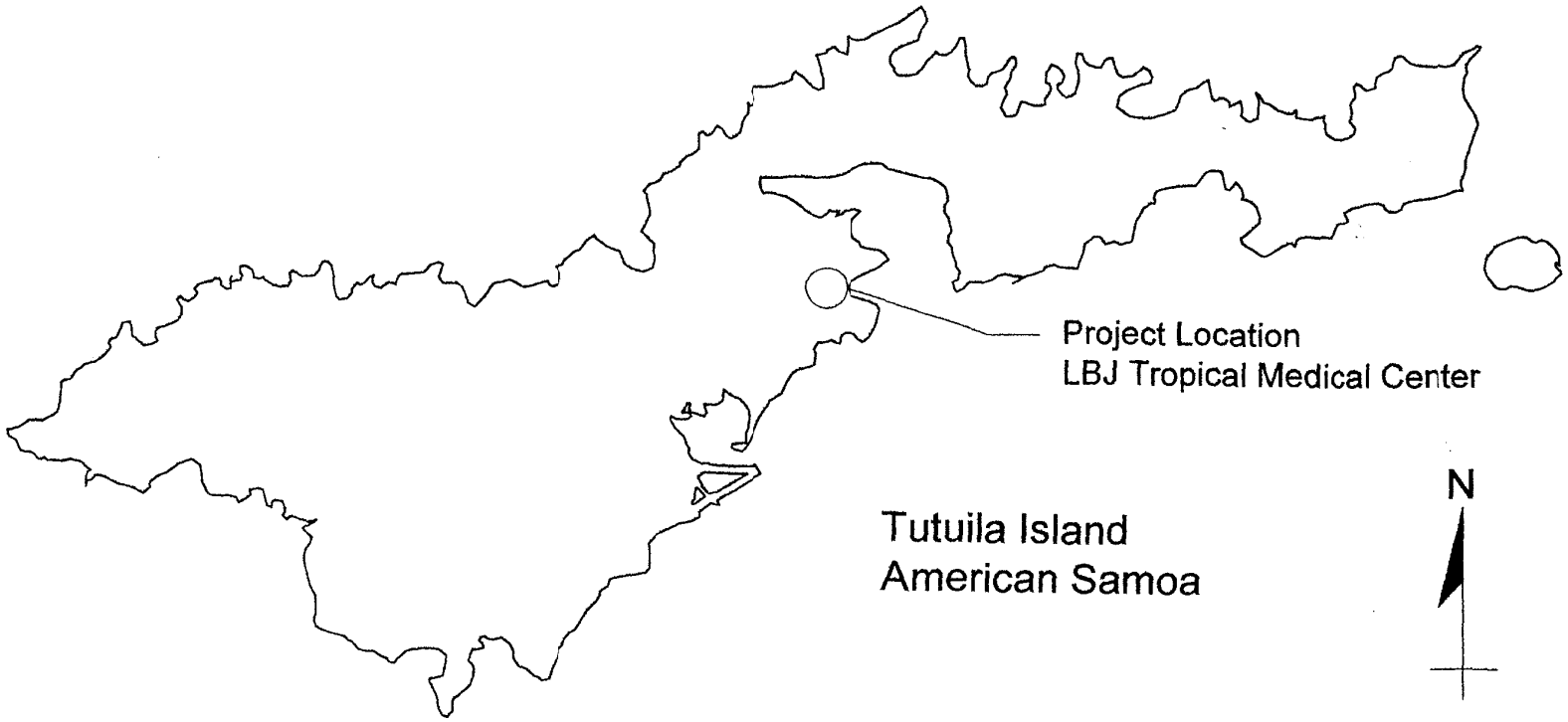
Interested parties may submit in writing any comments that they have on the proposed permit. Comments should be forwarded so as to reach this District no later than the response date indicated on the first page of this notice. Mailed comments should cite this notice and should be sent to: Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Galloway); U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu; Building 230; Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440. Alternatively, comments may be faxed to the following number: (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 15 days from the date of 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:

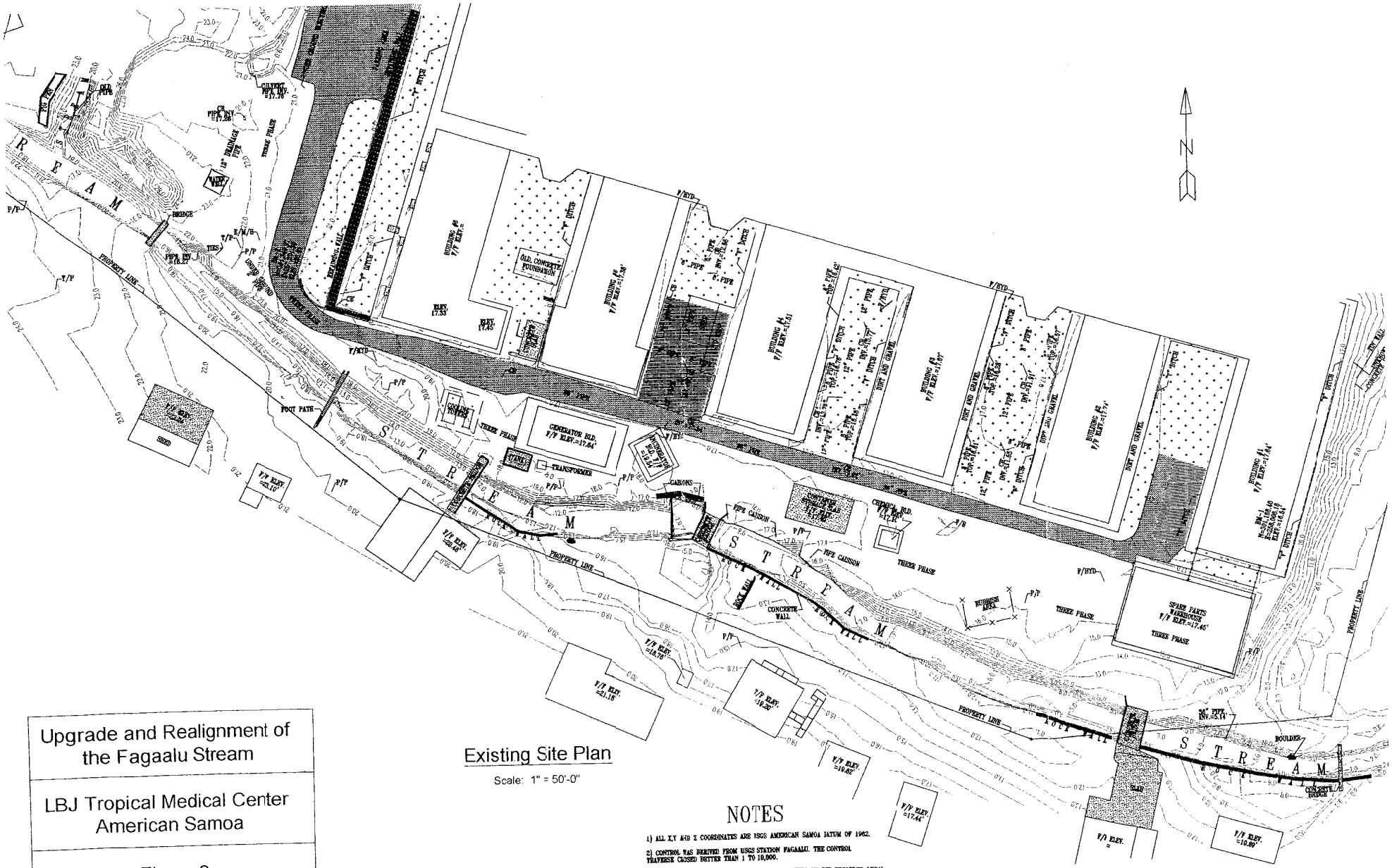
Figure 1. Location map
Figure 2. Existing site plan
Figure 3. Proposed site plan
Figure 4. Stream profile
Figure 5. Rock check dam detail
Figure 6. Proposed upgraded stream sections
Figure 7. Tributary stream sections
Figure 8. Streambed long section and elevation



Location Map

LBJ Tropical Medical Center
American Samoa

Figure 1



Upgrade and Realignment of the Fagaalu Stream

LBJ Tropical Medical Center
American Samoa

Figure 2

Existing Site Plan

Scale: 1" = 50'-0"

NOTES

1) ALL X,Y AND Z COORDINATES ARE USGS AMERICAN SAMOA DATUM OF 1962.

2) CONTROL WAS DERIVED FROM USGS STATION FAGAALU. THE CONTROL TRAVERSE CLOSED BETTER THAN 1 TO 10,000.

3) THE PROPERTY LINES SHOWN ARE THE ONES GIVEN ON THE RECORDED LEGAL DESCRIPTION. THEY HAVE BEEN ROTATED SLIGHTLY AND TRANSLATED TO FIT THREE PINS WE FOUND IN THE FIELD.

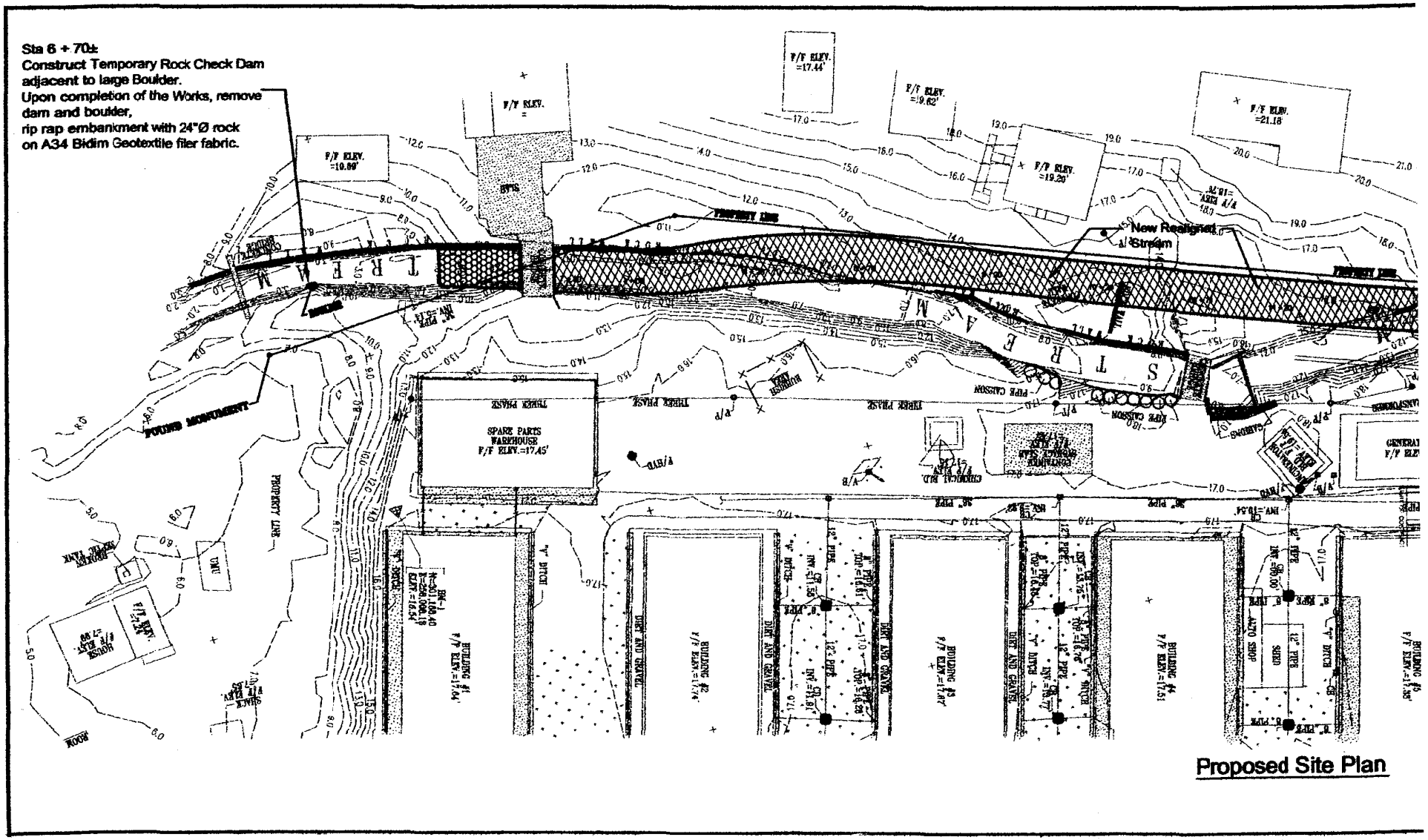

Sta 6 + 70±
Construct Temporary Rock Check Dam adjacent to large Boulder.
Upon completion of the Works, remove dam and boulder,
rip rap embankment with 24"Ø rock on A34 Bidim Geotextile filer fabric.
New Realigned Stream
SPARE PARTS WAREHOUSE F/F ELEV.=17.45'
Proposed Site Plan

Figure 3

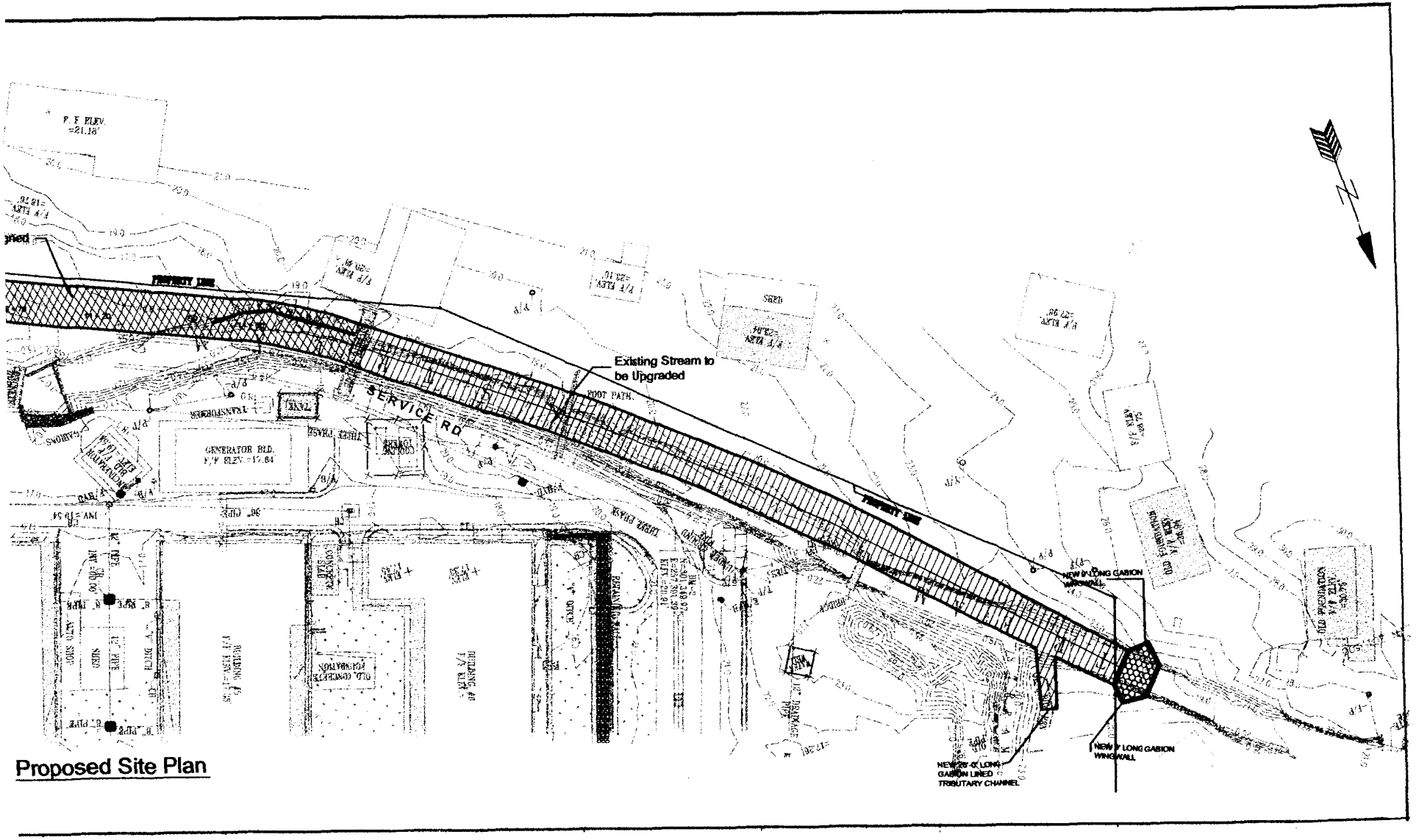
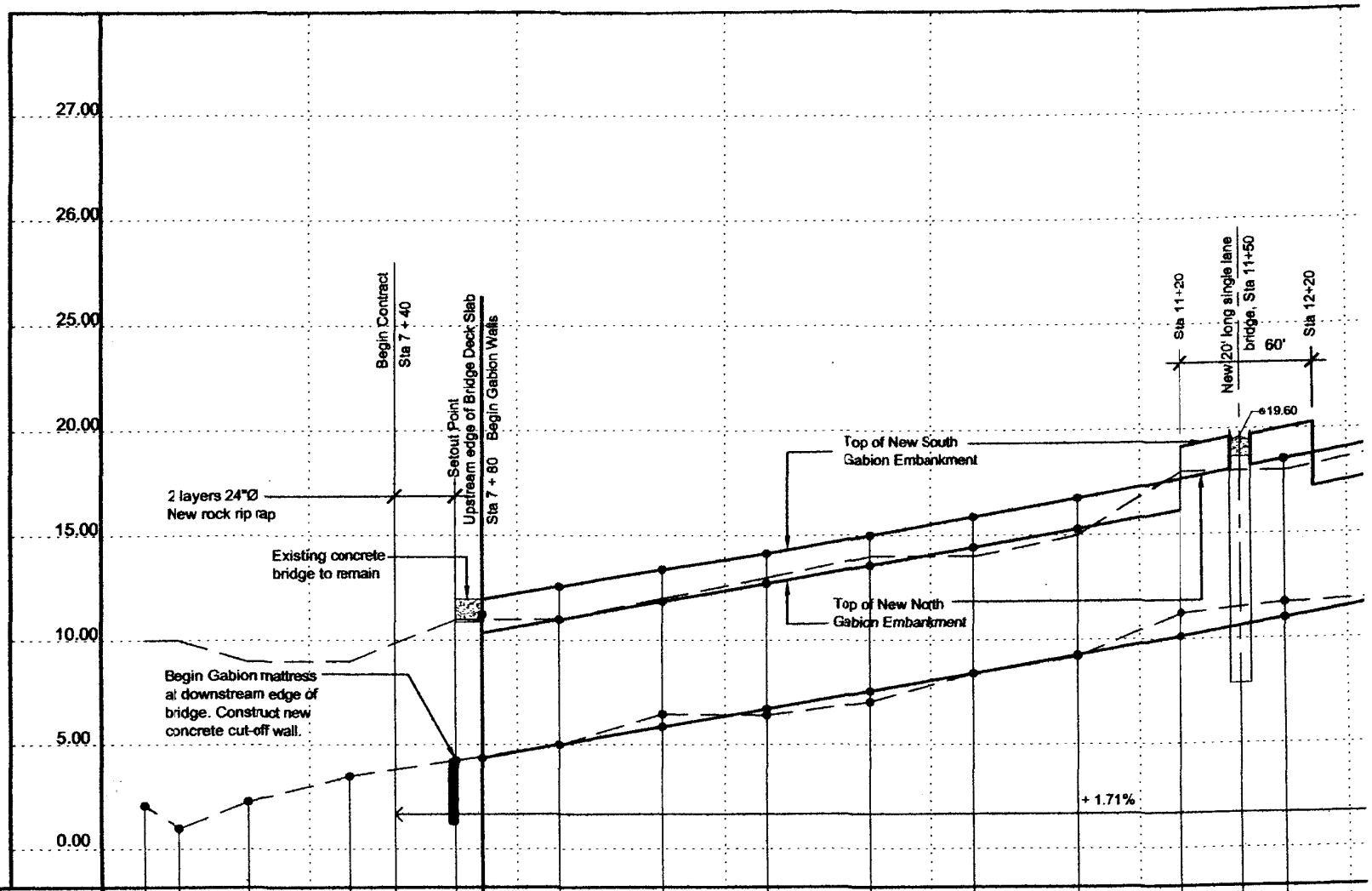


Figure 3 (Continued)

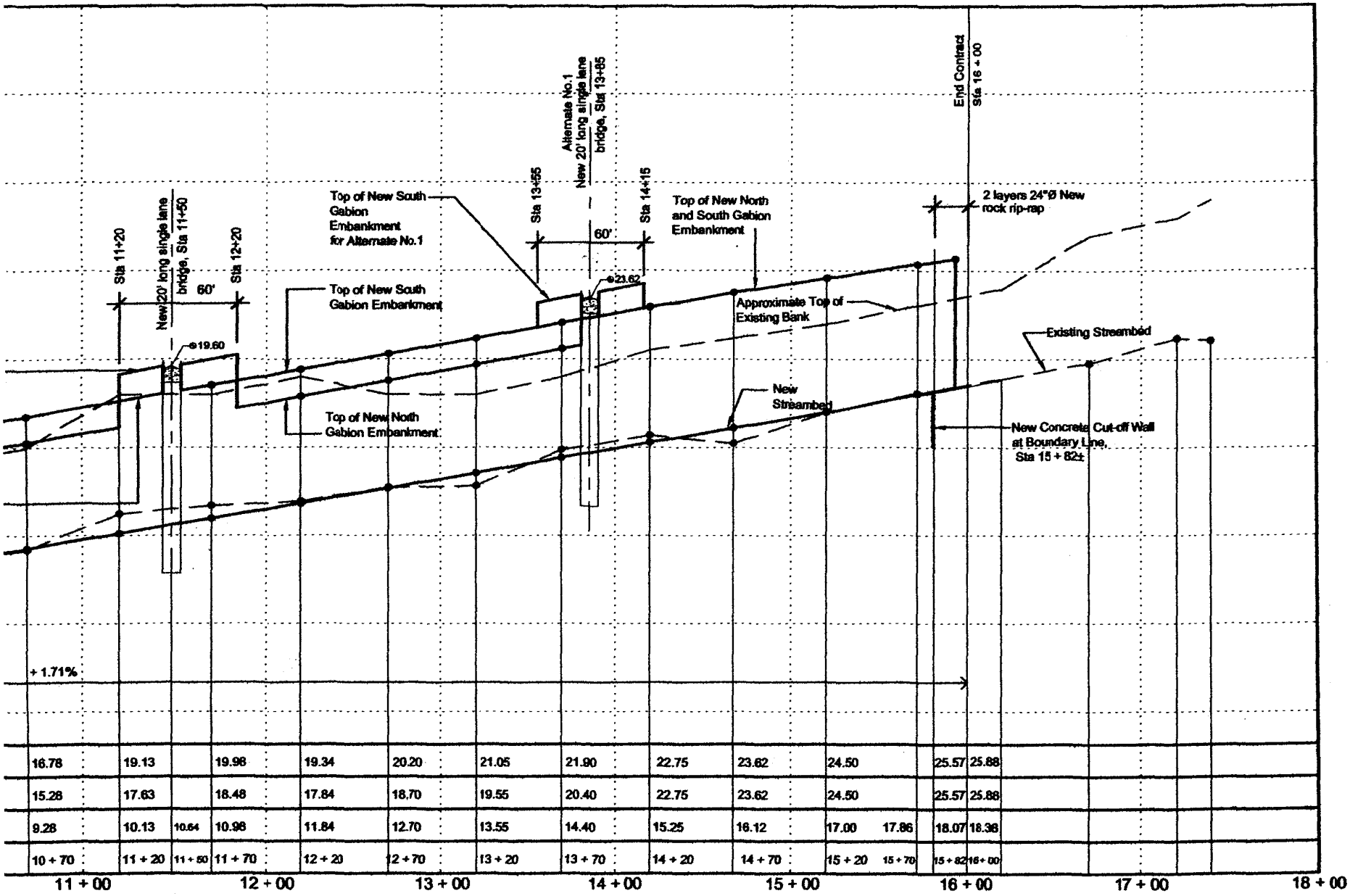


Top of New South Gabion Embankment								11.62	12.50	13.36	14.21	15.06	15.92	16.78	19.13		19.98
Top of New North Gabion Embankment								10.32	11.00	11.86	12.71	13.56	14.42	15.28	17.63		18.48
New Stream Level							3.64	4.32	5.00	5.86	6.71	7.56	8.42	9.28	10.13	10.54	10.98
Stations		6+20	6 + 37	6 + 70		7 + 20	7+40	7+80	8 + 20	8 + 70	9 + 20	9 + 70	10 + 20	10 + 70	11 + 20	11+50	11 + 70

6 + 00 7 + 00 8 + 00 9 + 00 10 + 00 11 + 00 12 +

Figure 4

Stream Profile



16.78	19.13		19.98	19.34	20.20	21.05	21.90	22.75	23.62	24.50		25.57	25.88		
15.28	17.63		18.48	17.84	18.70	19.55	20.40	22.75	23.62	24.50		25.57	25.88		
9.28	10.13	10.64	10.98	11.84	12.70	13.55	14.40	15.25	16.12	17.00	17.86	18.07	18.38		
10 + 70	11 + 20	11 + 50	11 + 70	12 + 20	12 + 70	13 + 20	13 + 70	14 + 20	14 + 70	15 + 20	15 + 70	15 + 82	16 + 00		

Stream Profile

Note :
River Station 0 + 00 located at mouth of Fagaalu Stream

Figure 4 (Continued)

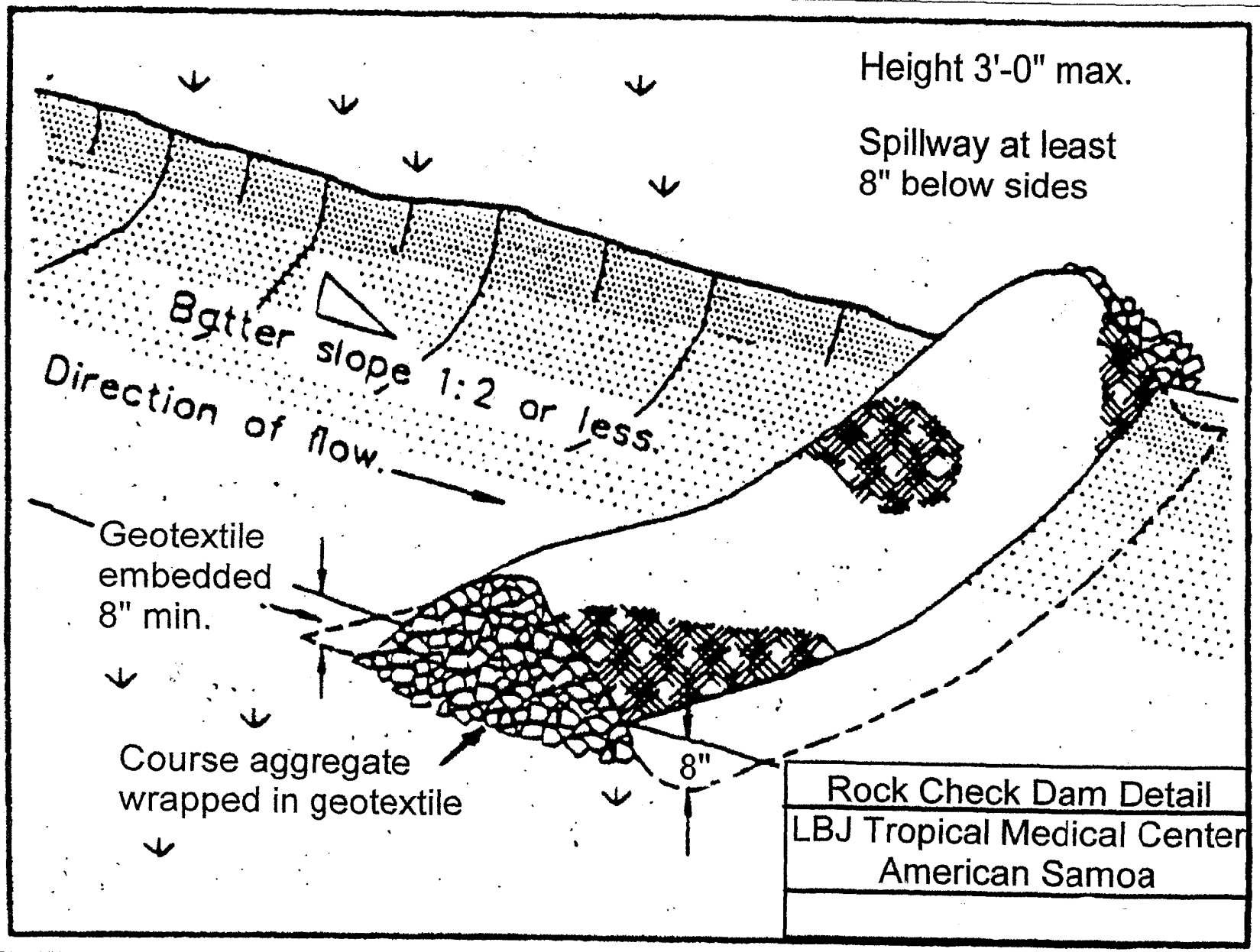
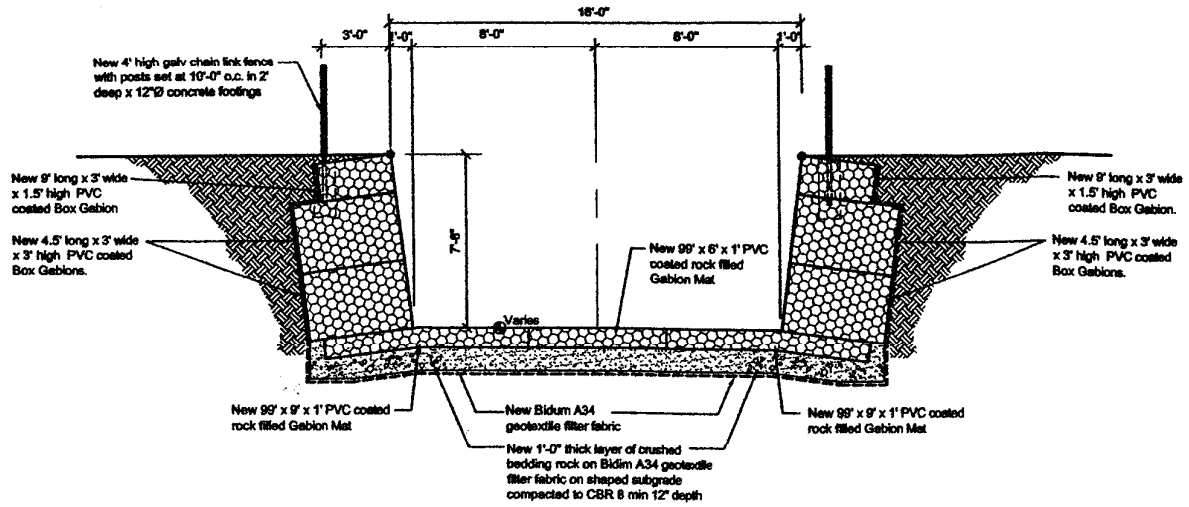
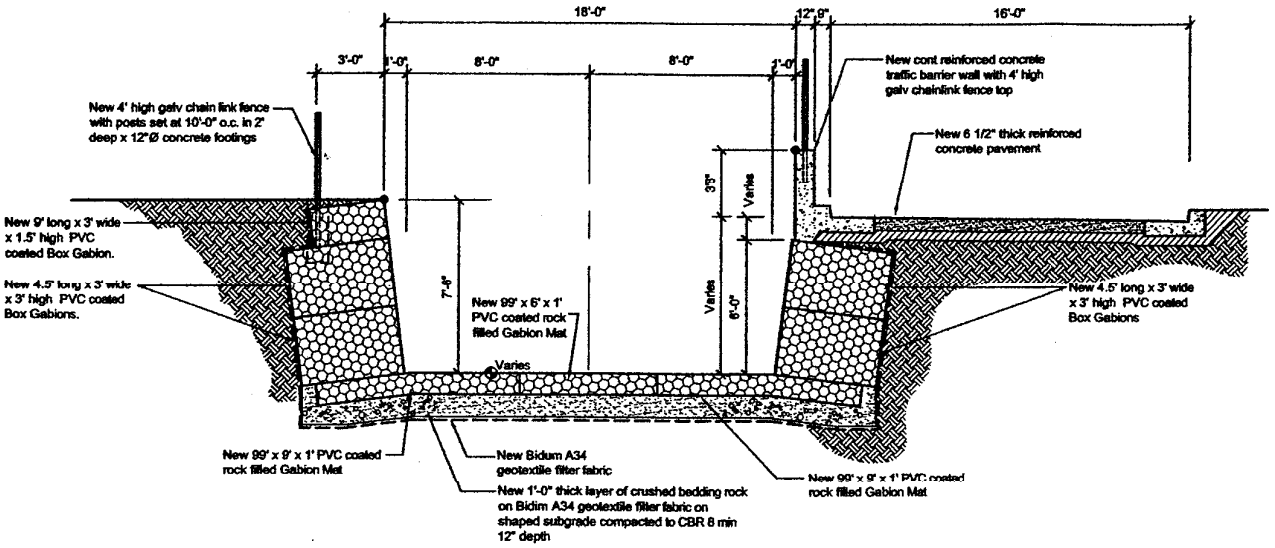

Height 3'-0" max.
Spillway at least
8" below sides
Batter slope 1:2 or less.
Direction of flow.
Geotextile
embedded
8" min.
Course aggregate
wrapped in geotextile
8"
Rock Check Dam Detail
LBJ Tropical Medical Center
American Samoa

Figure 5

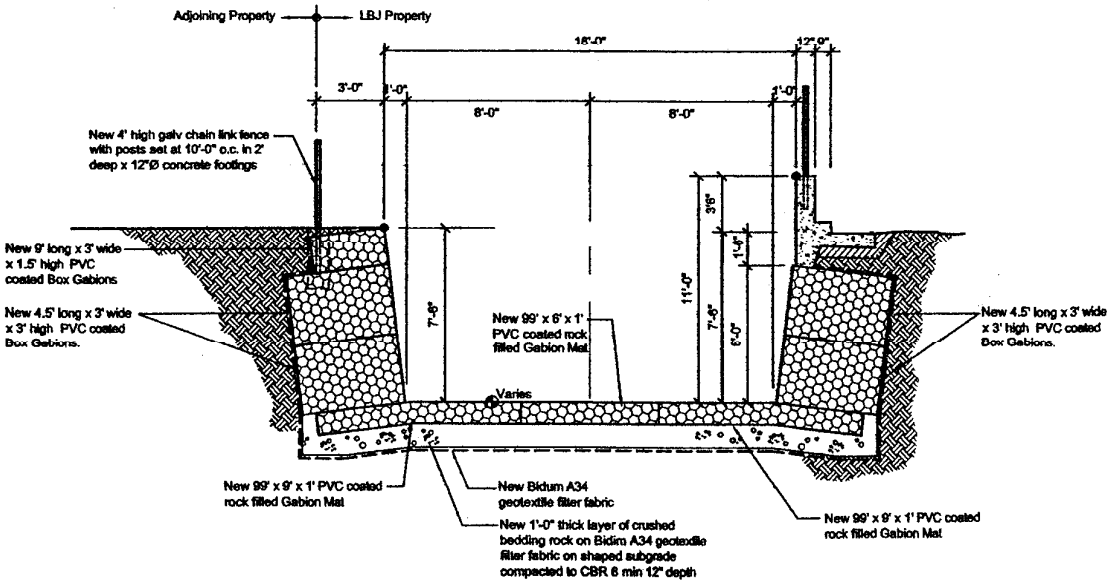


Proposed Upgraded Stream Section, Sta 13+30 - 15+82



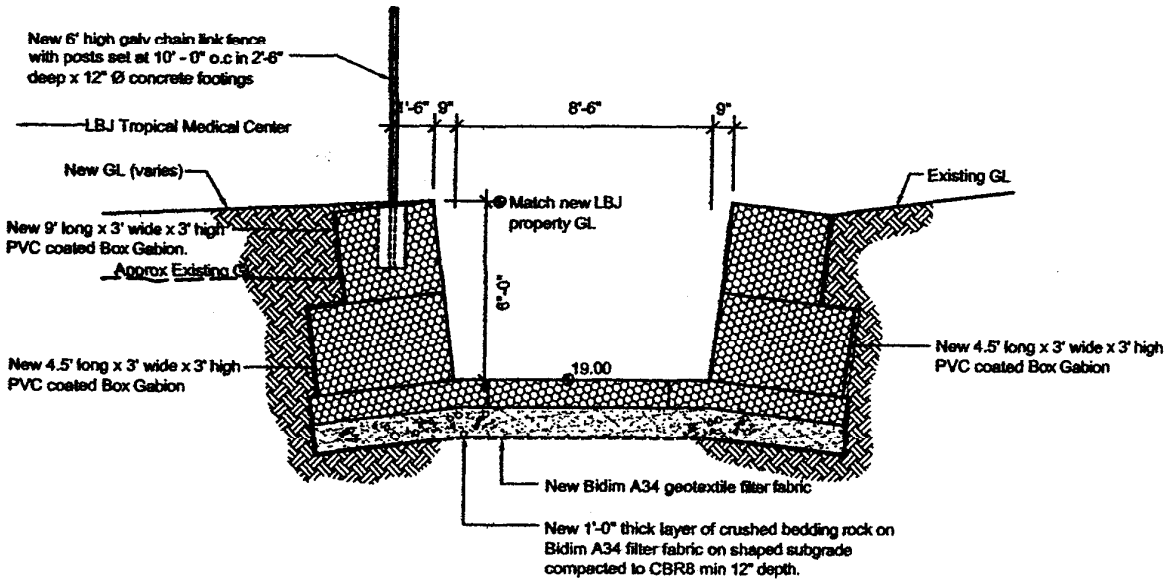
Proposed Upgraded Stream Section, Sta 11+20 - 13+80

Note :
Refer Stream Profile for top of embankment levels adjacent to bridges

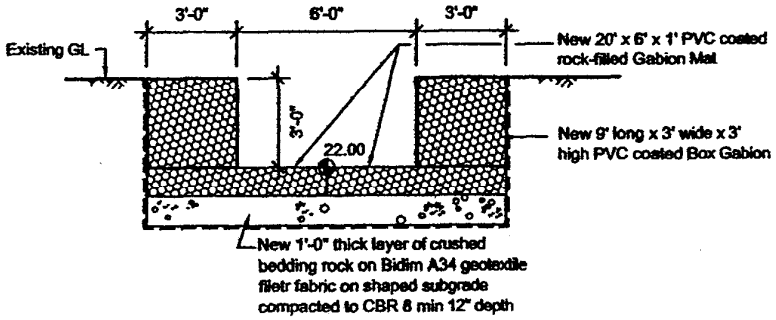


Proposed Upgraded Stream Section, Sta 7+80 - 11+20

Figure 6

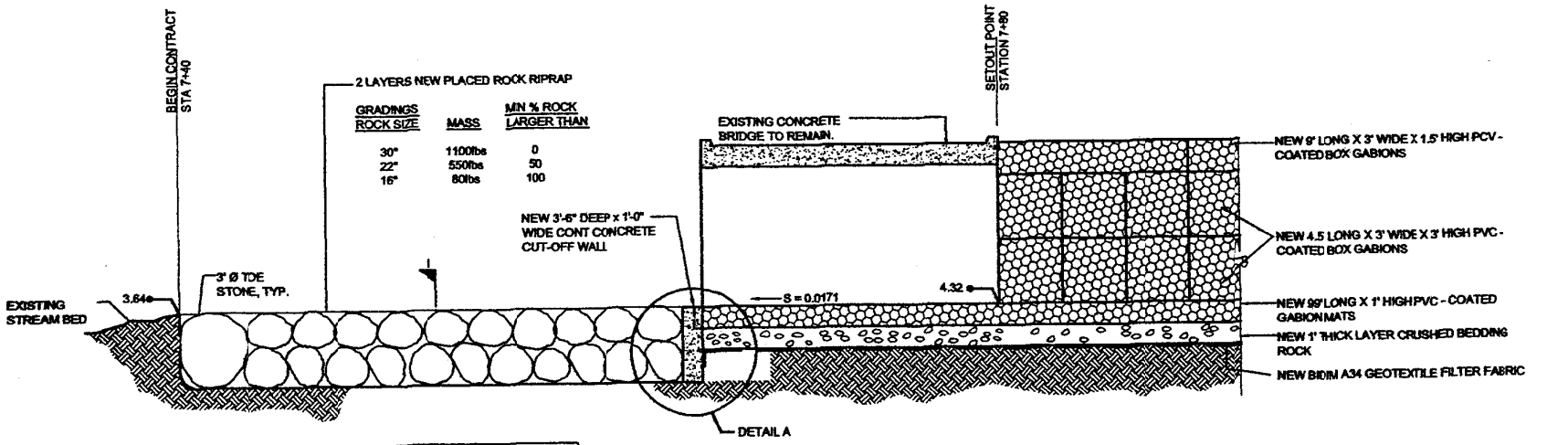


Tributary Stream Section at Streambank



Tributary Stream Section 20' from Streambank

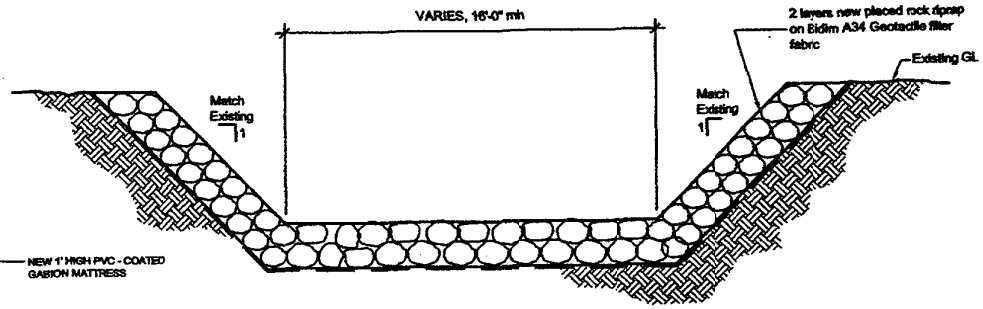
Figure 7



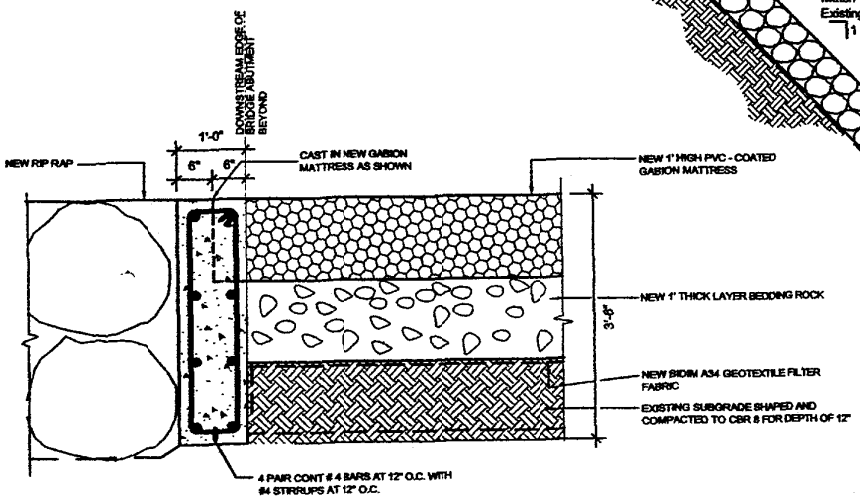
NOTE:

SECTION AT BEGINNING OF CONTRACT SHOWN. UPSTREAM SECTION AT END OF CONTRACT SIMILAR.

Streambed Long Section 1



Elevation Section 1



Elevation Detail A - Cut-off Wall

Figure 8