



Public Notice

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

Public Notice No.
POH-2005-399

Date:
July 18, 2005

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

Respond by:
August 8, 2005

POH-2005-399

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT
FOR SHORELINE PROTECTION AND CULVERT RECONSTRUCTION AS PART OF
THE AOA VILLAGE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT AOA BAY,
TUTUILA, AMERICAN SAMOA**

1. **APPLICANT:** Department of Public Works, American Samoa Government, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 (DPW)
2. **AGENT:** None
3. **APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)
4. **LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The project is located at and near the shoreline area of Aoa Village, Tutuila, American Samoa (Figure 1).
5. **PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT MODIFICATION:**

The overall purpose of the Aoa Village Road Reconstruction project, which is funded by the Department of the Interior, is to upgrade the Aoa Village road in the vicinity of Olomoana Elementary School. A Department of the Army (DA) permit (File No. 200300532) was issued on January 29, 2004 for work in waters of the United States associated with the project, including construction of a shoreline revetment to protect the road and replacement of an existing culvert where the roadway crosses Vaitolu Stream (Figure 2).

Due to extensive damage to the village road which resulted from tropical cyclone Heta in January 2004, the DPW has determined that a substantial increase in the length of the planned shoreline revetment is necessary and has requested modification of the issued DA permit to authorize the proposed project changes (Figure 3). Work at the stream crossing would remain unchanged. The revised project description follows, with the revised values in **bold** and the original values in brackets [].

The planned shoreline revetment would be approximately **600** [260] feet in length (approximately Stations **8+00 to 14+00** [10+40 to 13+00]), consisting of two segments separated by the outlet of Vaitolu Stream. Revetment construction would follow the design shown in the typical sections (Figures 4, 5). Construction would involve excavation of approximately **510** [220] cubic yards (CY) of material from an area of approximately **350** [150] square yards lying seaward of the MHW line. Revetment construction would also involve the discharge of fill material consisting of 1000-1700 pound armor rock (**930** [400] CY), 100-200 pound underlayer stones (**1100** [475] CY), compacted fill (**650** [280] CY), and geotextile (**2350** [1000] square yards (SY)). The compacted fill would consist of selected excavated material and granular fill from a quarry. The source of armor and underlayer stones has not been specified.

At the stream crossing, the applicant plans to replace the existing 24 inch concrete pipe culvert with an 8 x 4 foot concrete double box culvert and wing walls (Figure 6). The upstream wing walls would be approximately 10 feet in length and the downstream wing walls would extend to the new revetment. The culvert replacement would involve excavation of the existing culvert and the discharge of approximately 95 CY of material, consisting of concrete and backfill, and approximately 435 SY of geotextile.

The total area of excavation in waters of the U.S. for the project would be approximately **350** [150] SY (**0.07** [0.03] acre). The total area of fill to be discharged into waters of the U.S would be approximately **725** [278] SY (**0.15** [0.06] acre).

The applicant plans to use a silt control fence along the shoreline work area and a sediment control device at the culvert replacement work site.

6. IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IF AUTHORIZED:

Impacts of the revised project would be similar in nature to those of the presently authorized project, but would be greater in geographic extent due to the increased length of the revetment. Construction activities have the potential to cause a temporary increase in turbidity in inshore waters, but this potential impact is expected to be minimized by the applicant's use of silt and sediment control devices during the project to mitigate effects on the aquatic environment. The marine biological community of the project area (which is devoid of living corals) would be disrupted by construction activities, but the intertidal and subtidal portions of the completed revetment would be quickly occupied by marine organisms. Project construction may cause temporary, localized increases in dust and noise.

The revised project is not expected to have any significant long-term adverse impacts. Because such revetment projects are normally sited where erosion is recurring and critical infrastructure is present, the number of such projects is naturally limited and cumulative effects are not considered to be significant.

7. IMPACT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

The latest on-line version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for listing

in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the proposed expanded worksite. This notice has been sent to the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO). Any comments ASHPO may have concerning presently unknown archaeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the revised project will be considered before a final decision is made on the request for permit modification.

8. IMPACT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Federally protected green and hawksbill sea turtles are known to be present in waters around the island of Tutuila. In its December 3, 2003 comments concerning the original project, the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that although these sea turtles are known to occur in the marine environment, there is no evidence that they haul out or nest in the vicinity of the [original] proposed project.

The issued DA permit for the original project includes the following special condition concerning protected species: "If any individual of a Federally protected species (e.g., green sea turtle) enters the work area, construction activities shall cease until the animal leaves the work area. All on-site project personnel should be apprised of the status of any such species present in the work area." Unless modified, this special condition would remain in effect for any issued modification of the original DA permit.

Based on the location and nature of the proposed work, and with incorporation of the above special condition, the revised project would not be likely to adversely affect these 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 request for modification of the permit.

9. IMPACT ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:

The proposed modification of the authorized 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 request for permit modification.

10. OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS:

The revised project received Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency on June 17, 2005 and American Samoa Coastal Management Program federal consistency certification issued by the Department of Commerce on June 16, 2005.

11. EVALUATION FACTORS:

The decision whether to issue the requested permit modification 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 modification of the DA 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 modification of the permit. Requests for public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Attachments:

Figure 1. Location map

Figure 2. Plan view of project as presently authorized

Figure 3. Plan view of project with proposed modifications

Figs. 4-5. Revetment typical sections

Figure 6. Box culvert plan

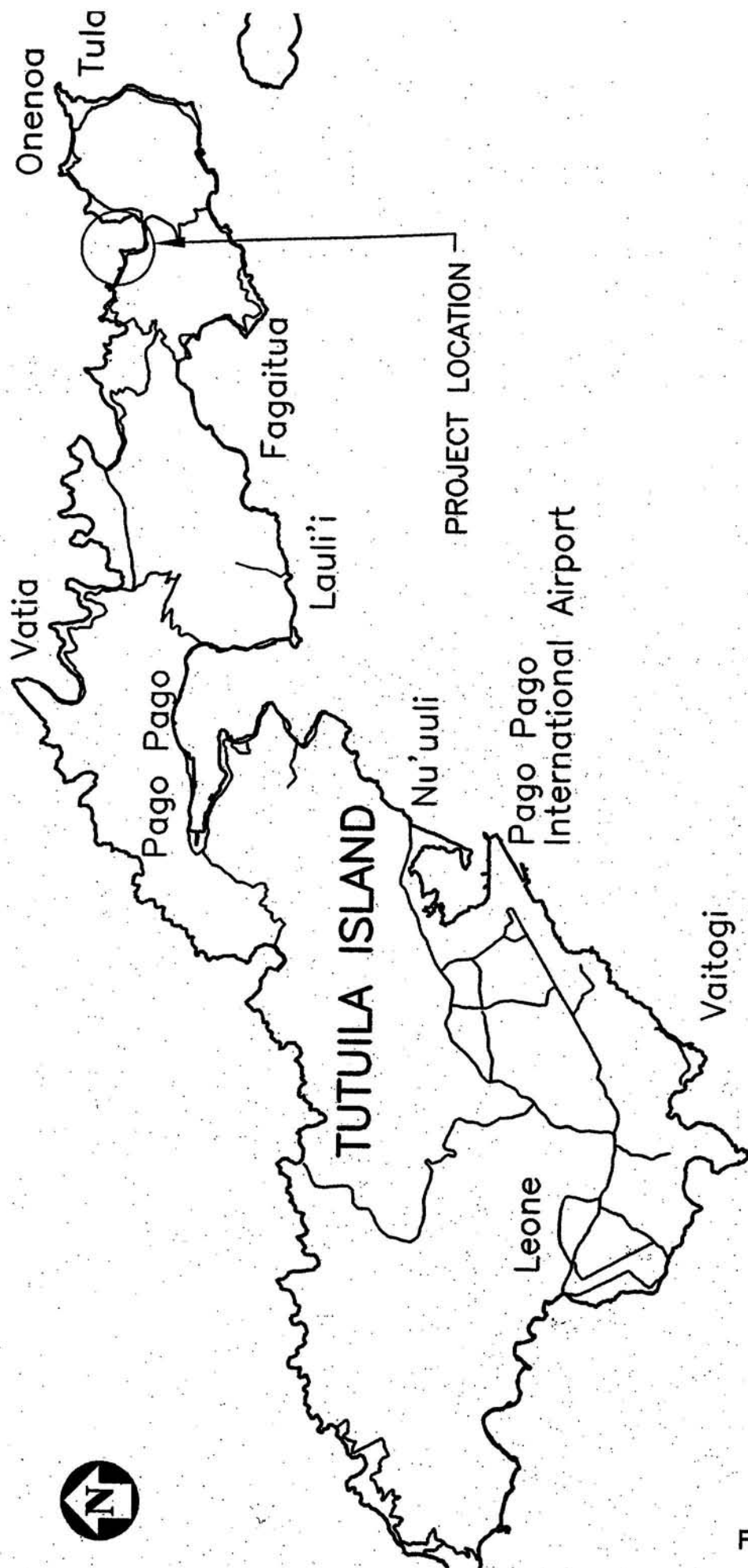
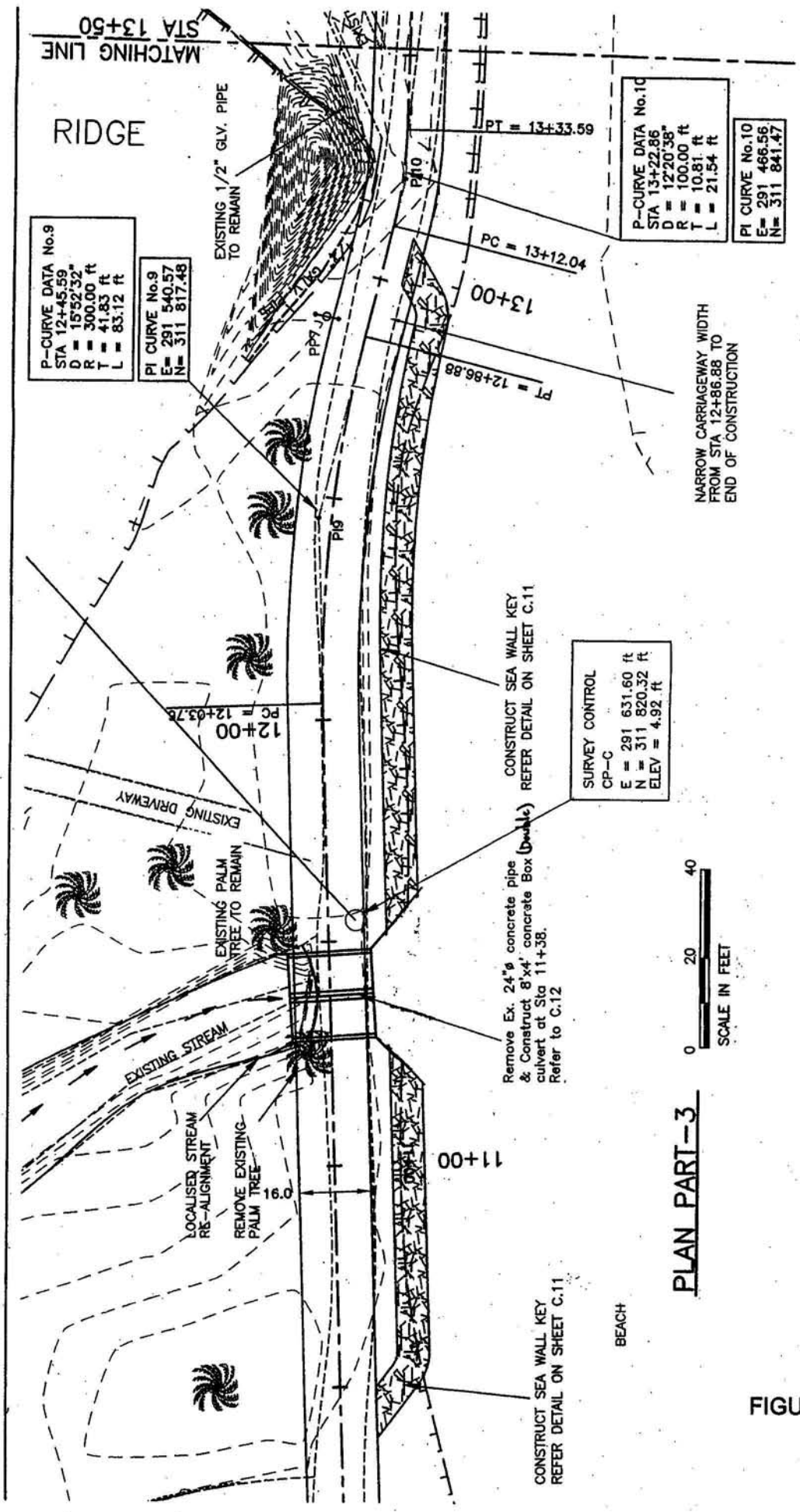


FIGURE 1



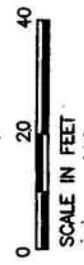
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 D = 15'52.32"
 R = 300.00 ft
 T = 41.83 ft
 L = 83.12 ft

PI CURVE No.9
 E = 291 540.57
 N = 311 817.48

P-CURVE DATA No.10
 STA 13+22.86
 D = 12'20.38"
 R = 100.00 ft
 T = 10.81 ft
 L = 21.54 ft

PI CURVE No.10
 E = 291 486.56
 N = 311 841.47

SURVEY CONTROL
 CP-C
 E = 291 631.60 ft
 N = 311 820.32 ft
 ELEV = 4.92 ft



PLAN PART-3

FIGURE 2

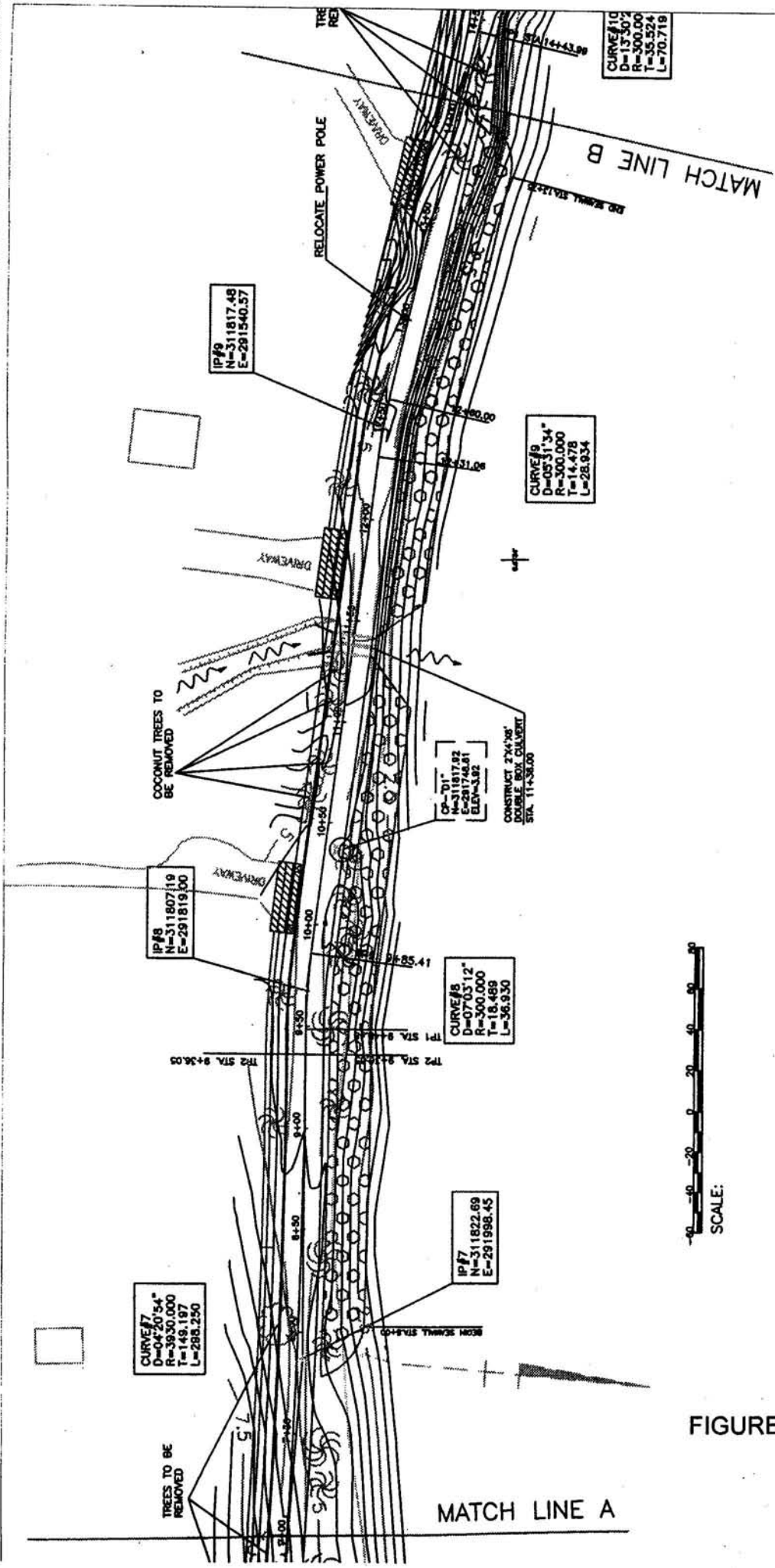
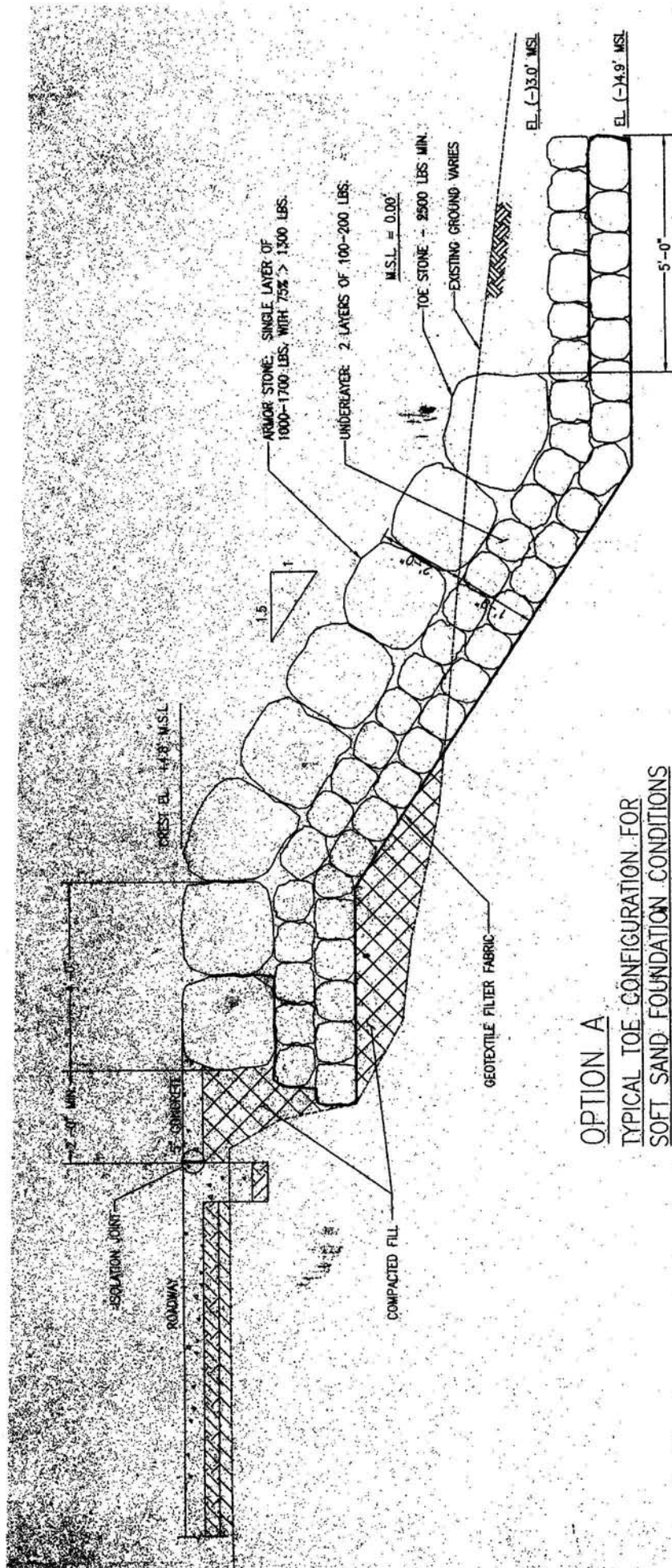
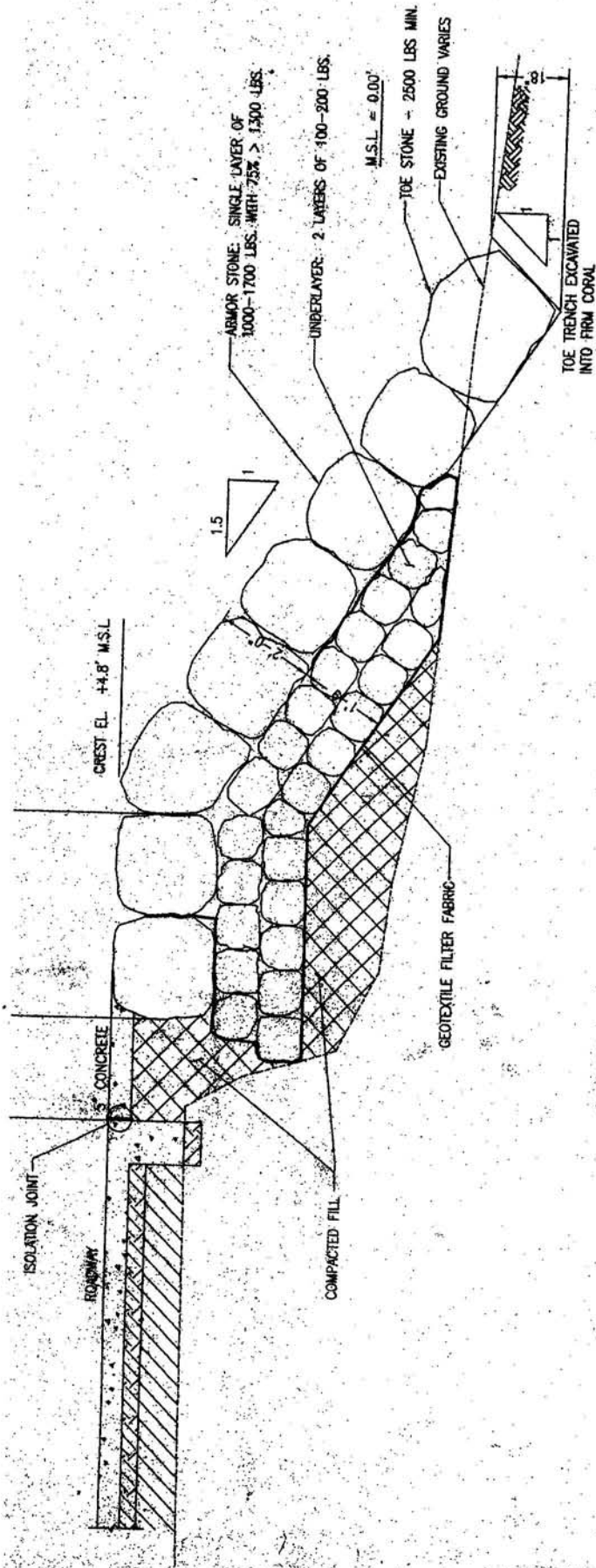


FIGURE 3



OPTION A
 TYPICAL TOE CONFIGURATION FOR
 SOFT SAND FOUNDATION CONDITIONS

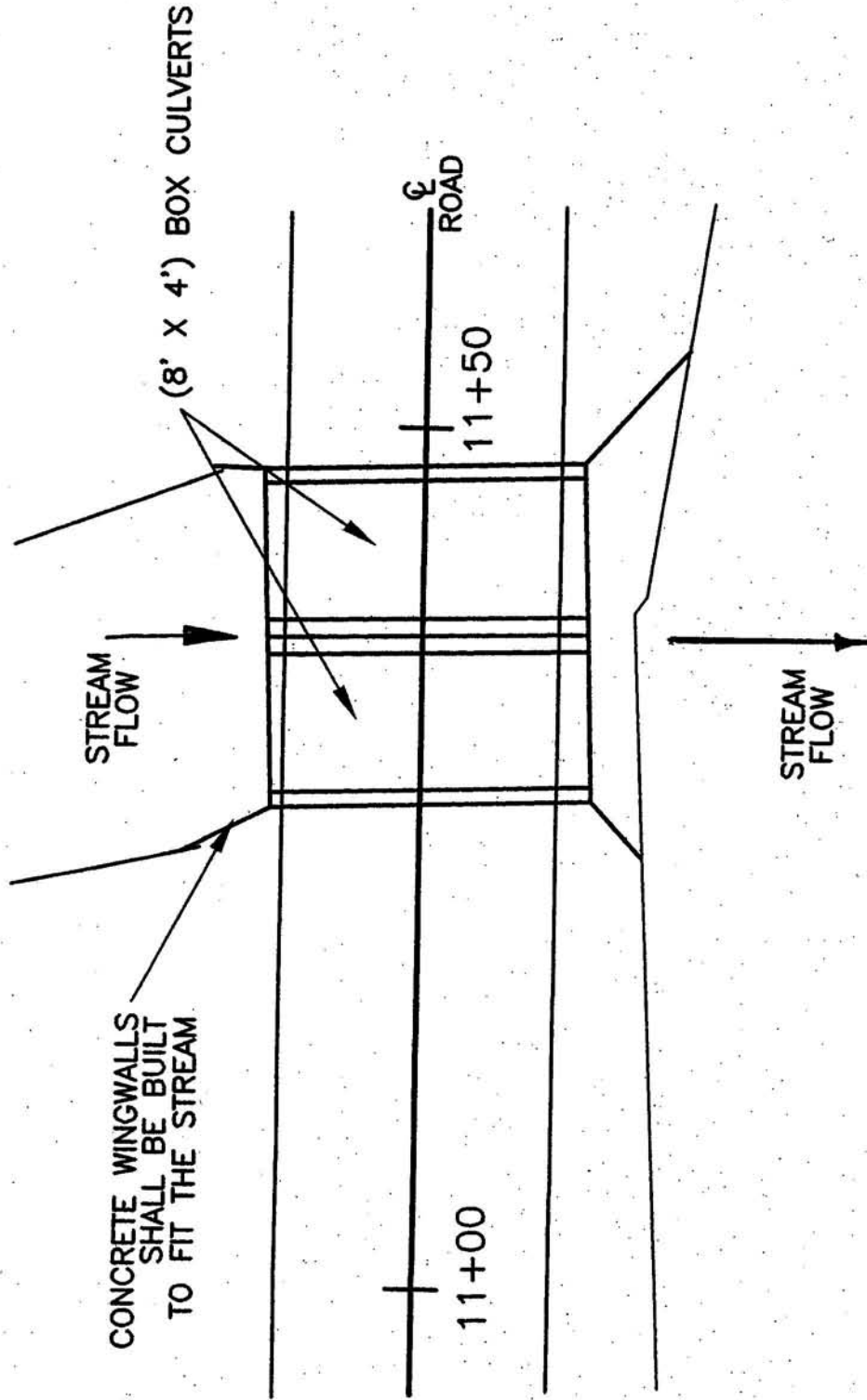
FIGURE 4



OPTION B

TYPICAL TOE CONFIGURATION FOR HARD REEF ROCK FOUNDATION CONDITIONS

FIGURE 5



PLAN - BOX CULVERT

FIGURE 6