# **GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION**

**POINT LOMA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SITE IMPROVEMENTS** 

San Diego, California

#### **PREPARED FOR:**

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#### **PREPARED BY:**

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# **Subject: Geotechnical Investigation Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant Site Improvements San Diego, California**

Dear Ms. Masutani:

Atlas (formerly SCST) is pleased to present our report describing the geotechnical investigation performed for the subject project. We conducted the investigation in general conformance with the scope of work presented in our revised proposal dated December 18, 2019. Based on the results of our investigation, we consider the planned development feasible from a geotechnical standpoint, provided the recommendations of this report are followed. If you have any questions, please call us at (619) 280-4321.

Respectfully submitted,

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Staff Geologist Project Engineer

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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the results of the geotechnical investigation Atlas (formerly SCST) performed for the subject project. We understand that the project includes the design and construction of storm water site improvements. The purpose of our work is to provide conclusions and recommendations regarding the geotechnical aspects of the project. Figure 1 presents a site vicinity map.

# **2. SCOPE OF WORK**

We conducted this investigation in general conformance with the scope of work presented in our Proposal No. 19-0830R2 dated December 18, 2019. Our scope of work consisted of the following.

# **2.1 Subsurface Exploration**

We explored the subsurface conditions by drilling five borings (B-1 through B-4 and B-6) to depths between about 4 and 20 feet below the existing ground surface using a truck-mounted drill rig equipped with a hollow stem auger. We were not able to drill one of the planned borings (B-5) due to existing utilities. Figure 2 shows the approximate locations of the borings. Two Atlas engineers logged the borings and collected samples of the materials encountered for laboratory testing. The logs of the borings are presented in Appendix I. Soils are classified according to the Unified Soil Classification System illustrated on Figure I-1.

# **2.2 Laboratory Testing**

Selected samples obtained from the borings were tested to evaluate pertinent soil classification and engineering properties and enable development of geotechnical conclusions and recommendations. The laboratory tests consisted of in situ moisture and density, particle-size distribution, Atterberg limits, corrosivity, expansion index and direct shear. The results of the laboratory tests and brief explanations of the test procedures are presented in Appendix II.

# **2.3 Analysis and Report**

The results of the field and laboratory tests were evaluated to develop conclusions and recommendations regarding:

- Subsurface conditions beneath the site
- Groundwater levels and the necessity for dewatering
- Potential geologic hazards
- Criteria for seismic design in accordance with the 2019 California Building Code (CBC)
- Site preparation and grading
- Foundation alternatives and geotechnical engineering criteria for foundation design
- Estimated foundation settlements
- Support for concrete slabs-on-grade
- Excavation characteristics of the subsurface materials encountered



- Backfill recommendations and the suitability of excavated materials for use as backfill
- Allowable temporary excavation side slope and shoring recommendations
- Lateral earth pressures and resistance to lateral loads
- Support for the pipeline
- Potential pipeline settlements
- Appropriate types of bedding and backfill materials as well as placement and compaction procedures
- Suitability of excavated materials for use as backfill
- Soil modulus E' for pipeline design
- Corrosivity

# **3. SITE DESCRIPTION**

The planned project is located at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, at 1902 Gatchell Road, on Point Loma San Diego, California. The site is generally bound by the Pacific Ocean to the west, a hillside to the east, military property to the north and Cabrillo National Monument to the south. Existing improvements consist of pavements, hardscape, pipelines and the facility buildings. Site elevations range from about 18 feet on the west side of the site to about 95 feet MSL on the south and east portions of the site.

# **4. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

Based on our review of the provided schematic site plans and discussions with the team, we understand the project will consist of the design and construction of storm water site improvements including pipelines, force mains, various drains, catch basins, and two pump stations.

# **5. GEOLOGY AND SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS**

The site is located within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province of California, which stretches from the Los Angeles basin to the tip of Baja California. This province is characterized as a series of northwest trending mountain ranges separated by subparallel fault zones and a coastal plain of subdued landforms. The mountain ranges are underlain primarily by Mesozoic metamorphic rocks that were intruded by plutonic rocks of the southern California batholith, while the coastal plain is underlain by subsequently deposited marine and non-marine sedimentary formations. The site is located in the coastal plain and is underlain by fill, very old paralic deposits and Cabrillo Formation. Descriptions of the materials encountered are presented below. Figure 3 presents a geologic cross-section. Figure 4 presents the regional geology in the vicinity of the site.

• **Fill (Qf):** Fill was encountered beneath the existing pavement sections in borings B-1 through B-4, and at the ground surface in boring B-6. As encountered, the fill generally consisted of loose to very dense silty and clayey sand and hard sandy clay with varying amounts of gravel and cobbles. Soil cement was encountered in boring B-2 from depths



between about 1 foot and 6 feet below the existing ground surface. Sand cement slurry was encountered in boring B-4 from about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet below the ground surface.

- **Very Old Paralic Deposits (Qvop):** Very old paralic deposits were encountered underlying the fill in boring B-2 and consisted of weakly to strongly cemented clayey and silty sandstone.
- **Cabrillo Formation (Kcs):** Cabrillo Formation was encountered beneath the very old paralic deposits in boring B-2, and beneath the fill in boring B-3. As encountered, the Cabrillo Formation generally consisted of strongly indurated claystone and moderately cemented silty sandstone. Interbedded sandstone and claystone layers were observed.
- **Groundwater:** Groundwater was not encountered in the borings. However, groundwater levels may fluctuate in the future due to tides, rainfall, irrigation, broken pipes, or changes in site drainage. Because groundwater rise or seepage is difficult to predict, such conditions are typically mitigated if and when they occur.

# **6. GEOLOGIC HAZARDS**

The site is not located within an area previously known for significant geologic hazards. Evidence of active faulting, liquefiable soils, or collapsible soils was also not observed during our investigation. A discussion of existing and potential geologic hazards follows.

# **6.1 Faulting and Surface Rupture**

The closest known active fault is the Newport-Inglewood-Rose Canyon fault zone, located about 2½ miles east of the site. The closest mapped fault is the potentially active Point Loma Fault, which trends through the site. The Point Loma Fault is not known to have offset Holocene sediments, indicating it is not active. The State of California does not consider this fault to be active, and as such, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone has not been established. In our opinion and according to the guidelines of the State of California, the fault is not a potential source of seismic shaking or ground rupture. No active faults are known to underlie or project toward the site; therefore, the probability of fault rupture is low.

# **6.2 CBC Seismic Design Parameters**

A geologic hazard likely to affect the project is ground shaking as a result of movement along an active fault zone in the vicinity of the subject site. Based on the subsurface conditions encountered during our investigation, the area near the proposed northern pump station (in the vicinity of boring B-4) may be classified as a Site Class C. The area near the proposed southern pump station (in the vicinity of boring B-6) may be classified as a Site Class D. The mapped site coefficients and maximum considered earthquake  $(MCE_R)$  spectral response acceleration parameters in accordance with the ASCE 7-16 (SEAOC, 2020) are presented in Tables 1 and 2.



#### **Table 1 – ASCE 7-16 Mapped Site Coefficients, Northern Pump Station**



#### **Table 2 – ASCE 7-16 Mapped Site Coefficients, Southern Pump Station**



**\* Note 1 – ASCE 7-16, Section 11.4.8. A site-specific ground motion analysis is required to be performed in accordance with Section 21 unless exempted in accordance with Section 20.3.1**

For a Site Class D, a site-specific ground motion analysis is required to be performed in accordance with the requirements of ASCE 7-16. However, we assume that a site-specific ground motion analysis is likely not needed for the proposed southern pump station at this time. If a sitespecific analysis is required, a report addendum can be issued at a later date.

# **6.3 City of San Diego Seismic Safety Study**

Figure 5 shows the site location on the City of San Diego Seismic Safety Study Map (City of San Diego, 2008). The project site is located in Geologic Hazard Categories 12, 44, and 53. Geologic Hazard Category 12 is a fault zone defined as potentially active, inactive, presumed inactive, or activity unknown. Geologic Hazard Category 44 is a coastal bluff defined as moderately stable, mostly stable formations, and local high erosion. Geologic Hazard Category 53 is defined as level or sloping terrain with unfavorable geologic structure and a low to moderate risk. Unfavorable



geologic structure was not observed during our investigation. In our opinion, the geologic risks for the site are moderate to high.

## **6.4 Liquefaction and Dynamic Settlement**

Liquefaction occurs when loose, saturated sands and silts are subjected to strong ground shaking. The soils lose shear strength and behave like liquid, resulting in large total and differential ground surface settlements and possible lateral spreading during an earthquake. Due to the relatively dense nature of the materials beneath the site, the potential for liquefaction and dynamic settlement to occur is considered low.

#### **6.5 Landslides**

Evidence of landslides or slope instabilities was not observed during our investigation. The potential for landslides or slope instabilities to occur at the site is considered low. The site is not mapped within a known landslide area (California Department of Conservation, 2015).

## **6.6 Slope Stability Analysis**

The slope stability analyses were performed using SLIDE v. 6.0, a product of Rocscience, Inc. (2016). SLIDE is a two-dimensional, limit equilibrium slope stability program that evaluates the factor of safety of soil and rock slopes against both circular and non-circular failure surfaces. The Spencer's method was used. This method of analysis provides the factor of safety based on both force and moment equilibrium. Bishop's simplified method and Janbu's simplified method were also evaluated to compare and consider the results. The analyses were performed to examine both the global and local stability of the slope under static and pseudostatic conditions.

Traffic loads from existing access roads along the slope were represented as a uniform surcharge load of 250 pounds per square foot (psf) in general accordance with 2014 AASHTO LRFD. Additionally, a 100 psf distributed live load was assumed for the existing south throttling facility. The unit weight of water was also adjusted to 64 pounds per cubic foot (pcf) to account for the presence of salt water.

Three different materials were defined to represent the subsurface conditions. These materials include Cabrillo formation, very old paralic deposits and existing undocumented fill. The properties of the materials selected for the analyses are listed in Table 3.



#### **Table 3 – Strength Parameters for Slope Stability Analyses**



The shear strength parameters were derived from laboratory test results and our experience with similar materials on previous projects in the site area.

Analyses of the existing conditions were performed on Cross-Section A-A' (Figure 3). The results are presented in Appendix III and summarized in Table 4.

<b>Cross Section</b>	<b>Factor of Safety</b>	
	<b>Static</b>	<b>Pseudostatic</b>
A-A' (Global)	2.158	1.533
A-A' (Local 1)	2.166	1.650
A-A' (Local 2)	1.602	1.199

**Table 4 – Slope Stability Analyses Results** 

Factors of safety of 1.5 (static) and 1.15 (pseudostatic) are considered adequate in standard geotechnical practice.

# **6.7 Flooding, Tsunamis, and Seiches**

It should be noted that the tsunami inundation line runs north-south along the west side of the site (CAL EMA, 2009). However, the site is not located within a mapped tsunami inundation area on the State of California Tsunami Inundation Maps (Cal EMA, 2009); therefore, damage due to tsunami inundation is considered low. Seiches are periodic oscillations in large bodies of water such as lakes, harbors, bays, or reservoirs. The site is not located adjacent to any lakes or confined bodies of water; therefore, the potential for a seiche to affect the site is considered low. The site is mapped within an area of minimal flood hazard (FEMA, 2019).

#### **6.8 Subsidence**

The site is not located in an area of known subsidence associated with fluid withdrawal (groundwater or petroleum); therefore, the potential for subsidence due to the extraction of fluids is considered low.

# **6.9 Hydro-Consolidation**

Hydro-consolidation can occur in recently deposited sediments (less than 10,000 years old) that were deposited in a semi-arid environment. Examples of such sediments are aeolian sands, alluvial fan deposits, and mudflow sediments deposited during flash floods. The pore spaces between the particle grains can re-adjust when inundated by groundwater causing the material to consolidate. The relatively dense materials underlying the site are not susceptible to hydroconsolidation.



# **7. CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the results of our investigation, we consider the proposed construction feasible from a geotechnical standpoint provided the recommendations of this report are followed. In our opinion, the site conditions are suitable to construct the proposed improvements. The main geotechnical considerations affecting the proposed construction are the presence of potentially compressible soils, cut/fill transitions, and difficult excavations in soil cement, very old paralic deposits and Cabrillo Formation. We understand that project plans are not available at this time, and the locations and depths of the proposed pump stations have not been finalized. We anticipate that the proposed pump stations may be supported on shallow spread footings with bottom levels bearing either entirely on compacted fill, or entirely on formation (very old paralic deposits or Cabrillo Formation). Remedial grading is recommended to reduce the potential for distress to the proposed improvements. Remedial grading recommendations are provided herein. The recommendations presented herein may need to be updated once final plans are developed.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The remainder of this report presents recommendations regarding earthwork construction as well as geotechnical recommendations for the design of the proposed structure and improvements. These recommendations are based on empirical and analytical methods typical of the standard of practice in southern California. If these recommendations appear not to address a specific feature of the project, please contact our office for additions or revisions to the recommendations.

#### **8.1 Earthwork**

Earthwork is anticipated to include site preparation, remedial grading, excavations for foundations, temporary excavations for underground utilities, and placement and compaction of fill and backfill. Grading and earthwork should be conducted in accordance with the CBC and with the recommendations of this report. The following recommendations are provided regarding specific aspects of the proposed earthwork construction. These recommendations should be considered subject to revision based on field conditions observed by the geotechnical consultant during construction.

#### **8.1.1 Site Preparation**

Site preparation should begin with the removal of existing improvements, vegetation, and debris. Subsurface improvements that are to be abandoned should be removed, and the resulting excavations should be backfilled and compacted in accordance with the recommendations of this report. Pipeline abandonment can consist of capping or rerouting at the project perimeter and removal within the project perimeter. If appropriate, abandoned pipelines can be filled with grout or slurry as recommended by and observed by the geotechnical consultant.

#### **8.1.2 Remedial Grading – Pump Station Pads**

Beneath the proposed pump station pads, we recommend over-excavating a minimum of 3 feet below planned subgrade elevation, or 3 feet below the proposed footing bottoms, whichever is



deeper. The removal and recompaction should extend at least 5 feet outside the pump station footprint. At Atlas representative should observe the conditions exposed in the bottom of excavations to assess if additional excavation is recommended.

Additionally, the proposed pump stations should not be underlain by cut/fill transitions or transitions from shallow fill to deep fill. Where such transitions are encountered, the formational materials should be over-excavated and replaced with compacted fill to provide a relatively uniform thickness of compacted fill beneath the entire structure and reduce the potential for differential settlement. The over-excavation depth should be at least 3 feet below the planned finished pad elevation, at least 2 feet below the deepest planned footing bottom elevation, or to a depth of H/2, whichever is deeper, where H is the greatest depth of fill beneath the structure. Horizontally, the over-excavation should extend at least 5 feet outside the planned footing perimeter or up to existing improvements, whichever is less. Where practical, the bottom of excavations should be sloped toward the fill portion of the site and away from its center. Alternatively, individual pump stations can be supported on spread footings with bottoms levels bearing entirely on formational materials or on 2-sack sand/cement slurry extending down to formational materials.

#### **8.1.3 Expansive Soil**

The on-site soils tested have expansion indexes of 19 and 34, classified as very low to low expansion potential. To reduce the potential for expansive heave, the top 2 feet of material beneath footings and slabs-on-grade should have an expansion index (EI) of 50 or less determined in accordance with ASTM D4829. Horizontally, the soils having an EI of 50 or less should extend at least 2 feet outside the planned improvement or up to existing improvements, whichever is less. Based on our laboratory test results, we expect that most of the on-site silty sand, clayey sand, and clayey gravel is expected to meet the expansion index criteria. The onsite sandy clay is not expected to meet the expansion index criteria. Import material may be needed.

#### **8.1.4 Compacted Fill**

The material exposed in the bottom of excavations should be scarified to a depth of 6 inches, moisture conditioned to near optimum moisture content, and compacted to at least 90% relative compaction. Where gravel is provided for the stabilization of the bottom of excavation, a nonwoven filter fabric should be placed between the gravel and overlying fill. Fill should be placed in horizontal lifts at a thickness appropriate for the equipment spreading, mixing, and compacting the material, but generally should not exceed 8 inches in loose thickness. Fill should be moisture conditioned to near optimum moisture content and compacted to at least 90% relative compaction. The maximum density and optimum moisture content for the evaluation of relative compaction should be evaluated in accordance with ASTM D1557. The top 12 inches of subgrade beneath vehicular pavements should be compacted to at least 95% relative compaction.



#### **8.1.5 Imported Soil**

Imported soil should consist of predominately granular soil, free of organic matter and rocks greater than 6 inches. Imported soil should be observed and, if appropriate, tested by Atlas prior to transport to the site to evaluate suitability for the intended use.

#### **8.1.6 Excavation Characteristics**

It is anticipated that excavations can be achieved with conventional earthwork equipment in good working order. Difficult excavation should be anticipated in the soil cement fill, slurry, very old paralic deposits and Cabrillo Formation. Excavations may generate oversized material that will require extra effort to crush or haul off site.

#### **8.1.7 Oversized Material**

Excavations have the potential to generate oversized material. Oversized material is defined as rocks or cemented clasts greater than 6 inches in largest dimension. Oversized material should be broken down to no greater than 6 inches in largest dimension for use in fill, landscape material, or disposed of off site.

#### **8.1.8 Temporary Excavations and Shoring**

Temporary excavations will be required for open cut and cover trenching. Temporary excavations 3 feet deep or less can be made vertically. Deeper temporary excavations should be laid back no steeper than 1½:1 (horizontal:vertical). The faces of temporary slopes should be inspected daily by the contractor's Competent Person before personnel are allowed to enter the excavation. Zones of potential instability, sloughing or raveling should be brought to the attention of the Engineer and corrective action implemented before personnel begin working in the trench.

Excavated materials should not be stockpiled behind temporary excavations within a distance equal to the depth of the excavation. Atlas should be notified if other surcharge loads are anticipated so that lateral load criteria can be developed for the specific situation. If temporary slopes are to be maintained during the rainy season, berms are recommended along the tops of the slopes to prevent runoff water from entering the excavation and eroding the slope faces.

Slopes steeper than those described above will require shoring. Soldier piles and lagging, sheet piles, internally braced shoring, or trench boxes could be used. If trench boxes are used, the soil immediately adjacent to the trench box is not directly supported. Ground surface deformations adjacent to the pit or trench could be greater where trench boxes are used compared to other methods of shoring.

For design of cantilevered shoring with level backfill, the active earth pressure can be taken as equivalent to a fluid weighing 40 pcf. An additional 25 pcf should be added for shoring with 2:1 sloping ground or braced shoring. The surcharge loads on shoring from traffic and construction equipment working adjacent to the excavation can be modeled by assuming an additional 2 feet of soil behind the shoring.



#### **8.1.9 Groundwater Seepage**

Groundwater seepage may occur locally and should be anticipated in excavations.

#### **8.1.10 Slopes**

Long-term slopes should be constructed no steeper than 2:1 (horizontal:vertical). Faces of fill slopes should be compacted either by rolling with a sheepsfoot roller or other suitable equipment, or by overfilling and cutting back to design grade. Fills should be benched into sloping ground inclined steeper than 5:1 (horizontal:vertical). In our opinion, slopes constructed no steeper than 2:1 (horizontal:vertical) will possess an adequate factor of safety. An engineering geologist should observe cut slopes during grading to ascertain that no unforeseen adverse geologic conditions are encountered that require revised recommendations. Slopes are susceptible to surficial slope failure and erosion. Water should not be allowed to flow over the top of slope. Additionally, slopes should be planted with vegetation that will reduce the potential for erosion.

#### **8.1.11 Surface Drainage**

Final surface grades around structures should be designed to collect and direct surface water away from the structure and toward appropriate drainage facilities. The ground around the structures should be graded so that surface water flows rapidly away from the structures without ponding. In general, we recommend that the ground adjacent to the structures slope away at a gradient of at least 2%. Densely vegetated areas where runoff can be impaired should have a minimum gradient of at least 5% within the first 5 feet from the structure. Roof gutters with downspouts that discharge directly into a closed drainage system are recommended on structures. Drainage patterns established at the time of fine grading should be maintained throughout the life of the proposed structures. Site irrigation should be limited to the minimum necessary to sustain landscape growth. Should excessive irrigation, impaired drainage, or unusually high rainfall occur, saturated zones of perched groundwater can develop.

#### **8.1.12 Grading Plan Review**

Atlas should review the grading plans and earthwork specifications to ascertain whether the intent of the recommendations contained in this report have been implemented and that no revised recommendations are needed due to changes in the development scheme.

# **8.2 Foundations**

The foundation recommendations provided herein are considered generally consistent with methods typically used in southern California. Other alternatives may be available. Our recommendations are only minimum criteria based on geotechnical factors and should not be considered a structural design, or to preclude more restrictive criteria of governing agencies or by the structural engineer. The design of the foundation system should be performed by the project structural engineer, incorporating the geotechnical parameters described herein and the requirements of applicable building codes.



We understand that project plans are not available at this time, and the locations and depths of the proposed pump stations have not been finalized. However, we anticipate that the proposed pump stations may be supported on shallow spread footings with bottom levels bearing either entirely on compacted fill, or entirely on formation (very old paralic deposits or Cabrillo Formation). If the foundations are to bear entirely on formation, and isolated areas of fill exist below footings, concrete or a 2-sack sand/cement slurry can be placed between the formation and design bottom of footing elevation.

#### **8.2.1 Spread Footings**

Footings should extend at least 18 inches below lowest adjacent finished grade. A minimum width of 12 inches is recommended for continuous footings and 24 inches for isolated footings. An allowable bearing capacity of 2,500 psf can be used for spread footings supported on granular compacted fill. An allowable bearing capacity of 3,500 psf can be used for spread footings supported on formation (very old paralic deposits or Cabrillo Formation). The allowable bearing capacity can be increased by 500 psf for each foot of depth below the minimum and 250 psf for each foot of width beyond the minimum up to a maximum of 4,000 psf on compacted fill or 6,000 psf on formation. The bearing value can be increased by ⅓ when considering the total loads, including wind or seismic forces. Footings located adjacent to or within slopes should be extended to a depth such that a minimum horizontal distance of 7 feet exists between the lower outside footing edge and the face of the slope.

Lateral loads will be resisted by friction between the bottoms of footings and passive pressure on the faces of footings and other structural elements below grade. An allowable coefficient of friction of 0.35 can be used. An allowable passive pressure of 350 psf per foot of depth below the ground surface can be used for level ground conditions. The allowable passive pressure should be reduced for sloping ground conditions. The passive pressure can be increased by ⅓ when considering the total loads, including wind or seismic forces. The upper 1 foot of soil should not be relied on for passive support unless the ground is covered with pavements or slabs.

#### **8.2.2 Settlement Characteristics - Compacted Fill or Old Paralic Deposits**

Total foundation settlements are estimated to be less than 1 inch. Differential settlements between adjacent columns and across continuous footings are estimated to be less than ¾ inch over a distance of 40 feet. Settlements should be completed shortly after structural loads are applied.

#### **8.2.3 Settlement Characteristics - Undocumented Fill**

If the proposed pump stations are planned to be constructed in areas with relatively deep undocumented fill, Atlas should be notified so that the estimated total and differential foundation settlements may be quantified.

#### **8.2.4 Foundation Plan Review**

Atlas should review the foundation plans to ascertain that the intent of the recommendations in this report has been implemented and that revised recommendations are not necessary as a result of changes after this report was completed.



#### **8.2.5 Foundation Excavation Observations**

A representative from Atlas should observe the foundation excavations prior to forming or placing reinforcing steel.

# **8.3 Conventional Retaining Walls**

Conventional retaining walls can be supported on spread footings. The recommendations for spread footings provided in the foundation section of this report are also applicable to conventional retaining walls.

The active earth pressure for the design of unrestrained retaining walls with level backfill can be taken as equivalent to the pressure of a fluid weighing 40 pcf. The at-rest earth pressure for the design of restrained retaining wall with level backfill can be taken as equivalent to the pressure of a fluid weighing 60 pcf. These values assume a granular and drained backfill condition. Higher lateral earth pressures would apply if walls retain clay soils. An additional 25 pcf should be added to these values for walls with 2:1 (horizontal:vertical) sloping backfill. An increase in earth pressure equivalent to an additional 2 feet of retained soil can be used to account for surcharge loads from light traffic. The above values do not include a factor of safety. Appropriate factors of safety should be incorporated into the design. If any other surcharge loads are anticipated, Atlas should be contacted for the necessary increase in soil pressure.

Retaining walls should be designed to resist hydrostatic pressures or be provided with a backdrain to reduce the accumulation of hydrostatic pressures. Backdrains can consist of a 2-foot-wide zone of ¾-inch crushed rock. The backdrain should be separated from the adjacent soils using a nonwoven filter fabric, such as Mirafi 140N or equivalent. Weep holes should be provided, or a perforated pipe should be installed at the base of the backdrain and sloped to discharge to a suitable storm drain facility. As an alternative, a geocomposite drainage system such as Miradrain 6000 or equivalent placed behind the wall and connected to a suitable storm drain facility can be used. The project architect should provide waterproofing specifications and details. Figure 6 presents typical conventional retaining wall backdrain details.

If required, the seismic earth pressure can be taken as equivalent to the pressure of a fluid weighing 28 pcf. This value is for level backfill and does not include a factor of safety. Appropriate factors of safety should be incorporated into the design. This pressure is in addition to the unfactored, static active earth pressure. The passive pressure and bearing capacity can be increased by ⅓ in determining the seismic stability of the wall.

Wall backfill should consist of granular, free-draining material having an expansion index of 20 or less. The backfill zone is defined by a 1:1 plane projected upward from the heel of the wall. Expansive or clayey soil should not be used. We anticipate that the on-site soils will not be suitable for wall backfill. Additionally, backfill within 3 feet from the back of the wall should not contain rocks greater than 3 inches in dimension. Backfill should be compacted to at least 90% relative compaction. Backfill should not be placed until walls have achieved adequate structural strength. Compaction of wall backfill will be necessary to minimize settlement of the backfill and overlying



settlement sensitive improvements. However, some settlement should still be anticipated. Provisions should be made for some settlement of concrete slabs and pavements supported on backfill. Additionally, any utilities supported on backfill should be designed to tolerate differential settlement.

#### **8.4 Pipelines**

#### **8.4.1 Pipeline Support**

It is anticipated that some of the materials along the pipeline alignment will not provide adequate support for the pipe, as loose, soft, and otherwise unsuitable materials should be anticipated. Unsuitable materials encountered near trench bottom levels, as evaluated during construction by the engineer, should be excavated 1 to 3 feet as evaluated by the geotechnical consultant and replaced as compacted fill or with crushed gravel. Unsuitable materials should be removed from the full width of the trench. The bottoms of the excavations should be observed by the geotechnical consultant prior to placement of pipe bedding. The use of a stabilizing fabric such as Mirafi® HP 570 can also be used to stabilize the bottom of the excavations, if needed.

#### **8.4.2 Modulus of Soil Reaction**

A modulus of soil reaction (E') of 1,400 psi can be used to evaluate the deflection of buried flexible pipelines. This value assumes that granular bedding material is placed adjacent to the pipe and is compacted to at least 90% relative compaction.

#### **8.4.3 Thrust Blocks**

For level ground conditions, a passive earth pressure of 330 psf per foot of depth below the lowest adjacent final grade can be used to compute allowable thrust block resistance. A value of 140 psf per foot should be used below groundwater level, if encountered.

#### **8.4.4 Pipe Bedding**

Bedding material should consist of clean sand having a sand equivalent not less than 30 and should extend to at least 12 inches above the top of pipe. Alternative materials meeting the intent of the bedding specifications are also acceptable. Samples of materials proposed for use as bedding should be provided to the engineer for inspection and testing before the material is imported for use on the project. The on-site materials are not expected to meet "Greenbook" bedding specifications. The pipe bedding material should be placed over the full width of the trench. After placement of the pipe, the bedding should be brought up uniformly on both sides of the pipe to reduce the potential for unbalanced loads. No voids or uncompacted areas should be left beneath the pipe haunches. Ponding or jetting the pipe bedding should not be allowed.

#### **8.4.5 Trench Backfill**

Excavated material free of organic debris and rocks greater than 6 inches in largest dimension are generally expected to be suitable for use as trench backfill. Imported material should not contain rocks greater than 6 inches in largest dimension or organic debris. Imported material should have an expansion index of 20 or less. Atlas should observe and, if appropriate, test



proposed imported materials before they are delivered to the site. Backfill should be placed in lifts 8 inches or less in loose thickness, moisture conditioned to optimum moisture content or slightly above, and compacted to at least 90% relative compaction. All references to optimum moisture content and relative compaction in this report are based on ASTM D1557 test method. The upper 12 inches of soil beneath subgrade for pavements should be compacted to at least 95% relative compaction. We recommend that the soils in the top 24 inches below hardscape have an expansion index of 20 or less. Atlas should observe and, if appropriate, test the soils to be used within this backfill zone.

# **8.5 Soil Corrosivity**

Representative samples of the on-site soil were tested to evaluate corrosion potential. The test results are presented in Appendix II. The project design engineer can use the sulfate results in conjunction with ACI 318 to specify the water/cement ratio, compressive strength, and cementitious material types for concrete exposed to soil. A corrosion engineer should be contacted to provide specific corrosion control recommendations.

# **9. GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING DURING CONSTRUCTION**

The geotechnical engineer should review project plans and specifications prior to bidding and construction to check that the intent of the recommendations in this report has been incorporated. Observations and tests should be performed during construction. Atlas should be present during grading and construction to verify the consistency of subsurface conditions across the site with the areas explored during our subsurface evaluation. If the conditions encountered during construction differ from those anticipated based on the subsurface exploration program, the presence of Atlas during construction will enable an evaluation of the exposed conditions. Subsequently, modifications of the recommendations in this report or development of additional recommendations will be provided upon request and in a timely manner.

#### **10. CLOSURE**

Atlas should be advised of changes in the project scope so that the recommendations contained in this report can be evaluated with respect to the revised plans. Changes in recommendations will be verified in writing. The findings in this report are valid as of the date of this report. Changes in the condition of the site can, however, occur with the passage of time, whether they are due to natural processes or work on this project or adjacent areas. In addition, changes in the standards of practice and government regulations can occur. Thus, the findings in this report may be invalidated wholly or in part by changes beyond our control. This report should not be relied upon after a period of two years without a review by us verifying the suitability of the conclusions and recommendations to site conditions at that time.

In the performance of our professional services, we comply with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of our profession currently practicing under similar conditions and in the same locality. The client recognizes that subsurface conditions may vary from those encountered at the boring locations and that our data, interpretations, and recommendations are



based solely on the information obtained by us. We will be responsible for those data, interpretations, and recommendations, but shall not be responsible for interpretations by others of the information developed. Our services consist of professional consultation and observation only, and no warranty of any kind whatsoever, express or implied, is made or intended in connection with the work performed or to be performed by us, or by our proposal for consulting or other services, or by our furnishing of oral or written reports or findings.

# **11. REFERENCES**

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# **APPENDIX I FIELD INVESTIGATION**

Our subsurface exploration consisted of drilling five borings on August 3, 2020 to depths between about 4 feet and 20 feet below the existing ground surface using a truck-mounted drill rig equipped with a hollow stem auger. Figure 2 shows the approximate locations of the borings. Our subsurface exploration was performed under the observation of two Atlas engineers who also logged the borings and obtained samples of the materials encountered.

Relatively undisturbed samples were obtained using a modified California (CAL) sampler, which is a ring-lined split tube sampler with a 3-inch outer diameter and 2½-inch inner diameter. Standard Penetration Tests (SPT) were performed using a 2-inch outer diameter and 1⅜-inch inner diameter split tube sampler. The CAL and SPT samplers were driven with a 140-pound weight dropping 30 inches. The number of blows needed to drive the samplers the final 12 inches of an 18-inch drive is noted on the boring logs as "Driving Resistance (blows/ft of drive)." SPT and CAL sampler refusal was encountered when 50 blows were applied during any one of the three 6-inch intervals, a total of 100 blows was applied, or there was no discernible sampler advancement during the application of 10 successive blows. Disturbed bulk samples were obtained from the SPT sampler and the drill cuttings.

The soils are classified in accordance with the Unified Soil Classification System as illustrated on Figure I-1. Logs of the borings are presented on Figures I-2 through I-6.













# **APPENDIX II LABORATORY TESTING**

Laboratory tests were performed to provide geotechnical parameters for engineering analyses. The following tests were performed:

- **CLASSIFICATION:** Field classifications were verified in the laboratory by visual examination. The final soil classifications are in accordance with the Unified Soil Classification System.
- **IN SITU MOISTURE AND DENSITY:** The in-situ moisture content and dry unit weight were evaluated on samples collected from the borings. The test results are presented on the boring logs in Appendix I.
- **PARTICLE-SIZE DISTRIBUTION:** The particle-size distribution was evaluated on two selected soil samples in accordance with ASTM D6913. Figures II-1 and II-2 present the test results.
- **ATTERBERG LIMITS:** The Atterberg limits were evaluated on two selected soil samples in accordance with ASTM D4318. Figures II-1 and II-2 present the test results.
- **CORROSIVITY**: Corrosivity tests were performed on two selected soil samples. The pH and minimum resistivity were evaluated in general accordance with California Test 643. The soluble sulfate content was evaluated in accordance with California Test 417. The total chloride ion content was evaluated in accordance with California Test 422. Figure II-3 presents the test results.
- **EXPANSION INDEX:** The expansion indices were determined on two selected samples in accordance with ASTM D4829. Figure II-3 presents the test results.
- **DIRECT SHEAR:** The shear strengths were evaluated on two selected soil samples in accordance with ASTM D3080. The shear stress was applied at a constant rate of strain of 0.003 inches per minute. Figures II-4 and II-5 present the test results.

Soil samples not tested are now stored in our laboratory for future reference and analysis, if needed. Unless notified to the contrary, all samples will be disposed of 30 days from the date of this report.





## **EXPANSION INDEX**

ASTM D4829



#### *Classification of Expansive Soil <sup>1</sup>*



1. ASTM - D4829

# **RESISTIVITY, pH, SOLUBLE CHLORIDE and SOLUBLE SULFATE**



# *Water-Soluble Sulfate Exposure <sup>2</sup>*



2. Modified from ACI 318-14 Table 19.3.1.1 and Table 19.3.2.1







# **APPENDIX III SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS**











