Geotechnical Report

Proposed New Fire Station No. 49 Tamarisk Drive Desert Center, California

Prepared for:

County of Riverside Project Management Office 3133 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside, CA 92507

Prepared by:

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April 2021

April 9, 2021

Mr. Dominick Lombardi County of Riverside - Project Management Office 3133 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside, CA 92507

> **Geotechnical Report New Fire Station No. 49 Tamarisk Drive Desert Center, California** LCI Report No. LP21057

Dear Mr. Lombardi:

This geotechnical report is provided for design and construction of the proposed new fire station No. 49 located on the north side of Tamarisk Drive east of Parkview Drive in the unincorporated community of Desert Center, California. Our geotechnical exploration was conducted in response to your request for our services. The enclosed report describes our soil engineering site evaluation and presents our professional opinions regarding geotechnical conditions at the site to be considered in the design and construction of the project.

Based on the geotechnical conditions encountered at the points of exploration, the project site appears suitable for the proposed construction provided the professional opinions contained in this report are considered in the design and construction of this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our findings and professional opinions regarding geotechnical conditions at the site. Please provide our office with a set of the foundation plans and civil plans for review to insure that the geotechnical site constraints have been included in the design documents. If you have any questions or comments regarding our findings, please call our office at (760) 370-3000.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This executive summary presents *selected* elements of our findings and professional opinions. This summary *may not* present all details needed for the proper application of our findings and professional opinions. Our findings, professional opinions, and application options are *best related through reading the full report*, and are best evaluated with the active participation of the engineer of record who developed them. The findings of this study are summarized below:

- The findings of this study indicate the site is underlain by interbedded sands and silty sand with near surface silty sand soils. The near surface sands are expected to be non-expansive. The subsurface soils are dense to very dense in nature.
- Groundwater was not encountered in the borings at the time of exploration.
- Elevated sulfate levels were not encountered in the soil samples tested for this investigation. It is recommended that concrete should use Type II cement with a maximum water-cement ratio of 0.50 and a minimum compressive strength of 3,000 psi.
- Design soil bearing pressure of 1,800 psf. Differential movement of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch can be expected for slab on grade foundations placed on native soils.
- Evaluation of liquefaction potential at the site indicates that it is unlikely that the subsurface soil will liquefy under seismically induced ground-shaking due to the dense nature of the underlying saturated granular soils and depth to groundwater (greater than 100 ft.). No mitigation is required for liquefaction effects at this site.
- Seismic settlements of the dry sands have been calculated and are not expected to occur at the project site due to the dense nature of the subsurface soil.
- All reinforcing bars, anchor bolts and hold down bolts shall have a minimum concrete cover of 3.0 inches unless epoxy coated (ASTM D3963/A934). Hold-down straps are not allowed at the foundation perimeter. No pressurized water lines are allowed below or within the foundations.
- Pavement structural sections should be designed for subgrade soils $(R-Value = 50)$ and an appropriate Traffic Index (TI) selected by the civil designer.

Section 1 **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Project Description

This report presents the findings of our geotechnical exploration and soil testing for the proposed new fire station No. 49 located on the north side of Tamarisk Drive east of Parkview Drive in the unincorporated community of Desert Center, California (See Vicinity Map, Plate A-1). A site plan for the proposed development was provided by your office

The structure is planned to consist of slabs-on-grade foundations and steel-frame construction. Footing loads at exterior bearing walls are estimated at 2 to 5 kips per lineal foot. Column loads are estimated to range from 5 to 80 kips. If structural loads exceed those stated above, we should be notified so we may evaluate their impact on foundation settlement and bearing capacity. Site development will include building pad preparation, underground utility installation including trench backfill, concrete foundation construction, parking lot construction, and concrete driveway and sidewalk placement.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of Work

The purpose of this geotechnical study was to investigate the subsurface soil at selected locations within the site for evaluation of physical/engineering properties and liquefaction potential during seismic events. Professional opinions were developed from field and laboratory test data and are provided in this report regarding geotechnical conditions at this site and the effect on design and construction. The scope of our services consisted of the following:

- < Field exploration and in-situ testing of the site soils at selected locations and depths.
- < Laboratory testing for physical and/or chemical properties of selected samples.
- < Review of the available literature and publications pertaining to local geology, faulting, and seismicity.
- < Engineering analysis and evaluation of the data collected.
- < Preparation of this report presenting our findings and professional opinions regarding the geotechnical aspects of project design and construction.

This report addresses the following geotechnical parameters:

- < Subsurface soil and groundwater conditions
- < Site geology, regional faulting and seismicity, near source factors, and site seismic accelerations
- < Liquefaction potential and its mitigation
- < Expansive soil and methods of mitigation
- < Aggressive soil conditions to metals and concrete
- < Soil infiltration rates of the native soil for storm-water retention basin design

Professional opinions with regard to the above parameters are provided for the following:

- < Site grading and earthwork
- < Building pad and foundation subgrade preparation
- < Allowable soil bearing pressures and expected settlements
- < Concrete slabs-on-grade
- < Excavation conditions and buried utility installations
- < Mitigation of the potential effects of salt concentrations in native soil to concrete mixes and steel reinforcement
- < Seismic design parameters
- < Preliminary pavement structural sections

Our scope of work for this report did not include an evaluation of the site for the presence of environmentally hazardous materials or conditions, storm water infiltration, groundwater mounding, or landscape suitability of the soil.

1.3 Authorization

Mr. Dominick Lombardi of County of Riverside, Project Management Office provided authorization by written agreement to proceed with our work on March 11, 2021. We conducted our work in general accordance with our written proposal dated March 11, 2021.

Section 2 **METHODS OF INVESTIGATION**

2.1 Field Exploration

Subsurface exploration was performed on March 17, 2021 using 2R Drilling of Ontario, California to advance two (2) borings to depths of 26.5to 51.5 feet below existing ground surface. The borings were advanced with a truck-mounted, CME 75 drill rig using 8-inch diameter, hollowstem, continuous-flight augers. The approximate boring locations were established in the field and plotted on the site map by sighting to discernible site features. The boring locations are shown on the Site and Exploration Plan (Plate A-2).

A geo-technician observed the drilling operations and maintained logs of the soil encountered with sampling depths. Soils were classified during drilling according to the Unified Soil Classification System using the visual-manual procedure in accordance with ASTM D2488. Relatively undisturbed and bulk samples of the subsurface materials were obtained at selected intervals. The relatively undisturbed soil samples were retrieved using a 2-inch outside diameter (OD) splitspoon sampler or a 3-inch OD Modified California Split-Barrel (ring) sampler lined with 6-inch stainless-steel sleeves.

After logging and sampling the soil, the exploratory borings were backfilled with the excavated material. The backfill was loosely placed and was not compacted to the requirements specified for engineered fill. The existing asphalt surfaces were repaired with asphalt cold patch or quickset concrete with black pigment.

The subsurface logs are presented on Plates B-1 and B-2 in Appendix B. A key to the log symbols is presented on Plate B-3. The stratification lines shown on the subsurface logs represent the approximate boundaries between the various strata. However, the transition from one stratum to another may be gradual over some range of depth.

2.2 Laboratory Testing

Laboratory tests were conducted on selected bulk (auger cuttings) and relatively undisturbed soil samples obtained from the soil borings to aid in classification and evaluation of selected engineering properties of the site soils.

The tests were conducted in general conformance to the procedures of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or other standardized methods as referenced below. The laboratory testing program consisted of the following tests:

- < Particle Size Analyses (ASTM D422)
- < Unit Dry Densities (ASTM D2937)
- < Moisture Contents (ASTM D2216)
- < Moisture-Density Relationship (ASTM D1557)
- < Chemical Analyses (soluble sulfates & chlorides, pH, and resistivity) (Caltrans Methods)

The laboratory test results are presented on the subsurface logs (Appendix B) and in Appendix C. Engineering parameters of soil strength, compressibility and relative density utilized for developing design criteria provided within this report were obtained from the field and laboratory testing program.

2.3 Soil Infiltration Testing

A total of two (2) infiltration tests were conducted on March 23, 2021 at the proposed location for the on-site storm-water retention basin as shown on the Site and Exploration Plan (Plate A-2). The infiltration tests were performed to the guideline from Design Handbook for Low Impact Development Best Management Practices, prepared by Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Appendix A, Section 2.3, dated September 2011. The tests were performed using perforated pipes inside an 8-inch diameter flight auger borehole made to depths of approximately 5.0 feet below the existing ground surface, corresponding to the anticipated bottom depth of the stormwater retention basin. The pipes were filled with water and successive readings of drop in water levels were made every 30 minutes for a total elapsed time of 180 minutes, until a stabilization drop was recorded.

The test results indicate that the stabilized soil infiltration rate for the soil ranges from 2.5 to 4.2 inches per hour. A maximum soil infiltration rate of 2.5 inches per hour may be used for the onsite storm-water retention basin design. An oil/water separator should be installed at inlets to the stormwater retention basin to prevent sealing of the basin bottom with silt and oil residues. The field and conversion calculation worksheets are included in Appendix F. We recommend additional testing should be performed after the completion of rough grading operations, to verify the soil infiltration rate.

Section 3 **DISCUSSION**

3.1 Site Conditions

The project site is irregularly-shaped in plan view, is relatively flat-lying slopes gently to the northeast. The coordinates of the project site (latitude/longitude) are 33.7385N / -115.3913W. The project site is covered with scattered dry brush and weeds. The site is bounded by Tamarisk Drive to the south and vacant lots to the east and north. A fenced communications building is located to the west. Adjacent properties are flat-lying and are approximately at the same elevation with this site. The existing Lake Tamarisk Fire Station No. 49 is located southwest of the project site at the southeast corner of Tamarisk Drive and Parkview Drive.

The project site lies at an elevation of approximately 725 to 730 feet above mean sea level in the Chuckwalla Valley region of the California low desert. Annual rainfall in this arid region is less than 4 inches per year with four months of average summertime temperatures above 100 °F. Winter temperatures are mild, seldom reaching freezing.

3.2 Geologic Setting

The project site is located in the Eastern Transverse Ranges province and adjacent parts of the Mojave Desert, where highland terrains expose igneous and metamorphic crystalline basement overlain locally by Tertiary cover strata, and intervening basins are filled with Pliocene and Quaternary sedimentary deposits. Basement consists of Proterozoic and Mesozoic plutonic and metamorphic rocks. The Eastern Transverse Ranges block is characterized by left-oblique, eaststriking faults that extend east from the Little San Bernardino Mountains. The project site is located in the western portion of the Chuckwalla Valley of the southern Mojave Desert region of southern California. The project site lies on a broad Holocene alluvial fan (bajada) that slopes gently to the northeast toward Palen Lake, a dry lake bed. The Chuckwalla Valley is bounded on the southwest by the Chuckwalla Mountains and the northeast by the McCoy Mountains. The adjacent mountains to the north and east are composed of Precambrian through Mesozoic age gneiss, schist, and granitic rocks overlain by Tertiary through Quaternary age volcanic and nonmarine sedimentary rocks. Figure 1 shows the location of the site in relation to regional faults and physiographic features.

3.3 Site Subsurface Conditions

Subsurface soils encountered during the field exploration conducted in March 2021 consist of dominantly dense to very dense, interbedded sands (SP), sands (SP-SM) and silty sands (SM) to a depth of 51.5 feet, the maximum depth of exploration.

Groundwater was not encountered to a depth of 50 feet below ground surface at the project site during the field exploration.

Groundwater records in the vicinity of the project site indicate that historic groundwater levels fluctuated between 67 and 122 feet below the ground surface between 1961 and 1985 according to the Department of Water Resources.

3.4 Seismic Hazards

3.4.1 Faulting and Seismicity

The project site is located in the seismically active southern California region and is expected to be subjected to moderate to strong ground shaking during the design life of the project. A fault map illustrating known active faults relative to the site is presented on Figure 1, *Regional Fault Map*. Figure 2 shows the project site in relation to local faults.

The criterion for fault classification adopted by the California Geological Survey defines Earthquake Fault Zones along Holocene-active or pre-Holocene faults (CGS, 2018b). Earthquake Fault Zones are regulatory zones that address the hazard of surface fault rupture. A Holocene-active fault is one that has ruptured during Holocene time (within the last 11,700 years). A pre-Holocene fault is a fault that has not ruptured in the last 11,700 years. Pre-Holocene faults may still be capable of surface rupture in the future, but are not regulated by the A-P act. Table 1 lists known faults or seismic zones that lie within a 38 mile (60 kilometer) radius of the project site.

The site is not located within a currently designated Earthquake Fault-Rupture Hazard Zone (CGS, 2018b). *Review of the current Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps (CGS, 2018a) indicates that the nearest mapped Earthquake Fault Zone is the San Andreas fault, located approximately 32.2 miles west of the site.*

The possibility of ground surface rupture related to active faulting on currently unrecognized faults exists throughout the seismically active Coachella Valley region. However, given the current state of knowledge regarding seismicity of the Coachella Valley, the potential for fault rupture at the project site is considered low.

3.4.2 Historic Seismicity

The Coachella Valley is one of the most seismically active regions in the United States and has experienced several historical events of magnitude 5.9 or greater. The following briefly outlines seismic events that have significantly affected the Coachella Valley in the past 60 years.

- < *Desert Hot Springs Event* On December 4, 1948, a magnitude 6.5MW earthquake occurred east of Desert Hot Springs (Proctor, 1968).
- < *Palm Springs Event* A magnitude 6.2MW earthquake occurred on July 8, 1986 in the Painted Hills causing minor surface creep of the Banning segment of the San Andreas Fault (USGS, 1987).
- < *Joshua Tree Event* On April 22, 1992, a magnitude 6.1 MW earthquake occurred in the mountains 9 miles east of Desert Hot Springs (OSMS, 1992). Some structural damage and minor injuries occurred in the Palm Springs area during this earthquake.
- < *Landers Event* Early on June 28, 1992, the Coachella Valley was subjected to the largest seismic event to strike Southern California in 40 years. The Landers earthquake had a main shock with a 7.3M_w magnitude. Surface rupture occurred just south of the town of Yucca Valley and extended some 43 miles north toward Barstow. Surface horizontal offsets attained a maximum of 21 feet (OSMS, 1992).
- < *Big Bear Event* Approximately three hours after the Landers Event on June 28, 1992, a magnitude $6.4M_W$ earthquake occurred 10 miles southeast of Big Bear Lake. The earthquake occurred on a previously unknown fault trending northeast from the San Andreas Fault in the San Bernardino Mountains (OSMS, 1992).
- ϵ *Hector Mine Event* On October 16, 1999, a magnitude 7.1 M_W earthquake occurred on the Lavic Lake and Bullion Mountain Faults north of Twentynine Palms.

3.5 General Ground Motion Analysis

The project site is considered likely to be subjected to moderate to strong ground motion from earthquakes in the region. Ground motions are dependent primarily on the earthquake magnitude and distance to the seismogenic (rupture) zone. Acceleration magnitudes also are dependent upon attenuation by rock and soil deposits, direction of rupture and type of fault; therefore, ground motions may vary considerably in the same general area.

2019 CBC General Ground Motion Parameters: The California Building Code (CBC) requires that a site-specific ground motion hazard analysis be performed in accordance with ASCE 7-16 Section 11.4.8 for structures on Site Class D and E sites with *S*¹ greater than or equal to 0.2 and Site Class E sites with *S*^s greater than or equal to 1.0. **This project site has been classified as Site Class C, which would not require a site-specific ground motion hazard analysis**.

The 2019 CBC general ground motion parameters are based on the Risk-Targeted Maximum Considered Earthquake (MCER). The Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) and Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) Seismic Design Maps Web Application (SEAOC, 2021) was used to obtain the site coefficients and adjusted maximum considered earthquake spectral response acceleration parameters.

Design spectral response acceleration parameters are defined as the earthquake ground motions that are two-thirds $(2/3)$ of the corresponding MCE_R ground motions. The Maximum Considered Earthquake Geometric Mean (MCEG) peak ground acceleration adjusted for soil site class effects (PGAM) value to be used for liquefaction and seismic settlement analysis in accordance with 2019 CBC Section 1803.5.12 ($PGA_M = F_{PGA} * PGA$) is estimated at 0.36g for the project site. **Design earthquake ground motion parameters are provided in Table 2.**

3.6 Seismic and Other Hazards

< **Groundshaking.** The primary seismic hazard at the project site is the potential for strong groundshaking during earthquakes along the San Andreas fault. A further discussion of groundshaking is provided in Section 3.5.

- < **Surface Rupture.** The project site does not lie within a State of California, Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Surface fault rupture is considered to be unlikely at the project site because of the well-delineated fault lines through the Chuckwalla Valley as shown on USGS, CDMG, and County of Riverside maps. However, because of the high tectonic activity and deep alluvium of the region, we cannot preclude the potential for surface rupture on undiscovered or new faults that may underlie the site.
- < **Liquefaction and lateral spreading.** Liquefaction is unlikely to be a potential hazard at the site due to very dense soil conditions and depth to groundwater. The project site lies in a Riverside County designated zone of moderate potential for liquefaction (See Riverside County Geographic Information System (GIS) – Liquefaction Zones, Plate A-7). The potential for liquefaction induced settlement occurring at the project site during a strong seismic event is discussed in Section 3.8.

Other Potential Geologic Hazards.

- < **Landsliding.** The hazard of landsliding is unlikely due to the regional planar topography. No ancient landslides are shown on geologic maps, aerial photographs and topographic maps of the region and no indications of landslides were observed during our site investigation.
- < **Volcanic hazards.** The site is not located proximal to any known volcanically active area and the risk of volcanic hazards is considered low. Obsidian Butte and Red Hill, located at the south end of the Salton Sea approximately 38 miles southwest of the project site, are small remnants of volcanic domes. The domes erupted about 1,800 to 2,500 years ago (Wright et al, 2015). The subsurface brine fluids around the domes have a high heat flow and are currently being utilized to produce geothermal energy.
- < **Tsunamis and seiches.** Tsunamis are giant ocean waves created by strong underwater seismic events, asteroid impact, or large landslides. Seiches are large waves generated in enclosed bodies of water in response to strong ground shaking. The site is not located near any large bodies of water, so the threat of tsunami, seiches, or other seismically-induced flooding is considered unlikely
- < **Flooding.** The site does not lie near any large bodies of water, so the threat of seismicallyinduced flooding is unlikely. The project site is located within Riverside County Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Zone D as shown on Plate A-9.
- < **Collapsible soils.** Collapsible soil generally consists of dry, loose, low-density material that have the potential collapse and compact (decrease in volume) when subjected to the addition of water or excessive loading. Soils found to be most susceptible to collapse include loess (fine grained wind-blown soils), young alluvium fan deposits in semi-arid to arid climates, debris flow deposits and residual soil deposits. Due to the dense nature of the subsurface soils, the potential for hydro-collapse of the subsurface soils at this project site is considered very low.
- < **Expansive soils.** The near surface soils at the project site consist of sandy silts, silty sands and sands which are non-expansive.

3.8 Liquefaction

Liquefaction occurs when granular soil below the water table is subjected to vibratory motions, such as produced by earthquakes. With strong ground shaking, an increase in pore water pressure develops as the soil tends to reduce in volume. If the increase in pore water pressure is sufficient to reduce the vertical effective stress (suspending the soil particles in water), the soil strength decreases and the soil behaves as a liquid (similar to quicksand). Liquefaction can produce excessive settlement, ground rupture, lateral spreading, or failure of shallow bearing foundations. Four conditions are generally required for liquefaction to occur:

- (1) the soil must be saturated (relatively shallow groundwater);
- (2) the soil must be loosely packed (low to medium relative density);
- (3) the soil must be relatively cohesionless (not clayey); and
- (4) groundshaking of sufficient intensity must occur to function as a trigger mechanism.

Liquefaction Induced Settlements: *Based on dense nature of the subsurface granular soil and lack of groundwater in the upper 50 feet, liquefaction is not expected to occur at the project site.*

Mitigation: Liquefaction is not expected to occur at the project site; therefore, mitigation for liquefaction is not required at the site.

3.9 Seismic Settlement

An evaluation of the non-liquefaction seismic settlement potential was performed using the relationships developed by Tokimatsu and Seed (1984, 1987) for dry sands. This method is an empirical approach to quantify seismic settlement using SPT blow counts and PGA estimates from the probabilistic seismic hazard analysis. The soils beneath the site consist primarily of dense to very dense silty sands and sands which are not expected to experience seismic settlement during strong seismic events. A computer printout of the seismic settlement analysis is provided in Appendix D.

3.10 Hydro-consolidation

In arid climatic regions, granular soils have a potential to collapse upon wetting. This collapse (hydroconsolidation) phenomena is the result of the lubrication of soluble cements (carbonates) in the soil matrix causing the soil to densify from its loose configuration during deposition. Based on our experience in the vicinity of the project site and the site soils are dense to very dense in nature, there is a slight risk of collapse upon inundation from the site. Therefore, development of building foundation is not required to include provisions for mitigating the hydroconsolidation caused by soil saturation from landscape irrigation or broken utility lines.

3.11 Regional Subsidence

The project site is located in Riverside County designated area susceptible to subsidence (Plate A-8). The risk of regional subsidence at the project site is considered low.

Section 4 **DESIGN CRITERIA**

4.1 Site Preparation

Pre-grade Meeting: Prior to site preparation, a meeting should be held at the site with as a minimum, the owner's representative, grading contractor and geotechnical engineer in attendance.

Clearing and Grubbing: All surface improvements, debris and/or vegetation including grass, bushes, and weeds on the site at the time of construction should be removed from the construction area. Root balls should be completely excavated. Organic stripping should be hauled from the site and not used as fill. *Any trash, construction debris, concrete slabs, old pavement, landfill, and buried obstructions such as old foundations and utility lines exposed during rough grading should be traced to the limits of the foreign materials and removed. [Abandoned pipes should be traced and removed or filled with concrete.* Any excavations resulting from site clearing and grubbing should be dish-shaped to the lowest depth of disturbance and backfilled with engineered fill.

Mass Grading: Prior to placing any fills, the surface 12 inches of soil should be removed, the exposed surface uniformly moisture conditioned to a depth of 8 inches by discing and wetting to at least 2% over optimum moisture, and re-compacted to at least 90% of ASTM D1557 maximum density. Native soils may be used for mass grading, placed in 6 to 8 inches maximum lifts, uniformly moisture conditioned to a depth of 8 inches by discing and wetting to within 2% of optimum moisture, and re-compacted to at least 90% of ASTM D1557 maximum density.

Building Pad Preparation for Foundations: The existing surface soil within the building pad area(s) should be removed to 18 inches below the lowest foundation grade or 36 inches below the original grade (whichever is deeper), extending five feet beyond all exterior wall/column lines (including adjacent concreted areas). The exposed sub-grade should be scarified to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, uniformly moisture conditioned to within 2% of optimum moisture, and re-compacted to at least 90% of ASTM D1557 maximum density.

Auxiliary Structures Foundation Preparation: Auxiliary structures such as free standing or retaining walls should have footings extended to a minimum of 18 inches below grade. The existing soil beneath the structure foundation prepared in the manner described for the building pad except the preparation needs only to extend 18 inches below and beyond the footing.

Street and Parking Lot Subgrade Preparation: The native soils in street areas should be removed and recompacted to 12 inches below the design subgrade elevation. Engineered fill in street areas should be uniformly moisture conditioned to within 2% of optimum moisture, placed in layers not more than 6 to 8 inches in thickness and mechanically compacted to a minimum of 90% of the ASTM D1557 maximum dry density.

Sidewalk and Concrete Hardscape Areas: In areas other than the building pad which are to receive concrete slabs, the ground surface should be over-excavated to a depth of 12 inches, uniformly moisture conditioned to within 2% of optimum moisture, and re-compacted to at least 90% of ASTM D1557 maximum density.

The on-site soils are suitable for use as compacted fill and utility trench backfill. Imported fill soil (if required) should be similar to onsite soil or non-expansive, granular soil meeting the USCS classifications of SM, SP-SM, or SW-SM with a maximum rock size of 6 inches and no less than 5% passing the No. 200 sieve. *The geotechnical engineer should approve imported fill soil sources before hauling material to the site*. Native and imported materials should be placed in lifts no greater than 8 inches in loose thickness, uniformly moisture conditioned to within 2% of optimum moisture, and re-compacted to at least 90% of ASTM D1557 maximum density.

Moisture Control and Drainage: The moisture condition of the building pad should be maintained during trenching and utility installation until concrete is placed or should be rewetted before initiating delayed construction. If soil drying is noted, a 2 to 3 inches depth of water may be used in the bottom of footings to restore footing subgrade moisture and reduce potential edge lift.

Adequate site drainage is essential to future performance of the project. Infiltration of excess irrigation water and stormwaters can adversely affect the performance of the subsurface soil at the site. Positive drainage should be maintained away from all structures (5% for 5 feet minimum across unpaved areas) to prevent ponding and subsequent saturation of the native soil. Gutters and downspouts may be considered as a means to convey water away from foundations.

Observation and Density Testing: All site preparation and fill placement should be continuously observed and tested by a representative of a qualified geotechnical engineering firm. Full-time observation services during the excavation and scarification process is necessary to detect undesirable materials or conditions and soft areas that may be encountered in the construction area. The geotechnical firm that provides observation and testing during construction shall assume the responsibility of "*geotechnical engineer of record*" and, as such, shall perform additional tests and investigation as necessary to satisfy themselves as to the site conditions and the geotechnical parameters for site development.

4.2 Utility Trench Backfill

On-site soil free of debris, vegetation, and other deleterious matter may be suitable for use as utility trench backfill. Backfill within roadway should, at a minimum, conform to County of Riverside Standard No. 818 – Utility Trench Backfill (Plate E-1 – Appendix E).

Backfill within roadways should be placed in layers not more than 6 to 8 inches in thickness, uniformly moisture conditioned to within 2% of optimum moisture and mechanically compacted to a minimum of 90% of the ASTM D1557 maximum dry density except for the top 12 inches of the trench which shall be compacted to at least 95%. Native backfill should only be placed and compacted after encapsulating buried pipes with suitable bedding and pipe envelope material.

Pipe envelope/bedding should either be clean sand (Sand Equivalent SE>30). Precautions should be taken in the compaction of the backfill to avoid damage to the pipes and structures.

4.3 Foundations and Settlements

Shallow column footings and continuous wall footings are suitable to support the structures provided they are founded on a layer of properly prepared and compacted soil as described in Section 4.1. The foundations may be designed using an allowable soil bearing pressure of 1,800 psf. The allowable soil pressure may be increased by 20% for each foot of embedment depth in excess of 18 inches and by one-third for short term loads induced by winds or seismic events. The maximum allowable soil pressure at increased embedment depths shall not exceed 2,200 psf.

All exterior and interior foundations should be embedded a minimum of 18 inches below the building support pad or lowest adjacent final grade, whichever is deeper. Continuous wall footings should have a minimum width of 12 inches. Isolated column footings should have a minimum width of 24 inches. *Recommended concrete reinforcement and sizing for all footings should be provided by the structural engineer.*

Resistance to horizontal loads will be developed by passive earth pressure on the sides of footings and frictional resistance developed along the bases of footings and concrete slabs. Passive resistance to lateral earth pressure may be calculated using an equivalent fluid pressure of 300 pcf to resist lateral loadings. The top one foot of embedment should not be considered in computing passive resistance unless the adjacent area is confined by a slab or pavement. An allowable friction coefficient of 0.35 may also be used at the base of the footings to resist lateral loading.

Foundation movement under the estimated static loadings and seismic site conditions are estimated to not exceed ¾ inch with differential movement of about two-thirds of total movement for the loading assumptions stated above when the subgrade preparation guidelines given above are followed. Foundation movements under the seismic loading due to liquefaction and/or dry settlement, and collapse potential are provided in Section 3.9 and 3.10 of this report.

4.4 Slabs-On-Grade

Concrete slabs and flatwork should be a minimum of 5 inches thick. Concrete floor slabs may either be monolithically placed with the foundation or dowelled after footing placement. The concrete slabs may be placed on granular subgrade that has been compacted at least 90% relative compaction (ASTM D1557).

American Concrete Institute (ACI) guidelines (ACI 302.1R-04 Chapter 3, Section 3.2.3) provide recommendations regarding the use of moisture barriers beneath concrete slabs. The concrete floor slabs should be underlain by a 10-mil polyethylene vapor retarder that works as a capillary break to reduce moisture migration into the slab section. All laps and seams should be overlapped 6 inches or as recommended by the manufacturer. The vapor retarder should be protected from puncture. The joints and penetrations should be sealed with the manufacturer's recommended adhesive, pressure-sensitive tape, or both. The vapor retarder should extend a minimum of 12 inches into the footing excavations. The vapor retarder may lie directly on the compacted granular subgrade with 2 inches of clean sand cover.

Placing sand over the vapor retarder may increase moisture transmission through the slab, because it provides a reservoir for bleed water from the concrete to collect. The sand placed over the vapor retarder may also move and mound prior to concrete placement, resulting in an irregular slab thickness. For areas with moisture sensitive flooring materials, ACI recommends that concrete slabs be placed without a sand cover directly over the vapor retarder, provided that the concrete mix uses a low-water cement ratio and concrete curing methods are employed to compensate for release of bleed water through the top of the slab. The vapor retarder should have a minimum thickness of 15-mil (Stego-Wrap or equivalent).

Concrete slab and flatwork reinforcement should consist of chaired rebar slab reinforcement (minimum of No. 4 bars at 18-inch centers, both horizontal directions) placed at slab mid-height to resist potential swell forces and cracking. *Slab thickness and steel reinforcement are minimums only and should be verified by the structural engineer/designer knowing the actual project loadings.* The construction joint between the foundation and any mowstrips/sidewalks placed adjacent to foundations should be sealed with a polyurethane based non-hardening sealant to prevent moisture migration between the joint.

Control joints should be provided in all concrete slabs-on-grade at a maximum spacing (in feet) of 2 to 3 times the slab thickness (in inches) as recommended by American Concrete Institute (ACI) guidelines. All joints should form approximately square patterns to reduce randomly oriented contraction cracks. Contraction joints in the slabs should be tooled at the time of the pour or sawcut ($\frac{1}{4}$ of slab depth) within 6 to 8 hours of concrete placement. Construction (cold) joints in foundations and area flatwork should either be thickened butt-joints with dowels or a thickened keyed-joint designed to resist vertical deflection at the joint. All joints in flatwork should be sealed to prevent moisture, vermin, or foreign material intrusion. Precautions should be taken to prevent curling of slabs in this arid desert region (refer to ACI guidelines).

4.5 Concrete Mixes and Corrosivity

Selected chemical analyses for corrosivity were conducted on bulk samples of the near surface soil from the project site (Plate C-2). The native soils were found to have low (S0) levels of sulfate ion concentration (257 ppm). Sulfate ions in high concentrations can attack the cementitious material in concrete, causing weakening of the cement matrix and eventual deterioration by raveling. The following table provides American Concrete Institute (ACI) recommended cement types, water-cement ratio and minimum compressive strengths for concrete in contact with soils:

Sulfate Exposure Class	Water-soluble Sulfate $(SO4)$ in soil, ppm	Maximum Water- Cement Type Cement Ratio by weight		Minimum Strength fc (psi)
S ₀	$0-1,000$			
S ₁	1,000-2,000	Π	0.50	4,000
S ₂	2,000-20,000	V	0.45	4,500
S ₃	Over 20,000	V (plus Pozzolon)	0.45	4,500

Table 4. Concrete Mix Design Criteria due to Soluble Sulfate Exposure

Note: From ACI 318-14 Table 19.3.1.1 and Table 19.3.2.1

A minimum of 3,000 psi concrete of Type II Portland Cement with a maximum water-cement ration of 0.50 (by weight) should be placed in contact with native soil on this project (sitework including streets, flatwork, sidewalks, driveways, patios, and foundations).

A minimum concrete cover of three (3) inches is recommended around steel reinforcing or embedded components (anchor bolts, hold-downs, etc.) exposed to native soil or landscape water (to 18 inches above grade). The concrete should also be thoroughly vibrated during placement. Admixtures may be required to allow placement of this low water/cement ratio concrete. Thorough concrete consolidation and hard trowel finishes should be used due to the aggressive soil exposure.

The native soil has low levels of chloride ion concentration (100 ppm). Chloride ions can cause corrosion of reinforcing steel, anchor bolts and other buried metallic conduits. Resistivity determinations on the soil indicate very potential for metal loss because of electrochemical corrosion processes. Mitigation of the corrosion of steel can be achieved by using steel pipes coated with epoxy corrosion inhibitors, asphaltic and epoxy coatings, cathodic protection or by encapsulating the portion of the pipe lying above groundwater with a minimum of 3 inches of densely consolidated concrete. *No metallic water pipes or conduits should be placed below foundations.*

Foundation designs shall provide a minimum concrete cover of three (3) inches around steel reinforcing or embedded components (anchor bolts, etc.) exposed to native soil or landscape water (to 18 inches above grade). If the 3-inch concrete edge distance cannot be achieved, all embedded steel components (anchor bolts, etc.) shall be epoxy coated for corrosion protection (in accordance with ASTM D3963/A934) or a corrosion inhibitor and a permanent waterproofing membrane shall be placed along the exterior face of the exterior footings. *Hold-down straps should not be used at foundation edges due to corrosion of metal at its protrusion from the slab edge.* Additionally, the concrete should be thoroughly vibrated at footings during placement to decrease the permeability of the concrete.

Copper water piping (except for trap primers) should not be placed under floor slabs. All copper piping within 18 inches of ground surface shall be wrapped with two layers of 10 mil plumbers tape or sleeved with PVC piping to prevent contact with soil. The trap primer pipe shall be completely encapsulated in a PVC sleeve and Type K copper should be utilized if polyethylene tubing cannot be used. Pressurized waterlines are not allowed under the floor slab. Fire protection piping (risers) should be placed outside of the building foundation.

Landmark does not practice corrosion engineering. We recommend that a qualified corrosion engineer evaluate the corrosion potential on metal construction materials and concrete at the site to obtain final design recommendations.

4.6 Excavations

All site excavations should conform to CalOSHA requirements for Type C soil. The contractor is solely responsible for the safety of workers entering trenches. Temporary excavations with depths of 4 feet or less may be cut nearly vertical for short duration. Excavations deeper than 4 feet will require shoring or slope inclinations in conformance to CAL/OSHA regulations for Type C soil. Surcharge loads of stockpiled soil or construction materials should be set back from the top of the slope a minimum distance equal to the height of the slope. All permanent slopes should not be steeper than 3:1 to reduce wind and rain erosion. Protected slopes with ground cover may be as steep as 2:1. However, maintenance with motorized equipment may not be possible at this inclination.

4.7 Seismic Design

This site is located in the seismically active southern California area and the site structures are subject to strong ground shaking due to potential fault movements along the San Andreas fault. Engineered design and earthquake-resistant construction are the common solutions to increase safety and development of seismic areas. Designs should comply with the latest edition of the CBC for Site Class C using the seismic coefficients given in Section 3.6 and Table 2 of this report.

4.8 Pavements

Pavements should be designed according to the 2020 Caltrans Highway Design Manual or other acceptable methods. Traffic indices were not provided by the project engineer or owner; therefore, we have provided structural sections for several traffic indices for comparative evaluation. The public agency or design engineer should decide the appropriate traffic index for the site. Maintenance of proper drainage is necessary to prolong the service life of the pavements.

Based on the current Caltrans method, an estimated R-value of 50 for the subgrade soil and assumed traffic indices, the following table provides our estimates for asphaltic concrete (AC) and Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) pavement sections.

PAVEMENT STUCTURAL SECTIONS

Notes:

- 1) Asphaltic concrete shall be Caltrans, Type B, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch maximum medium grading, $(\frac{1}{2})$ inch for parking areas) medium grading with PG70-10 asphalt concrete, compacted to a minimum of 95% of the 50-blow Marshall density (ASTM D1559).
- 2) Aggregate base shall conform to Caltrans Class $2 \frac{3}{4}$ in. maximum), compacted to a minimum of 95% of ASTM D1557 maximum dry density.
- 3) Place pavements on 12 inches of moisture conditioned (at least 2% of over optimum) native soil compacted to a minimum of 95% of the maximum dry density determined by ASTM D1557, or the governing agency requirements.
- 4) Portland cement concrete for pavements should have Type V cement, a minimum compressive strength of 4,500 psi at 28 days, and a maximum water-cement ratio of 0.45.

Final pavement sections may need to be determined by sampling and R-Value testing during grading operations when actual subgrade soils are exposed.

Section 5 **LIMITATIONS AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

5.1 Limitations

The findings and professional opinions within this report are based on current information regarding the proposed new fire station No. 49 located on the north side of Tamarisk Drive east of Parkview Drive in the unincorporated community of Desert Center, California. The conclusions and professional opinions of this report are invalid if:

- < Structural loads change from those stated or the structures are relocated.
- < The Additional Services section of this report is not followed.
- < This report is used for adjacent or other property.
- < Changes of grade or groundwater occur between the issuance of this report and construction other than those anticipated in this report.
- < Any other change that materially alters the project from that proposed at the time this report was prepared.

This report was prepared according to the generally accepted *geotechnical engineering standards of practice* that existed in Riverside County at the time the report was prepared. No express or implied warranties are made in connection with our services.

Findings and professional opinions in this report are based on selected points of field exploration, geologic literature, limited laboratory testing, and our understanding of the proposed project. Our analysis of data and professional opinions presented herein are based on the assumption that soil conditions do not vary significantly from those found at specific exploratory locations. Variations in soil conditions can exist between and beyond the exploration points or groundwater elevations may change. The nature and extend of such variations may not become evident until, during or after construction. If variations are detected, we should immediately be notified as these conditions may require additional studies, consultation, and possible design revisions.

Environmental or hazardous materials evaluations were not performed by *LandMark Consultants, Inc.* for this project. *LandMark Consultants, Inc.* will assume no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any claim, damage, or injury which results from pre-existing hazardous materials being encountered or present on the project site, or from the discovery of such hazardous materials.

The client has responsibility to see that all parties to the project including designer, contractor, and subcontractor are made aware of this entire report within a reasonable time from its issuance. This report should be considered invalid for periods after two years from the date of report issuance without a review of the validity of the findings and professional opinions by our firm, because of potential changes in the Geotechnical Engineering Standards of Practice.

This report is based upon government regulations in effect at the time of preparation of this report. Future changes or modifications to these regulations may require modification of this report. Land or facility use, on and off-site conditions, regulations, design criteria, procedures, or other factors may change over time, which may require additional work. Any party other than the client who wishes to use this report shall notify *LandMark Consultants, Inc.* of such intended use. Based on the intended use of the report, *LandMark Consultants, Inc.* may require that additional work be performed and that an updated report be issued. Non-compliance with any of these requirements by the client or anyone else will release *LandMark Consultants, Inc.* from any liability resulting from the use of this report by any unauthorized party and client agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold *LandMark Consultants, Inc.* harmless from any claim or liability associated with such unauthorized use or non-compliance.

This report contains information that may be useful in the preparation of contract specifications. However, the report is not worded is such a manner that we recommend its use as a construction specification document without proper modification. The use of information contained in this report for bidding purposes should be done at the contractor's option and risk.

5.2 Plan Review

Landmark Consultants, Inc. should be retained during development of design and construction documents to check that the geotechnical professional opinions are appropriate for the proposed project and that the geotechnical professional opinions are properly interpreted and incorporated into the documents. *Landmark Consultants, Inc.* should have the opportunity to review the final design plans and specifications for the project prior to the issuance of such for bidding.

Governmental agencies may require review of the plans by the geotechnical engineer of record for compliance to the geotechnical report.

5.3 Additional Services

We recommend that *Landmark Consultants, Inc.* be retained to provide the tests and observations services during construction. *The geotechnical engineering firm providing such tests and observations shall become the geotechnical engineer of record and assume responsibility for the project.*

Landmark Consultants, Inc. recommendations for this site are, to a high degree, dependent upon appropriate quality control of subgrade preparation, fill placement, and foundation construction. Accordingly, the findings and professional opinions in this report are made contingent upon the opportunity for Landmark Consultants, Inc. to observe grading operations and foundation excavations for the proposed construction.

If parties other than Landmark Consultants, Inc. are engaged to provide observation and testing services during construction, such parties must be notified that they will be required to assume complete responsibility as the geotechnical engineer of record for the geotechnical phase of the project by concurring with the recommendations in this report and/or by providing alternative recommendations.

Additional information concerning the scope and cost of these services can be obtained from our office.

Section 6 **REFERENCES**

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TABLES

Fault Name	Approximate Distance (miles)	Approximate Distance (km)	Maximum Moment Magnitude (Mw)	Fault Length (km)	Slip Rate (mm/yr)
Hot Springs*	27.5	44.1			
San Andreas - Coachella	32.2	51.6	7.2	96 ± 10	25 ± 5
Blue Cut *	34.5	55.2			
Elmore Ranch	38.4	61.4	6.6	29 ± 3	1 ± 0.5
Pisgah Mtn. - Mesquite Lake	38.6	61.7	7.3	89 ± 9	0.6 ± 0.4
Pinto Mtn.	41.9	67.1	7.2	74 ± 7	2.5 ± 2
Indio Hills *	43.7	69.9			
San Andreas - San Bernardino (South)	48.6	77.7	7.4	103 ± 10	30 ± 7
San Andreas - San Bernardino (North)	48.6	77.7	7.5	103 ± 10	24 ± 6
San Jacinto - Anza	53.4	85.4	7.2	91 ± 9	12 ± 6
Brawley [*]	54.8	87.7			
Eureka Peak	55.4	88.7	6.4	19 ± 2	0.6 ± 0.4
Imperial	55.7	89.1	τ	62 ± 6	20 ± 5
Superstition Hills	56.1	89.8	6.6	23 ± 2	4 ± 2
San Jacinto - Borrego	58.4	93.5	6.6	29 ± 3	4 ± 2
San Jacinto - Coyote Creek	60.1	96.1	6.8	41 ± 4	4 ± 2
Superstition Mountain	60.3	96.4	6.6	24 ± 2	5 ± 3
Garnet Hill [*]	61.7	98.7			
Burnt Mtn.	62.6	100.2	6.5	21 ± 2	0.6 ± 0.4
Rico *	63.8	102.1			
S. Emerson - Copper Mtn.	63.9	102.3	τ	54 ± 5	0.6 ± 0.4
Morongo*	64.6	103.4			

Table 1 Summary of Characteristics of Closest Known Active Faults

* Note: Faults not included in CGS database.

Table 2

Table 3 LCI Project No. LP21057 Fire Station 49 - Desert Center, CA Soil Site Class Determination per ASCE 7-16, Section 20.4

Boring B-1

FIGURES

EXPLANATION

Fault traces on land are indicated by solid lines where well located, by dashed lines where approximately located or inferred, and by dotted lines where concealed by younger rocks or by lakes or bays. Fault traces are queried where continuation or existence is uncertain. Concealed faults in the Great Valley are based on maps of selected subsurface horizons, so locations shown are approximate and may indicate structural trend only. All offshore faults based on seismic reflection profile records are shown as solid lines where well defined, dashed where inferred, queried where uncertain.

FAULT CLASSIFICATION COLOR CODE (Indicating Recency of Movement)

Fault along which historic (last 200 years) displacement has occurred and is associated with one or more of the following:

(a) a recorded earthquake with surface rupture. (Also included are some well-defined surface breaks caused by ground shaking during earthquakes, e.g. extensive ground breakage, not on the White Wolf fault, caused by the Arvin-Tehachapi earthquake of 1952). The date of the associated earthquake is indicated. Where repeated surface ruptures on the same fault have occurred, only the date of the latest movement may be indicated, especially if earlier reports are not well documented as to location of ground breaks.

(b) fault creep slippage - slow ground displacement usually without accompanying earthquakes.

(c) displaced survey lines.

A triangle to the right or left of the date indicates termination point of observed surface displacement. Solid red triangle indicates known location of rupture termination point. Open black triangle indicates uncertain or estimated location of rupture termination point.

Date bracketed by triangles indicates local fault break.

No triangle by date indicates an intermediate point along fault break.

Fault that exhibits fault creep slippage. Hachures indicate linear extent of fault creep. Annotation (creep with leader) indicates representative locations where fault creep has been observed and recorded.

Square on fault indicates where fault creep slippage has occured that has been triggered by an earthquake on some other fault. Date of causative earthquake indicated. Squares to right and left of date indicate terminal points between which triggered creep slippage has occurred (creep either continuous or intermittent between these end points).

Holocene fault displacement (during past 11,700 years) without historic record. Geomorphic evidence for Holocene faulting includes sag ponds, scarps showing little erosion, or the following features in Holocene age deposits: offset stream courses, linear scarps, shutter ridges, and triangular faceted spurs. Recency of faulting offshore is based on the interpreted age of the youngest strata displaced by faulting.

Late Quaternary fault displacement (during past 700,000 years). Geomorphic evidence similar to that described for Holocene faults except features are less distinct. Faulting may be younger, but lack of younger overlying deposits precludes more accurate age classification.

Quaternary fault (age undifferentiated). Most faults of this category show evidence of displacement sometime during the past 1.6 million years; possible exceptions are faults which displace rocks of undifferentiated Plio-Pleistocene age, Unnumbered Quaternary faults were based on Fault Map of California, 1975. See Bulletin 201, Appendix D for source data.

Pre-Quaternary fault (older that 1.6 million years) or fault without recognized Quaternary displacement. Some faults are shown in this category because the source of mapping used was of reconnaissnce nature, or was not done with the object of dating fault displacements. Faults in this category are not necessarily inactive.

step between the Imperial and San Andreas faults.

ADDITIONAL FAULT SYMBOLS

* Quaternary now recognized as extending to 2.6 Ma (Walker and Geissman, 2009). Quaternary faults in this map were established using the previous 1.6 Ma criterion

 $-$2.

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APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B

Plate

Key to Logs $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \textbf{B}-3 & \textbf{B} \end{array}$

Project No. LP21057

APPENDIX C

LANDMARK CONSULTANTS, INC.

CLIENT: County of Riverside **PROJECT:** Fire Station 49 - Desert Center, CA **JOB No.:** LP21057 **DATE:** 03/29/21

General Guidelines for Soil Corrosivity

Project No.: LP21057

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APPENDIX D

Seismic Dry Settlement Calculation

Project Name: Fire Station No. 49 - Desert Center, CA Project No.: LP21057 Location: B-1

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APPENDIX E

APPENDIX F

Project No.: LP21057 || Percolation Test Results || F-1

Percolation Test Results

Project No.: LP21057

