

**UPDATE PRELIMINARY FOUNDATION  
AND SEISMIC DESIGN PARAMETERS  
±15-ACRE SITE, RIVER WALK VILLAGE PROJECT  
(APN'S 338-150-029 AND 031)  
CITY OF MENIFEE  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**FOR**

**THE WOMBLE GROUP  
P.O. BOX 3609  
SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90740**

**W.O. 5431-A2-SC    APRIL 5, 2021**



**Geotechnical • Geologic • Coastal • Environmental**

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April 5, 2021

W.O. 5431-A2-SC

**The Womble Group**

P.O. Box 3609  
Seal Beach, California 90740

Attention: Mr. Al Womble

Subject: Update Preliminary Foundation and Seismic Design Parameters,  
±15-Acre Site, River Walk Village Project (APN's 338-150-029 and -031),  
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Womble:

In accordance with your request and authorization, GeoSoils, Inc. (GSI), is providing updated preliminary foundation and seismic design parameters for the River Walk Village project in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, California. The scope of our services has included a review of the referenced geotechnical reports and updated plans for the project site (see the Appendix), analysis of data obtained, development of updated foundation and seismic design parameters, and the preparation of this summary report. Unless specifically superceded herein, the conclusions and recommendations presented in the referenced geotechnical reports by GSI and others (see the Appendix) remain valid and applicable, and should be appropriately implemented during project design and construction, as appropriate.

It is our understanding that site-specific design criteria from the 2019 California Building Code ([2019 CBC], California Building Standards Commission [CBSC], 2019), are to be utilized for foundation designs within the subject project. Much of the 2019 CBC relies on the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE, 2018a and 2017) Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures (ASCE Standard 7-16). The seismic design parameters provided herein are based on the referenced geotechnical reports and previous laboratory testing conducted, review and analyses by GSI, and per the requirements of the 2019 CBC.

**BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS STUDIES**

Previous geotechnical site work was completed in 2001 by Patel & Associates, Inc. (PAI, 2001), in 2004 by Zeiser Kling Consultants, Inc. (ZKCI, 2004), and in 2007 and 2016 by GeoSoils, Inc. (GSI, 2007 and 2016). These previous onsite studies concluded that multi-family residential development of the project site was feasible from a geotechnical view point and provided preliminary foundation design and development

recommendations in accordance with the adopted code requirements at the time the reports were prepared. The previous report by PAI (2001) presented preliminary foundation design recommendations for a ±10-acre senior residential project in accordance with the 1997 Uniform Building Code (1997 UBC), and concluded that near surface soils are likely to exhibit very low to medium expansion potentials. The previous report by ZKCI (2004) provided preliminary foundation design recommendations for a ±10-acre multi-family residential development in accordance with the 2001 California Building Code (2001 CBC) and a liquefaction analysis, that concluded that the sediments underlying the site were not susceptible to liquefaction. The previous geotechnical reports by GSI (2007 and 2016) provided preliminary foundation design recommendations for a ±15-acre residential development in accordance with the 2001 California Building Code (2001 CBC, GSI, 2007) and feasibility level infiltration feasibility testing (GSI, 2016) that concluded that infiltration rates for site soils are typically “very low” (0.00 and 1.66 inches/hour).

### **UPDATED SEISMIC SHAKING PARAMETERS**

Based on the site conditions, the following table summarizes the site-specific design criteria obtained from the 2019 CBC (CBSC, 2019a), Chapter 16 Structural Design, Section 1613, Earthquake Loads. The computer program “Seismic Design Maps,” provided by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD, 2021) was utilized for design (<https://seismicmaps.org/>). The short spectral response utilizes a period of 0.2 seconds.

<b>2019 CBC SEISMIC DESIGN PARAMETERS</b>			
<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>OSHPD VALUE</b>	<b>SITE SPECIFIC VALUE PER ASCE 7-16</b>	<b>2019 CBC OR REFERENCE</b>
Risk Category	II	II	Table 1604.5
Site Class	D	D	Section 1613.2.2/Chap. 20 ASCE 7-16 (p. 203-204)
Spectral Response - (0.2 sec), $S_s$	1.391 g	0.958 g (Section 21.3)	Section 1613.2.1 Figure 1613.2.1(1)
Spectral Response - (1 sec), $S_1$	0.515 g	0.8026 g (Section 21.3)	Section 1613.2.1 Figure 1613.2.1(2)
Site Coefficient, $F_a$	1.0	1.11	Table 1613.2.3(1)
Site Coefficient, $F_v$	null - see Section 11.48 ASCE 7-16	2.5 g (Section 21.3)	Table 1613.2.3(2)
Maximum Considered Earthquake Spectral Response Acceleration (0.2 sec), $S_{MS}$	1.391	1.46 g (Section 21.4)	Section 1613.2.3 (Eqn 16-36)

2019 CBC SEISMIC DESIGN PARAMETERS			
PARAMETER	OSHPD VALUE	SITE SPECIFIC VALUE PER ASCE 7-16	2019 CBC OR REFERENCE
Maximum Considered Earthquake Spectral Response Acceleration (1 sec), $S_{M1}$	null - see Section 11.48 ASCE 7-16	1.471 g (Section 21.4)	Section 1613.2.3 (Eqn 16-37)
5% Damped Design Spectral Response Acceleration (0.2 sec), $S_{DS}$	0.928	0.973 g (Section 21.4)	Section 1613.2.4 (Eqn 16-38)
5% Damped Design Spectral Response Acceleration (1 sec), $S_{D1}$	null - see Section 11.48 ASCE 7-16	0.981 g (Section 21.4)	Section 1613.2.4 (Eqn 16-39)
$PGA_M$ - Probabilistic Vertical Ground Acceleration may be assumed as about 50% of these values.	0.603 g	0.660 g (Section 21.5.3)	ASCE 7-16 (Eqn 11.8.1)
Seismic Design Category	null - see Section 11.48 ASCE 7-16	D (Section 11.6)	Section 1613.2.5/ASCE 7-16 (p. 85: Table 11.6-1 or 11.6-2)

GENERAL SEISMIC PARAMETERS	
PARAMETER	VALUE
Distance to Seismic Source (A fault) <sup>(1)</sup>	8.9 mi. (14.3 km) <sup>(2)</sup>
Upper Bound Earthquake Elsinore fault - Temecula Segment	$M_w = 6.8$ <sup>(1)</sup>
<sup>(1)</sup> - Cao, et al. (2003)	
<sup>(2)</sup> - Blake (2000)	

Conformance to the criteria above for seismic design does not constitute any kind of guarantee or assurance that significant structural damage or ground failure will not occur in the event of a large earthquake. The primary goal of seismic design is to protect life, not to eliminate all damage, since such design may be economically prohibitive. Cumulative effects of seismic events are not addressed in the 2019 CBC (CBSC, 2019a) and regular maintenance and repair following locally significant seismic events (i.e.,  $M_w$ 5.5) will likely be necessary, as is the case in all of Southern California.

It is important to keep in perspective that, in the event of a maximum probable or credible earthquake occurring on any of the nearby major faults, strong ground shaking would occur in the subject site's general area. Potential damage to any structure(s) would likely be greatest from the vibrations and impelling force caused by the inertia of a structure's mass. This potential would be no greater than that for other existing structures and improvements in the immediate vicinity.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Preliminary recommendations for conventional foundation design, post-tensioned slab systems, foundation construction, and development criteria are presented herein. All other findings, conclusions and recommendations presented in the referenced geotechnical reports by PAI, ZKCI, and GSI (see the Appendix) remain valid and applicable, and should be appropriately implemented during project design and construction, as appropriate. The recommendations are presented below.

### **PRELIMINARY FOUNDATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **General**

The following preliminary foundation construction recommendations are presented as a minimum criteria from a soils engineering viewpoint. The expansion potential for the subject site has been previously evaluated (GSI, 2007) to be generally in the low to medium range (expansion index [E.I.] 21 to 90), however, soils with very low expansion potential are also anticipated (PAI, 2001). Accordingly, the following foundation construction recommendations assume that the soils in the top 7 feet of finish grade will have a very low to medium expansion potential. Post-tensioned foundations will likely be recommended for lots where the E.I. is 50 or greater ( $E.I. \geq 50$ ). In addition, post-tensioned foundations may also be required where final expansion testing indicates an E.I.  $> 20$ , and a Plasticity Index (P.I.) of  $\geq 15$  or greater, as per the Section 1815 and/or Section 1816 of the CBC (2019). The site structural engineer should be informed of this to aid in preliminary foundation designs. Foundation design criteria for very low to medium expansion potentials are presented for planning, design, and budgetary considerations. Final foundation designs will be provided based on the depth of fill, the expansion potential and plasticity index of the near-surface soils encountered during or subsequent to site grading.

For the purpose of our geotechnical review and analyses, GSI has assumed that the foundations and slab design loads are typical for single-family wood-frame structures. Therefore, residential wall loads for one- and two-story structures are anticipated to be 1 to 2 kips per lineal foot of wall and 20 to 30 psf of concrete floor load. Isolated column loads are anticipated to be in the range of 10 to 50 kips. All footings are recommended to be embed into compacted fill, as indicated in this report.

This section presents minimum design criteria for the design of foundations, concrete slab-on-grade floors, and other elements possibly applicable to the project. These criteria should not be considered as substitutes for actual designs by the structural engineer. Recommendations by the project's design-structural engineer or architect, which may exceed the geotechnical consultant's recommendations, should take precedence over the following minimum requirements. The foundation systems recommended herein may be

used to support the proposed residences provided they are entirely founded in engineered fill tested and approved by GSI that overlies dense formational earth materials. In the event that the information concerning the proposed development plan is not correct, or any changes in the design, location or loading conditions of the proposed structures are made, the conclusions and recommendations contained in this report shall not be considered valid unless the changes are reviewed and conclusions of this report are modified or approved in writing by this office. Upon request, GSI could provide additional input/consultation regarding soil parameters, as they relate to foundation design.

General recommendations for foundations using either conventional or post-tension systems are provided in the following sections, and are not intended to preclude the transmission of water or water vapor through the foundations or slabs. Further discussion and recommendations are provided within the soil moisture transmission considerations section of this update report.

### **General Foundation Design**

1. The foundation systems should be designed and constructed in accordance with guidelines presented in the 2019 CBC.
2. An allowable bearing value of 1,500 psf may be used for the design of footings that maintain a minimum width of 12 inches and a minimum depth of 12 inches (below the lowest adjacent grade) and are founded entirely into properly engineered fill. This value may be increased by 20 percent for each additional 12 inches in footing embedment to a maximum value of 2,500 psf. These values may be increased by one-third when considering short duration seismic or wind loads. Isolated pad footings should have a minimum dimension of at least 24 inches square and a minimum embedment of 18 inches below the lowest adjacent grade into properly engineered fill. Foundation embedment excludes any landscaped zones, concrete slabs-on-grade, and/or slab underlayment.
3. Passive earth pressure in properly compacted silty or clayey sand fill may be computed as an equivalent fluid having a density of 250 pcf, with a maximum earth pressure of 2,500 psf for footings founded into properly engineered fill. Lateral passive pressures for shallow foundations within 2019 CBC setback zones or within the influence of retaining walls should be reduced following a review by the geotechnical engineer unless proper setbacks can be established.
4. For lateral sliding resistance, a 0.35 coefficient of friction may be utilized for a concrete to soil contact when multiplied by the dead load.
5. When combining passive pressure and frictional resistance, the passive pressure component should be reduced by one-third.

6. All footing setbacks from slopes should comply with Figure 1808.7.1 of the 2019 CBC. GSI recommends a minimum horizontal setback distance of 7 feet as measured from the bottom (i.e., bearing elevation), outboard edge of the footing to the slope face.
7. Footings for structures adjacent to retaining walls should be deepened so as to extend below a 1:1 projection from the heel of the wall should this condition occur. Alternatively, walls may be designed to accommodate structural loads from buildings or appurtenances as described in the "Preliminary Wall Design Parameters" section of this report.
8. All interior and exterior column footings should be minimally tied to the perimeter wall footings in at least one direction. The base of the reinforced grade beam should be at the same elevation as the adjoining footings.
9. Continuous footings should be minimally reinforced with two No. 4 rebar, near the top and near the bottom; likewise, floor slabs should minimally be 4.5 inches thick, and minimally reinforced with No. 3 rebar at 18 inches on center, placed at slab mid-height (on chairs). The structural engineer/foundation designer's recommendations may exceed these minimums.
10. The project structural engineer should consider the use of transverse and longitudinal control joints to help control slab cracking due to concrete shrinkage or expansion. Two of the best ways to control this movement are: 1) add a sufficient amount of reinforcing steel to increase the tensile strength of the slab; and 2) provide an adequate amount of control and/or expansion joints to accommodate anticipated concrete shrinkage and expansion. Transverse and longitudinal crack control joints should be spaced no more than 13 feet on center and constructed to a minimum depth of  $T/4$ , where "T" equals the slab thickness in inches. Per PCA and ACI guidelines, joints are commonly spaced at distances equal to 24 to 30 times the slab thickness. Joint spacing that is greater than 15 feet require the use of load transfer devices (dowels or diamond plates).
11. Provided the recommendations in this report are properly followed, foundation systems should be minimally designed to accommodate a total settlement of 2 inches and a differential settlement of at least 1 inch in a 40-foot horizontal span (angular distortion =  $1/480$ ). This estimated settlement should be re-evaluated once the final foundation layouts, loads, and final grading configuration become available. These preliminary settlement values do not apply to improvements constructed within 2019 CBC setbacks or within the influence of unmitigated soils. In addition, these values do not take seismic effects from strong ground motion into account.

As an alternative to conventional foundations and slabs, for the purpose of improving foundation performance during static and/or seismic loading, an engineered post-tension foundation may be used. Post-tension design parameters for very low to medium



expansive soils (if encountered) are provided in the following section. Other foundation alternatives to comply with the 2019 CBC and to increase performance may also be provided, upon request.

## **POST-TENSIONED FOUNDATIONS**

The following foundation construction recommendations assume that soils in the upper 7 feet are low to medium expansive (if encountered) and have a P.I. of 15, or greater, in accordance with 2019 CBC, Section 1803.5.3. However, may be utilized for very low expansive soils for the purpose of improving foundation performance during static and/or seismic loading. The post-tension foundation designer may exceed these minimal recommendation to increase slab stiffness performance.

Post-tension foundations may be used to mitigate the damaging effects of differential settlement and expansive soils on the planned residential foundations and slab-on-grade floors. The post-tension foundation designer may elect to exceed these minimal recommendations to increase slab stiffness performance. Post-tension (PT) design may be either ribbed or mat-type. The latter is also referred to as uniform thickness foundation (UTF). The use of a UTF is an alternative to the traditional ribbed-type. The UTF offers a reduction in grade beams. That is to say a UTF typically uses a single perimeter grade beam and possible "shovel" footings, but has a thicker slab than the ribbed-type.

The information and recommendations presented in this section are not meant to supercede design by a registered structural engineer or civil engineer qualified to perform post-tensioned design. Post-tensioned foundations should be designed using sound engineering practice and be in accordance with local and 2019 CBC code requirements. Upon request, GSI can provide additional data/consultation regarding soil parameters as related to post-tensioned foundation design.

From a soil expansion/shrinkage standpoint, a common contributing factor to distress of structures using post-tensioned slabs is a "dishing" or "arching" of the slabs. This is caused by the fluctuation of moisture content in the soils below the perimeter of the slab primarily due to onsite and offsite irrigation practices, climatic and seasonal changes, and the presence of expansive soils. When the soil environment surrounding the exterior of the slab has a higher moisture content than the area beneath the slab, moisture tends to migrate inward, underneath the slab edges to a distance beyond the slab edges referred to as the moisture variation distance. When this migration of water occurs, the volume of the soils beneath the slab edges expands and causes the slab edges to lift in response. This is referred to as an edge-lift condition. Conversely, when the outside soil environment is drier, the moisture transmission regime is reversed and the soils underneath the slab edges lose their moisture and shrink. This process leads to dropping of the slab at the edges, which leads to what is commonly referred to as the center lift condition. A well-designed, post-tensioned slab having sufficient stiffness and rigidity provides a resistance to excessive bending that results from non-uniform swelling and shrinking slab



subgrade soils, particularly within the moisture variation distance, near the slab edges. Other mitigation techniques typically used in conjunction with post-tensioned slabs consist of a combination of specific soil pre-saturation and the construction of a perimeter "cut-off" wall grade beam. Soil pre-saturation consists of moisture conditioning the slab subgrade soils prior to the post-tension slab construction. This effectively reduces soil moisture migration from the area located outside the building toward the soils underlying the post-tension slab. Perimeter cut-off walls are thickened edges of the concrete slab that impedes both outward and inward soil moisture migration.

### Slab Subgrade Pre-Soaking

Pre-moistening of the slab subgrade soil is recommended owing to potential expansive soil conditions at the site. The moisture content of the subgrade soils should be equal to or greater than optimum moisture to a depth equivalent to the perimeter grade beam or cut-off wall depth in the slab areas (typically 12 and 18 inches for very low to low, and medium expansive soil conditions, respectively).

Pre-moistening and/or pre-soaking should be evaluated by the soils engineer 72 hours prior to vapor retarder placement. In summary:

EXPANSION INDEX	PAD SOIL MOISTURE	CONSTRUCTION METHOD	SOIL MOISTURE RETENTION
Very Low to Low (0-50)	Upper 12 inches of pad soil moisture 2 percent over optimum (or 1.2 times)	Wetting and/or reprocessing	Periodically wet or cover with plastic after trenching. Evaluation 72 hours prior to placement of concrete.
Medium (51-90)	Upper 18 inches of pad soil moisture 2 percent over optimum (or 1.2 times)	Berm and flood <u>or</u> wetting and reprocessing	Periodically wet or cover with plastic after trenching. Evaluation 72 hours prior to placement of concrete.

### Perimeter Cut-Off Walls

Perimeter cut-off walls should be at least 12 and 18 inches deep for very low to low, and medium expansive soil conditions, respectively. The cut-off walls may be integrated into the slab design or independent of the slab. The cut-off walls should be a minimum of 6 inches thick (wide). The bottom of the perimeter cut-off wall should be designed to resist tension, using cable or reinforcement per the structural engineer.

### Post-Tensioned Foundation Design

The following recommendations for design of post-tensioned slabs have been prepared in general compliance with the requirements of the recent Post Tensioning Institute's (PTI's) publication titled "Standard Requirements for Design and Analysis of Shallow

Post-tensioned Concrete Foundations on Expansive Soils” (PTI, 2012), together with its subsequent errata (PTI, 2013 and 2014).

### Soil Support Parameters

The recommendations for soil support parameters have been provided based on the typical soil index properties for soils that are very low to medium in expansion potential. The soil index properties are typically the upper bound values based on our experience and practice in the southern California area. The following table presents suggested minimum coefficients to be used in the Post-Tensioning Institute design method.

Thornthwaite Moisture Index	-20 inches/year
Correction Factor for Irrigation	20 inches/year
Depth to Constant Soil Suction	7 feet or overexcavation depth, whichever is greater
Constant soil Suction (pf)	3.6
Moisture Velocity	0.7 inches/month
Plasticity Index (P.I.)*	15-45
* - The effective plasticity index should be evaluated for the upper 7 to 15 feet of earth materials.	

Based on the above, the recommended soil support parameters are tabulated below:

DESIGN PARAMETERS	VERY LOW TO LOW EXPANSION (E.I. = 0-50)	MEDIUM EXPANSION (E.I. = 51-90)
$e_m$ center lift	9.0 feet	8.7 feet
$e_m$ edge lift	5.2 feet	4.5 feet
$y_m$ center lift	0.4 inches	0.5 inches
$y_m$ edge lift	0.7 inch	1.3 inch
Bearing Value <sup>(1)</sup>	1,000 psf	1,000 psf
Lateral Pressure	250 psf	175 psf
Subgrade Modulus (k)	100 pci/inch	85 pci/inch
Minimum Perimeter Footing Embedment <sup>(2)</sup>	12 inches	18 inches
<sup>(1)</sup> Internal bearing values within the perimeter of the post-tension slab may be increased to 1,500 psf for a minimum embedment of 12 inches, then by 20 percent for each additional foot of embedment to a maximum of 2,500 psf. <sup>(2)</sup> As measured below the lowest adjacent compacted subgrade surface without landscape layer or sand underlayment. Note: The use of open bottomed raised planters adjacent to foundations will require more onerous design parameters.		

The parameters are considered minimums and may not be adequate to represent all expansive soils and site conditions such as adverse drainage and/or improper landscaping and maintenance. The above parameters are applicable provided the structure has positive drainage that is maintained away from the structure. In addition, no trees with significant root systems are to be planted within 15 feet of the perimeter of foundations. Therefore, it is important that information regarding drainage, site maintenance, trees, settlements, and effects of expansive soils be passed on to future all interested/affected parties. The values tabulated above may not be appropriate to account for possible differential settlement of the slab due to other factors, such as excessive settlements. If a stiffer slab is desired, alternative Post-Tensioning Institute ([PTI] third edition) parameters may be recommended.

**Mat Foundations**

In lieu of using a post-tensioned foundation to resist differential settlement and/or expansive soil effects, the Client may consider a mat foundation which uses steel bar reinforcement instead of post-tensioned cables. The structural engineer may supercede the following recommendations based on the planned building loads and use. WRI (Wire Reinforcement Institute) methodologies for design may be used.

**Mat Foundation Design**

The design of mat foundations should incorporate the vertical modulus of subgrade reaction. This value is a unit value for a 1-foot square footing and should be reduced in accordance with the following equation when used with the design of larger foundations. This assumes that the bearing soils will consist of engineered fills with an average relative compaction of 90 percent of the laboratory (ASTM D 1557).

$$K_R = K_S \left[ \frac{B+1}{2B} \right]^2$$

where:  $K_S$  = unit subgrade modulus  
 $K_R$  = reduced subgrade modulus  
 $B$  = foundation width (in feet)

The modulus of subgrade reaction ( $K_S$ ) and effective plasticity index (P.I.) to be used in mat foundation design for various expansive soil conditions are presented in the following table.

VERY LOW TO LOW EXPANSION (E.I. = 0-50)	MEDIUM EXPANSION (E.I. = 51-90)
$K_S = 100$ pci/inch, PI < 15	$K_S = 85$ pci/inch, PI = 25

Reinforcement bar sizing and spacing for mat slab foundations should be provided by the structural engineer. Mat slabs may be uniform thickness foundations (UTF) or may incorporate the use of edge footings for moisture cut-off barriers as recommended herein for post-tension foundations. Edge footings should be a minimum of 6 inches thick. The bottom of the edge footing should be designed to resist tension, using reinforcement per the structural engineer. The need and arrangement of interior grade beams (stiffening beams) will be in accordance with the structural consultant's recommendations. The recommendations for a mat type of foundation assume that the soils below the slab are compacted fill. The parameters herein are to mitigate the effects of expansive soils and should be modified to mitigate the effects of the total and differential settlements reported in the "Foundation and Improvement Settlements" section of this report.

Specific pre-moistening/pre-soaking and moisture testing of the slab subgrade are recommended for expansive soil conditions ( $E.I. > 20$ ), as previously provided in this report. Slab subgrade moisture conditioning/pre-soaking should conform to the recommendations previously provided for post-tension foundation systems.

### **PRELIMINARY FOUNDATION AND IMPROVEMENT SETTLEMENTS**

In addition to designing slab systems (post-tension or other) for the soil conditions described herein, the estimated settlement and angular distortion values that an individual structure could be subjected to should be evaluated by a structural engineer. The levels of angular distortion were evaluated on a 40-foot length assumed as minimum dimension of buildings; if, from a structural standpoint, a decreased or increased length over which the tilt is assumed to occur is justified, this change should be incorporated into the design. The structures should be evaluated and designed for the combination of the soil parameters presented above, and the estimated total settlement, differential settlement and angular distortions provided herein.

The footings and/or slabs should be designed to accommodate a total static settlement of up to 2 inches and a differential settlement of 1 inch (i.e., at least 1 inch in a 40-foot span). The structural engineer should consider these settlements and the performance of the foundation as well as the overlying structure. These settlement estimates indicated above have been based on Riverside County overexcavation requirements, and do not preclude top of slope deformation (within code setback zones) and settlement due to fills that have been saturated from utility leaks, pool leaks, prevailing climatic conditions, or excessive landscape irrigation.

Post-construction settlement of the fill should be mitigated by proper foundation design, provided the design parameters, provided herein, are properly utilized in final design of the residential foundation systems and improvements. In addition to the above, the structural engineer should also consider estimated settlements due to short duration seismic loading and applicable load combinations, as required by the City/County and/or the 2019 CBC.

## SOIL MOISTURE TRANSMISSION CONSIDERATIONS

GSI has evaluated the potential for vapor or water transmission through the concrete floor slab, in light of typical floor coverings and improvements. Please note that slab moisture emission rates range from about 2 to 27 lbs/24 hours/1,000 square feet from a typical slab (Kanare, 2005), while floor covering manufacturers generally recommend about 3 lbs/24 hours as an upper limit. The recommendations in this section are not intended to preclude the transmission of water or vapor through the foundation or slabs. Foundation systems and slabs shall not allow water or water vapor to enter into the structure so as to cause damage to another building component or to limit the installation of the type of flooring materials typically used for the particular application (State of California, 2021). These recommendations may be exceeded or supplemented by a water “proofing” specialist, project architect, or structural consultant. Thus, the client will need to evaluate the following in light of a cost versus benefit analysis (owner expectations and repairs/replacement), along with disclosure to all interested/affected parties.

It should be noted that vapor transmission will occur in new slab-on-grade floors as a result of chemical reactions taking place within the curing concrete. Vapor transmission through concrete floor slabs as a result of concrete curing has the potential to adversely affect sensitive floor coverings depending on the thickness of the concrete floor slab and the duration of time between the placement of concrete and the floor covering. It is possible that a slab moisture sealant may be needed prior to the placement of sensitive floor coverings if a thick slab-on-grade floor is used and the time frame between concrete and floor covering placement is relatively short.

Considering the E.I. test results presented herein, and known soil conditions in the region, the anticipated typical water vapor transmission rates, floor coverings, and improvements (to be chosen by the Client and/or project architect) that can tolerate vapor transmission rates without significant distress, the following alternatives are provided:

- Concrete slab-on-grade floors (including garage slabs) should be thicker.
- Concrete slab underlayment should consist of a 10- to 15-mil vapor retarder, or equivalent, with all laps sealed per the 2019 CBC and the manufacturer’s recommendation. The vapor retarder should comply with the ASTM E 1745 - Class A criteria, and be installed in accordance with ACI 302.1R-04 and ASTM E 1643.
- The 15-mil vapor retarder (ASTM E 1745 - Class A) shall be installed per the recommendations of the manufacturer, including all penetrations (i.e., pipe, ducting, rebar, etc.).
- Concrete slabs, including garages, shall be underlain by 2 inches of clean, washed sand (S.E.  $\geq$  30) above a 10- to 15-mil vapor retarder (ASTM E 1745 - Class A,

per Engineering Bulletin 119 [Kanare, 2005]). The vapor retarder shall in-turn, be underlain by 2 inches of sand (S.E.  $\geq$  30) placed directly on the prepared, moisture conditioned, subgrade. The vapor retarder should be sealed to provide a continuous retarder under the entire slab and should be installed per the recommendations of the manufacturer, including all penetrations (i.e., pipe, ducting, rebar, etc.). The manufacturer shall provide instructions for lap sealing, including minimum width of lap, method of sealing, and either supply or specify suitable products for lap sealing (ASTM E 1745), and per Code.

ACI 302.1R-04 (2004) states “If a cushion or sand layer is desired between the vapor retarder and the slab, care must be taken to protect the sand layer from taking on additional water from a source such as rain, curing, cutting, or cleaning. Wet cushion or sand layer has been directly linked in the past to significant lengthening of time required for a slab to reach an acceptable level of dryness for floor covering applications.” Therefore, additional observation and/or testing will be necessary for the cushion or sand layer for moisture content, and relatively uniform thicknesses, prior to the placement of concrete.

- Additional concrete mix design recommendations should be provided by the structural consultant and/or waterproofing specialist. Concrete finishing and workability should be addressed by the structural consultant and a waterproofing specialist.
- Where concrete admixtures are utilized, the structural consultant should also make changes to the concrete in the grade beams and footings in kind, so that the concrete used in the foundation and slabs are designed and/or treated for more uniform moisture protection.
- The owner(s) should be specifically advised which areas are suitable for tile flooring, vinyl flooring, or other types of water/vapor-sensitive flooring and which are not suitable. In all planned floor areas, flooring shall be installed per the manufactures recommendations.
- Additional recommendations regarding water or vapor transmission should be provided by the architect/structural engineer/slab or foundation designer and should be consistent with the specified floor coverings indicated by the architect.

Regardless of the mitigation, some limited moisture/moisture vapor transmission through the slab should be anticipated. Construction crews may require special training for installation of certain product(s), as well as concrete finishing techniques. The use of specialized product(s) should be approved by the slab designer and water-proofing consultant. A technical representative of the flooring contractor should review the slab and moisture retarder plans and provide comment prior to the construction of the foundations or improvements. The vapor retarder contractor should have representatives onsite during the initial installation.

## PRELIMINARY WALL DESIGN PARAMETERS

### General

Based on our review (see the Appendix), the majority of onsite soil materials (topsoil, colluvium, alluvium, and very old alluvial fan deposits, etc.) are derived from alluvial sediments which exhibit a very low to medium expansion potential (E.I. 0 - 90). These materials appear to predominantly consist of silty and clayey sands with minor to moderate amounts of clay content. Due to the variability of silt and clay content within earth materials at the site, the native soil parameters are non-uniform and therefore the recommendations provided herein consider these effects. Recommendations for the design and construction of conventional masonry retaining walls are provided herein. Recommendations for specialty walls (i.e., crib, earthstone, geogrid, etc.) can be provided upon request, and would be based on site specific conditions. If walls allow water to accumulate in the backfill or at their toe via a water quality basin, the water should be conveyed via a non-erosive device to an appropriate inlet, per the recommendations of the design civil engineer.

### Conventional Retaining Walls

The design parameters provided below assume that either very low expansive soils (typically Class 2 permeable filter material or Class 3 aggregate base) or native onsite materials with an expansion index up to a maximum E.I. of 50 are used to backfill any retaining wall. The type of backfill (i.e., select or native), should be specified by the wall designer, and clearly shown on the plans. Building walls, below grade, should be water-proofed. Waterproofing should also be provided for site retaining walls in order to reduce the potential for efflorescence staining.

### Retaining Wall Foundation Design

Foundation design for retaining walls should incorporate the following recommendations:

**Minimum Footing Embedment** - 18 inches below the lowest adjacent grade (excluding landscape layer [upper 6 inches]).

**Minimum Footing Width** - 24 inches

**Allowable Vertical Bearing Pressure** - An allowable vertical bearing pressure of 2,500 pcf may be used in the preliminary design of retaining wall foundations provided that the footing maintains a minimum width of 24 inches and extends at least 18 inches into approved engineered fill overlying dense formational materials. This pressure may be increased by one-third for short-term wind and/or seismic loads.

**Passive Earth Pressure** - A passive earth pressure of 250 pcf with a maximum earth pressure of 2,500 psf may be used in the preliminary design of retaining wall



foundations provided the foundation is embedded into properly compacted silty to clayey sand fill.

**Lateral Sliding Resistance** - A 0.35 coefficient of friction may be utilized for a concrete to soil contact when multiplied by the dead load. When combining passive pressure and frictional resistance, the passive pressure component should be reduced by one-third.

**Backfill Soil Density** - A soil density of 125 pcf may be used in the design of retaining wall foundations. This assumes an average engineered fill compaction of at least 90 percent of the laboratory standard (ASTM D 1557).

**Settlement** - Provided that the earthwork and foundation recommendations in this report are adhered, foundations bearing on approved non-detrimentally expansive, engineered fill should be minimally designed to accommodate a total static settlement of 2 inches and a differential static settlement of 1 inch over a 40-foot horizontal span (angular distortion = 1/480).

Any retaining wall footings near the perimeter of the site, or not within areas of placed compacted fills, will likely need to be deepened into unweathered dense formational materials for adequate vertical and lateral bearing support. All retaining wall footing setbacks from slopes should comply with Figure 1808.7.1 of the 2019 CBC. GSI recommends a minimum horizontal setback distance of 7 feet as measured from the bottom, outboard edge of the footing to the 2:1 (h:v) slope face.

### **Restrained Walls**

Any retaining walls that will be restrained prior to placing and compacting backfill material or that have re-entrant or male corners, should be designed for an at-rest equivalent fluid pressure (EFP) of 55 pcf and 65 pcf for select and very low expansive (E.I.  $\leq$  50, P.I.  $<$  15) native (onsite) backfill, respectively. The design should include any applicable surcharge loading. For areas of male or re-entrant corners, the restrained wall design should extend a minimum distance of twice the height of the wall (2H) laterally from the corner.

### **Cantilevered Walls**

The recommendations presented below are for cantilevered retaining walls up to 10 feet high. Design parameters for walls less than 3 feet in height may be superceded by Riverside County regional standard design. Active earth pressure may be used for retaining wall design, provided the top of the wall is not restrained from minor deflections. An equivalent fluid pressure approach may be used to compute the horizontal pressure against the wall. Appropriate fluid unit weights are given below for specific slope gradients of the retained material. These do not include other superimposed loading conditions due to traffic, structures, seismic events or adverse geologic conditions. When wall

configurations are finalized, the appropriate loading conditions for superimposed loads can be provided upon request.

For preliminary planning purposes, the structural consultant/wall designer should incorporate the surcharge of traffic loads on the back of retaining walls where vehicular traffic could occur within horizontal distance “H” from the back of the retaining wall (where “H” equals the wall height). The traffic surcharge may be taken as 100 psf/ft in the upper 5 feet of backfill for light truck and cars traffic. This does not include the surcharge of parked vehicles which should be evaluated at a higher surcharge to account for the effects of seismic loading. Equivalent fluid pressures for the design of cantilevered retaining walls are provided in the following table:

SURFACE SLOPE OF RETAINED MATERIAL (HORIZONTAL:VERTICAL)	EQUIVALENT FLUID WEIGHT P.C.F. (SELECT BACKFILL) <sup>(2)</sup>	EQUIVALENT FLUID WEIGHT P.C.F. (NATIVE BACKFILL) <sup>(3)</sup>
Level <sup>(1)</sup> 2 to 1	38 55	50 65
<p><sup>(1)</sup> Level backfill behind a retaining wall is defined as compacted earth materials, properly drained, without a slope for a distance of 2H behind the wall, where H is the height of the wall.</p> <p><sup>(2)</sup> SE <math>\geq</math> 30, P.I. &lt; 15, E.I. &lt; 21, and <math>\leq</math> 10% passing No. 200 sieve.</p> <p><sup>(3)</sup> E.I. = 0 to 50, SE <math>\geq</math> 30, P.I. &lt; 15, E.I. &lt; 21, and <math>\leq</math> 15% passing No. 200 sieve. Assumes 1 to 2 feet of gravel drain backfill be incorporated (see Details herein).</p>		

Please note that if native soils are used for backfill, there will be some waiting periods for laboratory verification testing, so that wall design is not altered.

### **Seismic Surcharge**

For engineered retaining walls with more than 6 feet of retained materials, as measured vertically from the bottom of the wall footing at the heel to daylight, GSI recommends that the walls be evaluated for a seismic surcharge (in general accordance with 2019 CBC requirements). The site walls in this category should maintain an overturning Factor-of-Safety (FOS) of approximately 1.25 when the seismic surcharge (increment), is applied. For restrained walls, the seismic surcharge should be applied as a uniform surcharge load from the bottom of the footing (excluding shear keys) to the top of the backfill at the heel of the wall footing. This seismic surcharge pressure (seismic increment) may be taken as 15H where "H" for retained walls is the dimension previously noted as the height of the backfill to the bottom of the footing. The resultant force should be applied at a distance 0.6 H up from the bottom of the footing. For the evaluation of the seismic surcharge, the bearing pressure may exceed the static value by one-third, considering the transient nature of this surcharge. For cantilevered walls, the pressure should be applied as an inverted triangular distribution using 15H. For restrained walls, the pressure should be applied as a rectangular distribution. Please note this is for local wall stability only.

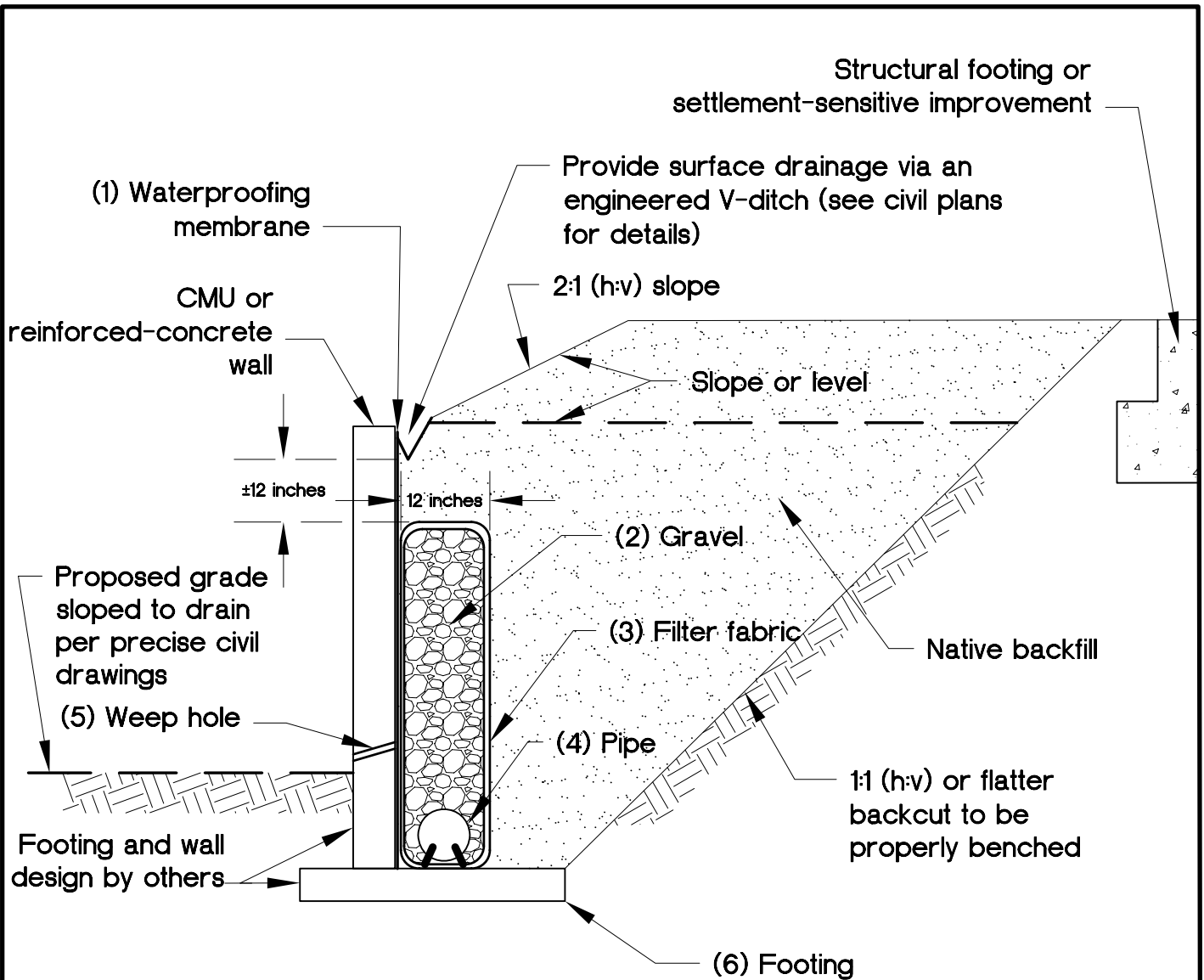
The 25H is derived from a Mononobe-Okabe solution for both restrained cantilever walls. This accounts for the increased lateral pressure due to shakedown or movement of the sand fill soil in the zone of influence from the wall or roughly a 45° -  $\phi/2$  plane away from the back of the wall. The 15H seismic surcharge is derived from the formula:

$$P_h = \frac{3}{8} \cdot a_h \cdot \gamma_t H$$

Where:	$P_h$	=	Seismic increment
	$a_h$	=	Probabilistic horizontal site acceleration with a percentage of “g” and equivalent to at least $SD_s/2.5$ .
	$\gamma_t$	=	total unit weight (115 pcf for site soils @ 90% relative compaction).
	H	=	Height of the wall from the bottom of the footing or point of pile fixity.

### **Retaining Wall Backfill and Drainage**

Positive drainage must be provided behind all retaining walls in the form of gravel wrapped in geofabric and outlets. A backdrain system is considered necessary for retaining walls that are 2 feet or greater in height. Details 1, 2, and 3, present the backdrainage options discussed below. Backdrains should consist of a 4-inch diameter perforated PVC or ABS pipe encased in either Class 2 permeable filter material or 3/4-inch to 1 1/2-inch gravel wrapped in approved filter fabric (Mirafi 140 or equivalent). For select backfill, the filter material should extend a minimum of 1 horizontal foot behind the base of the walls and upward at least 1 foot. For native backfill that has up to E.I. = 50 (P.I. < 15), continuous Class 2 permeable drain materials should be used behind the wall. This material should be continuous (i.e., full height) behind the wall, and it should be constructed in accordance with the enclosed Detail 1 (Typical Retaining Wall Backfill and Drainage Detail). For limited access and confined areas, (panel) drainage behind the wall may be constructed in accordance with Detail 2 (Retaining Wall Backfill and Subdrain Detail Geotextile Drain). Materials with an expansion index (E.I.) potential of greater than 50 and/or P.I. > 15 should not be used as backfill for retaining walls. Retaining wall backfill materials should be moisture conditioned and mixed to achieve the soil’s optimum moisture content, placed in relatively thin lifts (6 to 8 inches) with relatively light equipment, and compacted to at least 90 percent relative compaction. For more onerous expansive situations, backfill and drainage behind the retaining wall should conform with Detail 3 (Retaining Wall And Subdrain Detail Clean Sand Backfill). Outlets should consist of a 4-inch diameter solid PVC or ABS pipe spaced no greater than  $\pm 100$  feet apart, with a minimum of two outlets, one on each end. The use of weep holes, only, in walls higher than 2 feet, is not recommended. The surface of the backfill should be sealed by pavement or the top 18 inches compacted with native soil (E.I.  $\leq 50$  and P.I. < 15). Proper surface drainage should also be provided. For additional mitigation, consideration should be given to applying a water-proof membrane to the back of all retaining structures. The use of a waterstop should be considered for all concrete and masonry joints.



(1) Waterproofing membrane.

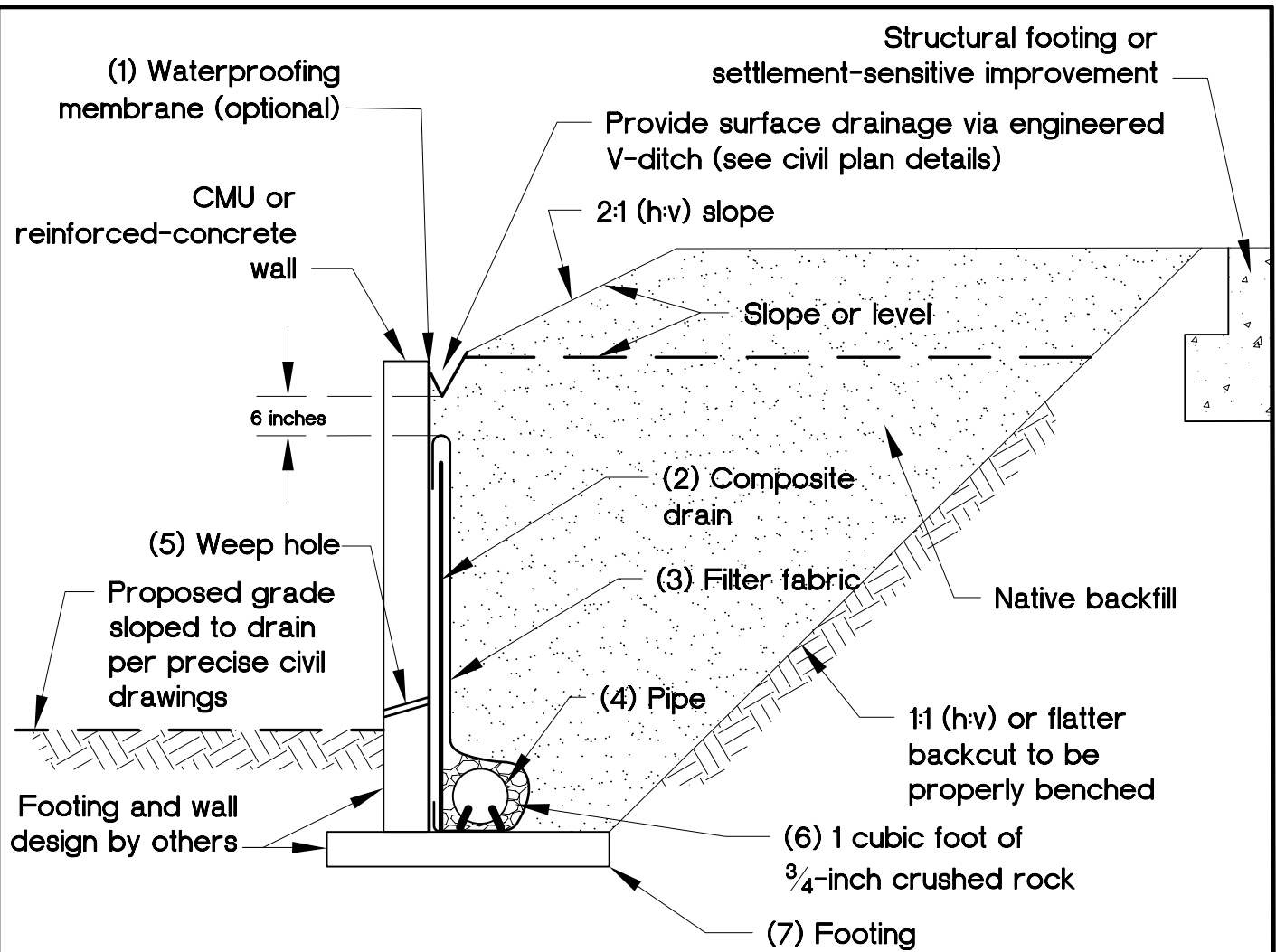
(2) Gravel: Clean, crushed,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

(3) Filter fabric: Mirafi 140N or approved equivalent.

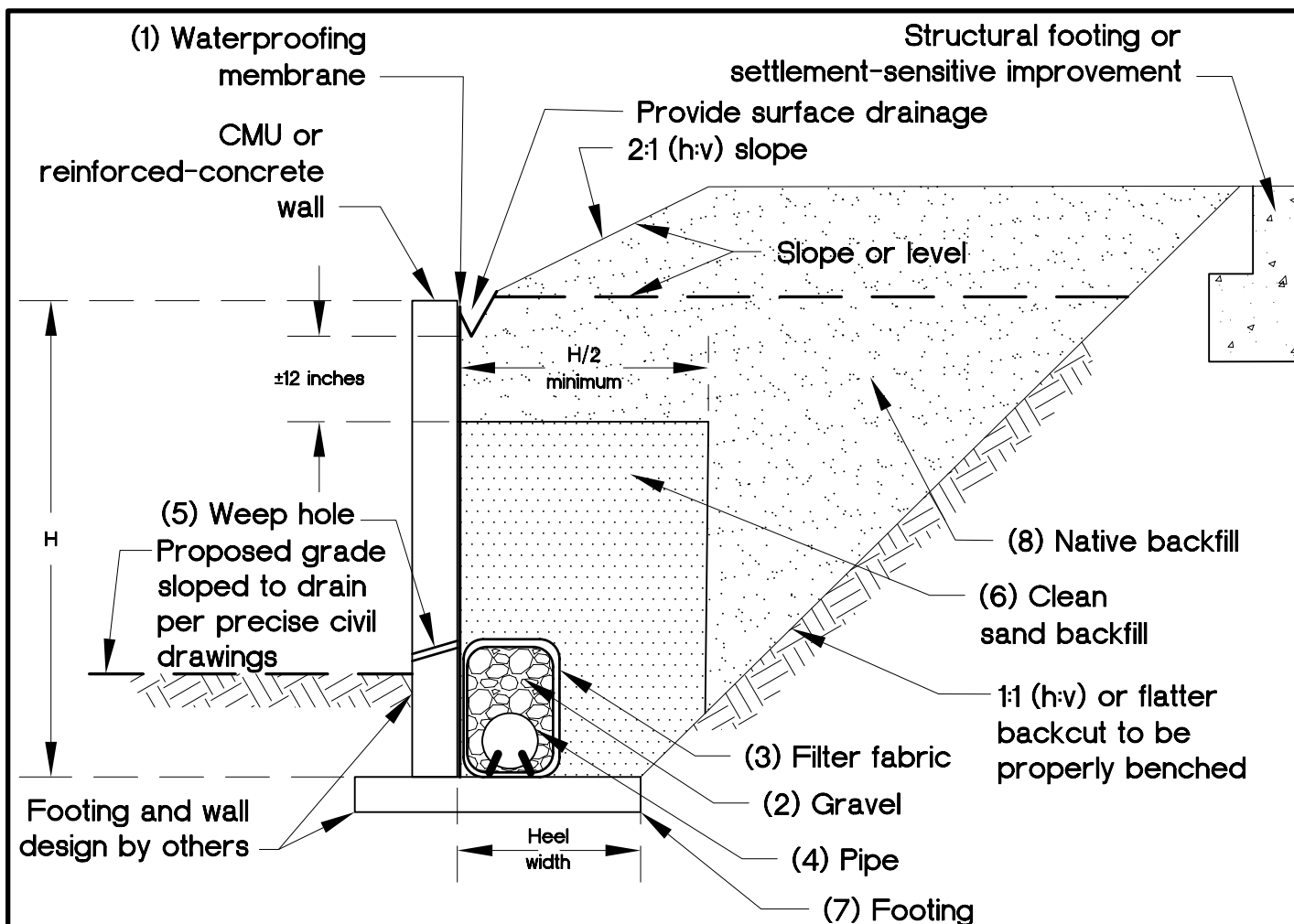
(4) Pipe: 4-inch-diameter perforated PVC, Schedule 40, or approved alternative with minimum of 1 percent gradient sloped to suitable, approved outlet point (perforations down).

(5) Weep hole: Minimum 2-inch diameter placed at 20-foot centers along the wall and placed 3 inches above finished surface. Design civil engineer to provide drainage at toe of wall. No weep holes for below-grade walls.

(6) Footing: If bench is created behind the footing greater than the footing width, use level fill or cut natural earth materials. An additional "heel" drain will likely be required by geotechnical consultant.



- (1) Waterproofing membrane (optional): Liquid boot or approved mastic equivalent.
- (2) Drain: Miradrain 6000 or J-drain 200 or equivalent for non-waterproofed walls; Miradrain 6200 or J-drain 200 or equivalent for waterproofed walls (all perforations down).
- (3) Filter fabric: Mirafi 140N or approved equivalent; place fabric flap behind core.
- (4) Pipe: 4-inch-diameter perforated PVC, Schedule 40, or approved alternative with minimum of 1 percent gradient to proper outlet point (perforations down).
- (5) Weep hole: Minimum 2-inch diameter placed at 20-foot centers along the wall and placed 3 inches above finished surface. Design civil engineer to provide drainage at toe of wall. No weep holes for below-grade walls.
- (6) Gravel: Clean, crushed,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch.
- (7) Footing: If bench is created behind the footing greater than the footing width, use level fill or cut natural earth materials. An additional "heel" drain will likely be required by geotechnical consultant.



(1) Waterproofing membrane: Liquid boot or approved mastic equivalent.

(2) Gravel: Clean, crushed,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

(3) Filter fabric: Mirafi 140N or approved equivalent.

(4) Pipe: 4-inch-diameter perforated PVC, Schedule 40, or approved alternative with minimum of 1 percent gradient to proper outlet point (perforations down).

(5) Weep hole: Minimum 2-inch diameter placed at 20-foot centers along the wall and placed 3 inches above finished surface. Design civil engineer to provide drainage at toe of wall. No weep holes for below-grade walls.

(6) Clean sand backfill: Must have sand equivalent value (S.E.) of 35 or greater; can be densified by water jetting upon approval by geotechnical engineer.

(7) Footing: If bench is created behind the footing greater than the footing width, use level fill or cut natural earth materials. An additional "heel" drain will likely be required by geotechnical consultant.

(8) Native backfill: If E.I.  $< 21$  and S.E.  $> 35$  then all sand requirements also may not be required and will be reviewed by the geotechnical consultant.

## **Wall/Retaining Wall Footing Transitions**

Site walls are anticipated to be founded on footings designed in accordance with the recommendations in this report. Should wall footings transition from cut to fill, the structural consultant/wall designer may specify either:

- a) A minimum of a 2-foot overexcavation and recompaction of cut materials for a distance of 2H, from the point of transition.
- b) Increase of the amount of reinforcing steel and wall detailing (i.e., expansion joints or crack control joints) such that a angular distortion of 1/360 for a distance of 2H on either side of the transition may be accommodated. Expansion joints should be placed no greater than 20 feet on-center, in accordance with the structural engineer's/wall designer's recommendations, regardless of whether or not transition conditions exist. Expansion joints should be sealed with a flexible, non-shrink grout.
- c) Embed the footings entirely into native formational material (i.e., deepened footings).

If transitions from cut to fill transect the wall footing alignment at an angle of less than 45 degrees (plan view), then the designer should follow recommendation "a" (above) and until such transition is between 45 and 90 degrees to the wall alignment.

## **Slope Setback Considerations for Footings**

Footings should maintain a horizontal distance, X, between any adjacent descending slope face and the bottom outer edge of the footing, and minimally comply with the guidelines depicted on Figure 1808.7.1 of the 2019 CBC. The horizontal distance, X, may be calculated by using  $X = h/3$ , where h is the height of the slope. X should not be less than 7 feet, nor need not be greater than 40 feet. X may be maintained by deepening the footings.

## **ONSITE INFILTRATION-RUNOFF RETENTION SYSTEMS**

It is our understanding that onsite infiltration-runoff retention systems (OIRRS) are proposed for Best Management Practices (BMPs) or Low Impact Development (LID) principles for the project. As such, some guidelines should/must be followed in the planning, design, and construction of such systems. Such facilities, if improperly designed or implemented without consideration of the geotechnical aspects of site conditions, can contribute to flooding, saturation of bearing materials beneath site improvements, slope instability, and possible concentration and contribution of pollutants into the groundwater or storm drain and/or utility trench systems.



A key factor in these systems is the infiltration rate (often referred to as the percolation rate) which can be ascribed to, or determined for, the earth materials within which these systems are installed. Additionally, the infiltration rate of the designed system (which may include gravel, sand, mulch/topsoil, or other amendments, etc.) will need to be considered. The project infiltration testing is very site specific, any changes to the location of the proposed OIRRS and/or estimated size of the OIRRS, may require additional infiltration testing. Locally, relatively impermeable formations include: sedimentary bedrock (i.e., claystone, siltstone, cemented sandstone), igneous and metamorphic bedrock, as well as expansive fill soils.

Some of the methods which are utilized for onsite infiltration include percolation basins, dry wells, bio-swale/bio-retention, permeable pavers/pavement, infiltration trenches, filter boxes and subsurface infiltration galleries/chambers. Some of these systems are constructed using native and import soils, perforated piping, and filter fabrics while others employ structural components such as stormwater infiltration chambers and filters/separators. Every site will have characteristics which should lend themselves to one or more of these methods; but, not every site is suitable for OIRRS. In practice, OIRRS are usually initially designed by the project design civil engineer. Selection of methods should include (but should not be limited to) review by licensed professionals including the geotechnical engineer, hydrogeologist, engineering geologist, project civil engineer, landscape architect, environmental professional, and industrial hygienist. Applicable governing agency requirements should be reviewed and included in design considerations.

The following geotechnical guidelines should be considered when designing onsite infiltration-runoff retention systems:

- It is not good engineering practice to allow water to saturate soils, especially near slopes or improvements; however, the controlling agency/authority is now requiring this for OIRRS purposes on many projects.
- Where possible, infiltration system design should be based on actual infiltration testing results/data.
- Wherever possible, infiltration systems should not be installed within  $\pm 50$  feet of the tops of slopes steeper than 15 percent or within  $H/3$  from the tops of slopes (where  $H$  equals the height of slope).
- Impermeable liners used in conjunction with basins should consist of a 30-mil polyvinyl chloride (PVC) membrane that is covered by a minimum of 12-inches of clean soil, free from rocks and debris, at a maximum inclination of 4:1 (h:v), and meets the following minimum specifications:

Specific Gravity (ASTM D792): 1.2 (g/cc [min.]); Tensile (ASTM D882): 73 (lb/in-width [min.]); Elongation at Break (ASTM D882): 380 (% [min.]); Modulus (ASTM D882): 30 (lb/in-width [min.]); and Tear Strength

(ASTM D1004): 8 (lbs [min.]); Seam Shear Strength (ASTM D882) 58.4 (lb/in [min.]); Seam Peel Strength (ASTM D882) 15 (lb/in [min]).

- Subdrains should consist of at least a 4-inch diameter Schedule 40 or SDR 35 drain pipe with perforations oriented down. The drain pipe should be sleeved with a filter sock.
- Wherever possible, infiltrations systems should not be placed within a distance of H/2 from the toes of slopes (where H equals the height of slope).
- The landscape architect should be notified of the location of the proposed OIRRS. If landscaping is proposed within the OIRRS, consideration should be given to the type of vegetation chosen and their potential effect upon subsurface improvements (i.e., some trees/shrubs will have an effect on subsurface improvements with their extensive root systems). Over-watering landscape areas above, or adjacent to, the proposed OIRRS could adversely affect performance of the system.
- Areas adjacent to, or within, the OIRRS that are subject to inundation should be properly protected against scouring, undermining, and erosion, in accordance with the recommendations of the design engineer.
- If subsurface infiltration galleries/chambers are proposed, the appropriate size, depth interval, and ultimate placement of the detention/infiltration system should be evaluated by the design engineer, and be of sufficient width/depth to achieve optimum performance, based on the infiltration rates provided. In addition, proper debris filter systems will need to be utilized for the infiltration galleries/chambers. Debris filter systems will need to be self cleaning and periodically and regularly maintained on a regular basis. Provisions for the regular and periodic maintenance of any debris filter system is recommended and this condition should be disclosed to all interested/affected parties.
- Infiltrations systems should not be installed within  $\pm 8$  feet of building foundations utility trenches, and walls, or a 1:1 (horizontal to vertical [h:v]) slope (down and away) from the bottom elements of these improvements. Alternatively, deepened foundations and/or pile/pier supported improvements may be used.
- Infiltrations systems should not be installed adjacent to pavement and/or hardscape improvements. Alternatively, deepened/thickened edges and curbs and/or impermeable liners may be utilized in areas adjoining the OIRRS. Backfill (to 10 feet outside of the basins) should consist of a two-sack mix of slurry, including deep inlets.
- As with any OIRRS, localized ponding and groundwater seepage should be anticipated. The potential for seepage and/or perched groundwater to occur after site development should be disclosed to all interested/affected parties.

- Installation of infiltrations systems should avoid expansive soils (E.I.  $\geq 51$ ) or soils with a relatively high plasticity index (P.I.  $> 20$ ).
- Infiltration systems should not be installed where the vertical separation of the groundwater level is less than  $\pm 10$  feet from the base of the system.
- Where permeable pavements are planned as part of the system, the site Traffic Index (T.I.) Should be less than 25,000 Average Daily Traffic (ADT), as recommended in Allen, et al. (2011).
- Infiltration systems should be designed using a suitable factor of safety (FOS) to account for uncertainties in the known infiltration rates (as generally required by the controlling authorities), and reduction in performance over time.
- As with any OIRRS, proper care will need to be provided. Best management practices should be followed at all times, especially during inclement weather. Provisions for the management of any siltation, debris within the OIRRS, and/or overgrown vegetation (including root systems) should be considered. An appropriate inspection schedule will need to be adopted and provided to all interested/affected parties.
- Any designed system will require regular and periodic maintenance, which may include rehabilitation and/or complete replacement of the filter media (e.g., sand, gravel, filter fabrics, topsoils, mulch, etc.) or other components utilized in construction, so that the design life exceeds 15 years. Due to the potential for piping and adverse seepage conditions, a burrowing rodent control program should also be implemented onsite.
- All or portions of these systems may be considered attractive nuisances. Thus, consideration of the effects of, or potential for, vandalism should be addressed.
- Newly established vegetation/landscaping (including phreatophytes) may have root systems that will influence the performance of the OIRRS or nearby LID systems.
- The potential for surface flooding, in the case of system blockage, should be evaluated by the design engineer.
- Any proposed utility backfill materials (i.e., inlet/outlet piping and/or other subsurface utilities) located within or near the proposed area of the OIRRS may become saturated. This is due to the potential for piping, water migration, and/or seepage along the utility trench line backfill. If utility trenches cross and/or are proposed near the OIRRS, cut-off walls or other water barriers will need to be installed to mitigate the potential for piping and excess water entering the utility backfill materials. Planned or existing utilities may also be subject to piping of fines into open-graded

gravel backfill layers unless separated from overlying or adjoining OIRRS by geotextiles and/or slurry backfill.

- The use of OIRRS above existing utilities that might degrade/corrode with the introduction of water/seepage should be avoided.

## **DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA**

### **Slope Deformation**

Compacted fill slopes designed using customary factors of safety for gross or surficial stability and constructed in general accordance with the design specifications should be expected to undergo some differential vertical heave or settlement in combination with differential lateral movement in the out-of-slope direction, after grading. This post-construction movement occurs in two forms: slope creep, and lateral fill extension (LFE). Slope creep is caused by alternate wetting and drying of the fill soils which results in slow downslope movement. This type of movement is expected to occur throughout the life of the slope, and is anticipated to potentially affect improvements or structures (e.g., separation and/or cracking), placed near the top-of-slope, up to a maximum distance of approximately 15 feet from the top-of-slope, depending on the slope height. This movement generally results in rotation and differential settlement of improvements located within the creep zone. LFE occurs due to deep wetting from irrigation and rainfall on slopes comprised of expansive materials. Although some movement should be expected, long-term movement from this source may be minimized, but not eliminated, by placing the fill throughout the slope region, wet of the fill's optimum moisture content.

It is generally not practical to attempt to eliminate the effects of either slope creep or LFE. Suitable mitigative measures to reduce the potential of lateral deformation typically include: setback of improvements from the slope faces (per 2019 CBC), positive structural separations (i.e., joints) between improvements, and stiffening and deepening of foundations. Expansion joints in walls should be placed no greater than 20 feet on-center, and in accordance with the structural engineer's recommendations. All of these measures are recommended for design of structures and improvements. The ramifications of the above conditions, and recommendations for mitigation, should be provided to each homeowner and/or any homeowners association.

### **Slope Maintenance and Planting**

Water has been shown to weaken the inherent strength of all earth materials. Slope stability is significantly reduced by overly wet conditions. Positive surface drainage away from slopes should be maintained and only the amount of irrigation necessary to sustain plant life should be provided for planted slopes. Over-watering should be avoided as it adversely affects site improvements, and causes perched groundwater conditions. Graded

slopes constructed utilizing onsite materials would be erosive. Eroded debris may be minimized and surficial slope stability enhanced by establishing and maintaining a suitable vegetation cover soon after construction. Compaction to the face of fill slopes would tend to minimize short-term erosion until vegetation is established. Plants selected for landscaping should be light weight, deep rooted types that require little water and are capable of surviving the prevailing climate. Jute-type matting or other fibrous covers may aid in allowing the establishment of a sparse plant cover. Utilizing plants other than those recommended above will increase the potential for perched water, staining, mold, etc., to develop. A rodent control program to prevent burrowing should be implemented. Irrigation of natural (ungraded) slope areas is generally not recommended. These recommendations regarding plant type, irrigation practices, and rodent control should be provided to each homeowner. Over-steepening of slopes should be avoided during building construction activities and landscaping.

## **Drainage**

Adequate lot surface drainage is a very important factor in reducing the likelihood of adverse performance of foundations, hardscape, and slopes. Surface drainage should be sufficient to prevent ponding of water anywhere on a lot, and especially near structures and tops of slopes. Lot surface drainage should be carefully taken into consideration during fine grading, landscaping, and building construction. Therefore, care should be taken that future landscaping or construction activities do not create adverse drainage conditions. Positive site drainage within lots and common areas should be provided and maintained at all times. Drainage should not flow uncontrolled down any descending slope. Water should be directed away from foundations and not allowed to pond and/or seep into the ground. In general, the area within 5 feet around a structure should slope away from the structure. We recommend that unpaved lawn and landscape areas have a minimum gradient of 1 percent sloping away from structures, and whenever possible, should be above adjacent paved areas. Consideration should be given to avoiding construction of planters adjacent to structures (buildings, pools, spas, etc.). Pad drainage should be directed toward the street or other approved area(s). Although not a geotechnical requirement, roof gutters, downspouts, or other appropriate, means may be utilized to control roof drainage. Downspouts, or drainage devices, should outlet a minimum of 5 feet from structures or into a subsurface drainage system. Areas of seepage may develop due to irrigation or heavy rainfall, and should be anticipated. Minimizing irrigation will lessen this potential. If areas of seepage develop, recommendations for minimizing this effect could be provided upon request.

## **Toe of Slope Drains/Toe Drains**

Where significant slopes intersect pad areas, surface drainage down the slope allows for some seepage into the subsurface materials, sometimes creating conditions causing or contributing to perched and/or ponded water. Toe of slope/toe drains may be beneficial in the mitigation of this condition due to surface drainage. The general criteria to be utilized by the design engineer for evaluating the need for this type of drain is as follows:

- Is there a source of irrigation above or on the slope that could contribute to saturation of soil at the base of the slope?
- Are the slopes hard rock and/or impermeable, or relatively permeable, or; do the slopes already have or are they proposed to have subdrains (i.e., stabilization fills, etc.)?
- Are there cut-fill transitions (i.e., fill over bedrock), within the slope?
- Was the lot at the base of the slope overexcavated or is it proposed to be overexcavated? Overexcavated lots located at the base of a slope could accumulate subsurface water along the base of the fill cap.
- Are the slopes north facing? North facing slopes tend to receive less sunlight (less evaporation) relative to south facing slopes and are more exposed to the currently prevailing seasonal storm tracks.
- What is the slope height? It has been our experience that slopes with heights in excess of approximately 10 feet tend to have more problems due to storm runoff and irrigation than slopes of a lesser height.
- Do the slopes “toe out” into a commercial lot or a lot where perched or ponded water may adversely impact its proposed use?

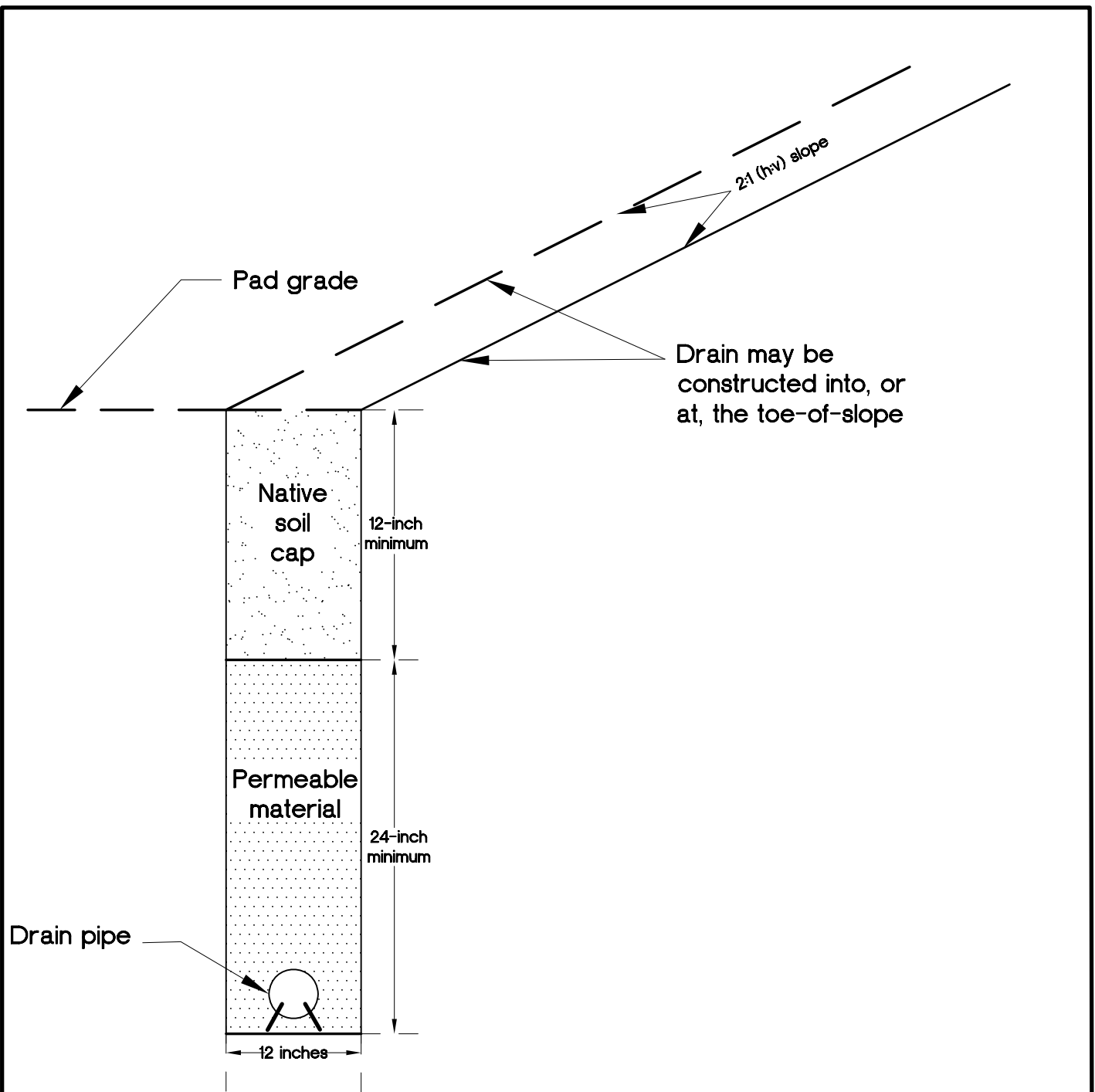
Based on these general criteria, the construction of toe drains may be considered by the design engineer along the toe of slopes, or at retaining walls in slopes, descending to the rear of such lots. Following are Detail 4 (Schematic Toe Drain Detail) and Detail 5 (Subdrain Along Retaining Wall Detail). Other drains may be warranted due to unforeseen conditions, homeowner irrigation, or other circumstances. Where drains are constructed during grading, including subdrains, the locations/elevations of such drains should be surveyed, and recorded on the final as-built grading plans by the design engineer. It is recommended that the above be disclosed to all interested parties, including homeowners and any homeowners association.

### **Erosion Control**

Cut and fill slopes will be subject to surficial erosion during and after grading. Onsite earth materials have a moderate to high erosion potential. Consideration should be given to providing hay bales and silt fences for the temporary control of surface water, from a geotechnical viewpoint.

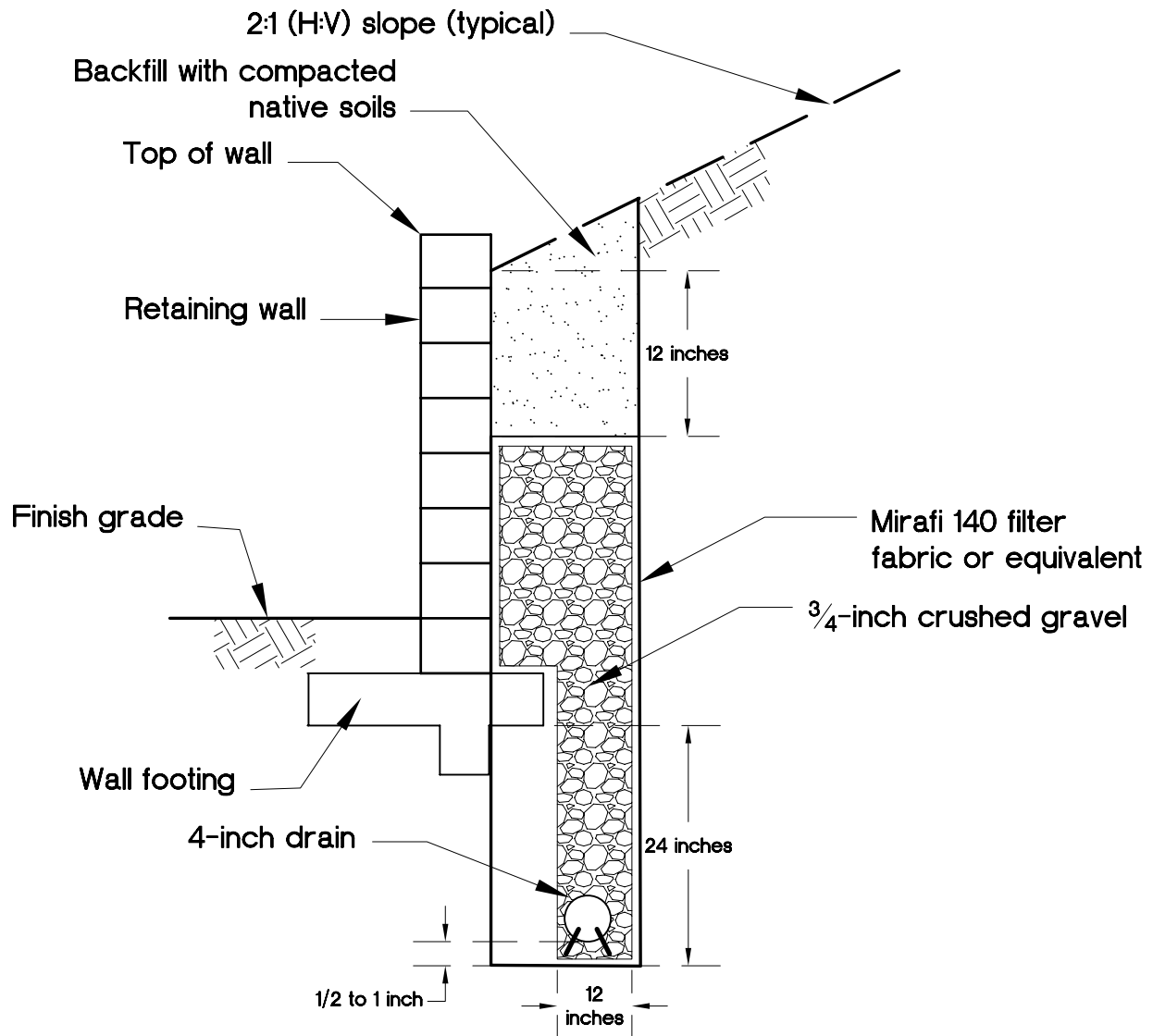
### **Landscape Maintenance**

Only the amount of irrigation necessary to sustain plant life should be provided. Over-watering the landscape areas will adversely affect proposed site improvements. We



1. Soil cap compacted to 90 percent relative compaction.
2. Permeable material may be gravel wrapped in filter fabric (Mirafi 140N or equivalent).
3. 4-inch-diameter, perforated pipe (SDR-35 or equivalent) with perforations down.
4. Pipe to maintain a minimum 1 percent fall.
5. Concrete cut-off wall to be provided at transition to solid outlet pipe.
6. Solid outlet pipe to drain to approved area.
7. Cleanouts are recommended at each property line.





**NOTES:**

1. Soil cap compacted to 90 percent relative compaction.
2. Permeable material may be gravel wrapped in filter fabric (Mirafi 140N or equivalent).
3. 4-inch-diameter, perforated pipe (SDR-35 or equivalent) with perforations down.
4. Pipe to maintain a minimum 1 percent fall.
5. Concrete cut-off wall to be provided at transition to solid outlet pipe.
6. Solid outlet pipe to drain to approved area.
7. Cleanouts are recommended at each property line.
8. Effort to compact should be applied to drain rock.

would recommend that any proposed open-bottom planters adjacent to proposed structures be eliminated for a minimum distance of 10 feet. As an alternative, closed-bottom type planters could be utilized. An outlet placed in the bottom of the planter, could be installed to direct drainage away from structures or any exterior concrete flatwork. If planters are constructed adjacent to structures, the sides and bottom of the planter should be provided with a moisture barrier to prevent penetration of irrigation water into the subgrade. Provisions should be made to drain the excess irrigation water from the planters without saturating the subgrade below or adjacent to the planters. Graded slope areas should be planted with drought resistant vegetation. Consideration should be given to the type of vegetation chosen and their potential effect upon surface improvements (i.e., some trees will have an effect on concrete flatwork with their extensive root systems). From a geotechnical standpoint leaching is not recommended for establishing landscaping. If the surface soils are processed for the purpose of adding amendments, they should be recompacted to 90 percent minimum relative compaction.

### **Gutters and Downspouts**

As previously discussed in the drainage section, the installation of gutters and downspouts should be considered to collect roof water that may otherwise infiltrate the soils adjacent to the structures. If utilized, the downspouts should be drained into PVC collector pipes or other non-erosive devices (e.g., paved swales or ditches; below grade, solid tight-lined PVC pipes; etc.), that will carry the water away from the building, to an appropriate outlet, in accordance with the recommendations of the design civil engineer. Downspouts and gutters are not a requirement; however, from a geotechnical viewpoint, provided that positive drainage is incorporated into project design (as discussed previously).

### **Subsurface and Surface Water**

Subsurface and surface water are not anticipated to affect site development, provided that the recommendations contained in this report are incorporated into final design and construction and that prudent surface and subsurface drainage practices are incorporated into the construction plans. Perched groundwater conditions along zones of contrasting permeabilities may not be precluded from occurring in the future due to site irrigation, poor drainage conditions, or damaged utilities, and should be anticipated. Should perched groundwater conditions develop, this office could assess the affected area(s) and provide the appropriate recommendations to mitigate the observed groundwater conditions. Groundwater conditions may change with the introduction of irrigation, rainfall, or other factors.

### **Site Improvements**

If in the future, any additional improvements (e.g., pools, spas, etc.) are planned for the site, recommendations concerning the geological or geotechnical aspects of design and construction of said improvements could be provided upon request. Pools and/or spas should not be constructed without specific design and construction recommendations from GSI, and this construction recommendation should be provided to the homeowners, any

homeowners association, and/or other interested parties. This office should be notified in advance of any fill placement, grading of the site, or trench backfilling after rough grading has been completed. This includes any grading, utility trench and retaining wall backfills, flatwork, etc.

### **Tile Flooring**

Tile flooring can crack, reflecting cracks in the concrete slab below the tile, although small cracks in a conventional slab may not be significant. Therefore, the designer should consider additional steel reinforcement for concrete slabs-on-grade where tile will be placed. The tile installer should consider installation methods that reduce possible cracking of the tile such as slipsheets. Slipsheets or a vinyl crack isolation membrane (approved by the Tile Council of America/Ceramic Tile Institute) are recommended between tile and concrete slabs on grade.

### **Additional Grading**

This office should be notified in advance of any fill placement, supplemental regrading of the site, or trench backfilling after rough grading has been completed. This includes completion of grading in the street, driveway approaches, driveways, parking areas, and utility trench and retaining wall backfills.

### **Footing Trench Excavation**

All footing excavations should be observed by a representative of this firm subsequent to trenching and prior to concrete form and reinforcement placement. The purpose of the observations is to evaluate that the excavations have been made into the recommended bearing material and to the minimum widths and depths recommended for construction. If loose or compressible materials are exposed within the footing excavation, a deeper footing or removal and recompaction of the subgrade materials would be recommended at that time. Footing trench spoil and any excess soils generated from utility trench excavations should be compacted to a minimum relative compaction of 90 percent, if not removed from the site.

### **Trenching/Temporary Construction Backcuts**

Considering the nature of the onsite earth materials, it should be anticipated that caving or sloughing could be a factor in subsurface excavations and trenching. Shoring or excavating the trench walls/backcuts at the angle of repose (typically 25 to 45 degrees [except as specifically superceded within the text of this report]), should be anticipated. All excavations should be observed by an engineering geologist or soil engineer from GSI, prior to workers entering the excavation or trench, and minimally conform to CAL-OSHA, state, and local safety codes. Should adverse conditions exist, appropriate recommendations would be offered at that time. The above recommendations should be provided to any contractors and/or subcontractors, or homeowners, etc., that may perform such work.

## **Utility Trench Backfill**

1. All interior utility trench backfill should be brought to at least 2 percent above optimum moisture content and then compacted to obtain a minimum relative compaction of 90 percent of the laboratory standard. As an alternative for shallow (12-inch to 18-inch) under-slab trenches, sand having a sand equivalent value of 30 or greater may be utilized and jetted or flooded into place. Observation, probing and testing should be provided to evaluate the desired results.
2. Exterior trenches adjacent to, and within areas extending below a 1:1 plane projected from the outside bottom edge of the footing, and all trenches beneath hardscape features and in slopes, should be compacted to at least 90 percent of the laboratory standard. Sand backfill, unless excavated from the trench, should not be used in these backfill areas. Compaction testing and observations, along with probing, should be accomplished to evaluate the desired results.
3. All trench excavations should conform to CAL-OSHA, state, and local safety codes.
4. Utilities crossing grade beams, perimeter beams, or footings should either pass below the footing or grade beam utilizing a hardened collar or foam spacer, or pass through the footing or grade beam in accordance with the recommendations of the structural engineer.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GEOTECHNICAL OBSERVATION AND TESTING**

We recommend that observation and/or testing be performed by GSI at each of the following construction stages:

- During grading/recertification.
- During excavation.
- During placement of subdrains, toe drains, or other subdrainage devices, prior to placing fill and/or backfill.
- After excavation of building footings, retaining wall footings, and free standing walls footings, prior to the placement of reinforcing steel or concrete.
- Prior to pouring any slabs or flatwork, after presoaking/presaturation of building pads and other flatwork subgrade, before the placement of concrete, reinforcing steel, capillary break (i.e., sand, pea-gravel, etc.), or vapor retarders.

- During retaining wall subdrain installation, prior to backfill placement.
- During placement of backfill for area drains, interior plumbing, utility line trenches, and retaining wall backfill.
- During slope construction/repair.
- When any unusual soil conditions are encountered during any construction operations, subsequent to the issuance of this report.
- When any developer or owner improvements, such as flatwork, foundations, walls, etc., are proposed, prior to construction. GSI should review and approve such plans, prior to construction
- A report of geotechnical observation and testing should be provided at the conclusion of each of the above stages, in order to provide concise and clear documentation of site work, and/or to comply with code requirements.
- GSI should review project sales documents to owners and interested/affected parties for geotechnical aspects, including irrigation practices, the conditions outlined above, etc., prior to any sales. At that stage, GSI can provide owners and interested/affected parties maintenance guidelines which should be incorporated into such documents.

### **OTHER DESIGN PROFESSIONALS/CONSULTANTS**

The design civil engineer, structural engineer, post-tension designer, architect, landscape architect, wall designer, etc., should review the recommendations provided herein, incorporate those recommendations into all their respective plans, and by explicit reference, make this report part of their project plans. This report presents minimum design criteria for the design of slabs, foundations and other elements possibly applicable to the project. These criteria should not be considered as substitutes for actual designs by the structural engineer/designer. Please note that the recommendations contained herein are not intended to preclude the transmission of water or vapor through the slab or foundation. The structural engineer/foundation and/or slab designer should provide recommendations to not allow water or vapor to enter into the structure so as to cause damage to another building component, or so as to limit the installation of the type of flooring materials typically used for the particular application, per the State of California (2017).

The structural engineer/designer should analyze actual soil-structure interaction and consider, as needed, bearing, expansive soil influence, and strength, stiffness and deflections in the various slab, foundation, and other elements in order to develop appropriate, design-specific details. As conditions dictate, it is possible that other influences

will also have to be considered. The structural engineer/designer should consider all applicable codes and authoritative sources where needed. If analyses by the structural engineer/designer result in less critical details than are provided herein as minimums, the minimums presented herein should be adopted. It is considered likely that some, more restrictive details will be required.

If the structural engineer/designer has any questions or requires further assistance, they should not hesitate to call or otherwise transmit their requests to GSI. In order to mitigate potential distress, the foundation and/or improvement's designer should confirm to GSI and the governing agency, in writing, that the proposed foundations and/or improvements can tolerate the amount of differential settlement and/or expansion characteristics and other design criteria specified herein.

### **PLAN REVIEW**

Final project plans (grading, foundation, pool, block wall, landscaping, etc.), should be reviewed by this office prior to construction, so that construction is in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of this report. Based on our review, supplemental recommendations and/or further geotechnical studies may be warranted.

### **LIMITATIONS**

The materials encountered on the project site and utilized for our analysis are believed representative of the area; however, soil and bedrock materials vary in character between excavations and natural outcrops or conditions exposed during mass grading. Site conditions may vary due to seasonal changes or other factors.

Inasmuch as our study is based upon our review and engineering analyses and laboratory data, the conclusions and recommendations are professional opinions. These opinions have been derived in accordance with current standards of practice, and no warranty, either express or implied, is given. Standards of practice are subject to change with time. GSI assumes no responsibility or liability for work or testing performed by others, or their inaction; or work performed when GSI is not requested to be onsite, to evaluate if our recommendations have been properly implemented. Use of this report constitutes an agreement and consent by the user to all the limitations outlined above, notwithstanding any other agreements that may be in place. In addition, this report may be subject to review by the controlling authorities. Thus, this report brings to completion our scope of services for this portion of the project.

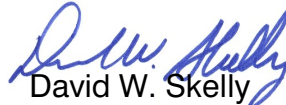
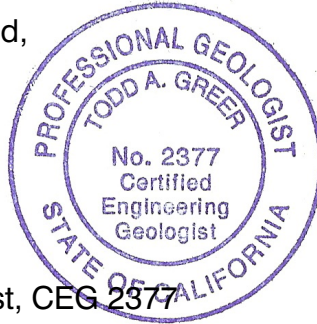
The opportunity to be of service is sincerely appreciated. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Respectfully submitted,

**GeoSoils, Inc.**



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David W. Skelly  
Civil Engineer, RCE 47857



TAG/JPF/DWS/mn

Enclosure: Appendix - References

Distribution: (1) Addressee (via email pdf)  
(1) Morris Design, Attention: Mr. Randy Morris (via email pdf)



## APPENDIX

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