



To: Terri Ryland (Kinder Morgan Energy Partners)

From: Heidi Sickler (TRC) and Nick Ricono (TRC)

Date: March 2, 2005

Subject: **Addendum to Biological Resources Evaluation at the Line Section 111 Washout Location in the San Gorgonio Pass, Riverside County, California.**

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KMEP) owns and operates a 20-inch pipeline, Line Section (LS) 111, which transports petroleum products between Colton, California and Phoenix, Arizona. LS 111 crosses the San Gorgonio River near the intersection of Interstate 10 and State Highway 111 in the vicinity of the city of Palm Springs (Figure 1). Heavy stormwater flows in 2004 and early 2005 undermined the soil cover over the pipeline leaving the line exposed in two locations, at Mile Post (MP) 43.9 and MP 44.1. The two locations lie approximately 1,500 feet apart on either side of the San Gorgonio River. KMEP is proposing to re-cover the exposed sections and install a system that will stop erosion during future storm events.

On December 15, 2005, TRC Solutions, Inc. (TRC) biologist Nick Ricono evaluated the biological resources in the vicinity of MP 43.9. A report entitled *Evaluation of Biological Resources at the Line Section 111 Washout Location in the San Gorgonio Pass, Riverside County, CA* was completed on January 18, 2005 and submitted to KMEP. A field survey for the washout at MP 44.1 was conducted by TRC biologist Heidi Sickler on January 28, 2005. This report describes the results of that investigation and is intended as an addendum to the main report from January 18, 2005.

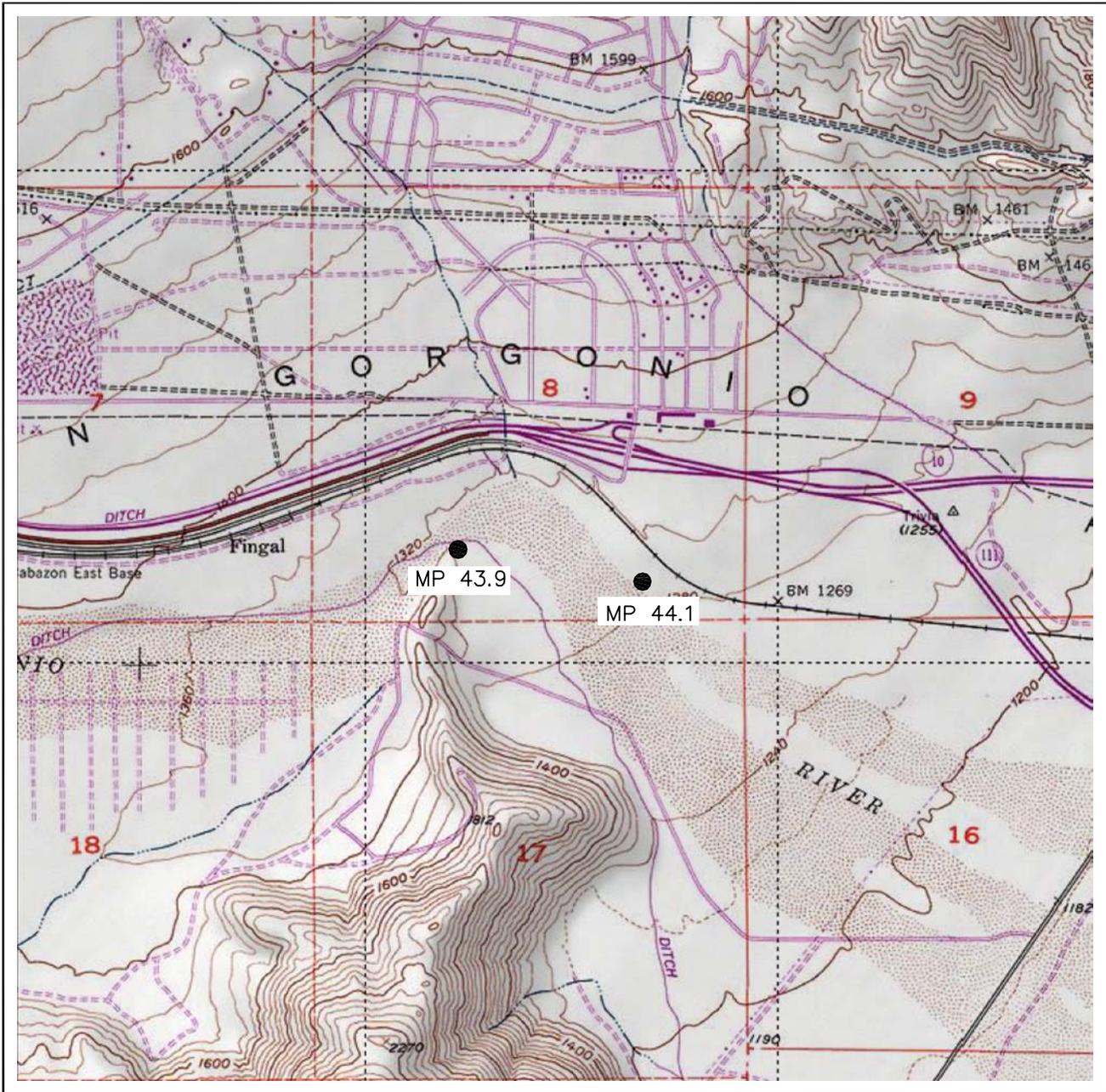
The exposed pipeline at MP 44.1 lies within a braided channel of the San Gorgonio River. During heavy storm water flows in January 2005 approximately 20 feet of pipeline was exposed at the base of a steep bank approximately 15 feet tall along the eastern edge of the San Gorgonio River (see attached photographs). In a subsequent storm, part of the bank fell and recovered the exposed line. The pipeline lies within a channel that is a jurisdictional water of the U.S. regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and a water of the state of California regulated by California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) under Section 1600 of the California State Fish and Game Code.

No sensitive plant or wildlife species were observed during the site visit on January 18, 2005. Habitat for sensitive species has been degraded due to its proximity to major highways, the construction of utility corridors and off-road vehicle traffic. However, habitat for sensitive plant and animal species is present in upland and lowland habitats in the project area. The project area lies within proposed critical habitat for the federally endangered and CNPS List 1B Coachella Valley milk vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachella*).

The eolian dune complex and dry fluvial washes provide habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, the state species of concern Coast San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*), and the state species of concern northern red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus rubber rubber*). The area may also provide habitat for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch although none was observed during the field investigation.

The riparian areas adjacent to the desert washes may provide nesting habitat for the federal and state endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and state species of concern Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*).

Should work be conducted within the stream channel, required permits would include a 404 permit from the USACE, a 1600 agreement from CDFG, and a 401 Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. A Section 7 consultation could potentially be avoided by conducting pre-construction surveys for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and Coachella Valley milk-vetch and maintaining biological monitors on-site during activities. Recommendations provided in the original biological evaluation should be followed during construction operations at MP 44.1.



0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 MILE



SCALE 1:24,000



SOURCE:

United States Geological Survey
7.5 Minute Topographic Map:
Cabazon Quadrangle



QUADRANGLE
LOCATION

VICINITY MAP

Exposed Pipeline Locations
In San Gorgonio River
Line Section 111
Riverside County, California

FIGURE 1



Photograph 1: Washout location at Mile Post 44.1 facing east.



Photograph 2: Washout site at Mile Post 44.1 facing east towards the San Gorgonio Mountains.