

## SECTION 18 - EARTHWORK

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## **SECTION 18 - EARTHWORK**

### **18-1 GENERAL**

Earthwork must conform to the State Specifications, and these Specifications. All references to the “roadway prism”, “roadway facilities”, “roadway”, and “highway” refer to the applicable project features shown on the Plans or referenced in the Special Provisions.

The method and rate of applying water for earthwork and dust control must conform to Section 16, “Water Used in Construction”, and Section 17, “Dust Control”, of these Specifications.

Attention is directed to Section 10, “Environmental Controls at Work Site”, of these Specifications for additional requirements.

Settlement of any earthwork (including, but not limited to, trenches, structural backfill, sidewalk, curb, gutter, and roadways) deemed to be caused by defective compaction efforts by the Contractor will be corrected by the Contractor at no cost to the Agency, regardless of compaction test results performed during construction.

### **18-2 ROADWAY EXCAVATION**

#### **18-2.01 General**

Roadway excavation must conform to the State Specifications, and these Specifications.

The reference for compaction standard is ASTM D1557 throughout these specifications.

Roadway excavation includes removal of existing pavement sections, ditches and channels in the median area, between roadway and frontage roads and side ditches contiguous to the roadway and other locations shown on the Plans or referenced in the Contract. Excavation and embankment side slopes must be adjusted by the Contractor to clear existing utility poles, vegetation, and other improvements, as directed by the Agency.

Roadway excavation includes excavation of waterway channels as necessary to create a grading plane for the placement of slope protection.

#### **18-2.02 Unsuitable Roadway Excavation and Backfill**

Any unsuitable material encountered must be removed and backfilled in accordance with Section 18-5, “Unsuitable Material Excavation”, in this Section of these Specifications.

#### **18-2.03 Surplus Material**

Unless otherwise specified in the Special Provisions, surplus excavated material is the property of the Contractor and must be disposed of away from the project site in accordance with the provisions in Section 18-7, “Surplus Material Disposal”, of these Specifications.

#### **18-2.04 Unsuitable Material in Embankments**

Unsuitable material excavated as roadway excavation that, in the opinion of the Agency, can be used for roadway embankment must be placed in the embankment below a plane 30 inches below the finished grade and compacted to a minimum relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of 90 percent.

Unsuitable material excavated as roadway excavation that, in the opinion of the Agency, cannot be worked into the roadway embankment is surplus material and must be removed from the work site or wasted within the right-of-way as directed by the Agency.

#### **18-2.05 Subgrade Preparation**

Subgrade preparation must conform to the State Specifications.

Organics that exist within the roadway prism prior to grading must be stripped from the ground surface. Stripping must extend 2 to 3 inches below the existing surface as directed by the Agency. Strippings are the property of the Contractor and must be removed from the job site. After removal

of strippings, areas to receive fill material or new structural sections must be scarified to a depth of at least 8 inches and recompacted to a relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of at least 95 percent.

Relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of not less than 95 percent must be obtained for a minimum depth of 0.5 foot below the subgrade grading plane for the width between the outer edges of shoulders, whether in excavation, embankment, or at original ground level. All other material must be compacted to a relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of 90 percent, including subgrade under meandering sidewalks not adjacent to curb and gutter. Embankment under bridge and retaining wall footings must be compacted as specified in the State Specifications.

When the next layer of material to be placed on the subgrade is an asphalt concrete pavement, asphalt concrete base, or asphalt concrete subbase, the subgrade grading plane at any point must not vary more than 0.05 foot above or below the grade established by the Agency.

Subgrade or aggregate base must be stable prior to paving. The Agency may direct the Contractor to proof roll the area prior to placing asphaltic concrete. The equipment used for the proof rolling is subject to the approval of the Agency.

For roadway construction, material encountered at the subgrade grading plane as shown on the Plans that the Agency determines unacceptable for roadway foundation must be removed. If the depth of removal is less than 12 inches, the area must be filled with roadway excavation material, if available, or Class 2 aggregate base. If the depth of unsuitable material encountered within the roadway prism extends to a depth of more than 12 inches below the grading plane, removal of unsuitable material must extend to 12 inches below the grading plane. The area from which the unacceptable material has been removed must then be compacted to a relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of 95 percent, or as determined by the Agency. Fill for areas of unsuitable material removed to a depth of 12 inches below the grading plane for roadway construction shown on the Plans must include placement of geotextile fabric as specified in Section 18-5.03, "Stabilization Fabric", of these Specifications, and backfilled with Class 2 aggregate base.

For roadway construction, if there are insufficient quantities of native material to make subgrade, recycled asphalt concrete from the Work must be used. Removed asphalt concrete must be processed to 3-inch maximum size and thoroughly mixed with local native material and placed in the lower lifts of roadway fills as necessary to achieve subgrade.

Subgrade preparation requirements may be waived if the width of the subgrade to be prepared is less than 4 feet and the Agency determines that the existing undisturbed subgrade is firm and stable. The Agency may order mechanical tamping to obtain the desired firmness and stability. The Agency may order removal of soft and unstable material below the grading plane and backfilling with acceptable import materials if the subgrade (grading plane) is unsuitable to place the next layer of the structural section.

#### **18-2.06 Measurement and Payment**

Measurement and payment for roadway excavation will be the actual amount of roadway excavation performed as measured in the field and will conform to Section 8-1, "Measurement of Quantities," of these Specifications. Payment for roadway excavation will be as set forth in Section 19-2.04, "Payment" of the State Specifications, except that the Contract price paid per CUBIC YARD for roadway excavation will include full compensation for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, incidentals, for compacting natural and original ground, for subgrade preparation, for all haul and overhaul, for excavation, for placing earth embankment as shown on the Plans and as directed by the County of Sacramento, for furnishing all water necessary for the compaction of the material and subgrade preparation, for disposal, for sawcuts as shown on the Plans or as directed by the engineer, for removal of AC, base, and sub-base material and re-grading and compaction of miscellaneous areas shown on the Plans as remove AC surfacing and for doing all work involved as specified in the Special Provisions, as shown on the Plans, and as directed by the Engineer. The Contract price paid includes shaping and trimming slopes to solid material and to the lines and elevations shown on the Plans.

The removal of material within the areas of new landscaped median construction to allow for fill with imported topsoil for landscaping will be measured and paid for as roadway excavation. Material to be removed may include existing pavement, existing base material, existing soil and new fill material placed to construct the new roadway.

No additional payment will be made for proof rolling subgrade as directed by the Agency, removing unsuitable material from the work site, or placing unsuitable material in the roadway embankment.

Payment for geotextile fabric used in the backfill of unacceptable material encountered during roadway excavation will be paid for per Section 18-5.05, "Unsuitable Material Excavation – Payment", of these Specifications.

Payment for Class 2 aggregate base used in the backfill of unacceptable material encountered during roadway excavation for roadway construction will be paid for per Section 22-4, "Base and Subbase Material – Measurement and Payment", of these Specifications.

### **18-3 STRUCTURE EXCAVATION AND BACKFILL**

#### **18-3.01 General**

Structure excavation and backfill must conform to the State Specifications, and these Specifications. Structure excavation and backfill includes all necessary excavation, structure backfill, and pervious backfill within the limits set forth on the Plans, Standard Drawings, and in the Special Provisions. Structure and pervious backfill must conform to the State Specifications.

Unless otherwise specified in the Special Provisions, jetting of structure backfill is not allowed.

#### **18-3.02 Control Density Backfill**

Control density backfill will only be permitted when specified in the Special Provisions. Where permitted, control density backfill must conform to the requirements of Section 50-15, "Control Density Backfill", of these Specifications.

#### **18-3.03 Final Quantity**

The quantity of structure excavation shown on the Plans and in the Estimated Quantities will be the final quantity for which payment will be made as provided in the State Specifications.

#### **18-3.04 Measurement and Payment**

Measurement and payment for structure excavation and backfill will be as set forth in the State Specifications, and these Specifications.

The Contract price per cubic yard for structure excavation includes full compensation for all necessary excavation, structure backfill, and pervious backfill within the limits set forth on the Plans, Standard Drawings, and in the Special Provisions.

When removing an existing structure which is to be replaced with a new structure, no payment will be made under this item for the area occupied by the existing structure.

### **18-4 DITCH AND CHANNEL EXCAVATION**

#### **18-4.01 General**

Ditch and channel excavation must conform to the State Specifications, and these Specifications. Ditches and channels must be excavated to line and grade and sections as shown on the Plans. Material resulting from excavating ditches and channels must be used in fill and embankment areas as shown on the Plans.

#### **18-4.02 Grade Control - Lined Channels**

The Contractor must place grade control points at twenty-five-foot (25') intervals along the invert of the shaped channel. For channels greater than twelve feet (12') wide, the Contractor must place grade control points at twenty-five-foot (25') intervals along each edge of the bottom. Care must be

taken to prevent excavating below the channel grade line or beyond the slope lines. Areas excavated below grade or beyond the slope must be filled with suitable materials, as determined by the Agency, and compacted to ninety percent (90%) relative compaction (refer to Section 5) by the Contractor at the Contractor's expense.

#### **18-4.03 Unsuitable Ditch and Channel Excavation and Backfill**

Any unsuitable material encountered must be removed and backfilled in accordance with Section 18-5, "Unsuitable Material Excavation", in this Section of these Specifications.

#### **18-4.04 Unsuitable or Surplus Material Disposal**

Unsuitable or surplus material excavated as channel excavation which, in the opinion of the Agency, cannot be worked into the required embankments, is the property of the Contractor and must be disposed of as specified in Section 18-7, "Surplus Material Disposal", in this Section of these Specifications, unless otherwise specified in the Special Provisions.

#### **18-4.05 Channel Backfill**

In areas where the bottom of the existing channel is below the proposed grade or beyond the slope lines, the Contractor must fill and compact those areas to a minimum 90 percent relative compaction (refer to Section 5) with suitable material, as determined by the Agency. This work is included in the Contract price paid for channel excavation and no additional payment will be made.

#### **18-4.06 Channel Embankments**

Embankments must be placed as shown on the Plans. Embankment areas must be filled with suitable material, as determined by the Agency, resulting from channel excavation. The fill must be placed in a neat and uniform manner and must be spread uniformly to the grades as shown on the Plans. Where embankment is made on the existing channel or on other slopes, the existing slope must be plowed or cut into as the embankment is constructed so as to tie the new embankment to the existing slope. All fill slopes must be trimmed for a uniform appearance. Fill areas in unlined channels must be compacted to a minimum relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of 90 percent, unless otherwise shown on the Plans.

In lined channels, fill areas must be compacted to a minimum relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of 90 percent to an elevation 1 foot above the top of the channel lining, unless otherwise shown on the Plans.

Localized erosion, sloughing or other slight irregularities in the existing channel which may occur between cross-sections, may not be shown on the Plans or cross-sections. Where the localized erosion, sloughing or irregularities extend beyond the limits of the channel cross-section, these areas must be filled and compacted to conform to the design channel cross-section. No additional payment will be made for these fills.

#### **18-4.07 Pipe Adjustments**

Side drain pipes without racks or flap gates must be extended or shortened as required to discharge into the new channel so that the pipe outlet is flush with the channel. The pipe used for extending existing side drains must be of the same diameter as the existing pipe and must conform to one of the options specified in these Specifications.

Side drain pipes with access control racks or flap gates must be extended or shortened to conform with Standard Drawing 9-26H. Access control racks must conform to Standard Drawing 9-26G.

The method of placing pipe extensions must conform to these Specifications and the Standard Drawings. Existing side drain pipes to be shortened must be neatly cut off parallel to the slope of the channel.

**18-4.08 Payment**

The unit price paid for ditch and channel excavation will be as specified in the State Specifications.

**18-4.09 Final Pay Quantities**

When the Estimated Quantities for a specific portion of the Work are designated on the Plans as Final Pay Quantities, the Estimated Quantities will be the final quantities for which payment for the specific portion of the Work will be made, unless the dimensions of said portions of the Work shown on the Plans are revised by the Agency. If the dimensions are revised, and the revisions result in an increase or decrease in the Estimated Quantities of portions of the Work, the final quantities for payment will be revised to the amount represented by the changes in the dimensions. The Estimated Quantities for specific portions of the Work are approximate only and no guarantee is made that the quantities that can be determined by computations based on the details and dimensions shown on the Plans will equal the Estimated Quantities. No additional payment will be made if the computed quantities do not equal the Estimated Quantities.

If portions of an item are not designated on the Plans as Final Pay Quantities, those portions will be measured and paid for in accordance with the applicable provisions of these Specifications and the Special Provisions.

In case of any discrepancy regarding final pay quantities, the Final Pay Quantities shown on the Plans will govern.

**18-5 UNSUITABLE MATERIAL EXCAVATION****18-5.01 General**

Unsuitable or unacceptable material encountered in the construction of roadways must be removed as roadway excavation and backfilled as detailed in Section 18-2.05, "Subgrade Preparation", in these Specifications.

Unsuitable material is material determined by the Agency to be unsuitable in its natural location and condition for roadway, channel, or structural foundation. Unsuitable material is material below a horizontal plane 2 feet below subgrade for channel or foundation of structure as determined by the structural section, flow line or foundation, or 2 feet below original ground, whichever is lower.

The Contractor's method of excavating unsuitable material must not undermine the existing base material. If, in the opinion of the Agency, the Contractor's method of excavating is increasing the amount of unsuitable material required to be excavated, the Agency will direct the Contractor to correct the condition at the Contractor's expense.

**18-5.02 Backfill**

Backfill to replace unsuitable materials must be placed and compacted to a minimum relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of 95 percent within 30 inches of finished grade on roadways and structural foundations, and to a minimum relative compaction (refer to Section 5) of 90 percent below 30 inches of finished grade on roadways and below subgrade in channels.

Suitable backfill material must be one of the following:

1. Pit run materials as specified in Section 50-8, "Pit Run Base (Graded)", of these Specifications.
2. Roadway, structural, or channel excavation material approved by the Agency.
3. Imported borrow as specified in Section 18-6, "Imported Borrow", of these Specifications.
4. Cobbles as specified in Section 50-9, "Cobbles", of these Specifications.
5. Geotextile fabric as specified in Section 50-10.01, "Nonwoven Geotextile Fabric", of these Specifications, backfilled with Class 2 aggregate base
6. Any approved combination of 1, 2, 3 and 4 above.

**18-5.03 Stabilization Fabric**

If during the preparation of the bottom of an excavation, or during the proof rolling of roadway subgrade, it becomes apparent to the Agency that the existing grade is unstable, a woven stabilization (geotextile) fabric must be used as directed by the Agency. The fabric must be a woven fabric with similar characteristics as Mirafi 600X, as described in Section 50-10-02.

Prior to placing the stabilization fabric, the unstable road subgrade must be over-excavated a minimum of 18", or as directed by the Agency, the exposed bottom must be rolled as smooth as practical before the stabilization fabric is placed. The fabric must overlap a minimum of 18 inches, or must be sewn or glued. If overlapped, the fabric must be placed so that the preceding roll overlaps the following roll in the direction that the aggregate base is to be spread. The fabric coverage must be wider than the unstable zone, a minimum of 18 inches in all directions, and may be tacked or pinned on the outer edges to hold in place. If sewn or glued, the seam strength must be at least 90 percent of the rated tensile strength of the fabric.

Once placed, the fabric must be covered by at least 18 inches of Class 2 Aggregate Base, unless other material is specified by the Agency. The first lift must be 12 inches in thickness, and all subsequent lifts must be 6 inches thick. All Aggregate Base must be compacted to a minimum degree of 95 percent of ASTM D-1557, unless otherwise specified by the Agency.

The geotextile fabric must be shipped and stored in a protective wrapping that protects the fabric from ultraviolet radiation. The fabric must be covered with the approved fill material within 48 hours of placement. The fabric must remain flat and unwrinkled during fill placement. If the fabric is damaged during construction, the damaged section must be covered by a new piece of fabric that is large enough to meet the overlap requirements described in this Section.

**18-5.04 Approximate Quantity**

Where a quantity is shown in the Contract for unsuitable material excavation, the quantity is approximate and is indicated for bid comparison only. No guarantee is made or implied that the quantity shown will not be reduced or increased or deleted, as required by the Agency.

**18-5.05 Payment**

The additional excavation greater than that required for preparation of original ground or subgrade will be paid for at the Contract unit price per cubic yard for the various types of excavation involved. Unsuitable material excavated more than 2 feet below subgrade will be paid for as extra work per Section 9, "Changes and Claims", of these Specifications if no item for unsuitable material excavation appears in the Contract.

Backfill, when made with material excavated from the work site, will be paid for at the same Contract unit price paid for roadway excavation or channel excavation, whichever applies. The pay quantity will be the same as that quantity computed for unsuitable material excavated.

Imported borrow, pit run material and cobbles, and the placing of such materials, will be paid for as specified in these Specifications for those items.

The quantity of geotextile fabric to be paid for will be measured by the square yard of area covered, not including additional fabric for overlap. The Contract price paid per square yard for the geotextile includes full compensation for furnishing all labor, materials, tools, equipment, and incidentals. The price per yard also includes doing all work involved in placing the geotextile, complete in place, as directed by the Agency. The need for this item is contingent upon the need to stabilize unsuitable base material encountered during construction and may be extended or deleted without limit at the discretion of the Agency with no change in the Contract unit price.

If the Contractor elects to place cobbles or other material in the channel bottom to provide a working surface in lieu of de-watering the channel, the cost of furnishing and placing the material is at the Contractor's sole expense.

## **18-6 IMPORTED BORROW**

### **18-6.01 General**

Imported borrow must consist of material required for the construction of embankments and must be obtained from sources listed in the Special Provisions or, if no sources are listed, from sources the Contractor may elect. The Contractor's sources must be approved in advance by the Agency. Imported borrow must be free of roots, vegetable matter, and other unsatisfactory material, and be of such character that it will readily bind to form a firm and stable embankment when compacted.

The imported borrow material must have a sand equivalent of not less than the average sand equivalent of the native material that is adjacent to the existing roadbed, and an R-value of not less than 20, or as otherwise specified in the Special Provisions. Clayey soils cannot be used. Imported borrow material must be tested by the Contractor at the Contractor's expense prior to being transported to the project site. Test result must be provided to the Agency.

If the Contract does not contain a pay item for imported borrow, the earthwork must be considered balanced with no imported material required. If the Agency deems it necessary to place imported borrow due to field conditions, shrinkage, or swell, the imported material must be furnished and placed as extra work, as provided in Section 9, "Changes and Claims", of these Specifications.

### **18-6.02 Agreements**

The Contractor must enter into an agreement with the property owner of any privately owned material site to hold the owner harmless from any claims for injury to persons or damage to property resulting from the Contractor's operations on said property. The agreement must contain provisions to relieve the Agency of any obligation to the property owner or claims for injury or damage of persons or property. Copies of the agreement and all permits, licenses and environmental clearances required for the removal of the material from the site must be furnished by the Contractor to the Agency a minimum of 2 Working Days prior to commencing operations at the material site. The Contractor's attention is directed to the State Specifications regarding local materials and their sources.

### **18-6.03 Placement**

The imported borrow material must be placed and compacted as specified for roadway embankment.

### **18-6.04 Payment**

The contract price paid per CUBIC YARD for Imported Borrow shall include full compensation for furnishing all labor, materials, tools, equipment, and incidentals, and for doing all the work involved in obtaining and placing imported borrow, including clearing and stripping the material sites, if necessary, excavating, loading, hauling, depositing, spreading, and compacting the material, complete in place as shown on the plans, as specified in the State Specifications and these Special Provisions, and as directed by the Engineer and no additional compensation will be allowed therefor.

## **18-7 SURPLUS MATERIAL DISPOSAL**

### **18-7.01 General**

Surplus materials resulting from excavations not required for backfill or embankment construction or to satisfy right-of-way agreements as set forth on the Plans and in the Special Provisions, are the property of the Contractor, and the Contractor must dispose of the surplus materials off the rights-of-way or easements, unless permitted by the Agency to be disposed of on the work site.



**18-7.02 Agreement**

When any materials are to be disposed of outside the rights-of-way or easements, the Contractor must obtain written permission from the property owner upon whose property the disposal is to be made. The Contractor must enter into an agreement with the property owner to hold the owner harmless from any claims for injury to persons or damage to property resulting from the Contractor's operations on the property. The agreement must contain provisions to relieve the Agency of any obligation to the property owner for any injury or damage to persons or property. The agreement must also include a sketch showing the location where the material is to be deposited. A copy of the permission obtained from the property owner, the agreement, and all permits, licenses and environmental clearances required for the disposal must be furnished by the Contractor to the Agency a minimum of 2 Working Days prior to commencing disposal operations. Excess materials cannot be deposited in a location that will block or restrict a natural or artificial drain. Material cannot be deposited within the dripline of certain ornamental, landmark, and native oak trees, as specified in Section 10-13, "Protection of Existing Trees", of these Specifications.

**18-7.03 Permits**

If copies of all required permits are not provided to the Agency as required, the Contractor's operations may be stopped in accordance with Section 5-21, "Temporary Suspension or Delay of Work", until copies of the permits are provided to the Agency.

The Contractor or owner of the property where excess material is to be deposited is responsible for obtaining all required permits from any agency that has jurisdiction over the proposed disposal site.

If the disposal of materials outside the right-of-way or easements could affect any waterway as set forth in Ordinance No. 1 of the Sacramento County Water Agency, the Contractor must obtain a permit from that agency, in addition to the property owner agreement as set forth above.

In addition to any permit required by the Sacramento County Water Agency, disposal of materials must conform to the applicable Agency grading ordinances. The Contractor or the owner of property on which material is to be disposed of must obtain a grading permit, if required, prior to disposal of any excess excavated material.

Copies of any required permits must be furnished to the Agency. No permits will be required if disposal sites are shown on the Plans unless otherwise specified on the Plans or in the Special Provisions.

Prior to placing any material within the 100-year floodplain of any of the 13 natural streams as adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the Contractor or property owner must first obtain a Use Permit from the Planning and Community Development Department.

**18-7.04 Payment**

Compensation for disposal of surplus material and all is included in payment for other earthwork items and no separate payment will be made.

**18-8 CLASS "C" SUBGRADE****18-8.01 General**

Areas of existing pavement shown on the Plans or as directed by the Agency to receive an overlay of asphalt concrete must be prepared as Class "C" subgrade. Class "C" subgrade applies to subgrade prepared on an existing roadbed, subbase, base, surfacing or pavement that was not constructed by the Contractor, and on which a layer of subbase, base, surfacing, pavement, or other specified material is to be placed.

### **18-8.02 Preparation**

In advance of spreading new subbase, base, surfacing or pavement material, the existing roadbed, subbase, base, surfacing or pavement must be cleaned of all dirt and loose material.

If ordered by the Agency, a leveling course of the material to be placed must be spread upon the existing roadbed, subbase, base, surfacing, or pavement, in accordance with the specifications for the type of material being placed.

Where shown on the Plans or specified or directed by the Agency, the existing roadbed, subbase, base, surfacing or pavement must be scarified, watered, and rolled prior to placing new material.

Broken, failed or other unsatisfactory portions of the existing roadbed, subbase, base, surfacing or pavement, and sections interfering with new construction must be removed and disposed of. The areas and depths to be removed will be directed by the Agency. The area in the exposed spaces must be watered and compacted, after which the space must be filled with subbase, base, surfacing or pavement material as directed by the Agency.

### **18-8.03 Payment**

Unless otherwise specified in the Special Provisions, the excavation and disposal of existing pavement other than that shown on the Plans to be excavated as a part of, or adjacent to, an area to be excavated to provide a new structural section, will be paid for as extra work per Section 9, "Changes and Claims", of these Specifications.

Excavation of pavement and materials shown on the Plans necessary for preparation of Class "C" subgrade will be paid for as roadway excavation as set forth in Section 18-2.07 "Roadway Excavation - Measurement and Payment", of these Specifications.

Full compensation for furnishing all labor, material, tools, equipment, and incidentals and for doing all the work involved in preparing Class "C" subgrade, including the leveling course, excluding excavation, as shown on the Plans, specified in these Specifications or the Special Provisions, or as directed by the Agency, is included in the Contract prices paid for the materials, in place on the subgrade as shown on the Plans, or directed by the Agency.