Project Updates for February 2026

The project completed the demolition and removal of two (2) 7-ft diameter Corrugated Metal Pipe(s) (CMP's) impeding the path of the sewer siphon installation. This included installing four new bulkheads at either end of the demolition in order to control water and safely remove the pipes and continue with work.

These (2) 7-ft diameter pipes are believed to have been the original culverts that provided the hydraulic connection between the Lagoon and Alamitos Bay before the development of Marina Vista Park but after Colorado Street was initially constructed.

Now that the CMP's have been removed, excavation and pipe installation for the west sewer siphon has continued. Pictured below are images of the crews spreading gravel and installing filter fabric to implement a construction "burrito" to address softer soils and create a stable base prior to the placement of the next sewer siphon run.



Photo above: CMPs dewatered and stabilized



Photo above: Installation of burrito and preparation for additional VCP/siphon laydown

Utilities are the primary driver of the construction schedule for the project. Delays in the sewer siphon have impacted the critical path and were attributed to encountering legacy systems, challenges with shoring systems, changes in system requirements from inspectors, changes in design from Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and impacts from weather delays and other unforeseen issues.

City staff have been asked why the backfill and utility installation work appear to be starting and stopping throughout the job. Various utilities located within the street are layered and installed at various elevations. The typical sequence of work is to excavate and install the deepest utility first (i.e. the sewer siphon), followed by the backfilling and compacting of soils above it. As another elevation is reached through backfilling or even demolition (e.g. removing elements out of the way such as the existing culvert), another utility system or portions thereof, can then be installed.

These other utility systems include storm drain boxes, lines, inlets or manholes (see graphic below) or water lines. More recently, the contractor has excavated shallower trenches through the compacted soils to install shallower water lines where possible. However, the remainder of these utilities cannot be fully installed until the backfill areas are further progressed. Additionally, where possible or reachable, construction crews have also made repairs to the existing sewer piping, ensuring new and old systems are in good condition.

Lastly, the neighborhood is being supported by temporary utility systems or bypasses (sewer, water, recycled water). In order to backfill the roadways and restore streets, all permanent utility systems at multiple elevations have to be fully constructed, tested, and accepted by the AHJ's before the decommissioning of the bypass systems can begin.

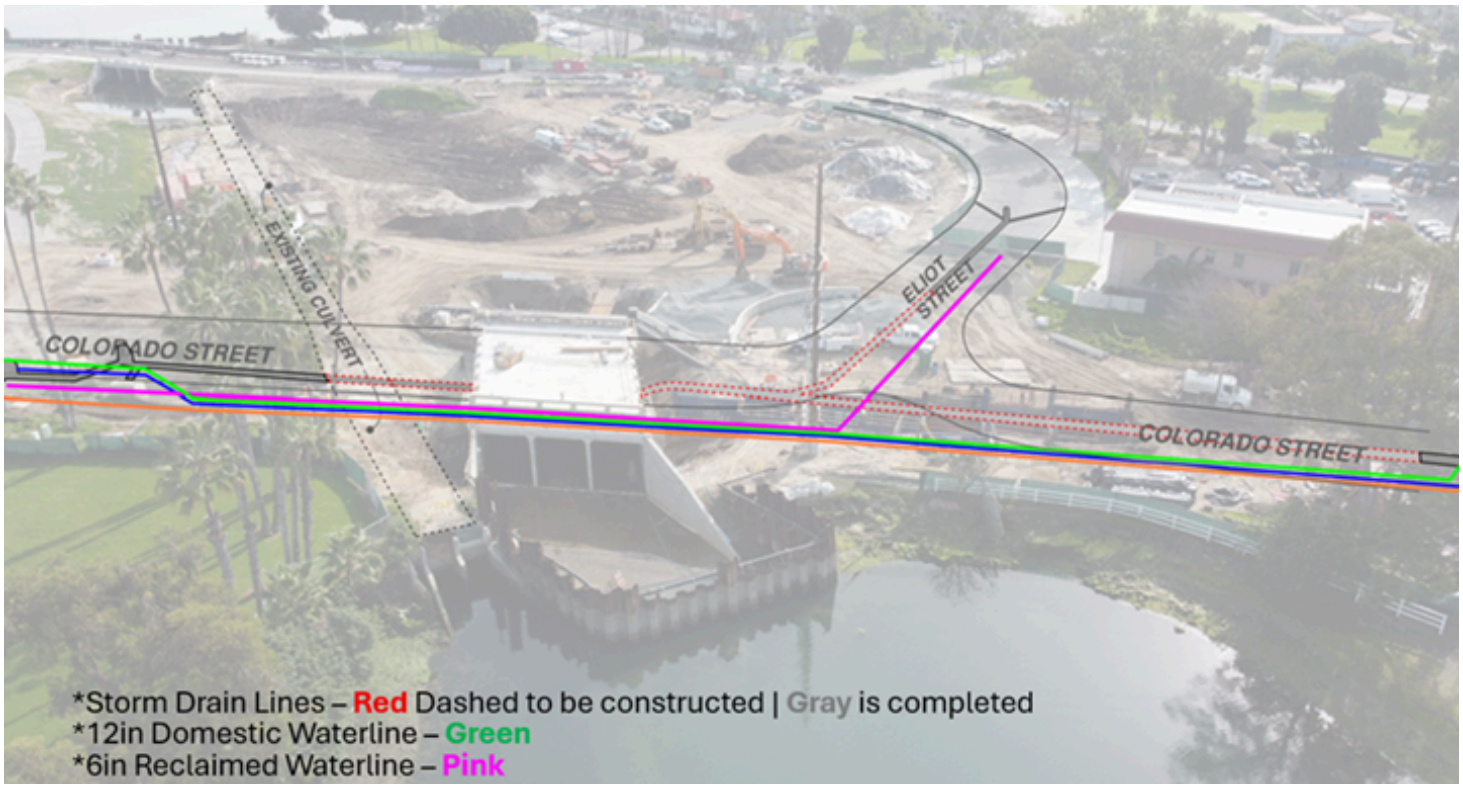


Photo above: Pending utility installation

Towards the end of January, another round of soil amendments and weed treatment began. The project team is closely tracking soil metrics such as organics, calcium, pH, salinity and others, in order to achieve optimum topsoil conditions for sod establishment and longevity. See photos of additional amendments which were applied and tilled into the top 2 inches of topsoil.



Photo above: Soil amendments

The project team understands the impacts to the neighborhood and larger district and thanks everyone for their continued support and patience as the team works to deliver the fourth and final phase of a multi-phased restoration effort that began well over 20 years ago. The project team is aiming to open roadways in Summer 2026.