

1 Make the following Section a part of the Standard Specifications:

2 **"SECTION 657 - SOIL NAIL RETAINING WALL**

3 **657.01 Description.** The Work shall consist of constructing permanent soil  
4 nail retaining walls as specified in the Contract Documents. Furnish all labor,  
5 materials, and equipment required for completing the Work. Select the method of  
6 excavation, drilling method and equipment, and grouting procedures to meet the  
7 performance requirements specified herein.

8 Soil nailing work shall include excavating in accordance with the staged  
9 lifts shown in the Plans; drilling soil nail drill holes to the specified minimum  
10 diameter, length, and orientation indicated on the Plans; providing, placing and  
11 grouting the reinforcing bars into the drill holes; placing drainage elements;  
12 placing shotcrete reinforcement; applying initial and permanent shotcrete facing  
13 over the reinforcement; attaching bearing plates and nuts; and performing nail  
14 testing. Shotcrete facing and wall drainage construction are referred to the  
15 Section 628 - Shotcrete.

16 The term "Soil Nail" as used in these specifications is intended as a generic  
17 term and refers to a reinforcing bar grouted into a drilled hole installed in any type  
18 of ground conditions including soil and rock. Soil nail walls are built from the top  
19 down in existing ground.

20 Soil and rock properties, strength parameters, partial safety factors, design  
21 requirements and other criteria are shown on the Plans.

22 **657.02 Soil Nail Contractor's Experience Requirements and Submittal.**

23 The qualifications of the soil nailing Contractor shall conform to the  
24 minimum experience requirements below.

25 Submit a project reference list verifying the successful completion of at  
26 least three permanent soil nail retaining wall projects during the past 3 years  
27 totaling at least 15,000 square feet of wall face area and at least 150 permanent  
28 soil nails. A brief description of each project with the Owner's name and current  
29 phone number shall be included.

30 The soil nailing Contractor shall have his/her on-site staff personnel having  
31 sufficient experience in the construction of permanent soil nail retaining walls. As  
32 a minimum, the on-site supervisor and drill rig operators shall have experience  
33 installing permanent soil nails on at least three projects over the past 3 years.

34 At least 30 days before starting the wall or sacrificial pre-production  
35 verification testing of nails, the soil nail Contractor shall submit 8 copies of the  
36 completed project reference list and a list identifying the on site supervisors and

37 drill rig operators assigned to the project. The personnel list shall contain a  
38 summary of each individual's experience and be complete enough for the  
39 Engineer to determine whether each individual satisfies the required  
40 qualifications. The Engineer will accept or reject the submission. Work shall not  
41 be started nor materials ordered until the Engineer's written acceptance of the  
42 Contractor's qualification is given.

43 The Engineer may suspend the Work if the Contractor uses non-accepted  
44 personnel for the Work that has not been accepted by the Engineer. If work is  
45 suspended, the Contractor shall be fully liable for all resulting costs and no  
46 adjustment in contract time will result from the suspension.

47 **657.03 Materials.**

48 (A) **General.** No asbestos containing materials or equipment shall be  
49 used under this Section. The Contractor shall ensure that all materials and  
50 equipment incorporated in the project are asbestos-free.

51 (B) **Materials.** Furnish materials new and without defects. Remove  
52 defective materials from the job site at no additional cost to the State.  
53 Materials for soil nail structures shall consist of the following:

54 (1) **Solid Bar Nail Tendons.** ASTM A615, Grade 75, Epoxy  
55 Coated, Deformed bar continuous without splices or welds. New,  
56 straight, undamaged, and fully encapsulated, as shown on the  
57 Plans. Threaded a minimum of 6 inches on the wall anchorage end  
58 to allow for proper attachment of bearing plate and nut. Threading  
59 shall be continuous spiral deformed ribbing provided by the bar  
60 deformations.

61 (2) **Encapsulation.** Minimum 0.1-inch thick corrugated HDPE  
62 (AASHTO M252) or corrugated PVC (ASTM D1784). Encapsulation  
63 shall provide at least 0.25 inches of grout cover over the reinforcing  
64 bar. Encapsulation shall be resistant to ultra violet light  
65 degradation, normal handling stresses, and grouting pressures.  
66 The encapsulation shall be fabricated in the factory with a proper  
67 end cap on one side.

68 (3) **Centralizers.** Manufactured from Schedule 40 PVC pipe or  
69 tube, steel or other material not detrimental to the nail steel (wood  
70 shall not be used); securely attached to the nail bar, sized to position  
71 the nail bar within 1 inch of the center of the drill hole; sized to allow  
72 tremie pipe insertion to the bottom of the drill hole; and sized to allow  
73 grout to freely flow up the drill hole.

74 (4) Nail Grout. Grout for the soil nail retaining walls shall attain  
75 a minimum compressive strength of 4000 psi prior to testing.  
76 Testing for compressive strength shall conform to ASTM C-109  
77 Mortar and Sand. See plans for additional grout requirements.

78 Water for mixing grout shall be potable, clean and free of  
79 injurious quantities of substances known to be harmful to Portland  
80 cement or steel.

81 (5) Admixtures. ASTM C494. Admixtures that control bleed,  
82 improve flowability, reduce water content and retard set may be  
83 used in the grout subject to review and acceptance by the Engineer.  
84 Accelerators are not permitted. Expansive admixtures may only be  
85 used in grout used for filling sealed encapsulations. Admixtures  
86 shall be compatible with the grout and mixed in accordance with the  
87 manufacturer's recommendations.

88 (6) Cement. ASTM C150, Type I, II, III or V.

89 (7) Film Protection. Polyethylene film per AASHTO M171.

90 (8) Shotcrete. Refer to the Section 628 - Shotcrete.

91 (C) **Materials Handling and Storage.** Store cement to prevent moisture  
92 degradation and partial hydration. Do not use cement that has become  
93 caked or lumpy.

94 Store steel reinforcement on supports to keep the steel from  
95 contacting the ground. Damage to the exposed nail steel as a result of  
96 abrasion, cuts, nicks, welds, and weld splatter shall be cause for rejection.  
97 Do not ground welding leads to nail bars. Protect nail steel from dirt, rust,  
98 and other deleterious substances prior to installation. Heavy corrosion or  
99 pitting of the exposed nails shall be cause for rejection. Place protective  
100 wrap over anchorage end of nail bar to which bearing plate and nut will be  
101 attached to protect the nail during handling, installation, grouting and  
102 shotcreting.

#### 103 **657.04 Construction Site Survey.**

104 Prior to the start of any wall construction activity, the Contractor and  
105 Engineer shall jointly inspect the site to observe and document the  
106 pre-construction condition of the site, existing structures, and facilities. During  
107 construction, the Contractor shall observe the conditions above the soil nail wall  
108 on a daily basis for signs of ground movement in the vicinity of the wall.  
109 Immediately notify the Engineer if signs of movements, such as new cracks in  
110 existing structures, increased size of old cracks or separation of joints in

111 structures, foundations, streets or paved and unpaved surfaces, are observed.  
112 Submit observation report of the site within 7 day of inspection. Observation  
113 report shall contain all changes found at the site. If no changes were found, the  
114 report shall state it as so.

115 If the Engineer determines that the movements exceed those anticipated  
116 for typical soil nail wall construction and require corrective action, the Contractor  
117 shall take corrective actions necessary to stop the movement or perform repairs.

118 **657.05 Submittals.** Upon acceptance of the soil nailing Contractor's  
119 qualifications submittal set forth in Section 657.02, submit 8 copies of the  
120 following information, in writing, to the Engineer for review and acceptance.

121 Provide the following submittal items at least 30 days prior to initiating the  
122 soil nail wall construction (or pre-production verification tests on sacrificial test  
123 nails):

124 (A) The proposed start date and proposed detailed wall construction  
125 sequence including the following:

126 (1) Proposed mobilization and demobilization of the soil nail  
127 retaining wall construction equipment to and from the project  
128 site via restricted bridge crossings (such as no more than 8-ton  
129 gross weight).

130 (2) Proposed disposal site for the unsuitable materials from the  
131 clear and grubbing operation and the staged excavation.

132 (3) Plan describing how surface water will be diverted, controlled  
133 and disposed of.

134 (4) Proposed methods and equipment for excavating the soil  
135 and/or rock to the staged excavation lifts indicated in the Plans,  
136 including the proposed grade elevations for each excavation lift  
137 shown on a wall elevation view.

138 (5) Measures to ensure wall and slope stability during various  
139 stages of wall construction and excavation where discontinuous  
140 rows of nails will be installed (if applicable); information on space  
141 requirements for installation equipment; temporary shoring plans (if  
142 applicable); information on provisions for working in the proximity of  
143 underground facilities or utilities (if applicable).

144 (6) Proposed nail drilling methods and equipment.

145 (B) Nail grout mix design including the following:

- 146                   (1)    Type of Portland cement.
- 147                   (2)    Proportions of mix by weight and water-cement ratio.
- 148                   (3)    Manufacturer, brand name and technical literature for  
149                   proposed admixtures.
- 150                   (4)    Compressive strength test results per ASTM C109 supplied  
151                   by a qualified independent testing laboratory verifying the specified  
152                   minimum 3 and 28-day grout compressive strengths. Previous test  
153                   results for the proposed grout mix completed within one year of the  
154                   start of grouting may be submitted for initial verification and  
155                   acceptance of the required compressive strengths and start of  
156                   production work.
- 157           (C)    Proposed nail grout placement procedures and equipment.
- 158           (D)    Proposed nail testing methods and equipment setup including the  
159           following:
- 160                   (1)    Details of the jacking frame and appurtenant bracing.
- 161                   (2)    Details showing methods of isolating test nails during  
162                   shotcrete application (i.e., methods to prevent bonding of the soil  
163                   nail bar and the shotcrete facing during testing).
- 164                   (3)    Details showing methods of providing the temporary  
165                   unbonded length and of grouting the temporary unbonded length of  
166                   test nails after completion of testing.
- 167                   (4)    Equipment list.
- 168           (E)    Identification number and certified calibration records for each test  
169           jack and pressure gauge and load cell to be used. Jack and pressure  
170           gauge shall be calibrated as a unit. Calibration records shall include the  
171           date tested, identification number, and the calibration test results and shall  
172           be certified to an accuracy of at least 2 percent of the applied certification  
173           loads by a qualified independent testing laboratory within 180 days prior to  
174           submittal.
- 175           (F)    Manufacturer Certificates of Compliance for the soil nail  
176           centralizers.
- 177           (G)    Shop drawings for falsework (formwork), if applicable.

178 The Contractor will not be allowed to begin wall construction or incorporate  
179 materials into the work until the submittal requirements are satisfied and found  
180 acceptable to the Engineer. Changes or deviations from the accepted submittals  
181 must be resubmitted for acceptance. No adjustments in contract time will be  
182 allowed due to incomplete submittals.

183 Upon delivery of the encapsulated nail bars to the project site, provide  
184 Certified mill test results for the encapsulated nail bars from each heat specifying  
185 the ultimate strength, yield strength, elongation and composition.

186 **657.06 Construction Requirements.**

187 **(A) Pre-Construction Meeting.** A pre-construction meeting will be  
188 scheduled by the Engineer and held prior to the start of wall construction  
189 and pre-production verification tests on sacrificial test nails. The Engineer,  
190 designer, prime Contractor, soil nail Contractor and Owner's Geotechnical  
191 Engineer shall attend the meeting. The excavation Contractor, shotcreting  
192 Contractor and survey Contractor, if different than the prime or soil nail  
193 Contractor, shall also attend. Attendance is mandatory.

194 The pre-construction meeting will be conducted to clarify the  
195 construction requirements for the work, to coordinate the construction  
196 schedule and activities, and to identify contractual relationships and  
197 delineation of responsibilities among the prime Contractor and the various  
198 Subcontractors – particularly those pertaining to wall excavation, nail  
199 installation and testing, excavation and wall alignment survey control, and  
200 shotcrete facing construction. Soil nail wall construction requires  
201 excavation in staged lifts and excavation in the vicinity of the wall face  
202 requires special care and effort compared to general earthwork excavation.  
203 The Contractor shall take this into account during bidding.

204 **(B) Site Drainage Control.** Provide positive control and discharge of  
205 all surface water that will affect construction of the soil nail retaining wall.  
206 Maintain all pipes or conduits used to control surface water during  
207 construction. Repair damage caused by surface water at no additional cost  
208 to the State. Upon substantial completion of the wall, remove surface water  
209 control pipes or conduits from the site. Alternatively; with the acceptance  
210 of the Engineer, pipes or conduits that are left in place, may be fully grouted  
211 and abandoned or left in a way that protects the structure and all adjacent  
212 facilities from migration of fines through the pipe or conduit and potential  
213 loss of ground.

214 The regional groundwater table is anticipated to be below the level  
215 of the wall excavation based on the available geotechnical information.  
216 Localized areas of perched water or seepage may be encountered during  
217 excavation at the interface of geologic units or from localized groundwater

218 seepage areas. These perched groundwater conditions shall not be  
219 considered as "differing site conditions" by the Contractor.

220 Immediately contact the Engineer if unanticipated existing  
221 subsurface drainage features and/or structures are discovered during  
222 excavation. Suspend work in these areas until remedial measures meeting  
223 the Engineer's acceptance are implemented. Capture surface water runoff  
224 flows (and flows from existing subsurface drainage structures)  
225 independently of the wall drainage network and convey them to an outfall  
226 structure or storm sewer, as accepted by the Engineer. Cost of remedial  
227 measures required to capture and dispose of water resulting from  
228 encountering unanticipated man-made subsurface drainage features  
229 and/or structures will be paid for as Extra Work.

230 **(C) Excavation.** Coordinate the work and the excavation such that the  
231 soil nail wall is safely constructed. The Contractor shall protect, at all  
232 times, the existing structures and features above, below and around the  
233 soil nail walls during excavation for the soil nail wall. Perform the wall  
234 construction and excavation sequence in accordance with the Contract  
235 Documents and accepted submittals. Exercise care in the excavation for  
236 the soil nail retaining walls due to the cobbly and rocky nature of the  
237 subsurface materials at the soil nail retaining wall locations to minimize  
238 substantial excavation overbreak, which will require subsequent backfill  
239 with shotcrete at no additional cost to the State. Care shall also be taken  
240 and accounted for in the pricing to minimize the impact to the environment  
241 in the area. No excavations steeper than those specified herein or shown  
242 on the Plans shall be made above or below the soil nail wall without the  
243 written acceptance of the Engineer.

244 **(D) Excavation and Wall Alignment Survey Control.** Be responsible  
245 for providing:

246 (1) Both the survey reference and control points along the top of  
247 the wall alignment.

248 (2) necessary survey and alignment control during excavation of  
249 each lift,

250 (3) locating and drilling each drill hole within the allowable  
251 tolerances, and

252 (4) for performing the wall excavation and nail installation in a  
253 manner that will allow for constructing the shotcrete facing to the  
254 specified minimum thickness and such that the permanent concrete  
255 facing can be constructed to the specified minimum thickness and to  
256 the line and grade indicated in the Plans.

Where the as-built location of the front face of the shotcrete facing exceeds the allowable tolerance from the wall control line shown on the Plans, Be responsible for determining and bearing the cost of remedial measures necessary to provide proper attachment of nail head bearing plate connections and satisfactory placement of the permanent concrete facing, as called for on the Plans.

**(E) General Excavation.** Complete clearing, grubbing, grading and excavation above and behind the wall (if required) before commencing wall excavation. Do not over excavate the original ground behind the wall or at the ends of the wall, beyond the limits shown on the Plans. Do not perform general excavation that will affect the soil nail wall until wall construction starts. General excavation shall be coordinated with the soil nailing work and the excavation shall proceed from the top down in a horizontal staged excavation lift sequence with the ground level for each lift excavated no more than mid-height between adjacent nail rows, as illustrated on the Plans. Do not excavate the full wall height to the final wall alignment as shown on the Plans.

**(F) Soil Nail Wall Structure Excavation.** Structure excavation in the vicinity of the wall face will require special care and effort compared to general earthwork excavation. Take this special structure excavation requirement into account during bidding. Due to the close coordination required between the soil nail Contractor and the excavation Contractor, the excavation Contractor shall perform the structure excavation for the soil nail wall under the direction of the soil nail Contractor.

Excavate to the final wall face using procedures that will:

- (1) Prevent over excavation;
- (2) prevent ground loss, swelling, air slaking, or loosening;
- (3) prevent loss of support for completed portions of the wall; and
- (4) prevent loss of soil moisture at the face.

Costs associated with additional thickness of shotcrete or concrete or other remedial measures required due to irregularities in the cut face, excavation over-break due to the nature of the on-site materials (cobbly and rocky materials) or inadvertent over excavation, shall be borne by the Contractor.

The exposed unsupported final excavation face cut height shall not exceed the vertical nail spacing plus the required reinforcing lap or the short-term stand-up height of the ground, whichever is less. Complete



excavation to the final wall excavation line and apply the shotcrete in the same work shift, unless otherwise accepted by the Engineer. Application of the shotcrete, with the acceptance of the Engineer, may be delayed up to 24 hours if the Contractor can show that the delay will not adversely affect the excavation face stability. Minimize degradation of the cut face caused by changes in moisture. A polyethylene film over the face of the excavation may reduce degradation of the cut face caused by changes in moisture. Other methods may be used if accepted by the Engineer. Damage to the existing structures or structures included in the Work shall be repaired and paid by the Contractor where acceptance is granted for the extended face exposure period.

Excavation to the next lift shall not proceed until nail installation, shotcrete facing placement, attachment of bearing plates and nuts and nail testing has been completed and accepted in the current lift. Nail grout and shotcrete shall cure for a minimum of 72 hours or attained at least their **specified 3-day compressive strength** before excavating the next underlying lift. Excavating the next lift in less than 72 hours will only be allowed if the Contractor submits compressive strength test results, for test performed by a qualified independent testing laboratory, verifying that the nail grout and shotcrete mixes being used will provide the specified 3-day compressive strengths in the lesser time.

Notify the Engineer immediately if raveling or local instability of the final wall face excavation occurs. Unstable areas shall be temporarily stabilized by means of buttressing the exposed face with an earth berm or other methods. Suspend work in unstable areas until remedial measures are developed.

**(G) Wall Discontinuities.** Where the Contractor's excavation and installation methods result in a discontinuous wall along any nail row, the ends of the constructed wall section shall extend beyond the ends of the next lower excavation lift by at least 10 feet. Slopes at these discontinuities shall be constructed to prevent sloughing or failure of the temporary slopes. If sections of the wall are to be constructed at different times, prevent sloughing or failure of the temporary slopes at the end of each wall section.

**(H) Excavation Face Protrusions, Voids or Obstructions.** Remove all portions of cobbles, boulders, rubble or other subsurface obstructions encountered at the wall final excavation face that will protrude into the shotcrete facing. Determine method of removal of face protrusions, including method to safely secure remnant pieces left behind the excavation face and for promptly backfilling voids resulting from removal of protrusions extending behind the excavation face. Notify the Engineer of the proposed method(s) for removal of face protrusions at least 24 hours

prior to beginning removal. Voids, over-break or over-excavation beyond the plan wall excavation line resulting from the removal of face protrusions or excavation operations shall be backfilled with shotcrete or concrete, as accepted by the Engineer. Removal of face protrusions and backfilling of voids or over-excavations shall be considered incidental to the work.

**(I) Nail Installation.** Determine the required drill hole diameter(s), drilling method, grout composition and installation method necessary to achieve the nail pullout resistance(s) specified in the Contract Documents, in accordance with the nail testing acceptance criteria in the Nail Testing section.

No drilling or installation of production nails will be permitted in any soil/rock unit until successful pre-production verification testing of sacrificial test nails is completed in that unit and accepted by the Engineer. Install verification test nails using the same equipment, methods, nail inclination and drill hole diameter as planned for the production nails. Perform pre-production verification tests on sacrificial test nails with full-scale strain gage instrumentation in accordance with the Verification Testing Section prior to ordering materials. Acceptable pre-production verification tests on sacrificial test nails shall also be completed prior to starting wall excavation and installation of production nails in the specific lift. The number and location of the sacrificial test nails will be as indicated in the Contract Documents.

Sacrificial verification test nails shall be installed through the design finished slope face prior to the start of wall excavation. Subject to the Engineer's acceptance, sacrificial verification test nails may also be installed at different locations than specified providing the Contractor demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Engineer, that the test nails will be bonded into ground that is representative of the ground at the sacrificial verification test nail locations designated in the Contract Documents. Install the production soil nails before the construction of the permanent shotcrete facing.

The Contractor shall place a sealing layer (flashcoat) of shotcrete or fiber reinforced shotcrete to protect and stabilize the face of the excavation as shown in the Contract Documents. Cost of the sealing layer (flashcoat) of shotcrete or fiber reinforced shotcrete shall be measured and paid for under Section 628 - Shotcrete.

The Engineer may add, eliminate, or relocate nails to accommodate actual field conditions. Cost adjustments associated with these modifications shall be made in accordance with the Contract Documents.

The cost of any redesign, additional material, or installation modifications resulting from actions of the Contractor shall be borne by the Contractor.

**(J) Drilling.** The specified size drill holes for the soil nails shall be made at the locations, orientations, and lengths shown on the plans or as directed by the Engineer. The Contractor has the option to make adjustments in the diameter of the drill holes, upon written acceptance of the Engineer, at no additional cost provided that the resulting change in the drill hole size will achieve the nail pullout resistance(s) specified herein and in the Contract Documents. The adjusted soil nail shall be capable of sustaining a **minimum load of 1.4 kips per lineal foot of the soil nail length** or otherwise specified in the Contract Documents and the diameter of the drilled hole shall not be less than 8 inches.

Subsurface exploration at the locations of the soil nail retaining walls was conducted at selected locations as part of the project. The Contractor may assume that the subsurface materials to be encountered at the soil nail retaining wall locations will consist of the geologic formations identified in the boring logs shown in the Contract Documents, referred to the report by Ernest K. Hirata & Associates, Inc., entitled as "Soils Investigation, Kuhio Highway Improvements at Lumahai and Wainiha, Lumahai, Kauai", dated August 30, 1999. It shall be noted that highly weathered basalt rock stratum shown on the Contract Documents may include core stones of relatively hard, less weathered rock (possible spheroidal weathering). The Contractor shall anticipate the presence of cobbles, boulders, and hard rock at the site.

Thoroughly investigate the site and select the appropriate drilling equipment and methods for the drilling. Use of drilling muds such as bentonite slurry to assist in drill cutting removal is not allowed but compressed air may be used. Care shall be exercised by the Contractor to avoid disturbing the existing structures and features behind the soil nail retaining wall when compressed air is used for the drilling. Where hard drilling conditions such as rock, cobbles, boulders, or obstructions are encountered, percussion or other suitable drilling equipment capable of drilling and maintaining stable drill holes through such materials shall be used. The Engineer will not make separate payment for excavation of materials of different densities and character (hardness) or employment of special tools and procedures necessary to install the soil nails.

Immediately suspend or modify the drilling operations if ground subsidence is observed, if the soil nail wall is adversely affected, or if adjacent structures and/or features are damaged from the drilling operation. Immediately stabilize the adverse conditions at no additional cost to the State.

**(K) Nail Bar Installation.** Provide fully encapsulated nail bars in accordance with the schedules included in the Plans. Provide centralizers sized to position the bar within 1 inch of the center of the drill hole. Position centralizers as shown in the Contract Documents so that the maximum center-to-center spacing does not exceed 10 feet. Also, locate centralizers within 2 feet from the top and bottom of the drill hole. Securely attach centralizers to the fully encapsulated bar so that they will not shift during handling or insertion into the drill hole, will still allow grout tremie pipe insertion to the bottom of drill hole, and will allow grout to flow freely up the hole.

Inspect each fully encapsulated nail bar before installation and repair or replace damaged bars. Check uncased drill holes for cleanliness prior to insertion of the soil nail bar. Insert fully encapsulated nail bars with centralizers into the drill hole to the required length without difficulty and in a way that prevents damage to the drill hole, bar, or corrosion protection. **Do not drive or force partially inserted soil nails into the hole. Remove nails that cannot be fully inserted to the design depth and clean the drill hole to allow unobstructed installation.**

When using cased or hollow stem auger drilling equipment, which does not allow for the centralizers to pass through the casing or auger stem, the Contractor may delete the centralizers if the neat cement grout pumped through the casing is placed using grout pressures greater than 150 psi or if the sand-cement grout placed through the stem of the auger has a slump of 9 inches or less.

**(L) Nail Installation Tolerance.**

**(1)** Nail location and orientation tolerances are as follows:

**(a)** Nail head location, deviation from plan design location: 6 inches in any direction.

**(b)** Nail inclination, deviation from plan: + or - 3 degrees.

**(c)** Location tolerances are applicable to only one nail and not cumulative over the large wall area. Center nail bars within 1 inch of the center of the drill hole.

**(2)** Soil nails that do not satisfy the specified tolerances, due to the Contractor's installation methods, shall be replaced at no additional cost to the State. Backfill abandoned nail drill holes with tremied grout. Nails that encounter unanticipated obstructions during drilling shall be relocated, as accepted by the Engineer. Cost of drilling and backfilling drill holes abandoned due to unanticipated

453 obstructions will be paid as Extra Work. Drilling through cobbles,  
454 boulders, and hard basalt rock formation shall be anticipated by the  
455 Contractor and shall not be considered unanticipated obstructions  
456 by the Contractor.

457 **(M) Grout Mix Design.** Submit the proposed nail grout mix design to  
458 the Engineer for review and acceptance in accordance with the submittal  
459 section.

460 **(N) Grout Testing.** Previous test results for the proposed grout mix  
461 completed within one year of the start of work may be submitted for initial  
462 verification of the required compressive strengths for installation of  
463 pre-production verification test nails and initial production nails. During  
464 production, test nail grout in accordance with ASTM C109 at a frequency  
465 of no less than one test for each day of grout placement or every 10 cubic  
466 yards of grout placed whichever is more frequent. **Provide grout cube**  
467 **test results for 3-day and 28-day compressive strength** in accordance  
468 with ASTM C109 to the Engineer within 24 hours of testing.

469 **(O) Grouting Equipment.** Grout equipment shall produce a uniformly  
470 mixed grout free of lumps and undispersed cement, and shall be capable  
471 of continuously agitating the mix. Use a positive displacement grout pump  
472 equipped with a pressure gauge, which can measure at least twice but no  
473 more than three times the intended grout pressure. Size the grouting  
474 equipment to enable the entire nail to be grouted in one continuous  
475 operation. Place the grout within 60 minutes after mixing or within the time  
476 recommended by the admixture manufacturer, if admixtures are used.  
477 Grout not placed in the allowed time limit shall not be used. Soil nails using  
478 such grout will be rejected.

479 **(P) Grouting Methods.** Grout the drill hole after installation of the nail  
480 bar. Each drill hole shall be grouted within 24 hours of completion of  
481 drilling, unless otherwise accepted by the Engineer. Inject the grout at the  
482 lowest point of each drill hole through a grout tube, casing, hollow-stem  
483 auger, or drill rods. Keep the outlet end of the conduit delivering the grout  
484 below the surface of the grout as the conduit is withdrawn to prevent the  
485 creation of voids. Completely fill the drill hole in one continuous operation.  
486 Cold joints in the grout column are not allowed except at the top of the test  
487 bond length of tested production nails and the initial grout line at the top of  
488 drilled holes.

489 During casing removal for drill holes advanced by either cased or  
490 hollow-stem auger methods, maintain sufficient grout level within the  
491 casing to offset the external groundwater/soil pressure and prevent hole  
492 caving. Maintain grout head or grout pressures sufficient to ensure that the

493 drill hole will be completely filled with grout and to prevent unstable soil or  
494 groundwater from contaminating or diluting the grout. Record the grout  
495 pressures for soil nails installed using pressure grouting techniques.  
496 Control grout pressures to prevent excessive ground heave or fracturing.

497 Remove the grout and nail if grouting is suspended for more than 30  
498 minutes or does not satisfy the requirements of this specification or the  
499 Plans, and replace with fresh grout and undamaged nail bar at no  
500 additional cost to the State.

501 **(Q) Nail Testing.** Perform both verification and proof testing of  
502 designated test nails. Perform pre-production verification tests on  
503 sacrificial test nails at locations shown in the Contract Documents. Perform  
504 verification and proof tests on production nails at locations selected by the  
505 Engineer after complete installation based on the drilling and grouting  
506 records.

507 A minimum of 4 verification tests (not including pre-production verification  
508 tests on sacrificial test nails) shall be conducted for each type of soil nail  
509 during the production work in accordance with the Contract Documents.  
510 Verification testing on production nails shall be conducted in accordance  
511 with the procedures and loading schedule provided in the "Pre-Production  
512 Verification Testing on Sacrificial Test Nails."

513 Perform proof testing on at least 10 percent of the production nails in the  
514 presence of the Engineer at the locations selected by the Engineer. A  
515 verification test nail successfully completed during production work shall be  
516 considered equivalent to a proof test nail and shall be accounted for in  
517 determining the number of proof tests required.

518 Do not perform nail testing until the nail grout and initial shotcrete facing  
519 have cured for at least 72 hours and attained at least their specified 3-day  
520 compressive strength. Testing in less than 72 hours will only be allowed if  
521 the Contractor submits compressive strength test results, for tests  
522 performed by a qualified independent test laboratory, verifying that the nail  
523 grout and shotcrete mixes have provided the specified 3-day compressive  
524 strengths in the lesser time.

525 **(R) Test Nail Unbonded Length.** Provide temporary unbonded  
526 lengths for all soil nails installed. Isolate the test nail bar from the initial  
527 shotcrete facing and/or the reaction frame used during testing. Isolation of  
528 a test nail through the initial shotcrete facing shall not affect the location of  
529 the reinforcing steel under the bearing plate. Accepted test nails may be  
530 incorporated as production nails provided the temporary test unbonded  
531 length is fully grouted subsequent to testing. Submit the proposed test nail  
532 isolation methods, methods for providing an unbonded test length, and

533 methods for grouting the unbonded length subsequent to testing to the  
534 Engineer for review and acceptance in accordance with the Submittal  
535 section. Where temporary casing of the unbonded length of test nails is  
536 provided, install the casing in a way that prevents any reaction between the  
537 casing and the grouted bond length of the nail and/or stressing apparatus.

538 **(S) Testing Equipment.** Testing equipment shall include dial gauges,  
539 dial gauge support, jack and pressure gauge, electronic load cell, and a  
540 reaction frame. The load cell is required for the creep test portion of the  
541 test. Provide description of test setup and jack, pressure gauge, and load  
542 cell calibration curves in accordance with Submittals section.

543 Design the testing reaction frame to be sufficiently rigid and of  
544 adequate dimensions such that excessive deformation of the testing  
545 equipment does not occur. If the reaction frame will bear directly on the  
546 initial shotcrete facing, design it to prevent cracking of the shotcrete.  
547 Independently support and center the jack over the nail bar so that the bar  
548 does not carry the weight of the testing equipment. Align the jack, bearing  
549 plates, and stressing anchorage with the bar such that unloading and  
550 repositioning of the equipment will not be required during the test.

551 Apply and measure the test load with an electric load cell and digital  
552 readout device associated with a hydraulic jack pressure gauge. The  
553 pressure gauge shall be graduated in 50 psi increments or less. The jack  
554 and pressure gauge shall have a pressure range not exceeding twice the  
555 anticipated maximum test pressure. Jack ram travel shall be sufficient to  
556 allow the test to be done without resetting the equipment.

557 Monitor the nail load during verification and proof tests with both the  
558 load cell and the pressure gauge. Use the load cell to maintain constant  
559 load hold during the creep test load hold increment of the test.

560 Measure the nail head movement with a dial gauge capable of  
561 measuring up to 0.001 inches. The dial gauge shall have a travel sufficient  
562 to allow the test to be done without having to reset the gauge. Visually  
563 align the gauge to be parallel with the axis of the nail and support the gauge  
564 independently from the jack, wall or reaction frame. Use two dial gauges  
565 when the test setup requires reaction against a soil cut face.

566 **(T) Pre-Production Verification Testing of Sacrificial Test Nails.**  
567 Pre-production verification testing shall be performed in the presence of  
568 the Engineer prior to installation of production nails to verify the  
569 Contractor's installation methods and nail pullout resistance. Perform  
570 pre-production verification test at the locations and elevations shown in the  
571 Contract Documents, unless otherwise accepted by the Engineer. Perform  
572 a minimum of two sacrificial verification tests for each different

573 drilling/grouting method proposed to be used by the Contractor.  
574 Verification test nails will be sacrificial with full-scale strain gage  
575 instrumentation. Pre-production verification testing nails shall not be  
576 incorporated as production nails.

577 The full-scale instrumentation consists of vibrating wire embedment  
578 strain gages attached on the reinforcing bar at each level, starting from  
579 about 2 feet above bottom of drilled hole and subsequently at about 5-foot  
580 intervals. The Engineer will install and monitor the strain gages. The  
581 Contractor shall provide access and assistance to the Engineer during the  
582 installation and monitoring.

583 Changes in the drilling or installation method by the Contractor may  
584 require additional verification testing as determined by the Engineer and  
585 shall be provided at no additional cost to the State. Construct verification  
586 test nails using the same equipment, installation methods, nail inclination,  
587 and drill hole diameter as planned for the production nails. Payment for  
588 additional verification tests required due to differing site conditions, if  
589 determined by the Engineer, will be paid as Extra Work.

590 Test nails shall have both bonded and temporary unbonded lengths.  
591 Prior to testing, only the bonded length of the test nail shall be grouted.  
592 The temporary unbonded length of the test nail shall be at least 3 feet. The  
593 bonded length of the test nail shall be determined based on the production  
594 nail bar grade and size such that the allowable bar structural load is not  
595 exceeded during testing, but shall not be less than 10 feet. The allowable  
596 bar structural load during testing shall not be greater than 90 percent of the  
597 yield strength for Grade 75. The Contractor shall provide larger verification  
598 test bar sizes, if required to safely accommodate the 10 feet minimum test  
599 bond length and testing to 2 times the allowable pullout resistance  
600 requirements, at no additional cost to the State.

601 The verification test bonded length (LBV) shall not exceed the test  
602 allowable bar structural load divided by 2 times the allowable pullout  
603 resistance value. The following equation shall be used for determining the  
604 verification test nail maximum bonded length to be used to avoid  
605 structurally over-stressing the verification test nail bar size:

606 
$$LBV = C \times f_y \times A_s / 2 \times Q_d, \text{ or } 10 \text{ feet, whichever is greater.}$$
  
607



608 LBV = Maximum Verification Test Nail Bonded Length (feet)  
 609 C = 0.9  
 610  $f_Y$  = Bar Yield (75 ksi)  
 611  $A_s$  = Bar Steel Area (square inches)  
 612 2 = Pullout resistance safety factor  
 613  $Q_d$  = Allowable pullout resistance (1.4 kips/lineal foot of  
 614 grouted nail length, or otherwise specified in the Contract  
 615 Documents)  
 616

617 The Design Test Load (DTL) during verification testing shall be  
 618 determined by the following equation:

619  $DTL = \text{Design Test Load (kips)} = L_{BV} \times Q_d$

620  
 621  $L_{BV}$  = As-built bonded test length (feet)  
 622  $Q_d$  = Allowable pullout resistance (1.4 kips/lineal foot of grouted nail  
 623 length or otherwise specified in the Contract Documents)  
 624

625 The Maximum Test Load (MTL) during verification testing shall be  
 626 determined by the following equation:

627  $MTL = \text{Maximum Test Load (kip)} = 2.0 \times DTL$

628 Except for the pre-production sacrificial test nails, verification test  
 629 nails shall be incrementally loaded to a maximum test load of 200 percent  
 630 of the Design Test Load (DTL) in accordance with the following loading  
 631 schedule. The pre-production sacrificial test nails shall be tested to failure  
 632 or reinforcing bar yield strength, whichever is achieved first, in 25 percent  
 633 of design load increment. The soil nail movements shall be recorded at  
 634 each load increment.

VERIFICATION TEST LOADING SCHEDULE	
LOAD	HOLD TIME
AL (0.05-DTL maximum)	1 minute
0.25 DTL	10 minutes
0.50 DTL	10 minutes
0.75 DTL	10 minutes
1.00 DTL	10 minutes
1.25 DTL	10 minutes
1.50 DTL (Creep Test)	60 minutes
1.75 DTL	10 minutes
2.00 DTL (Maximum Test Load)	10 minutes

635  
 636 The alignment load (AL) shall be the minimum load required to align  
 637 the testing apparatus and shall not exceed 5 percent of the Design Test

638 Load (DTL). Dial gauges shall be set to "zero" after the alignment load has  
639 been applied.

640 Each load increment shall be held for at least 10 minutes with the  
641 exception of the alignment load (AL). The verification test nail shall be  
642 monitored for creep at the 1.50 DTL load increment. Nail movements  
643 during the creep portion of the test shall be measured and recorded at 1  
644 minute, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 20, 30, 50, and 60 minutes. The load, during the  
645 creep test, shall be maintained at a minimum the load stated in the table  
646 above and not exceed 2 percent of the intended load by use of the load  
647 cell.

648 **(U) Proof Testing of Production Nails.** Perform proof testing on at  
649 least 10 percent of the production nails in the presence of the Engineer at  
650 the locations selected by the Engineer in the field during construction. A  
651 verification test nail successfully completed during production work shall be  
652 considered equivalent to a proof test nail and shall be accounted for in  
653 determining the number of proof tests required.

654 Production proof test nails shall have both bonded and temporary  
655 unbonded lengths. Prior to testing, only the bonded length of the test nail  
656 shall be grouted. The temporary unbonded length of the test nail shall be  
657 at least 3 feet. The bonded length of the test nail shall be determined  
658 based on the production nail bar grade and size such that the allowable bar  
659 structural load is not exceeded during testing, but shall not be less than 10  
660 feet. The allowable bar structural load during testing shall not be greater  
661 than 90 percent of the yield strength for Grade 75 bars.

662 The proof test nail bonded length ( $L_{BP}$ ) shall not exceed the test  
663 allowable bar load divided by 1.5 times the allowable pullout resistance  
664 value, or minimum lengths, whichever is greater. The following equation  
665 shall be used for sizing the proof test nail bonded length to avoid  
666 over-stressing the production nail bar size.

667  $L_{BP} = C \times f_y \times A_s / 1.5 \times Q_d$ , or minimum lengths, whichever is  
668 greater.

669  $L_{BP}$  = Maximum Proof Test Nail Bonded Length (feet)

670  $C$  = 0.9 for Grade 75 bars

671  $f_y$  = Bar Yield Stress (75 ksi)

672  $A_s$  = Bar Steel Area (square inches)

673 1.5 = Pullout resistance safety factor

674  $Q_d$  = Allowable pullout resistance (1.4 kips/lineal foot of grouted nail  
675 length or otherwise specified in the Contract Documents)

The Design Test Load (DTL) during proof testing shall be determined by the following equation:

$$\text{DTL} = \text{Design Test Load (kip)} = L_{BP} \times Q_d$$

$L_{BP}$  = As-built bonded test length (feet)

$Q_d$  = Allowable pullout resistance (1.4 kips/lineal foot of grouted nail length or otherwise specified in the Contract Documents)

The Maximum Test Load (MTL) during proof testing shall be determined by the following equation:

$$\text{MTL} = \text{Maximum Test Load (kip)} = 1.5 \times \text{DTL}$$

Proof test shall be performed by incrementally loading the proof test nail to a maximum test load of 150 percent of the Design Test Load (DTL). The nail movement at each load shall be measured and recorded by the Engineer in the same manner as for verification tests. The test load shall be monitored by a load cell and a jack pressure gauge with a sensitivity range meeting the requirements of pressure gauges used for verification test nails. At load increments other than the maximum test load, the load shall be held long enough to obtain a stable reading. The Engineer will determine when the load has stabilized and a stable reading can be made. Incremental loading for proof tests shall be in accordance with the following load schedule. The soil nail movements shall be recorded at each load increment.

PROOF TEST LOADING SCHEDULE	
LOAD	HOLD TIME
AL (0.05-DTL maximum)	Until Stable
0.25 DTL	Until Stable
0.50 DTL	Until Stable
0.75 DTL	Until Stable
1.00 DTL	Until Stable
1.25 DTL	Until Stable
1.50 DTL (Maximum Test Load)	See Below

The alignment load (AL) shall be the minimum load required to align the testing apparatus and shall not exceed 5 percent of the Design Test Load (DTL). Dial gauges shall be set to "zero" after the alignment load has been applied.

All load increments shall be maintained at minimum the load stated in the table above and not exceed 5 percent of the intended load. Depending on performance, either 10 minute or 60 minute creep tests shall be performed at the maximum test load (1.50 DTL). The creep period shall start as soon as the maximum test load is applied and the nail movement shall be measured and recorded at 1 minute, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10 minutes. Where the nail movement between 1 minute and 10 minutes exceeds 0.04 inches, the maximum test load shall be maintained an additional 50 minutes and movements shall be recorded at 20, 30, 50, and 60 minutes.

**(V) Test Nail Acceptance Criteria.** A test nail will be considered acceptable by the Engineer when:

(1) For the verification tests, a total creep movement of less than 0.08 inch per log cycle of time between the 6 and 60 minute readings is measured during creep testing and the creep rate is linear or decreasing throughout the creep test load hold period.

(2) For the proof tests, a total creep movement of less than 0.04 inch is measured between the 1 and 10 minute readings or a total creep movement of less than 0.08 inch is measured between the 6 and 60 minute readings and the creep rate is linear or decreasing throughout the creep test load hold period.

(3) The total measured movement at the maximum test load exceeds 80 percent of the theoretical elastic elongation of the test nail unbonded length.

(4) A pullout failure does not occur at any load increment. Pullout failure is defined as the load at which attempts to further increase the test load simply result in continued pullout movement of the test nail. The pullout failure load shall be recorded as part of the test data.

Successful verification and proof tested production nails meeting the above test acceptance criteria may be incorporated as production nails, provided that:

(a) the unbonded length of the test nail drill hole has not collapsed during testing,

(b) the minimum required drill hole diameter has been maintained,

(c) the specified corrosion protection is provided, and

743 (d) the test nail length is equal to or greater than the  
744 scheduled production nail length.

745 Test production nails meeting these requirements shall be  
746 completed by satisfactorily grouting up the unbonded test length.  
747 Maintaining the temporary unbonded test length for subsequent  
748 grouting is the Contractor's responsibility. If the unbonded test  
749 length of production test nails cannot be satisfactorily grouted  
750 subsequent to testing, the test nail shall become sacrificial and shall  
751 be replaced with an additional production nail installed at no  
752 additional cost to the State.

753 **(W) Test Nail Rejection.** If a test nail does not satisfy the acceptance  
754 criterion, the Contractor shall determine the cause. Such nails shall be  
755 considered not compliant and rejected.

756 **(X) Verification Test Nails.** The Engineer will evaluate the results of  
757 each verification test. Installation methods that do not satisfy the nail  
758 testing requirements will be rejected. The Contractor shall propose  
759 alternative methods and install replacement verification test nails.  
760 Replacement test nails shall be installed and tested at no additional cost to  
761 the State.

762 **(Y) Proof Test Nails.** The Engineer may require the Contractor to  
763 replace some or all of the installed production nails between a failed proof  
764 test nail and the adjacent passing proof test nail. Alternatively, the  
765 Engineer may require the installation and testing of additional proof test  
766 nails to verify that adjacent previously installed production nails have  
767 sufficient load carrying capacity. Contractor modifications may include, but  
768 are not limited to, the installation of additional proof test nails; increasing  
769 the drill hole diameter to provide increased capacity; modifying the  
770 installation or grouting methods; reducing the production nail spacing from  
771 that shown in the Contract Documents and installing more production nails  
772 at a reduced capacity; or installing longer production nails if the pullout  
773 capacity behind the failure surface controls the allowable nail design  
774 capacity. Installation and testing of additional proof test nails or installation  
775 of additional or modified nails as a result of proof test nail failure(s) will be  
776 at no additional cost to the State.

777 **(Z) Nail Installation Record.** Records documenting the soil nail wall  
778 construction will be maintained by the Contractor, unless specified  
779 otherwise. The Contractor shall provide the Engineer with as-built  
780 drawings showing as-built nail locations and as-built shotcrete construction  
781 facing line and grade within 5 days after completion of the shotcrete facing.

782     **657.07           Method of Measurement.**

783           **(A)**   Furnishing Specialty Equipment. The Engineer will not measure  
784           furnishing specialty equipment for payment. The cost for furnishing  
785           specialty equipment shall be incidental to the soil nail installation.

786           **(B)**   The Engineer will measure soil nails per linear foot in accordance  
787           with the contract documents including the pre-production verification tests  
788           on sacrificial test nails. The length to be paid will be the length measured  
789           along the bar centerline from the back face of the shotcrete facing to the  
790           bottom tip end of nail bar as shown on the plans. No separate measurement  
791           will be made for pre-production full-scale strain gage instrumentation tests,  
792           verification test and proof tests, which shall be considered incidental to soil  
793           nail installation.

794           **(C)**   The Engineer will measure structure excavation for soil nail wall  
795           under Section 205 –Excavation and Backfill for Bridge and Retaining  
796           Structures.

797           **(D)**   The Engineer will measure shotcrete facing and wall drainage under  
798           Section 628 - Shotcrete.

799     **657.08           Basis of Payment.**

800           **(A)**   The Engineer will pay for the accepted soil nails including furnishing  
801           specialty equipment and the pre-production verification tests on sacrificial  
802           test nails with full-scale strain gage, installing the production soil nails  
803           shown on the plans, performing verification and/or proof testing on the  
804           selected production soil nails instrumentation at the contract unit price per  
805           linear foot, as shown in the proposal schedule. Payment will be full  
806           compensation for all labor, equipment, materials, shop drawings and  
807           calculations, field tests and incidentals necessary to perform the wall  
808           alignment survey control and construct the soil nails in accordance with the  
809           contract.

810           The Engineer will make payment under:

811 <b>Pay Item</b>	<b>Pay Unit</b>
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812   Soil Nail Installation	Linear Foot
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813           The Engineer will not pay for furnishing specialty equipment for soil nail  
814           wall as a separate item.

815           The Engineer will pay for structure excavation for soil nail wall under  
816           Section 205 – Excavation and Backfill for Bridge and Retaining Structures.

817           The Engineer will pay for shotcrete construction facing and wall drainage  
818   under Section 628 – Shotcrete.”

819

820

821

**END OF SECTION 657**