



MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM, RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND ERRATA

SECTION 1605 LONG-TERM STREAMBED
ALTERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEBRIS BASIN MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
SCH No. 2010121010

Prepared for | County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works on behalf of
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
900 South Fremont Avenue
Annex Building, Second Floor
Alhambra, California 91803

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April 2011

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SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH No. 2010121010) dated November 2010 was prepared as the required documentation to support the issuance of a Section 1605 Long-term Streambed Alteration Agreement (Draft 1605 Agreement) from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for continued implementation of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's (LACFCD) Debris Basin Maintenance Program (Maintenance Program).

Section 15074(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that when adopting an MND, the lead agency shall adopt a program for reporting on or monitoring the changes that are either required for the project or that are made as a condition of approval to reduce or avoid significant environmental effects. Section 2.0, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), describes the measures to be implemented by LACFCD, pursuant to Section 15074(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Section 15074(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that prior to approving a project, the lead agency must consider the proposed IS/MND together with any comments received during the public review process. The lead agency must adopt the proposed IS/MND only if it finds on the basis of the whole record before it that (1) there is no substantial evidence that the project would have a significant effect on the environment and (2) the IS/MND reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.

Written responses to comments received on an IS/MND are not required by CEQA. However, the County has decided to prepare Section 3.0, Public Comment Letters and LACFCD Responses, which provides the comment letters received on the IS/MND and the LACFCD's responses to these comments.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The proposed Debris Basin Maintenance Program consists of activities and protocols related to sediment removal and debris basin maintenance at the County's 162 existing debris basins. The majority of the 162 existing County-owned and maintained debris basins are located in the foothills of the Santa Monica, San Gabriel, Verdugo, and Puente Hills Mountains. However, three of the debris basins are located in the northern foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains near the Palmdale/Lancaster area.

The program does not involve new construction, expansion or alteration of the debris basins, but rather includes longstanding and ongoing maintenance activities to protect downstream properties and allow the debris basins to adequately serve their main functions for debris flow reduction and flood control. The operation of the Maintenance Program involves several basic activities carried out at the 162 debris basins throughout the County of Los Angeles. In the course of one year, each of the 162 debris basins receives at least one round of routine maintenance, which may include: (1) annual brush clearing, tree trimming, and vegetation mowing; (2) annual entrainment channel and outlet tower clearing; (3) sediment removal; (4) access road maintenance and other appurtenances; (5) State Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) compliance; (6) storm damage repair and restoration projects; and/or (7) exotic species eradication control.

The IS/MND serves as the CEQA documentation required to support the request by the LACFCD for the issuance of a Section 1605 Long-term Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for continued implementation of the County of Los Angeles' Debris Basin Maintenance Program. As part of the issuance of the Section 1605 Agreement, the LACFCD is not proposing any change to ongoing activities that are being implemented under the Maintenance Program. Therefore, continued implementation of the Maintenance Program does not represent a change to the environment, and any potential environmental impacts identified within the IS/MND do not represent a change from historic Maintenance Program activities.

1.2 CEQA AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE IS/MND

In accordance with Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the IS/MND was distributed via overnight delivery on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, for a 30-day public review period starting on Friday, December 3, 2010, through Tuesday, January 4, 2011. The Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) was posted at the Los Angeles Registrar Recorder/County Clerk in the City of Norwalk on December 6, 2010 to announce the public review period. The NOI was advertised in the Los Angeles Times on December 3, 2010.

The IS/MND and NOI were provided to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and to 118 interested agencies and/or groups, including 88 cities. Hardcopy binders of the IS/MND were also made available for review at the LACFCD office in the City of Alhambra and at 17 public libraries throughout Los Angeles County during normal business hours; an electronic copy was available on the internet at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/lacfd/mnd.cfm>.

Twelve comment letters were received during and after the close of the public review period on January 4, 2011. The LACFCD's responses to comments contained in these letters are provided in Section 3.0 below. The LACFCD has reviewed all comments received from agencies, organizations, and/or individuals to determine whether any substantial new environmental issues have been raised. Based on the evaluation in the IS/MND together with all comments received, the LACFCD has determined that no substantial new environmental issues have been raised that have not been adequately addressed in the IS/MND and/or in the MMRP, Responses to Comments, and Errata. Therefore, an additional circulation of the IS/MND pursuant to Section 15073.5 of the CEQA Guidelines is not required.

All potential impacts associated with the Maintenance Program were found to be less than significant with incorporation of relevant mitigation measures, where applicable. Therefore, the project would not result in any significant unavoidable impacts and an MND, in accordance with CEQA, is the appropriate environmental document for the project. This document, which includes the MMRP, Responses to Comments, and Errata, constitutes LACFCD Final MND for the project and will be presented for consideration by the LACFCD to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 2.0 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The sole area where a potentially significant impact was identified was Biological Resources. With implementation of all conditions of the Draft 1605 Agreement, the project would have less than significant impacts to biological resources. The maintenance activities set forth in the Draft 1605 Agreement represent a continuation of the activities performed by the LACFCD at the debris basin sites that have been ongoing for decades. The project does not represent any change over the current baseline existing conditions throughout Los Angeles County and would not result in new environmental impacts; therefore, no mitigation would be required. However, to provide a conservative analysis and pursuant to the CDFG’s request, potential impacts to biological resources due to continued maintenance activities would be considered a significant impact prior to compliance with the conditions of the Draft 1605 Agreement and have been addressed as a Mitigation Measure (MM), with which the LACFCD will comply.

Table 2-1 is the MMRP to be adopted by the LACFCD for continued implementation of the Maintenance Program under the Section 1605 Long-Term Streambed Alteration Agreement pursuant to Section 15074(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines. Table 2-1 includes the potential environmental effects of the Maintenance Program and the recommended mitigation measure. The MMRP also reflects any revisions described in Section 4.0, Errata, of this document.

**TABLE 2-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Impact Summary	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Party and Timing of Implementation
Biological Resources (Section 3.4)		
Although the project would not result in a change from the existing conditions, the LACFCD has determined that there would be potential significant impacts related to sensitive plant and/or wildlife species, sensitive habitat, jurisdictional waters, or wildlife movement with continued implementation of the Maintenance Program without compliance with the provisions of the Section 1605 Streambed Alteration Agreement.	MM 3.4-1 Activities conducted as part of the Debris Basin Maintenance Program shall be conducted in full compliance with the conditions set forth in the CDFG Section 1605 Long Term Maintenance Agreement, including the requirements related to the following activities: (1) Routine Maintenance Activities, including removal of fallen and dead trees, annual brush maintenance, tree trimming, brush clearing, vegetation mowing, entrapment channel and outlet tower clearing, sediment removal, maintenance of access road and other appurtenances, State Division of Dams compliance, and storm drain repair and restoration projects and (2) Special Conditions related to maintenance at Big Dalton, Englewild, Linda Vista, Mullally, Santa Anita, Sawpit, Sierra Madre Dam, and Wilson debris basins. In accordance with the Section 1605 Agreement, a total of 21.14 acres of vegetation impacted by maintenance activities shall be mitigated through a combination of on-site preservation and/or creation of off-site preservation.	The LACFCD shall implement compliance through protocols set forth in the Maintenance Program and shall monitor compliance throughout the lifetime of the Section 1605 Long-term Streambed Alteration Agreement.

SECTION 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT LETTERS AND LACFCD RESPONSES

Comment letters on the information and analysis in the IS/MND were received from the following parties:

Federal

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), January 26, 2011

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), December 10 and 21, 2010

State of California

Department of Water Resources (DWR), December 15, 2010

Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Region 7, December 17, 2010

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), January 5, 2010

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), January 7, 2010

Regional

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan RWQCB), January 4, 2011

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan RWQCB), February 16, 2011

Local

City of Arcadia, December 22, 2010

City of Bell, January 4, 2011

City of Burbank, January 3, 2011

City of Glendora, December 15, 2010

Interested Groups/Individuals

Puente Hills Habitat Authority (PHHA), December 6, 2010

Each letter listed above is included in this document, followed by the LACFCD response to each comment. Each comment letter has been divided into sequential numbered comments (e.g., 1, 2, 3), as shown on the enclosed letters. Each numbered comment corresponds to a matching numbered response.

From: Christine_Medak@fws.gov [mailto:Christine_Medak@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 10:33 AM
To: Cruz, Jemellee
Cc: Kristin Keeling; Ross, Steven; Tom Smith; kenneth.wong@usace.army.mil
Subject: Question on COE's permit on Debris Basins

Jemellee,

Thanks for your response. I was able to get a copy of the permit from the Corps directly. My primary concern regarding the MND and the Corps permit is that adequate surveys are conducted to determine the presence/absence of listed species prior to initiation of work in the basins. In particular, I am concerned that least Bell's vireo have recently been moving into basins and streams in the Los Angeles area that have not been occupied for many years. For example, Lopez Basin was occupied by 5 pairs of vireos in 2009 and 2010.

The MND does not include a requirement to conduct vireo surveys in this basin (likely because it was not occupied in the past). Work was completed in the basin during the vireo breeding season in 2009 and may have disturbed nesting vireo. Please be aware that vireo are much more likely to be present in the basins now than several years ago. Establishing that particular surveys be conducted in each basin according to which species were present in the past may result in work being conducted in areas occupied by listed species. I recommend pre-construction surveys are conducted based on the presence of habitat, not based on the results of previous surveys.

Please feel free to call if you wish to discuss this message.

Christine L. Medak
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92011
(760) 431-9440 ext. 298
<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>

Follow us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/USFWSPacificSouthwest>
Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/USFWSPacSWest>

"I'd like to offer a plug for actually having the natural processes instead of having to simulate them."

— Nadav Nur, PRBO Conservation Science

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ms. Christine L. Medak, Email dated January 26, 2011

USFWS-1

The Lopez Debris Basin referred to in the IS/MND is actually the “Lopez Inlet” located at the corner of Lopez Canyon Channel and Paxton Avenue. This facility is relatively small and does not have a dam upstream. It is assumed that the “Lopez Debris Basin” referred to in the USFWS comment letter is the “Lopez Flood Control Basin”, which is upstream of Pacoima Wash and has a dam/reservoir upstream. Therefore, for clarification, references in the IS/MND that refer to the “Lopez Debris Basin” will be revised to refer to the “Lopez Inlet”, as set forth in Section 4.0, Errata.

The Lopez Flood Control Basin is not an LACFCD facility. This debris basin is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and therefore is not subject to the requirements of the County’s Maintenance Program. The Maintenance Program, as described in the IS/MND, includes measures to avoid potential impacts on least Bell’s vireo, whether or not a particular debris basin has been previously occupied.

As stated in MM 3.4-1 on page ES-3 and page 3-35 of the IS/MND, all activities conducted as part of the Maintenance Program shall be conducted in full compliance with the conditions set forth in the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Section 1605 Long-Term Streambed Alteration Agreement. A Draft of this Agreement is presented in Appendix A of the IS/MND.

As stated on pages 17 and 18 of the Draft 1605 Agreement, restrictions on the timing of maintenance activities are provided to avoid impacts to breeding/nesting birds. If work cannot be avoided during the nesting bird season (March 15 through August 31), then surveys must be conducted by a qualified Biologist to determine presence/absence of nesting birds. Documentation of negative findings must be submitted to the CDFG prior to any impacts to the site. If nesting birds are located, the site must be fenced or flagged a minimum of 300 feet (500 feet for raptors). If Threatened or Endangered species are observed in the area, additional State permits may be required prior to commencing project activities. The Draft 1605 Agreement does not authorize take of species listed as Threatened and/or Endangered.

As stated on pages 9 and 10 of the Draft 1605 Agreement, if any plant or animals identified as CDFG Species of Special Concern or State-listed species may be impacted as a result of Maintenance Program activities, the CDFG shall be contacted prior to any work being conducted and an exclusionary plan shall be created and implemented to avoid impacts to those resources. Pre-mowing monitoring activities are required to assess the habitat potential for Threatened and/or Endangered species. For purposes of mowing only, after appropriate surveys have been conducted by a qualified Biologist, the LACFCD may mow within the 25% contour without prior notification to the CDFG. However, if biological surveys indicate a State-listed or candidate species could be impacted, no maintenance may be conducted prior to consultation with the CDFG. Consultation would be required with the USFWS if federally listed species are involved.

All pre- and post-mowing site visits must be conducted by a qualified Biologist to ensure that all mowing activities are performed according to the provisions of the Draft 1605 Agreement or other applicable regulatory agency permits. Before and after photographs (either by Biologists or LACFCD staff), monthly schedule updates, and biological monitoring status reports from the

Biologists must be conducted and included as part of the annual debris basin maintenance monitoring report.

The Draft 1605 Agreement contains ample provisions to ensure that the presence or absence of federally and State-listed species shall be determined prior to initiation of any work that has the potential to impact special status species. No additional mitigation is required, and no revisions to the IS/MND are necessary.

USFWS-2

Please see Response USFWS-1 above. Any work that may or may not have been conducted in the Lopez Flood Control Basin was not performed by LACFCD since this facility is maintained by the USACE and therefore is not subject to the requirements of the County's Maintenance Program.

USFWS-3

As discussed in Response USFWS-1 above, the determination of the presence/absence of federally or State-listed special status species is not based on historic survey results, but rather in accordance with survey/monitoring protocol set forth in the Draft 1605 Agreement, which requires pre- and post-mowing site visits, biological monitoring status reports, and notification/coordination with the CDFG prior to activities that could impact any plant or animals identified as CDFG Species of Special Concern or State-listed. Therefore, the survey/monitoring protocol assesses existing conditions. Consultation would be required with the USFWS if federally listed species are involved. No additional mitigation is required, and no revisions to the IS/MND are necessary.

Email #1:

From: Ian_Nicholson@nps.gov [mailto:Ian_Nicholson@nps.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2010 10:27 AM
To: Cruz, Jemellee
Subject: Debris Program Maintenance Program IS/MND

Hi Jemellee,

I am wondering if the map (Exhibit 2-1) includes all debris basins in Los Angeles County? I am aware of three basins along the south side of Agoura Road in Agoura Hills, as well as one at the bottom of Trancas Canyon in Malibu that are not identified on this map. Are these basins not under your jurisdiction?

Thanks,
Ian

Ian Nicholson
Planning Assistant
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
(805) 370-2359 phone
ian_nicholson@nps.gov

Email #2:

From: Ian_Nicholson@nps.gov [mailto:Ian_Nicholson@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 12:38 PM
To: Cruz, Jemellee
Subject: Debris Program Maintenance Program IS/MND

Hi Jemellee,

Thanks for your reply. Is the difference between a "Debris Retention Inlet" and a debris basin? Or is it just a different name given by a different agency?

I looked up the Trancas basin and the parcel is owned by LA County Flood Control District. Does DPW coordinate with FCD for management of FCD basins?

Best,
Ian

Ian Nicholson
Planning Assistant
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
(805) 370-2359 phone
ian_nicholson@nps.gov

National Parks Service
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Mr. Ian Nicholson, Email dated December 10, 2010

SMMNRA-1

Exhibit 2-1 in the IS/MND does not identify all debris basins in Los Angeles County. Exhibit 2-1 shows the debris basins within LACFCD jurisdiction that are included in the Maintenance Program. The facility in Trancas Canyon in Malibu that is referred to in the comment letter is not a debris basin, but rather a natural area behind a rail-and-timber structure that was installed across the canyon as part of the post-1978 Kanan fire to screen sediment and mudflows. The three basins in Agoura Hills referred to in the comment letter are not debris basins either, but rather “debris retention inlets” (DRIs), which are owned and maintained by the LACFCD. However, DRIs are not included in the Draft 1605 Agreement and are therefore not included in the IS/MND. No revisions to the IS/MND are necessary.

National Parks Service
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Mr. Ian Nicholson- Email dated December 21, 2010

SMMNRA-2

As discussed on page 2-1 of the IS/MND, debris basins are earthen, bowl-shaped excavations located in the headwaters of flood-control channels, which are designed to intercept and retain large amounts of debris (e.g., rock, mud, sand, vegetation) from upslope areas, while allowing the storm waters to pass through to downstream channels.

DRIs are much smaller facilities that do not have the capacity to contain substantial sediment flows. The LACFCD maintains and operates both debris basins and DRIs; however, the Maintenance Program is intended to cover the 162 debris basins listed in Table 2-1 of the IS/MND. No revisions to the IS/MND are necessary.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791

clear: 1/04/2011
e

sch: 2010/2/010



DEC 15 2010

Ms. Jemelle Cruz
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
900 South Fremont Avenue, Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Alhambra, California 91803-1331



Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Debris Basin
Maintenance Program
Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Cruz:

We have reviewed the subject Notice for the above referenced project, which includes annual maintenance activities at 162 existing debris basins in Los Angeles County. According to the information provided, these activities will consist of sediment, debris, and vegetation removal within unspecified boundaries; access road maintenance; and storm damage repair.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works owns 33 jurisdictional dams in the State, 18 of which are designated as debris control facilities. The noted maintenance activities should not impact the safety of these dams, provided that the work does not encroach within 100 feet of any dam or its appurtenances. If this criterion is not met, we will need to be notified beforehand to review and approve this work.

If any alterations or modifications to a jurisdictional dam are necessary as part of the scope of work, an alteration application, together with plans and specifications, must be filed with the Division for the construction of the project. All dam safety related issues must be resolved prior to approval of the application, and the work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California. Sharon Tapia, our Design Engineering Branch Chief, is responsible for the application process and can be reached at (916) 227-4660.

In the future, please forward all environmental review documents to the following office so they can be logged in and assigned an SCH Number:

Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
Post Office Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Office Engineer Randy Fessler at (916) 227-4601 or Regional Engineer Shawn Jones at (916) 227-4600.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Michael G. Waggoner, Chief
Field Engineering Branch
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Ms. Nadell Gayou
Resources Agency Project Coordinator
Environmental Review Section
Division of Statewide Integrated Water Management
901 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Governor's Office of Planning and Research ✓
State Clearinghouse
Post Office Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

State of California, Department of Water Resources
Division of Safety and Dams

Mr. Michael G. Waggoner, Letter dated December 15, 2010

DWR-1

As stated in MM 3.4-1 on page ES-3 and page 3-35 of the IS/MND, all activities conducted as part of the Maintenance Program shall be conducted in full compliance with the conditions set forth in the Draft 1605 Agreement, which is included as Appendix A of the IS/MND.

As stated on page 8 of the Draft 1605 Agreement, routine maintenance activities and/or structural repairs are necessary to maintain the functionality of the debris basin and comply with State Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and vector- and fire-control requirements. As such, all activities performed on dams or appurtenances under DSOD jurisdiction must be completed in accordance with DSOD requirements, and it is therefore understood that the DSOD is aware of all routine maintenance activities. However, the comment letter asserts that the DSOD is requesting to be notified prior to any routine maintenance activities conducted within 100 feet of all jurisdictional facilities in order to allow for review and approval of the work. This requested notification process between the LACFCD and the DSOD is outside the scope of this IS/MND and would not result in new or significant impacts not previously analyzed in the IS/MND. No revisions to the IS/MND are necessary.

DWR-2

The Maintenance Program does not involve alterations or modifications to jurisdictional dams. As stated on page 10 of the Draft 1605 Agreement, routine maintenance activities near the dams are allowed; these activities would include maintenance of a 15-foot-wide entrainment channel that immediately surrounds the outside surface of an outlet tower and would be completed in order to prevent clogging of the tower inlet and to direct low-flow discharge from the basin into the outlet tower. Additionally, as stated on page 12 of the Draft 1605 Agreement, annual inspections of the debris basin structures would be conducted for the safety of the basin dam structures as well as to ensure compliance with DSOD and other agency requirements. Inspections would consist of (1) minor repairs to outlet towers and access railings/stairs; (2) graffiti removal; (3) outlet towers unclogging; and (4) additional inspection/maintenance activities on other appurtenances (including spillways, inlet and outlet pipe structures/chutes, riprap, trash racks, facing slabs, gage boards, slow and down drains, and fences).

However, no alterations or modifications to the dam structures are allowed under the Draft 1605 Agreement. No additional mitigation is required and no revisions to the IS/MND are necessary.

DWR-3

The NOI was sent to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. As noted on the copy of the letter from the DWR, the DWR letter was received by the State Clearinghouse on December 17, 2010. LACFCD will continue to follow the correct filing protocol pursuant to CEQA.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 7, REGIONAL PLANNING
IGR/CEQA BRANCH
100 MAIN STREET, MS # 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3606
PHONE: (213) 897-9140
FAX: (213) 897-1337



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

December 17, 2010

IGR/CEQA No. 101217AL-MND
County of Los Angeles Debris Basin
Maintenance Program
Vic. LA-Various Locations
SCH# 2010121010

Ms. Jemellee Cruz
County of Los Angeles
Public Works for
The Los Angeles County Flood Control District
900 S Fremont Avenue, 2nd Floor Annex
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Ms. Cruz:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Department) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed project consists of activities and protocols related to sediment removal and debris basin maintenance at 162 existing debris basins throughout the County of Los Angeles.

Transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials, which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways, will require a transportation permit from the Department. It is recommended that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 897-9140 or Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 897-8391 and refer to IGR/CEQA No. 101217AL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dianna Watson".

DIANNA WATSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

State of California, Department of Transportation, District 7

Ms. Dianna Watson, Letter dated December 17, 2010

Caltrans-1.

As stated in Regulatory Requirement (RR) 3.16-2 on page 3-66 of the IS/MND, the movement of large equipment on public roadways shall be made in compliance with Title 16, Highway, of the *Los Angeles County Code*, which requires a moving permit and provisions on the size of vehicles/equipment; night moves; moving in inclement weather; parking on streets; travel outside peak hours and holidays; over-length, over-height and over-width requirements; lighting; signs; and restricted routes. This RR will be augmented to also include the requirement to obtain a transportation permit from Caltrans. Revisions to include reference to this process will be made in the IS/MND, as set forth in Section 4.0, Errata.



JERRY BROWN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



Handwritten initials

January 5, 2011

Ms. Jemelle Cruz
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for the
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
900 S. Fremont Avenue, 2nd Floor Annex
Los Angeles, CA 91803

Subject: Debris Basin Maintenance Program
SCH#: 2010121010

Dear Ms. Jemelle Cruz:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on January 4, 2011, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2010121010
Project Title Debris Basin Maintenance Program
Lead Agency Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Type MND Mitigated Negative Declaration

Description The Debris Basin Maintenance Program consist of activities and protocols related to sediment removal and debris basin maintenance at 163 existing debris basins throughout the County of Los Angeles. The Program does not involve new construction, expansion or alteration of the debris basins, but rather includes longstanding and ongoing maintenance activities to allow the debris basins to adequate serve their main functions for debris flow reduction and flood control. The operations of the program involves several basic activities carried out at the 162 debris basins in the course of one year, each of the 162 debris basins receives at least one round of routine maintenance, which may include (1) annual brush clearing, tree trimming, and vegetation mowing, (2) annual entrainment channel and outlet tower clearing (3) sediment removal, (4) access road maintenance and other appurtenances, (5) State Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) compliance, (6) storm damage repair and restoration projects, and/or (7) exotic species eradication control.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Ms. Jemelle Cruz
Agency Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for the
Phone (626) 458-4170 **Fax**
email
Address Los Angeles County Flood Control District
 900 S. Fremont Avenue, 2nd Floor Annex
City Los Angeles **State** CA **Zip** 91803

Project Location

County Los Angeles
City
Region
Lat / Long
Cross Streets Throughout Conty
Parcel No. various

Township	Range	Section	Base

Proximity to:

Highways various
Airports various
Railways various
Waterways various
Schools various
Land Use Various throughout the County

Project Issues Biological Resources

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Cal Fire; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Resources, Recycling and Recovery; California Highway Patrol; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 6 (Victorville); Department of Toxic Substances Control; Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission; Caltrans, District 7

Date Received 12/03/2010 **Start of Review** 12/06/2010 **End of Review** 01/04/2011

State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

Mr. Scott Morgan, Letter dated January 5, 2011

OPR-1

The Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is indicating that the LACFCD has complied with the State Clearinghouse public review requirements. Additionally, a total of two comment letters were received from State agencies within the allocated public review dates (i.e., prior to January 4, 2011), including letters from the DWR and Caltrans District 7. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is required.



JERRY BROWN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



January 7, 2011

Ms. Jemelle Cruz
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for the
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
900 S. Fremont Avenue, 2nd Floor Annex
Los Angeles, CA 91803

Subject: Debris Basin Maintenance Program
SCH#: 2010121010

Dear Ms. Jemelle Cruz:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Mitigated Negative Declaration was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on January 4, 2011. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (2010121010) when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures

cc: Resources Agency

State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

Ms. Terry Roberts, Letter dated January 7, 2011

OPR-1

The OPR is indicating that they received one additional comment letter from the Lahontan RWQCB after the close of the allocated OPR public review period (i.e., after January 4, 2011). This comment is acknowledged. No further response is required.



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region**



Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Victorville Office
14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200, Victorville, California 92392
(760) 241-6583 • Fax (760) 241-7308
www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

January 4, 2011

late
clear
1/4/11

File: Environmental Doc Review
Los Angeles County

Jemellee Cruz, P.E.
Los Angeles County Flood Control
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue, Annex Building, Second Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

RECEIVED
JAN 07 2011
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF AN INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEBRIS BASIN MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2010121010

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff received the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the above-referenced project (Project) on December 9, 2010. The IS/MND, dated December 2010, was prepared by BonTerra Consulting on behalf of the County of Los Angeles (County) and circulated for review by the California State Clearinghouse. The intent of the environmental review is to provide the basis for obtaining long-term permits from the various regulatory agencies to perform routine maintenance of the existing debris basins throughout Los Angeles County.

Pursuant to CEQA guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, section 15096, responsible agencies must specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to their statutory responsibilities. Water Board staff, acting as a responsible agency, has reviewed the above-referenced document in context as to how well the proposed project protects water quality, and ultimately, the beneficial use of waters of the State. We have identified a number of potentially significant impacts to water quality and hydrology resources that must be evaluated in the environmental review. Without adequate mitigation, Project implementation could result in significant adverse impacts to water quality and hydrology, thereby adversely affecting beneficial uses of waters of the State. We hope the County will consider our comments and value our position with respect to protecting and maintaining water quality within the Lahontan region.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

As we understand it, the proposed Project is to provide for maintenance needs of the numerous debris basin facilities throughout Los Angeles County. Whereby maintenance is defined as those activities performed to allow a facility or structure to meet current standards or to maintain structural integrity, and does not include alterations for the purpose of expanding original design capacity. The maintenance activities identified in the environmental document include: annual brush clearing, tree trimming, and vegetation

mowing; annual entrainment channel and outlet tower clearing; sediment removal; access road maintenance and other appurtenances; State Division of Safety of Dams compliance; storm damage repair and restoration projects; and/or exotic species eradication control.

Los Angeles County encompasses the jurisdiction of two Regional Water Boards, the Lahontan and Los Angeles Water Boards. The County has identified maintenance needs of flood control facilities located within both Regional Water Board jurisdictions. While the majority of existing facilities are located in areas under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Water Board, there are three basins identified in the Debris Basin Maintenance Program (Avenue T-8, Avenue S, and Fort Tejon Road), which are located in areas under the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Water Board.

AUTHORITY

State law assigns responsibility for protection of water quality in the Lahontan region to the Lahontan Water Board. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) contains policies that the Water Board uses with other laws and regulations to protect water quality within the region. All groundwater and surface waters are considered waters of the State. Surface waters include, but are not limited to, drainages, streams, washes, ponds, pools, or wetlands, and may be permanent or intermittent. All waters of the State are protected under California law. Additional protection is provided for waters of the United States (U.S.) under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Based on our review of the NOP, project components may involve alteration, dredging, filling, and/or excavating activities in waters of the State. Such activities constitute a discharge of waste¹, as defined in California Water Code (CWC), section 13050, and could affect the quality of waters of the State.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Lahontan Water Board regulate discharges in order to protect the water quality and, ultimately, the beneficial uses of waters of the State. The Basin Plan provides guidance regarding water quality and how the Lahontan Water Board may regulate activities that have the potential to affect water quality within the region. The Basin Plan includes prohibitions, water quality standards, and policies for implementation of standards. The Basin Plan can be accessed via the Water Board's web site at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/references.shtml.

We request that the environmental document reference the Basin Plan in the hydrology and water quality analyses and require that the Project proponent comply with all applicable water quality standards and prohibitions, including provisions of the Basin Plan.

¹"Waste" is defined in the Basin Plan to include any waste or deleterious material including, but not limited to, waste earthen materials (such as soil, silt, sand, clay, rock, or other organic or mineral material) and any other waste as defined in the California Water Code, section 13050(d).



PERMITS

A number of activities associated with Project implementation may require permits issued by either the State Water Board or Lahontan Water Board because they appear to impact waters of the State. The required permits may include:

- Land disturbance of 1 acre or more may require a CWA, section 402(p) stormwater permit, including a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Stormwater Permit obtained from the State Water Board, or an individual stormwater permit obtained from the Lahontan Water Board;
- Discharge of low threat wastes to a surface water, including diverted stream flows, construction and/or dredge spoils dewatering, and well construction and hydrostatic testing discharge, may require an NPDES permit for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Waters issued by the Lahontan Water Board;
- Discharge of low threat wastes to land, including clear water discharges, small dewatering projects, and inert wastes, may require General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality issued by the Lahontan Water Board; and
- Streambed alteration and/or discharge of fill material to a surface water may require a CWA, section 401 water quality certification (WQC) for impacts to federal waters (waters of the U.S.), or dredge and fill WDRs for impacts to non-federal waters, both issued by the Lahontan Water Board.

Some waters of the State are "isolated" from waters of the U.S.; determinations of the jurisdictional extent of the waters of the U.S. are made by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Section 2.2.1 of the IS/MND states that section 401 water quality certification has been granted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Board for maintenance of existing debris basins located within the Los Angeles region. **We request that the County consult with Lahontan Water Board staff to determine, which permitting requirements would be applicable to maintain the existing debris basins located within the Lahontan region.** The County will need to perform the necessary jurisdictional determinations for surface waters within the Lahontan region. These determinations are necessary to discern if the proposed surface water impacts will be regulated under section 401 of the CWA or through dredge and fill WDRs issued by the Water Board.

We further request that the environmental document list the permits that may be required, as outlined above, and identify the specific maintenance activities that may trigger these permitting actions in the appropriate sections of the IS/MND. Information regarding these permits, including application forms, can be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>.



January 4, 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the IS/MND for the County's Debris Basin Maintenance Program. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 241-7376 (zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov) or Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist, at (760) 241-7404 (pcopeland@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Jan M. Zimmerman, PG
Engineering Geologist

cc: State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2010121010)
Tanya Moore, California Department of Fish & Game, Inland Deserts Region
Gerardo Salas, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
Jorine Campopiano, Wetlands Regulatory Office, USEPA, Region 9
Bill Orme, State Water Resources Control Board
(via email, stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)

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California Environmental Protection Agency

Recycled Paper



California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region

Ms. Jan Zimmerman, Letter dated January 4, 2011

Lahontan RWQCB-1

As stated on page 3-34 of the IS/MND, RR 3.4-2 requires that all activities conducted as part of the Debris Basin Maintenance Program shall comply with the conditions set forth in the existing RWQCB Section 401 Water Quality Certification. It is acknowledged that this 401 Certification, issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB, includes three debris basins (i.e., Fort Tejon, Avenue S, Avenue T-8) that are located within Lahontan RWQCB boundaries. These debris basins have been maintained in accordance with the requirements set forth in the existing Section 401 Certification, and no additional mitigation is required to ensure adequate protection of water quality and hydrology resources.

In subsequent conversations between the County and the Lahontan RWQCB staff on January 18 and 28, 2011, it was determined that communications between the two Regional Boards would be required to determine whether the current Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB should remain and continue to cover the three debris basins in the Lahontan Region or be revised to remove the three debris basins.

As stated in Response Lahontan RWQCB-5 regarding an additional letter submitted by the Lahontan RWQCB, the Lahontan RWQCB has determined that activities authorized under the Section 401 Certification issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB will not pose a threat to water quality and that a separate permitting action by the Lahontan RWQCB is not warranted. Revisions to reference to this process and decision will be made in the IS/MND, as set forth in Section 4.0, Errata.

Lahontan RWQCB-2

As discussed above and in Response Lahontan RWQCB-5, the Lahontan RWQCB has determined that activities authorized under the Section 401 Certification issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB will not pose a threat to water quality and that a separate permitting action by the Lahontan RWQCB is not warranted.

Lahontan RWQCB-3

Please refer to Response Lahontan RWQCB-2 above. As described on page 3-34 of the IS/MND, RR 3.4-1 requires that all activities conducted as part of the Debris Basin Maintenance Program comply with the conditions set forth in the existing USACE Section 404 Permit. The Fort Tejon, Avenue S, and Avenue T-8 debris basins are covered under USACE Regional General Permit (RGP) No. 45 and are therefore assumed to be jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S."

Lahontan RWQCB-4

Please refer to Responses Lahontan RWQCB-1 and Lahontan RWQCB-2 above.



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lahontan Region



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Victorville Office
14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200, Victorville, California 92392
(760) 241-6583 • Fax (760) 241 7308
www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

February 16, 2011

WDID No.6B191102001

Jemellee Cruz, P.E
Los Angeles County Flood Control
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue, Annex Building, Second Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

COMMENTS ON LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD ORDER FOR WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED COUNTY DEBRIS BASIN MAINTENANCE PROJECT (CORPS' FILE NO. 94-01558), LOS ANGELES COUNTY

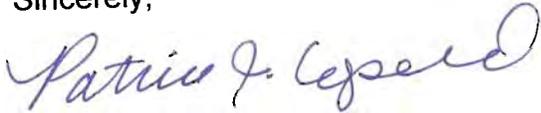
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff commented on the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the above-referenced project (Project) on January 4, 2011. The Los Angeles County Flood Control (County) has identified maintenance needs of flood control facilities located throughout the County. The IS/MND evaluated the environmental impacts of those activities. As you know, Los Angeles County encompasses the jurisdiction of two Regional Water Boards, the Lahontan and Los Angeles Water Boards. While the majority of the 159 existing facilities identified in the Project are located in areas under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Water Board, three basins (Avenue T-8, Avenue S, and Fort Tejon Road) are actually located in areas under the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Water Board. Our comments on the IS/MND pointed out that permitting through the Lahontan Water Board would be required for activities associated with the three basins located in the Lahontan Region.

On October 24, 2008, the Los Angeles Water Board issued an Order for section 401 Water Quality Certification (Order) for the Project. The Order covers maintenance activities for the 159 debris basins identified, including the three basins located within the Lahontan Region. The certification will expire on October 24, 2013. Based on our review of the Order we have determined that activities authorized under this Order will not pose a threat to water quality and that a separate permitting action by the Lahontan Water Board is not warranted. As such, we have assigned Waste Discharge Identification Number (WDID) 6B191102001 to this Project, and request that the County submit to the Lahontan Water Board, in conjunction with submittals to the Los Angeles Water Board, copies of the Annual Report and the Annual Mitigation Monitoring Report by June 30th of each year. The first Annual Report will be due no later than June 30, 2011. Please reference the above-noted WDID in all correspondence to the Lahontan Water Board.



If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 241-7404 (pcopeland@waterboards.ca.gov) or Jan Zimmerman, Engineering Geologist, at (760) 241-7376 (jzimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov)

Sincerely,



Patrice J Copeland, PG
Senior Engineering Geologist
Chief, South Basin 401 WQC Program

Att: Order for WQC, Los Angeles County Debris Basin Maintenance Project
(File No. 02-144-2008 RENEWAL)

cc w/o att: Valerie Carrillo, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bill Orme, State Water Resources Control Board
(via email, stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)

JZ\rc\U:\401 Certs & WDRs\LACDPW_BasinMaint_401.doc



California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region

Ms. Patrice Copeland, PG, Letter dated February 16, 2011

Lahontan RWQCB-5

This subsequent letter provided by the Lahontan RWQCB provides clarity on their preferred approach to addressing the Section 401 Water Quality Certification process for the Fort Tejon, Avenue S, and Avenue T-8 debris basins. This comment confirms that the Lahontan RWQCB has determined that activities authorized under the Section 401 Certification issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB will not pose a threat to water quality and that a separate permitting action by the Lahontan RWQCB is not warranted.

Waste Discharge Identification Number (WDID) 6B191102001 has been assigned by the Lahontan RWQCB for the Maintenance Program project and will require the submittal of the Annual Report and Annual Mitigation Monitoring Report by June 30th of each year. Revisions to reference to this process and decision will be made in the IS/MND, as set forth in Section 4.0, Errata.



City of Arcadia

Development Services Department

Jason Kruckeberg
*Assistant City Manager/
Development Services
Director*

December 22, 2010

Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Attn: Jemellee Cruz, PE
900 S. Fremont Avenue, Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

**RE: DEBRIS BASIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION - CITY OF ARCADIA
COMMENTS**

Dear Ms. Cruz:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the County's Debris Basin Maintenance Program. The document has been circulated to all applicable City Departments for their comments. It is our understanding that the proposed project consists of activities related to sediment removal and debris basin management at 162 existing debris basins throughout the County. The environmental document is related to the issuance of a Section 1605 Long-term Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game for the continued implementation of the debris basin management program. According to the document, the program does not involve any new construction, expansion, or alteration of the debris basins, but is evaluating longstanding and ongoing "routine maintenance" activities. Routine maintenance at the debris basins may include annual brush clearing, tree trimming, sediment removal, access road maintenance, compliance with requirements from the State Division of Safety of Dams, storm damage repair, and exotic species eradication control. We agree that this ongoing maintenance is critical for these facilities to maintain their functions for debris flow reduction and flood control.

Based on the materials, there is one debris basin and one sediment placement site within City of Arcadia jurisdiction (the "Santa Anita" sites). The City is in agreement with proposed Mitigation Measure 3.4.1 related to Biological Resources and further requests that the "Special Conditions" listed for the Santa Anita Debris Basin site on

page 2-24 of the Initial Study/MND be strictly adhered to. In addition, the City would like to acknowledge the County's condition for Inter-jurisdictional coordination listed on page 2-25 of the IS/MND and respectfully request that the same protocols be followed if sediment from a basin located in another jurisdiction is disposed of at the sediment placement site located in the City of Arcadia. This coordination includes as "standard practice" County notification to the City of all sediment removal, truck haul routes, and all other relevant activities within City jurisdiction. The City is specifically concerned that debris from other locations will compromise the ability for this sediment placement site to contain the capacity necessary to serve the Santa Anita Dam sediment as well as other sediment and debris from the Arcadia area. Finally, the City would request notification if any activities within the City's jurisdiction necessitate the removal of mature Oak trees.

Sincerely,



Jason Kruckeberg, AICP
Assistant City Manager/Development Services Director

CC: Don Penman, City Manager
Tom Tait, Director of Public Works Services
Phil Wray, Deputy Director of Development Services/City Engineer

City of Arcadia
Development Services Department

Mr. Jason Kruckeberg, Letter dated December 22, 2010

Arcadia-1

The City indicates agreement with MM 3.4-1 (provided in Table 2-1 above), which requires compliance with all conditions set forth in the Draft 1605 Agreement and expressly includes the Special Conditions described for the Santa Anita debris basin. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

Arcadia-2

In Section 2.3, Project Description, beginning on page 2-15 of the IS/MND, the project is defined as involving several basic activities carried out at the 162 debris basins, including at least one round of annual routine maintenance, which may include (1) annual brush clearing, tree trimming, and vegetation mowing; (2) annual entrainment channel and outlet tower clearing; (3) sediment removal; (4) access road maintenance and other appurtenances; (5) DSOD compliance; (6) storm damage repair and restoration projects; and/or (7) exotic species eradication control. As such, the scope of the IS/MND is limited to these activities and does not set forth policies or procedures specific to the deposition of sediment at sediment placement sites (SPS).

Brief summary information on the various SPS throughout the County is provided on pages 2-26 and 2-27 of the IS/MND for informational purposes; however, the Maintenance Program does not specifically inform the decision-making process about which SPS facilities to use or how to notify local jurisdictions about their eminent use.

Direct communication and coordination between the City of Arcadia and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Flood Maintenance Division, would be the appropriate method to determine a satisfactory protocol for use of the Santa Anita SPS. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

Arcadia-3

There are no activities set forth under the Maintenance Program, as summarized in response Arcadia-2 above, that would allow for the removal of mature oak trees. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

From: rsccegr [mailto:rsccegr@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2011 05:41 PM

To: Cruz, Jemellee

Cc: cao2@cityofbell.org <cao2@cityofbell.org>; cchacon@cityofbell.org
<cchacon@cityofbell.org>

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Debris Basins)

Ms. Cruz, on behalf of the City of Bell, please be advised, there are no objections regarding the County's intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration regarding the Debris Maintenance Program. Your Maintenance Program does not affect the immediate areas of the City of Bell. There are no further comments.

CARLOS ALVARADO, P.E.
CITY OF ENGINEER
Office (626) 960-1889
Fax (626) 960-9002

City of Bell

Mr. Carlos Alvarado, P.E., Email dated January 4, 2011

Bell-1

This email acknowledges that the City has no objections to the Maintenance Program or the IS/MND. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

From: Corrigan, Sean
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 16:28
To: 'jcruz@dpw.lacounty.gov'
Subject: Debris Basin Maintenance Program

Ms. Cruz,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the above project. We have two comments.

1. We had a positive working experience with the District during your major 2006 clean out following the Harvard Fire. The outreach you did with the community and the development of haul routes that minimized the impacts to our residents was professional and we hope to follow a similar process for future sediment removal activities.
2. The study on page 2-27 delineates sediment placements sites at the Upper Sunset Canyon and Lower Sunset Canyon debris basins. It is our understanding that these sites might be developed in the future as other sites reach capacity and that work is not part of this programmatic document.

Please let me know if I may provide additional information. Thanks again.

Sean Corrigan, P.E.
Chief Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer
150 North 3rd Street #336
Public Works Department
City of Burbank
PO Box 6459
Burbank, CA 91510-6459
(818) 238-3804
FAX 238-3918

City of Burbank
Department of Public Works

Mr. Sean Corrigan, P.E., Email dated January 3, 2011

Burbank-1

This comment acknowledges a positive working experience between the City and County regarding the 2006 cleanout associated with the Harvard Fire. Future debris basin cleanouts will be conducted according to the same protocol as previously experienced for the 2006 cleanout and as set forth on page 2-25 of the IS/MND. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

Burbank-2

In Section 2.3, Project Description, beginning on page 2-15 of the IS/MND, the project is defined as involving several basic activities carried out at the 162 debris basins, including at least one round of annual routine maintenance, which may include (1) annual brush clearing, tree trimming, and vegetation mowing; (2) annual entrainment channel and outlet tower clearing; (3) sediment removal; (4) access road maintenance and other appurtenances; (5) DSOD compliance; (6) storm damage repair and restoration projects; and/or (7) exotic species eradication control. As such, the scope of the IS/MND is limited to these activities and does not set forth policies or procedures specific to the deposition of sediment at SPS or the development/alteration of new or existing SPS locations. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

FLO
605



CITY OF GLENDORA CITY HALL

(626) 914-8200

116 East Foothill Blvd., Glendora, California 91741

www.ci.glendora.ca.us

December 15, 2010

Ms. Jemellee Cruz, P.E.
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
900 S. Fremont Avenue - Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration – Debris Basin Maintenance Program IS/MND for the Section 1605 Long Term Streambed Alteration Agreement

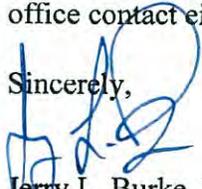
Dear Ms. Cruz.

This is response to the subject notice. The City of Glendora fully supports the Flood Control District maintenance of Debris Basins thereby protecting the citizens of Glendora during the rainy season. We request the following considerations be included in the mitigation measures for this project:

- 1 If debris material is to be hauled out of the Basins to a disposal point, provide the City Engineer with the proposed route for review and approval. Provisions should be provided for cleaning and maintaining the streets involved with the haul route during the hauling operation. If any City streets are damaged due to contractor activities, the City will document the damage with photographs and request the Flood Control District make the necessary repairs to return the pavement to its original pre project condition.
2. Maintain dust control during the cleanup operation. If the Flood Control District chooses to utilize Glendora Water service during the Cleanup operation via a fire hydrant, the Flood Control District shall obtain a water meter and pay all fees associated with the use of the water. Appropriate BMPs must be in place per the NPDES permit.

On Monday of this week, we were made aware of damage to our roadway which occurred during the cleaning of Crescent Glen and Oak Park Debris Basins. Please have someone from your office contact either Doug Crouse or Debbie Wood at (626) 914-8246 to resolve.

Sincerely,


Jerry L. Burke, P.E.
Assistant Director of Public Works/City Engineer

cc: Doug Crouse, Engineering Division Manager
Debbie Wood, Civil Engineering Assistant
Steve Patton, Water Division Manager
John Menke, Maintenance Superintendent
Carlos Cisneros, Construction Inspector
File

City of Glendora
Department of Public Works

Mr. Jerry L. Burke, P.E., Letter dated December 15, 2010

Glendora-1

As set forth on page 2-25 of the IS/MND, the LACFCD has an established protocol to inform and coordinate with the jurisdiction in which a debris basin is located prior to any sediment removal that could involve heavy equipment and/or truck trips. As standard practice, the LACFCD will contact the City Manager and/or the City Engineer/Public Works Director of the applicable jurisdiction to coordinate the schedule of sediment removal and truck route and to discuss any additional constraints or requests. Residences and schools adjacent to truck haul routes (except freeways) are notified of the work schedules prior to the start of work and are provided contact information for complaint resolution. The LACFCD posts flyers in the community and along the haul routes to notify residents, schools, businesses, and City staff of the planned maintenance activities and haul routes; to incorporate any recommendation, condition, and/or alternatives; and to obtain any necessary permits for the activities. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

Glendora-2

Any damages incurred to facilities or infrastructure as a result of Maintenance Program activities should be coordinated directly with the LACFCD immediately following the event. Such events are not included within the scope of this IS/MND and are entirely dependent upon event-specific details and circumstances that would be addressed through direct communications between the City and the County. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

Glendora-3

As stated on page 3-10 of the IS/MND and required by RR 3.3-1, in compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 (related to the control of PM10 and PM2.5 emissions), all applicable dust-control measures shall be implemented on each debris basin site in the South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB) during sediment removal activities or other maintenance activities that require earth movement. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

Glendora-4

Agreements regarding the use of facilities or resources outside of the County's jurisdiction should be determined based on coordination between/among affected jurisdictions. As such, the protocols for the use of Glendora Water by the LACFCD is subject to agreement between these two agencies and is outside the scope of this IS/MND. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

Glendora-5

Please see Response Glendora-2 above.

From: Shannon Lucas [mailto:slucas@habitatauthority.org]
Sent: Monday, December 06, 2010 12:26 PM
To: Cruz, Jemellee
Cc: Andrea Gullo
Subject: Debris Basin Maintenance Program - Mitigation Opportunities at Puente Hills Preserve

Dear Ms. Cruz,

The Puente Hills Habitat Authority recently received the Notice of Intent to adopt a MND for a Debris Basin Maintenance Program. After briefly reviewing the MND, we noticed that several of the basins are adjacent to the approximately 4,000-acre habitat preserve that our agency manages, including the Turnbull and Fullerton basins.

We do plan on a more thorough review of the MND, and may submit further comments before the comment period ends on January 3, 2011. However, assuming that you are already determining locations for your habitat mitigation, we would like to let you know that there are many opportunities at the our Preserve for mitigation. We developed a Resource Management Plan that identifies numerous areas for restoration by type, as well as restoration implementation methods. We offer traditional mitigation opportunities (where your contractor implements the mitigation on our Preserve) or in-lieu fee mitigation (where you pay us a fee and we implement the mitigation and assume all regulatory permit responsibilities for meeting performance standards).

If you are interested in finding out more about our mitigation opportunities, please refer to our website at www.habitatauthority.org or feel free to call me or our Executive Director, Andrea Gullo, at (562) 945-9003.

Thank you,

Shannon Lucas
Ecologist
Puente Hills Habitat Authority
(562) 945-9003

Puente Hills Habitat Authority

Ms. Shannon Lucas, Email dated December 6, 2010

PHHA-1

This letter acknowledges the availability of habitat mitigation acreages within the Puente Hills Habitat Authority's preserve. The County appreciates the opportunity and will keep the information on file for reference. No changes to the IS/MND are required.

SECTION 4.0 ERRATA

The following text changes are made to the Initial Study and incorporated as part of the Final MND. These changes further substantiate conclusions and/or clarify aspects of the previously circulated document. None of these changes reflect a determination of a new or more significant environmental impact than disclosed in the IS/MND. Changes to the text are noted with **bold** (for added text) or ~~strikeout~~ type (for deleted text). Where new text would already be bolded in the IS/MND, the new text is also italicized for distinction.

Section 2.2.1 Relevant Policies and Regulations

Page 2-2, new bullet added after second bullet:

- ***California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region. The Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB on October 24, 2008, includes three debris basins (i.e., Fort Tejon, Avenue S, Avenue T-8) that are located within boundaries of the California Regional Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region. These debris basins have been maintained in accordance with the requirements set forth in the existing Section 401 Certification. The Lahontan RWQCB has determined that activities authorized under the Section 401 Certification issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB will not pose a threat to water quality and that a separate permitting action for these three debris basins by the Lahontan RWQCB is not warranted. Waste Discharge Identification Number (WDID) 6B191102001 has been assigned by the Lahontan RWQCB for the County's Maintenance Program and the submittal of an Annual Report and an Annual Mitigation Monitoring Report to the Lahontan RWQCB by June 30th of each year is required.***

Page 2-10, Table 2-1:

Line 92 under "Facility" heading: Lopez Inlet

Page 2-26, last paragraph:

Cleared vegetation and sediment is disposed of off-site at designated Sediment Placement Sites (SPS) **and at landfills**. Several different SPS **and public/private landfills** are used by the LACFCD for the disposal of sediments removed from the debris basins, as listed in Table 2-3 below and shown in Exhibit 2-3. **Although not a complete inclusive listing, this list includes SPS sites that are currently active and sites that may be used within the lifetime of the Section 1605 Agreement.**

Page 2-27, Table 2-3:

Revise the title of the Table to read as follows:

Sample Sediment Placement Sites and Public/Private Landfills for Sediment Placement

Page 2-27, Table 2-3:

Delete the following SPS sites:

~~Lower Sunset SPS and Upper Sunset SPS~~

Add the following SPS as the first line in Table 2-3:

Aqua Vista 10773 Aqua Vista St. Los Angeles

Section 3.4.1 Existing Conditions

Page 3-32, Table 3-5:

Under “Debris Basin” heading: Lopez **Inlet**

Section 3.4.2 Impact Analysis

Page 3-31, first full paragraph:

With implementation of MM 3.4-1 and **compliance with RRs 3.4-1, RR 3.4-2 and RR 3.4-4**~~and 3.4-2~~, impacts from ongoing implementation of the Maintenance Program associated with the vegetation removal would continue not to result in direct or cumulatively significant impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

Page 3-31, c) Less Than Significant With Mitigation:

Through implementation of MM 3.4-1 and **compliance with RRs 3.4-1, RR 3.4-2 and RR 3.4-4**~~and 3.4-2~~, impacts associated with ongoing implementation of the Maintenance Program would continue not to result in significant direct or cumulatively significant impacts to federally protected wetlands and associated riparian habitat.

Page 3-34, f) Less Than Significant With Mitigation:

The replacement of biological resources removed through the ongoing operation of the Maintenance Program would be conducted in compliance with the applicable permits and ensured via implementation of RR 3.4-1, RR 3.4-2, ~~and~~ RR 3.4-3, **RR 3.4-4** and MM 3.4-1.

Section 3.4.3 Regulatory Requirements

Page 3-34, new regulatory requirement:

RR 3.4-4 All activities conducted as part of the Debris Basin Maintenance Program shall comply with the conditions set forth in the Waste Discharge Identification Number (WDID) 6B191102001 assigned by the Lahontan RWQCB for the County’s Maintenance Program, which requires the submittal of an Annual Report and an Annual Mitigation Monitoring Report to the Lahontan RWQCB by June 30th of each year.

Section 3.9.2 Impact Analysis

Page 3-49, first paragraph:

State law assigns responsibility for protection of water quality in Los Angeles County to the Los Angeles RWQCB and Lahontan RWQCB. Basin Plans created by each Regional Board incorporate, by reference, all applicable State and Regional Board plans and policies and other pertinent water quality policies and regulations.

The Los Angeles RWQCB Basin Water Quality Plan is designed to preserve and enhance water quality and protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters. Specifically, the Basin Water Quality Plan (1) designates beneficial uses for surface and ground waters; (2) sets narrative and numerical objectives that must be attained or maintained to protect the designated beneficial uses and to conform to the State's anti-degradation policy; and (3) describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the region.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region contains policies that the Lahontan RWQCB uses with other laws and regulations to protect water quality within the region. All activities under the Maintenance Program must be conducted in compliance with all applicable water quality prohibitions, standards, and provisions in the applicable Basin Plan.

Discharges are regulated under SWRCB Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification", which requires compliance with all conditions of the Water Quality Certification issued by the RWQCB. **As previously discussed in Section 2.2, the Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB on October 24, 2008, includes all debris basins in the Maintenance Program, including three debris basins (i.e., Fort Tejon, Avenue S, and Avenue T-8) that are located within Lahontan RWQCB boundaries. These debris basins have been maintained accordance with the requirements set forth in the existing Section 401 Certification. The Lahontan RWQCB has determined that activities authorized under the Section 401 Certification issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB will not pose a threat to water quality and that a separate permitting action for these three debris basins by the Lahontan RWQCB is not warranted. Waste Discharge Identification Number (WDID) 6B191102001 has been assigned by the Lahontan RWQCB for the County's Maintenance Program and the submittal of an Annual Report and an Annual Mitigation Monitoring Report to the Lahontan RWQCB by June 30th of each year is required.**

Compliance with the Water Quality Certification **and WDID requirements** issued by the **applicable RWQCB, as required by RR 3.4-2 and RR 3.4-4 from Section 3.4, Biological Resources**, would ensure that any discharges from the debris basins do not conflict with the applicable provisions of Sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law.

Section 3.9.3 Regulatory Requirements

None.

RR 3.4-2 and RR 3.4-4 from Section 3.4, Biological Resources, are applicable to water quality.

Section 3.16.2 Impact Analysis

Page 3-65, last paragraph:

The movement of large equipment on public roadways (as needed to transport equipment to and from the debris basins sites) is regulated by Title 16, Highway, of the *Los Angeles County Code and Division 15 of the California Vehicle Code*, which requires—a moving/**transportation** permits and compliance with regulations on the permitted size of vehicles/equipment; night moves; moving in inclement weather; parking on streets; travel outside peak hours and holidays; over-length, over-height and over-width requirements; lighting; signs; and restricted routes (RR 3.16-2). ~~This~~ **Compliance with RR 3.16-2** will prevent traffic hazards when large equipment is transported to and from the debris basins. Impacts related to traffic hazards and emergency access would continue to be less than significant.

Section 3.16.3 Impact Analysis

RR 3.16-2 The movement of large equipment on public roadways shall be made in compliance with Title 16, Highway, of the *Los Angeles County Code and Division 15 of the California Vehicle Code*, which requires—a moving/**transportation** permits and provisions on the size of vehicles/equipment; night moves; moving in inclement weather; parking on streets; travel outside peak hours and holidays; over-length, over-height and over-width requirements; lighting; signs; and restricted routes.