PRESS RELEASE

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUN VALLEY CELEBRATES AS NEW FLOOD CONTROL MULTIUSE PROJECT IS BROUGHT ONLINE

SUN VALLEY, CA - Representatives of the Sun Valley community will join Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Zev Yaroslavsky (3rd District) to celebrate the construction completion of the $3.6 Million Tuxford Green Multiuse Project, a landmark effort to control chronic flooding in the Sun Valley area. The Grand Opening will take place on Thursday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m. on the corner of Tuxford Street and San Fernando Road in Sun Valley.

In previous storm seasons, thousands of motorists have had to slog through stormwater at the intersection of Tuxford Street and San Fernando Road (see attached photo montage) after only a light rain. Seeking relief for this flood-prone community, engineers at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works have installed a multiuse flood control system that will convey most storm flows under the busy intersection, instead of on the roadway, and preserve some of the water to irrigate new landscaping installed as part of the project.

The Tuxford Green Multiuse Project uses a system of catch basins and hydraulic pressure to “push” stormwater through an underground storm drain, effectively forcing

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thousands of gallons of stormwater under the intersection during a storm. County engineers emphasize that while the project will mount an effective defense against typical storms, it will reduce, but not eliminate the flooding that may occur during a heavy storm.

A portion of the stormwater and most of the urban runoff collected by the system will be redirected through a stormwater treatment device, to remove trash, oil, and sediment. Treated stormwater will then be stored in a 45,000 gallon cistern and used to irrigate newly integrated landscaping features. These aboveground aesthetic improvements include drought-resistant California native plants and permeable paving stones, which will allow water to seep back into the soil.

The Tuxford Green Multiuse Project is part of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan developed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works in collaboration with the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group. The Stakeholders Group, chaired by Public Works, began meeting in 1998 to solve local flooding problems in the Sun Valley area while retaining all stormwater runoff from the watershed, increasing water conservation, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat, and reducing stormwater pollution.

Among the 14 other local projects identified within the Watershed Management Plan is the $7 million Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project, which came online in October 2006.

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The Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project not only provides flood protection for the park and its surrounding community, it also recharges the San Fernando Groundwater Basin with enough water to supply 60 families of four for an entire year.

For more information on the Tuxford Green Multiuse Project and others in the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan, visit the Sun Valley Watershed website at www.SunValleyWatershed.org.

Attachments: Background Information, Photo Montage

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SUN VALLEY WATERSHED BACKGROUND

Sun Valley Watershed is an urban sub-watershed tributary to the Los Angeles River. It is bordered by Tujunga Wash on the west, the Burbank Airport on the east, Hansen Dam on the north and Burbank Boulevard on the south. It is approximately 2,800 acres (or 4.4 square miles) in size, located approximately 14 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, and encompasses the communities of Sun Valley and portions of North Hollywood. The watershed is highly developed with industrial, commercial, and residential developments. Active gravel mines, landfills, numerous auto-dismantling operators, and various other industrial and commercial land uses make up more than 60% of the watershed. In the watershed are two neighborhood parks and one public library.

ABOUT THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is responsible for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of roads, bridges, airports, sewers, water supply, flood control, water quality and water conservation facilities, and for the design and construction of capital projects. The Department operates and maintains 15 major dams, nearly 500 miles of open channel, 2,500 miles of underground storm drain and more than 70,000 catch basins.

GLOSSARY OF KEY WORDS

Cistern - A reservoir, tank, or container for storing or holding water for future use.
Culvert - A drain to convey runoff under a road or embankment.
Catch Basin - A surface-level receptacle designed to serve as an inlet for stormwater and urban runoff.

TUXFORD GREEN MULTIUSE PROJECT

Heavy Flooding

The intersection of Tuxford Street and San Fernando Road has historically been prone to flooding. As seen in this photo taken after a heavy storm in the 1970's, the intersection is completely flooded.

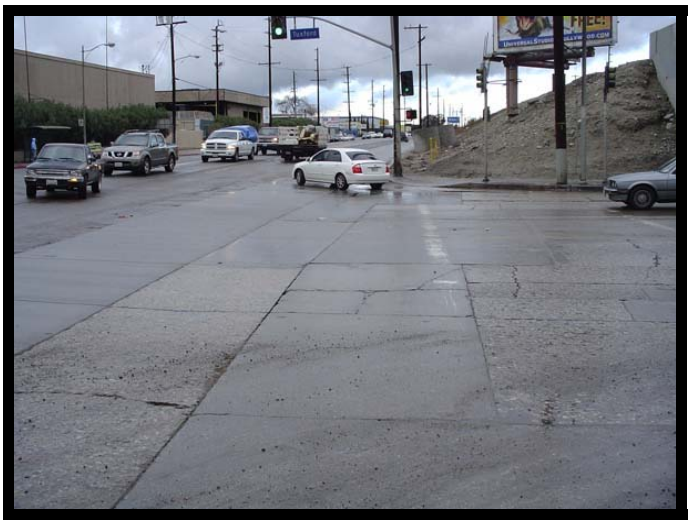
Light Rain

Even light rain causes a significant amount of flooding in the intersection. An area of about 2.2 square miles drains directly to this intersection, resulting in high flows even during light rainfall.

Tuxford Green Construction

Construction on the Tuxford Green project began in September 2006.

The solution to the flooding was an 8 1/2 by 5 foot box drain to convey flows up to 140 cubic feet per second (enough water to fill an Olympic sized swimming pool in 10 minutes) under the intersection to the culverts under the 5 freeway.



It Works!

In February 2007, the system was put to the test by a light rainfall event.

The project conveyed all flows through the drain, leaving the intersection free from flooding.