

December 3, 2012

Approved *Christopher Stone*  
Christopher Stone

TO: Christopher Stone  
FROM: Patricia Wood *P.W.*  
Facilities Section  
Water Resources Division

**SEPULVEDA FIRE  
BURNED AREA REPORT**

Recommendation

Authorize us to send a copy of this report to the City of Los Angeles (Bureau of Engineering) and Tibold Asset Management, Inc., to inform them of the potential impacts to the City's facilities and to the privately owned Moraga Drive.

No further action by Public Works is necessary.

Background

Fire Name: Sepulveda Fire  
Date of Fire: September 14, 2012  
Burned Area: 62 Acres  
Location: The fire occurred on the hillside east of Sepulveda Boulevard and west of Moraga Drive entirely within the City of Los Angeles. Refer to Attachment A (Thomas Guide Page: 591-G5).

Vegetation Types before Burn

Vegetation in and around the watershed subareas prior to the burn consisted of grasses, coastal sage scrub, and small trees.

Fire History

Public Works' fire history records indicate that there have been three significant fires that have previously occurred in the 2012 Sepulveda Fire burned area. The 1980 Sepulveda Fire burned approximately 9 acres and overlapped approximately 13 percent of the burned area of the 2012 Sepulveda Fire burned area. The 1979 Freeway Fire burned approximately 23 acres and approximately overlapped 5 percent of the Sepulveda Fire burned area. The 1961 Bel Air Fire burned approximately 6,151 acres and overlapped 100 percent of the Sepulveda Fire burned area.

### Summary of Potential Sediment Impacts

On September 26, 2012, Water Resources Division (WRD) staff conducted a field reconnaissance of the burned area to determine if residential properties and/or Public Works owned/maintained facilities could potentially be impacted by the flooding/debris flows during significant storm events. The Sepulveda Fire burned approximately 62 acres entirely within the City of Los Angeles. The burned area (see Attachment A) is divided into 12 subarea watersheds across one Debris Producing Area (DPA Zone 4). During moderate to severe storms, mud and debris may potentially flow from the burned areas and possibly cause flooding and sediment deposition on Sepulveda Boulevard (maintained by the City of Los Angeles) and on the cul-de-sac at the north end of the Moraga Drive (a privately maintained road in a gated community). The mud and debris is also expected to flow into the debris basin (maintained by the City of Los Angeles), north of the Moraga Drive community.

There are no Public Works maintained facilities that could be impacted by storm produced debris flows from the burned watershed. The City of Los Angeles requested Public Works to contact residents who may be impacted and offer engineering advice. However, analysis of the burned area relative to residential homes revealed that no homes are anticipated to be potentially impacted by debris flows. However, the Moraga Drive roadway may experience access restrictions during severe storms.

The volumes noted herein are those resulting from a moderate to severe storm event.

#### Subareas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Subarea 1 consists of a total of 20 acres and was 22 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 1,400 cubic yards (cy).

Subarea 2 consists of a total of 14 acres and was 82 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 1,400 cy.

Subarea 3 consists of a total of 10 acres and was 95 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 1,100 cy.

Subarea 4 consists of a total of 8 acres and was 99 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 860 cy.

Subarea 5 consists of a total of 11 acres and was 69 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 1,100 cy.

During moderate to severe storms, debris flows from the burned hillsides may potentially plug the drainage inlets at the base of the watershed subareas adjacent to

Sepulveda Boulevard and may overflow onto the roadway surface causing flooding and sediment deposition. Maintenance of Sepulveda Boulevard is under the purview of the City of Los Angeles.

#### Subarea 6

Subarea 6 consists of a total of 16 acre and was 17 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 1,100 cy. During moderate to severe storms, debris from the burned hillside is expected to spread onto the wide, flat open area at the toe of the subarea.

#### Subarea 7

Subarea 7 consists of a total of 7 acres and was 64 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 680 cy. During moderate to severe storms, debris from the burned hillside may potentially flow onto roadway surface of the cul-de-sac at the north end of the Moraga Drive (located within a private gated community). The flooding and accumulated mud and debris may potentially block access to residences along Moraga Drive. It is recommended that the residents' Home Owners Association monitor Moraga Drive during storms and clear the roadway as necessary. The monitoring should continue for the next four to five years until the watershed has significantly recovered from the burn.

#### Subareas 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12

Subarea 8 consists of a total of 6 acres and was 59 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 580 cy.

Subarea 9 consists of a total of 2 acres and was 41 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 180 cy.

Subarea 10 consists of a total of 4 acres and was 22 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 250 cy.

Subarea 11 consists of a total of 6 acres and was 58 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 510 cy.

Subarea 12 consists of a total of 7 acres and was 65 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 620 cy.

During moderate to severe storms, debris from the burned hillside is anticipated to flow into a debris basin located at the upper end of Moraga Drive. The debris basin is

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debris basin is not known to Public Works. Operation and maintenance of the facility is under the City's purview.

The approved Burned Area Report will be posted on the Internet at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Fire/>.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Kenneth Rickard at Extension 6154.

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Attach.