

BIG TUJUNGA RESERVOIR SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

MAY 20, 2013



Public Information Meeting Agenda

- ◉ Welcome and Introductions
- ◉ Purpose of the Meeting
- ◉ Project Description and Need
- ◉ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Purpose
- ◉ Summary of Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
- ◉ Project Status and Next Steps
- ◉ Questions/Answers at Stations

Welcome and Introductions

- ◉ **Environmental Consultant:**
BonTerra Consulting
Kristin Keeling, Senior Project Manager
Amber Heredia, Senior Biological Manager
James Kurtz, Air Quality/Noise/GHG Specialist
- ◉ **Lead Agency:**
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Keith Lilley, P.E., Principal Civil Engineer



Purpose of the Meeting

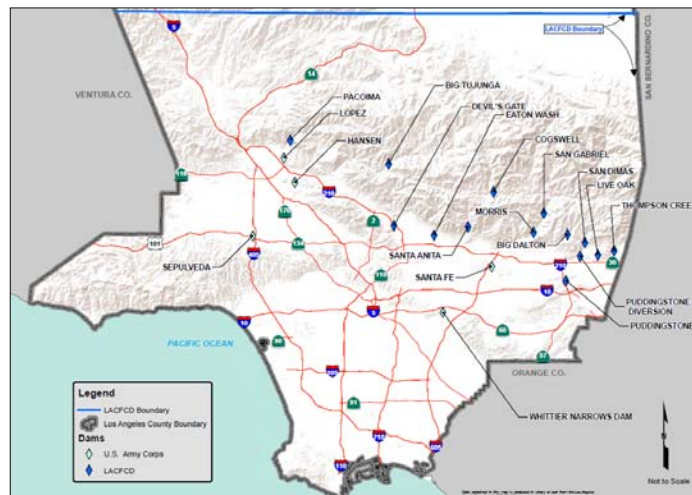
- ◉ **Information Sharing**
 - LACFCD is committed to informing the community about important projects
- ◉ **Facilitate CEQA Public Review**
 - Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is available for public review through **Wed., June 26th**
 - Summarize IS/MND conclusions
- ◉ **Questions/Answers on the Project and IS/MND**
 - Topical Stations- LACFCD and BonTerra Consulting staff

Project Description and Need

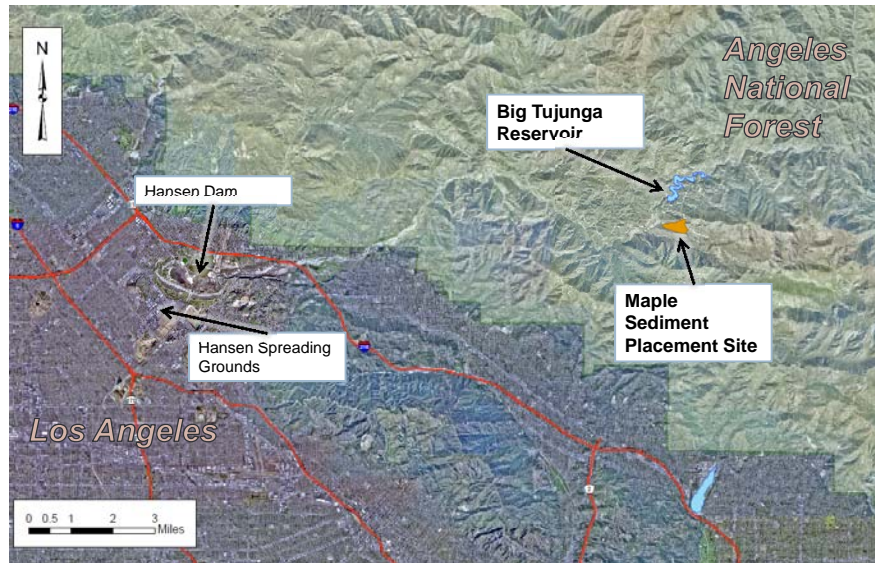
Flood Control District

Owens and operates complex flood protection and water conservation systems that include:

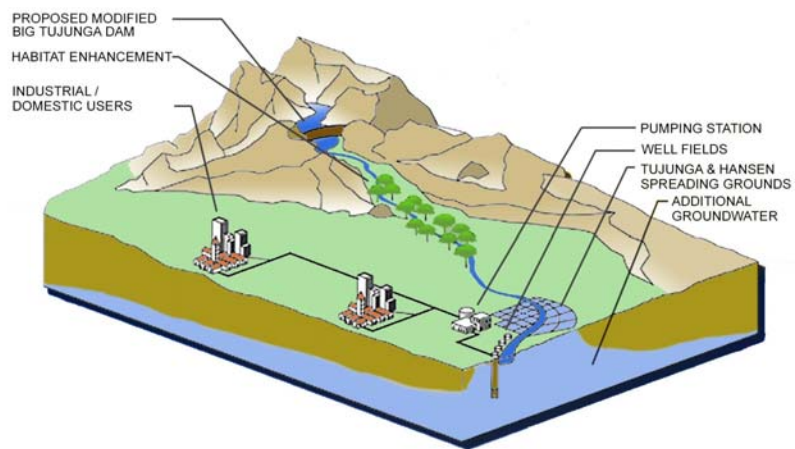
- 14 major dams
- 162 debris basins
- 500 miles of open channels
- 36 sediment placement sites
- 27 groundwater recharge facilities



Big Tujunga Reservoir- Location Map



Big Tujunga- San Fernando Basin Groundwater Enhancement



Big Tujunga Reservoir



Hansen Spreading Grounds

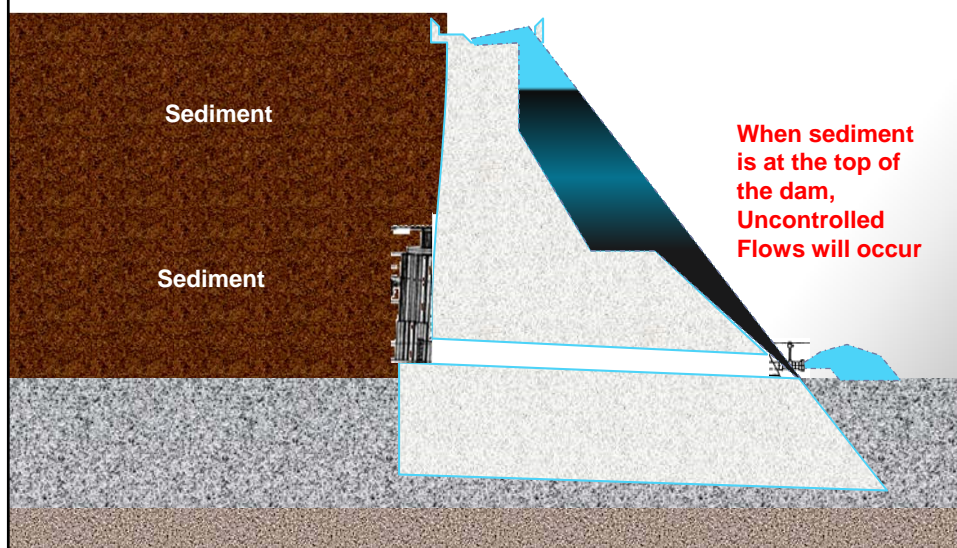


2009 Station Fire

The Station Fire started on August 26, 2009 and was contained on October 16, 2009. It burned over 160,000 acres in the San Gabriel Mountains.



Sediment and Dams



Sediment Management Strategic Plan

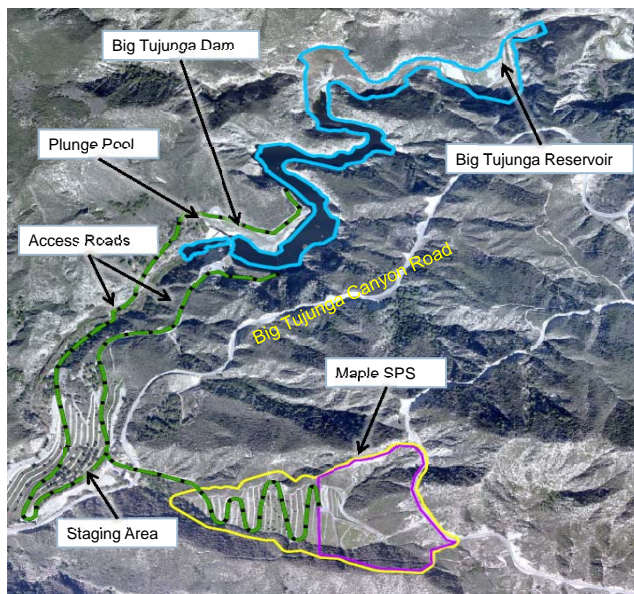


Big Tujunga Reservoir

- Burned 87% of the watershed tributary to Big Tujunga Reservoir (BTR)
- Fire led to more sediment in the BTR
- May impair the Dam's primary functions of flood control and water conservation



Sediment Removal Project Limits



Dewatering and Water Diversion

- BTR will be drained prior to sediment removal activities
- Flows will be "ramped" to protect the Santa Ana sucker
- BMPs will be placed in plunge pool



Santa Ana Sucker



Dewatering and Water Diversion

Bypass line will be installed to divert water around the reservoir to the outlet of the plunge pool



HDPE Bypass Line



HDPE Bypass Line

Dewatering and Water Diversion

Bypass line will be installed to divert water around the reservoir to the outlet of the plunge pool



Plunge Pool



Silt Curtain

Sediment Removal Options to Reduce Air Quality Impacts

Low Emission Trucks

- Off-road equipment Tier 3 or higher
- Or on-road trucks with 2010 or newer engines



OR

Conveyor Belt System

- Low AQ, visual and noise impacts
- Alignment mostly along access roads



Maple Canyon Sediment Placement Site

- First utilized for sediment placement in 1981
- Sediment will be placed on 29 acres of SPS
- Maple Canyon SPS will be revegetated after project completion to improve aesthetics, reduce dust, and enhance habitat



CEQA Purpose and Summary of the IS/MND

CEQA Purpose

1. Inform decision-makers and public about the potential **significant environmental impacts** of proposed projects;
2. Identify ways that environmental damage can be **avoided or significantly reduced**;
3. Prevent significant avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in the project through the use of **alternatives and/or mitigation**; and
4. Disclose to the public the reasons **why** an agency approved a project if significant impacts are involved.

Environmental Topics Reviewed

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture & Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems

Project-Related Actions

- ⦿ Project Design Features (PDF)
 - Part of the "Project Description"
- ⦿ Regulatory Requirements (RR)
 - Required to comply with laws
- ⦿ Mitigation Measures (MM)
 - After consideration of PDFs and RRs, additional measures required to reduce impacts to "less than significant" levels

Project Design Features (PDF)

AES-1: Complete Maple Canyon SPS Revegetation Plan

AQ-1: Operational Restrictions for Low Emission Trucking Option

AQ-2: Equipment Restrictions for Low Emission Trucking Option

BIO-1: Reduced Disturbance in Upper Reservoir for Arroyo Toad

BIO-2: Dewatering Activities "Ramped" Up and Down

BIO-3: Water Quality BMPs- Filtration for Sedimentation

HYD-1: Bypass Pipeline for Creek Flows

Regulatory Requirements (RR)

AQ-1: SCAQMD Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust Reduction)

BIO-1: Jurisdictional Permits (USACE, RWQCB, CDFW)

HAZ-1: CCR Title 22 (Hazardous Material Use, Disposal, Storage)

HYD-1: NPDES Permit (Storm Water Quality-SWPPP)

HYD-2: Clean Water Act (WDRs to Protect Beneficial Uses)

Mitigation Measures (MM)

- ⦿ AQ-1: Exposed Soils Watering Plan
- ⦿ BIO-1: Arroyo Toad
- ⦿ BIO-3: Santa Ana Sucker
- ⦿ BIO-4: Native Fish- Arroyo Chub
- ⦿ BIO-5: Pacific Pond Turtle
- ⦿ BIO-6: Special Status Plants

Mitigation Measures (MM), continued...

- ⦿ BIO-7: Jurisdictional Resources
- ⦿ BIO-8: Migratory Birds
- ⦿ HAZ-5: Wildfire Protection Plan
- ⦿ USE-1: USFS Special Use Permit
- ⦿ TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan- Truck Traffic Safety

Project Status and Next Steps

1. Written comments may be e-mailed or postmarked by **Wednesday, June 26th**:

County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Water Resources Division
Reservoir Cleanout Program
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460
Email: reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov

2. The Initial Study/MND is available for viewing at:

- www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/BigTujunga/
- Department of Public Works, Water Resources Division
- La Crescenta Library
- Sunland Tujunga Library
- San Fernando Library

3. See sign-in sheet to be notified of Project updates.