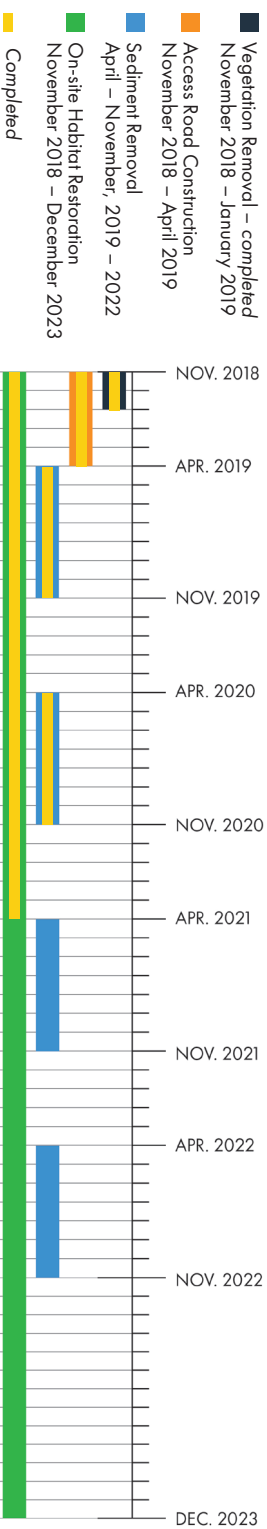




Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project A Sustainable Approach to Sediment Removal

Community Update: Project Resumes May 3

Timeline



Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project Update

Sediment removal, as part of the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, is resuming on **May 3, 2021**, with preparations beginning **April 19, 2021**. This spring begins the third season of up to a four-year effort to increase flood protection for communities near and downstream of the Devil's Gate Reservoir and restore the natural habitat within the Arroyo Seco Watershed. Los Angeles County Public Works is removing 1.35 million cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir behind the 101-year-old dam.

As a result of Los Angeles County's diligence in keeping the community safe, the sediment removal portion of the project is expected to finish ahead of schedule, by October 2021, as opposed to Fall of 2022. This updated timeline is a result of regular aerial surveys to accurately cross check the mid-project milestone progress, which informed the team that more sediment was successfully removed ahead of schedule. While the restoration portion of the project will continue per schedule, the Public Works team is proud of its work for the community and expedited sediment removal progress.

The project was originally developed to address the impact of the 2009 Station Fire, one of the largest fires recorded in Los Angeles County, which burned more than 160,000 acres of the San Gabriel Mountains. Subsequent storms brought more than 1.3 million cubic yards of sediment into the Devil's Gate Reservoir—enough to fill the Rose Bowl three times. The San Gabriel fires, and other natural events, led to the Devil's Gate Reservoir's inability to contain stormwater flows if a major weather debris event were to occur. Sediment removal became necessary to prevent future flooding to downstream communities and businesses in the northeast Los Angeles area.

Taking a community-first approach, the County has been working with community leaders, local schools and companies listening to their concerns and input. Its number-one priority is to ensure the safety of residents and wildlife in the area for years to come. Based on the guidance from its Environmental Impact Report, Public Works is using trucks that exceed 2010 emission standards to remove the sediment from the reservoir and has installed seven air quality monitoring stations which are strategically located within and surrounding the project site for compliance purposes and to monitor potential air quality impacts resulting from the restoration project.

This Season's Schedule

Access routes for trucks entering and leaving the reservoir have been designed to ease traffic congestion in residential neighborhoods and strategically time routes to minimize the impact to local schools and businesses.

This season, trucks will begin by taking sediment to Manning Pit in Irwindale. Sediment hauling will take place Monday through Friday beginning at 7 a.m. and finishing their day at 2:30 p.m. There will be no work done on weekends, holidays or during any major Rose Bowl events.

The third season of the project is scheduled to end in October of 2021. Once completed, the County will begin an annual stormwater maintenance program to sustainably manage future inflows of sediment. The new 70-acre configuration will allow native habitat areas to flourish alongside reservoir flood control operations for both the safety and well-being of adjacent communities.

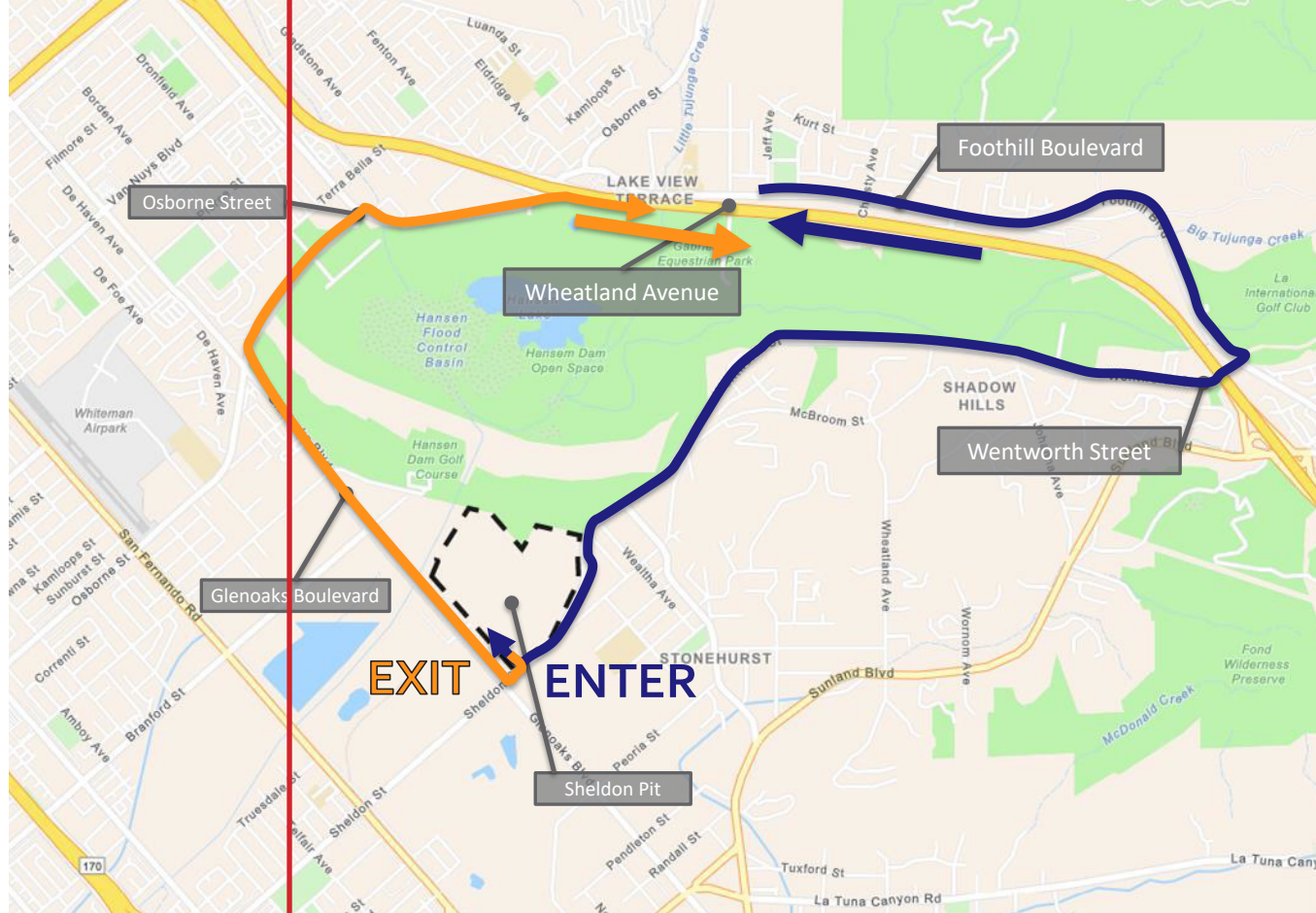
To learn more about the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project or to ask any questions, please call the project hotline at (626) 458-2507 or visit the project website at: devilsgateproject.com.

Sediment Removal Expected to Finish in October 2021

Los Angeles County Public Works is pleased to share that the Devil's Gate sediment removal is expected to finish in October 2021, almost a year earlier than expected. This updated timeline is a result of regular aerial surveys to accurately cross check the mid-project milestone progress, which informed the team that more sediment was successfully removed ahead of schedule. Meanwhile, the restoration portion of the project will continue through 2023. The Public Works team is proud to have helped expedite the sediment removal to benefit the surrounding communities.

Keeping Sun Valley Informed

The sediment removed from the Devil's Gate Reservoir is being distributed each year between two locations: Manning Pit in Irwindale and Sheldon Pit in Sun Valley. This season the sediment distribution will start at Manning Pit. Sediment placement will switch to Sheldon Pit later in the summer season. To date, Sheldon Pit has received 336,327 cubic yards of sediment (based on converted tons). Public Works meets monthly during the sediment removal process with representatives from the Los Angeles City Council and community leaders from the Shadow Hills Property Owners Association, the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council and the Pacoima Neighborhood Council. The Project Manager shares updates and timelines and listens to community suggestions and feedback. Regular monthly meetings will resume in April.



Community Update Meetings

The Public Works team continues to hold regular stakeholder meetings and calls with local leaders to inform and to address any community concerns. During COVID-19, many of these meetings are now being held online or in conference calls. If you would like to request a meeting for your neighborhood, contact the project team at: devilsgateproject@pw.lacounty.gov.

Devil's Gate Dam Safety

In order to continue to keep the community safe, we remind residents and visitors to Devil's Gate to stay on the walking trails and avoid the dam excavation area, per on-site signage and directions. As the project progresses, more safety updates will be provided.

For more information, visit:
pw.lacounty.gov/swe/devilsgate/resources.shtml

Habitat Enhancement and Restoration

Since the fall of 2018, Public Works has restored more than 70 acres of quality riparian and scrub habitat within the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project. This natural habitat supports endangered birds and other native wildlife. To date, the team has planted 300 coast live oak acorns, 10,346 container plants and approximately 71 lbs. of seeds. Phase 2 of the habitat restoration began with vegetation removal and grading during the fall of 2020; planting started in January 2021, with more than 8,500 container plants and nearly 240 lbs. of seeds. The area is also being recontoured to facilitate water flow to support the growth of more native plants.

Invasive plant control will be an ongoing task. With each activity, the project team has taken great care to have as little impact as possible on the local habitat and wildlife. Onsite biologists have implemented mandatory training programs to certify all construction personnel and educate them on monitoring and protecting wildlife that frequent the reservoir. The training is conducted annually to update staff on sensitive species in the area and how to ensure the safety and well-being of local wild inhabitants. Native birds, including the Yellow-Breasted Chat, the Least Bell's Vireo, the American Yellow Warbler and Great Horned Owl are already enjoying their restored natural habitats.



Great Horned Owl

For More Information

To learn about the project, receive project updates or contact the project team, please feel free to contact us at:

-  devilsgateproject.com
-  devilsgateproject@pw.lacounty.gov
-  (626) 458-2507

LA County continues to urge everyone to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. For the most up to date information, please visit: ph.lacounty.gov/Coronavirus/

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone, or need help finding medical care, call the Los Angeles County Information line 2-1-1, which is available 24/7.



American Yellow Warbler