

May 7, 2019

TO: Sree Kumar

FROM: Ken Zimmer
Postfire Engineering and Drainage Needs Program
Stormwater Engineering Division

WOOLSEY FIRE BURNED AREA BRIEF

The Woolsey Fire started on November 9, 2018 and was contained on November 21, 2018. The fire burned 96,949 acres around the Santa Monica Mountains in the Cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Los Angeles, Malibu, Westlake Village, and areas of Unincorporated Los Angeles County. This brief discusses potential debris flow impacts to County flood control facilities and residences within or below the burned area.

Summary of Potential Sediment Impact

The Woolsey Fire burned area, which includes Debris Production Areas (DPA) 4, 6, and 7, is subdivided into 14 different regions (see Burned Area Map). During a design storm event (a 50-year frequency rainfall), debris flow from the burned canyons may impact several debris basins/debris retaining inlets, rail and timber structures, and flood control channels that are under the purview of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) and are maintained by Stormwater Maintenance Division. Several roads and debris retaining facilities maintained by the Cities of Malibu, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, and Los Angeles, or Caltrans may also be subject to flooding and debris flows.

Detailed descriptions of potential sediment impacts are contained in Attachment A.

Attachments/Links

All the attachments can be found on the internet at <http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/fire>.

Attachment A – Description of Burn and Potential Sediment Impact

Attachment B – History Map

Phase Map/Burned Area Map:

http://egisdev02.isd.lacounty.gov/rabbit/m/index.html?viewer=PostFire_Debris_Flow_Hazards_Public

Debris Flow Phase Map

The debris flow Phase Map (Phases 1, 2, and 3 Potential Hazard Areas) identify the critical locations of potential debris flow impacts below the burned area for varying storm

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magnitudes. These maps are prepared when potential debris flows pose a major impact to homes, roadways, flood control facilities, or other public infrastructures. These maps and the Burned Area Brief can be accessed through the internet at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Fire/2018fire.cfm?fire_id=Woolsey. The phase maps have been provided to Stormwater Maintenance Division (SWMD) and County/local Fire and Sheriff Departments. Stormwater Engineering Division (SWED) will post debris flow potential forecasts on the aforementioned web site for each forecasted significant storm event throughout this storm season and the four subsequent storm seasons.

Coordination

From November 12-15, 2018, SWED staff conducted a field reconnaissance of the burned area investigating residential and/or County facilities that could be potentially impacted by debris flow during storms. SWED staff reviewed and surveyed potential impacts to 2,957 residences below the burned canyons and hillsides. At the request of all the cities and with the assistance of other divisions, SWED staff offered and/or provided engineering advice to 497 residents, 228 written advice and 269 verbal advice.

SWED staff identified additional potential hazards and mitigation in coordination with SWMD, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), National Park Service (NPS), County Parks and Recreation, and the cities. Various meetings were held on site to discuss protective measures. These sites include, but are not limited to, Triunfo Creek, Trancas Canyon, Seminole Hot Springs, and Ramirez Canyon. Rehabilitation or construction of Rail & Timber structures were completed or considered for these sites.

If you have any questions regarding this fire report, please contact Michael Miranda at Extension 6164.

JC:vt

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Attach.

cc: Disaster Services (Ezell)
Stormwater Maintenance (Sheridan)
Stormwater Engineering (Zimmer)