

November 12, 2019

TO: Sree Kumar

FROM: Ken Zimmer
Postfire Engineering & Drainage Needs Programs Section

COLORADO FIRE BURNED AREA BRIEF

The Colorado Fire started on August 25, 2019, and was contained on August 27, 2019. The fire burned 26 acres within the Cities of Glendale and Los Angeles located at the intersections of the Ventura and Glendale Freeways (Attachment A). This report focuses on potential mudflow impacts to residences below the burned areas. There are no Public Works maintained facilities that could be impacted by storm produced debris flows from the burned watershed. The City of Glendale requested that Public Works contact residents who may be impacted by debris flows and offer engineering advice.

Summary of Potential Sediment Impact

The Colorado Fire location was in Debris Production Area 7. During a design debris event (50-year frequency storm), debris from the burned hillsides may potentially flow from the burned areas directly into properties and possibly cause flooding and sediment deposition on private properties along east Glenoaks Boulevard (maintained by property owners), Mount Carmel Drive (maintained by the City of Glendale), and Ventura and Glendale Freeways transition roads (maintained by Caltrans). Debris potential is shown on the table on Attachment B.

Detailed descriptions of potential sediment impacts are discussed in Attachment C.

Debris Flow Phase Maps

The phase maps for the fire are found in Attachments D1 and D2. The phase maps (Phases 1, 2, and 3) identify the critical locations of potential debris flow impacts below the burned area for various phases. These maps are prepared when potential debris flows pose a major impact to homes, roadways, flood control facilities, or other public infrastructures. The maps and this report can be accessed through the internet at: <http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/fire>. The phase maps have been provided to the City's first response departments. Stormwater Engineering Division will post debris and debris flow potential forecasts on the internet at the aforementioned site for each forecasted significant storm event throughout this storm season and the four subsequent storm seasons.

Sree Kumar
November 12, 2019
Page 2

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

JK:pt

P:\wrd\POSTFIRE DRAINAGE\FIRE\2019 Fires\Colorado Fire\BAR\Colorado Fire Burn Area Brief.docx

Attach.

cc: Caltrans (Palmer, Wells)
Disaster Services (Ezell)
Stormwater Engineering (Zimmer, Miranda)

ATTACHMENT C

COLORADO FIRE DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND POTENTIAL SEDIMENT IMPACT

Fire Name: Colorado Fire
Date of Fire: August 25 to 27, 2019
Burned Area: 26 Acres
Location: The fire occurred on the slopes near Ventura Freeway and Glendale Freeway transition roads in City of Glendale and City of Los Angeles. Refer to Attachment A (Thomas Guide page: 564 – J4).

Vegetation Types before Burn

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

Fire History

Public Works' fire history records indicate that six fires that have previously occurred in the Colorado Fire burned area since 1927 (Attachment E).

Summary of Potential Postfire Debris Flow Impacts

There are no Public Works maintained facilities impacted by storm produced debris flows from the burned watershed. The City of Glendale requested Public Works to contact residents impacted and offer engineering advice. Public Works reviewed potential impacts to several residences below the burned canyons and hillsides. Engineering advice was offered and/or provided to two residents in the City.

During moderate to severe storms, debris flows from the burned canyons and hillsides may directly impact a couple of homes on East Glenoaks Boulevard and Mount Carmel Drive. The flooding and sediment deposition may also affect the Ventura Freeway and Glendale Freeway transition roads located at south west corner of East Glenoaks Canyon (Attachments D1 & D2).

JK

P:\wrd\POSTFIRE DRAINAGE\FIRE\2019 Fires\Colorado Fire\BAR\Attachment C_Colorado Fire Description.docx