

Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project



2015-16 Storm Season Update

Earlier this month the National Weather Service released a prediction for a strong El Niño storm season for all of Southern California. While the Los Angeles County Flood Control District encourages property owners to know their individual flood risk, the region's flood protection system has successfully weathered five strong-El Niño storm events since the 1950s and is prepared to handle this season's anticipated rainfall, as well.

For the communities along the Arroyo Seco, downstream of Devil's Gate Dam, Los Angeles County Public Works is taking steps, once again, to safeguard the dam's stormwater release valves in preparation for storm season. Protective measures previously implemented at the dam include installing additional steel trashracks, maintenance platforms and floating debris barriers along with the annual removal of sediment accumulated immediately in front of the dam. A Flood Hazard Warning Plan was also put in place that involves notification to the response agencies for any areas of potential flooding along the Arroyo Seco Channel.

The maintenance activities for 2015 will begin in September and include removal of approximately 1,000 cubic yards of sediment, dead tree branches and other vegetative matter from the area immediately in front of the dam. These measures will help retain the dam's flood risk management function during all but the most severe winter storms. The City of Pasadena continues to be a partner in this effort, allowing sediment to be placed temporarily at Johnson Field.

For the long-term, sustainable management of the reservoir, Public Works continues to work with state and federal regulatory agencies and the City of Pasadena to finalize details on the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project and obtain the necessary permits to begin work. This includes plans for significant habitat restoration within the reservoir. Once permits are obtained, Public Works will hold community meetings to discuss the construction details and habitat restoration plan prior to returning to the Board of Supervisors for approval to advertise the project for construction bids and award the construction contract. The construction contract is expected to be awarded in 2016, but the timing, and how much sediment can be removed next year is dependent upon when the permits are issued.

For more information, including details of this year's protective maintenance measures, visit www.lasedimentmanagement.com/devilsgate or contact reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov.

