

Who We Are

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) was established with the adoption of the Flood Control Act in 1915, after a disastrous regional flood took a heavy toll on lives and property. LACFCD is empowered to provide flood protection and water conservation within its boundaries. The LACFCD is governed as a separate entity by the BOS and authority is vested to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The LACFCD system includes over 500 miles of open channel, 2,800 miles of underground storm drains, 36 sediment placement sites, 162 debris basins, 27 spreading facilities and 14 major flood control dams and reservoirs.

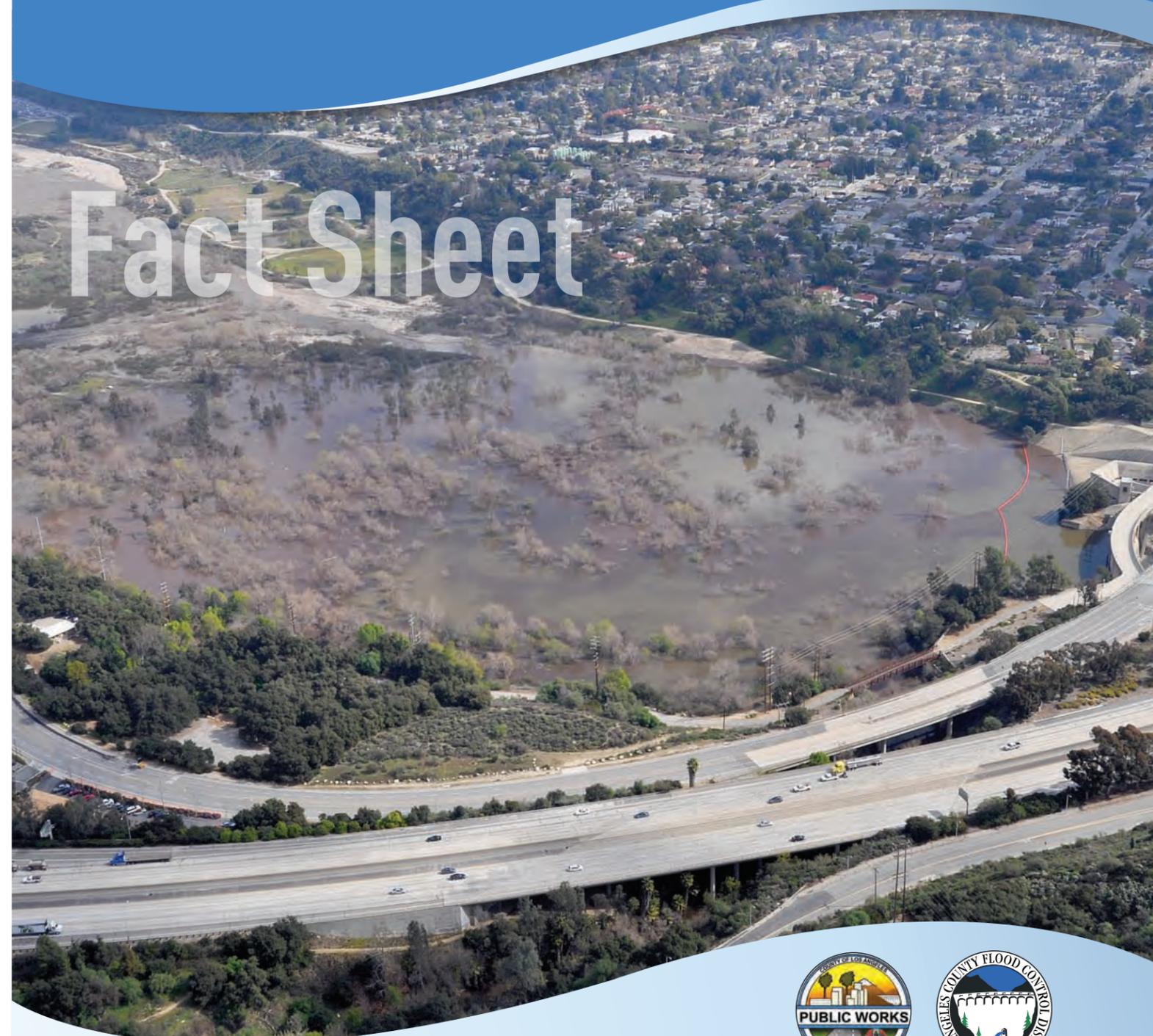
Get Involved!

The EIR process provides multiple opportunities for the public to review, comment, and help define the project. Interested parties are encouraged to email, write, and/or attend any of the planned community meetings. LACFCD welcomes public involvement with the surrounding communities of Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge and Altadena and project stakeholders to ensure that the EIR process is transparent while addressing community and stakeholder concerns. Please visit our website for up-to-date coverage on the project and meeting schedules.



Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Fact Sheet



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website:

www.lasedimentmanagement.com/devilsgate

Send an email:

reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov

or Write to:

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Attn: Water Resources Division - Reservoir Cleanouts
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-9974



Regional Disaster

The 2009 Station Fire was the largest fire in Angeles National Forest recorded history and burned over 160,000 acres in the San Gabriel Mountains. The fire impacted five of the LACFCD's dams and reservoirs, including Devil's Gate. Approximately 68% of the watershed tributary to Devil's Gate Reservoir (approximately 100% of the undeveloped portion) was burned, making sediment deposition inevitable during subsequent storm events. The storms that occurred in the two wet seasons after the fire increased sediment accumulation in the reservoir by more than one million

cubic yards. This major sediment inflow significantly reduced the reservoir's capacity and also buried a large portion of the reservoir vegetation, although significant amounts of vegetation, including numerous mature willow trees remain present. In its current condition, the reservoir no longer has the capacity to safely contain another major debris event; and the outlet works have a risk of becoming clogged and inoperable.

A project to remove sediment from behind Devil's Gate Dam is vital to the health of the Arroyo Seco flood control system. In March 2011, in recognition of stakeholder and environmental concerns, the

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) directed LACFCD to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which would assess the impacts associated with removing sediment from within the reservoir. The BOS also directed that interim measures be implemented each year to reduce downstream flood risk while the EIR is being completed and a sediment removal project is implemented. In 2011, 13,000 cubic yards of sediment was removed from the dam face and is temporarily being stored in Johnson Field, a decommissioned spreading basin.



◀ Project Area

Devil's Gate: A Brief Introduction

Devil's Gate Dam and Reservoir is located in the City of Pasadena, just south of the San Gabriel Mountains. As a result of several major flood events in the early 1900s, Devil's Gate Dam was built in 1920 to serve as a critical flood control and water conservation facility for the Arroyo Seco River and provides flood protection to downstream communities in the cities of Pasadena, South Pasadena and Los Angeles. Devil's Gate Dam is the oldest dam belonging to Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and to date is still operated by the LACFCD as a flood protection facility.

Over the years, storm events have deposited sediment in the Devil's Gate Reservoir, and native and non-native vegetation have grown in the sediment deposits. During subsequent storm events some of the vegetation is washed out or submerged when the reservoir level rises. Despite the dynamic changes to vegetation over time, much of the reservoir has recently contained areas of mature black willow trees, riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub, mule fat scrub and riparian vegetation. Today the area behind Devil's Gate Dam is commonly known as Hahamongna Watershed Park and provides a wide array of recreational opportunities, including picnic facilities, horseback riding, trails, a Frisbee golf course and bird watching.

About the Project

The LACFCD is proposing a project to remove sediment and debris from the reservoir behind Devil's Gate Dam to restore flood control capacity and establish a reservoir configuration more suitable for routine maintenance activities including sediment management. Primary project objectives include:

- Reducing flood risk to the communities downstream of the reservoir adjacent to the Arroyo Seco by restoring reservoir capacity for flood control and future sediment inflow events;
- Supporting sustainability by establishing a reservoir configuration more suitable for routine maintenance activities including sediment management;

- Removing sediment in front of the dam to facilitate an operational reservoir pool to reduce the possibility of plugging the outlet works with sediment or debris during subsequent storm events;
- Removing sediment placed at Johnson Field during the Devil's Gate Reservoir Interim Measures Project;
- Supporting dam safety by removing sediment accumulated in the reservoir in a timely manner to ensure the ability to empty the reservoir in the event of a dam safety concern;
- Delivering the sediment to placement or reuse facilities that are already prepared and designated to accept such material without native vegetation and habitat removal.

What is an EIR?

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a public document used by state and local agencies to fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which compels agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts if feasible. LACFCD has retained Chambers Group, Inc. to prepare an EIR to assess the impacts associated with this critical sediment removal project. Chambers Group, Inc. will manage the preparation of the EIR and all of the associated technical studies to ensure all potential environmental impacts are disclosed and analyzed.

