

December 6, 2012

Approved 
Christopher Stone

TO: Christopher Stone
FROM: Patricia Wood
Facilities Section
Water Resources Division

**RUSTIC FIRE
BURNED AREA REPORT**

Recommendation

Authorize us to send a copy of this report to the City of Los Angeles (Bureau of Engineering) to inform them of the potential impacts to their facilities and to residential properties.

No further action by Public Works is necessary.

Background

Fire Name: Rustic Fire
Date of Fire: September 15, 2012
Burned Area: 9 Acres
Location: The fire occurred along a ridge between Rustic Canyon and Sullivan Canyon in the City of Los Angeles.
Thomas Guide Page: 631-C2

Fire History

Public Works' fire history records indicate that one significant fire previously occurred in the Rustic Canyon Fire burned area. The 1978 Mandeville Fire burned a total of 5,390 acres and overlapped 100 percent of the Rustic Fire burned area.

Vegetation Types before Burn

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

Summary of Potential Sediment Impacts

On September 26, 2012, Water Resources Division (WRD) staff conducted a field reconnaissance of the burned area to determine if residential properties and/or Public Works maintained facilities could potentially be impacted by the debris flows

during severe storms. The Rustic Fire burned approximately 9 acres within the City of Los Angeles. The burned area (See Attachment A – Burned Area Map) is divided into a total of seven subarea watersheds across one Debris Producing Area (DPA Zone 4). During moderate to severe storms, mud and debris may potentially flow toward homes along Old Ranch Road in Sullivan Canyon. Sediment deposition is also anticipated along Sullivan Fire Road in Topanga State Park below the burned area (see Attachment B – Phase Map).

There are no Public Works owned/maintained facilities that could be impacted by storm produced debris flows from the burned areas.

The volumes noted herein are those resulting from a moderate to severe storm event.

Subareas 1, 2, 3, and 4

Subarea 1 consists of a total of 8.6 acres and was 16 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 560 cubic yards (cy).

Subarea 2 consists of a total of 7 acres and was 37 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 540 cy.

Subarea 3 consists of a total of 4 acres and was 2 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 240 cy.

Subarea 4 consists of a total of 9.5 acres and was 14 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 610 cy.

During moderate to severe storms, debris flows from the burned hillsides may potentially impact homes located at the toe of the burned canyons. Debris flow information packets have been mailed to affected residents, however no requests for engineering advice have been received.

Subareas 5, 6, and 7

Subarea 5 consists of a total of 0.5 acres and was 80 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 50 cy.

Subarea 6 consists of a total of 1.6 acres and was 100 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 180 cy.

Subarea 7 consists of a total of 0.9 acres and was 56 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential of 80 cy.

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During moderate to severe storms, mud and debris from the burned slopes may potentially flow onto Sullivan Fire Road, causing localized flooding and sediment deposition along the paved road. This impacted section of road is within the Topanga State Park.

Coordination

WRD personnel mailed an information packet containing the standard offer of engineering advice to the residents below the burned hillsides. To date, WRD has not received any requests for advice.

Mudflow Phase Map and Mudflow Forecasts

The phase map for the fire area is found in Attachment B. The phase map (Phases 1, 2 and 3) identifies the critical locations of potential mudflow impacts below the burned areas for varying storm magnitudes. This map and the rest of the Burned Area Report, when approved, can be accessed through the internet at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Fire/>. WRD will post debris flow (mudflow) potential forecasts on the Internet at the aforementioned site for each significant forecasted storm event throughout this storm season and the four subsequent storm seasons.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Kenneth Rickard at Extension 6154.

SC:vt 

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Attach.

cc: Disaster Services (Lacayo)