



Department of Public Works

- Flood Control
- Operations
- Solid Waste Management
- Surveyor
- Transportation

Brendon Biggs, M.S., P.E.
Interim Director

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT WEST FONTANA CHANNEL (BANANA TO HICKORY) FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District (District) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the construction and maintenance of flood control improvements to the West Fontana Channel within an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County (See attached Figure 1: Regional Location Map). The upstream end of the West Fontana Channel Improvement Project (proposed Project or Project) is located at the outlet of Banana Basin that is southwest of the intersection of Banana Avenue and Whittram Avenue. The downstream end of the Project is located at the entrance to Hickory Basin, southwest of the intersection of Mulberry Avenue and Whittram Avenue. The site is generally located within an area characterized as industrial, and is bordered on the north by commercial and industrial land uses, with a scattering of residences less than 300 feet from the project along Calabash Avenue and Mulberry Avenue. The Metrolink San Bernardino Line is located immediately south of the Project site, and crosses through the western end of the Project site on two bridges. The channel flows under the railway bridges and just south of the bridges are pipe culverts through which the channel discharges into Hickory Basin. Further south, the Project is bordered by the 568-acre Auto Club Speedway facility.

The Project consists of modifying an existing undersized earthen flood control channel. The proposed modifications include construction of non-grouted rock slope protection, sections of concrete rectangular channel and transition lengths and three (3) concrete box culverts. Two (2) of the culverts would replace existing culverts at the adjacent railway bridges near Hickory Basin and the third triple cell culvert would replace the pipe culverts under Calabash Ave. The overall Project length is approximately 0.6 miles. The rectangular concrete channel portion is approximately 200 feet long, not including transition lengths to the proposed culvert sections. The proposed concrete box culverts together are approximately 350 feet in total length. The channel and culverts vary in width and depth to meet the requirements to convey the Master Plan Q100 runoff. It is estimated that the maximum excavation depth at any point would be 25 feet, and the maximum width of the channel at any point of would be approximately 110 feet. The work would also include construction of junction structures to accommodate future connections as described in the Master Plan of Drainage and may include replacement of an existing concrete weir in the outflow of Banana Basin as well as construction of two (2) access ramps/service roads and replace one (1) existing access ramp. The Project also includes necessary utility potholing and geotechnical testing components, ancillary activities such as maintenance on Whittram Avenue from construction traffic, any needed fencing, minor grading in Banana Basin, and equipment parking and staging. All activities would be conducted within the proposed Project disturbance area, with improvements occurring entirely within flood control right-of-way except at the railway crossing. The Project may be constructed in two phases, with intermittent construction activities expected to occur over a twelve (12) month period beginning in mid-2021.

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The Draft MND details the proposed project; evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the operation and maintenance of the proposed project; identifies those impacts that could be significant; and presents mitigation measures, which avoid, minimize or mitigate these impacts. As provided for by CEQA Section 21064.5, a MND may be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when the project will not result in significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level below significance.

The draft MND is available for public review on the District project website: http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/public_notices/public_notices.asp; additionally, copies of the draft MND are also available at the County office listed below.

In accordance with CEQA, a good faith effort has been made during the preparation of this draft MND to contact affected agencies, organizations, and individuals who may have an interest in this project. In reviewing the MND and initial study, affected public agencies and the interested public should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects on the project area are proposed to be avoided or mitigated.

Comments may be made on the draft MND in writing before the end of the comment period. Following the close of the public comment period, the County Board of Supervisors will consider this MND and comments thereto in determining whether to certify the environmental document. Written comments on the draft MND should be sent to the following address no later than **April 2, 2020**:

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San Bernardino County's Board of Supervisors will consider this document for approval and certification during a future public hearing.