

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200
Santa Barbara, California 93101
805\568-3445



SCOTT MCGOLPIN

Director

May 4, 2020

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED RANDALL ROAD DEBRIS BASIN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (District) proposes to construct and maintain a debris basin to address public safety associated with post-fire debris flows.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project would be implemented at a 9.2 acre site immediately northeast of the East Valley Road/Randall Road intersection in the community of Montecito in the First Supervisorial District.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT: The District is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). You may comment by providing testimony at the public hearing on **May 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.** Due to ongoing building closures due to COVID-19, the hearing will be conducted remotely using the **Zoom** application. Please contact the project manager Andrew Raaf (asraaf@cosbpw.net or 805-568-3445) **before 5 p.m. on May 19, 2020** to arrange an on-line invitation to the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this hearing, please contact the Project Manager at (805) 568-3445. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.

PROJECT DETAILS: The proposed project consists of the construction and long-term periodic maintenance of a new debris basin on San Ysidro Creek to capture sediment and debris transported from the watershed upstream of the project site. The design of the project provides an area for deposition of large sediment loads and woody debris during/following larger storm events while maintaining natural sediment transport during smaller storm events. The proposed debris basin design spans San Ysidro Creek, with most of the debris basin located west of the San Ysidro Creek channel and a smaller portion of the debris basin located east of the channel. Post-construction habitat restoration is proposed on the berm along East Valley Road, along the creek and the basin slopes. The debris basin would be constructed as an "off channel" basin, meaning the basin would only receive flows and material (sediment and debris) once the designed channel capacity has been exceeded which correlates to the water surface elevation generated in a 5-year flow event. Water flows of equal or lesser intensity than a 5-year event would remain in the channel to facilitate fine sediment transport and migratory fish passage. Flows above a 5-year event would exceed the channel capacity and leave the channel and expand into the debris basin. The San Ysidro Creek channel would be recontoured along approximately the existing alignment, and the bottom width would be similar to existing conditions. The existing banks, which are currently steep and near vertical in some locations, would be graded and re-contoured to create wider, more gently sloped banks.

About 97,000 cubic yards of earth material would be excavated to construct the debris basin, with a portion re-used on-site to re-configure the streambed and banks, line the lower slopes of the debris basin with rock, and construct access ramps and surface access roads. However, most of this material would be trucked off-site following any required sorting and rock crushing.

AA/EEO Employer

Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Director
Leslie Wells, Deputy Director

Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director
Julie Hagan, Deputy Director

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The proposed debris basin would be included in the District's Debris Basin Maintenance Program and subject to standard practices and mitigation measures identified in the Debris Basin Maintenance Plan. It is anticipated that desilting of the debris basin would occur about every four to seven years but could occur several times in one year following a major fire in the watershed and/or intense storm seasons. Maintenance of the creek channel may occur every 1-2 years but is likely to be less frequent.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: The District has prepared a Draft EIR pursuant to the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. Significant effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise and transportation**. The Draft EIR provides mitigation measures to reduce these significant effects to a less than significant level.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: An electronic copy of the Draft EIR can be accessed through the internet at: <http://countyofsb.org/pwd/water.sbc> under the News and Announcements section. The Draft EIR may be obtained and all documents referenced in the EIR may be reviewed at the District offices located at 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200, Santa Barbara. Access to the District offices must be arranged in advance due to COVID-19 closures; please contact the project manager in advance to arrange access to view documents in person. Draft documents are also available (pending re-opening of local libraries) for review at the Santa Barbara Public Library at 40 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara and the Montecito Branch Library at 1469 East Valley Road.

HOW TO COMMENT: Written or oral comments should be provided to the Project Manager, Andrew Raaf at 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, prior to the close of the public comment period on June 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.