



Department of Public Works

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

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Kevin Blakeslee, P.E.
Director

MAY 08 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT LENWOOD FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND 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) to address the operation and maintenance of the Lenwood flood control facilities located in the Lenwood area of the City of Barstow, CA. The facilities include approximately 220 acres of earthen spreading grounds, a concrete spillway and an earthen channel that provide a source of groundwater recharge and flood protection to adjacent and downstream property owners. Routine, on-going maintenance activities proposed generally include access road repair and related herbicide, vegetation management, excavation to reestablish flow line and improve groundwater recharge and design capacity, bank repair, concrete and appurtenant structure repair, and spillway improvements. The spillway improvements include upgrades required to convey larger storm flows.

The proposed Project is located west of the Interstate 15 freeway and south Lenwood Avenue, at the northwest corner of Green Desert Drive and Salt Springs Avenue (dirt roads), in the City of Barstow, approximately 1 mile west of the Barstow Outlet shopping center at Lenwood Rd. and the I-15 freeway. The District will act as the Lead Agency under CEQA and will obtain all necessary regulatory permits.

The District's Lenwood facilities supports a drainage area of approximately 43,560 acres and must be maintained routinely to achieve the District's goals of optimum groundwater recharge and flood protection. Maintenance of the channel and spreading grounds and related spillway improvements require the District to obtain environmental permits from various state and federal agencies. Currently, the lack of maintenance in the channel and spreading grounds due to the lack of permits has created sediment and debris buildup over time, resulting in a decreased capacity for storm flow containment and groundwater recharge. Further, in August 2014, the spillway of the Lenwood Spreading Grounds was destroyed by large volumes of debris-laden sediment that washed down through the spillway. The spillway is an integral part of the flood control facility because it regulates the water flow into Lenwood Channel and allows water to percolate within the spreading grounds.

Maintenance activities within Lenwood facilities include:

- Lenwood Spreading Grounds Initial Sediment Removal Maintenance- removal of approximately 1.9 million cubic yards of sediment and debris over time that has built up within 16 basin bottoms, repair of earthen basin side slopes and repair of the connecting weirs and dikes within approximately 181 acres of the 220-acre facility;
- Lenwood Spreading Grounds Maintenance - Following the Initial Sediment Removal, this activity entails the removal of approximately 200,000 cubic yards annually of sediment and debris within 16 basin bottoms, repair of earthen basin side slopes and repair of the connecting weirs and dikes with work anticipated to alternate annually within 90 acres maintained each year within approximately 180 acres of the 220-acre facility.

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- Lenwood Spreading Grounds Spillway Improvements – located at the northwestern end of the spreading grounds to convey water to the Lenwood Channel, the damaged spillway and adjacent, damaged earthen slope/levee will be replaced with a rock slope protection structure and new spillway to convey flows to the subchannel downstream. The total improvements be approximately 220 feet wide by 92 feet in length, and be made of primarily permeable materials (rock rip-rap and filter fabric). Immediately downstream, there will be some grading and slope stabilization to properly convey flows downstream and to reduce future maintenance needs. Once constructed, maintenance of the spillway will include structural repairs as necessary.
- Lenwood Channel Maintenance – annual sediment and repair side slopes as necessary in approximately 1.7 miles (approximately 61 acres) of the Lenwood Channel.
- Access Road Maintenance – maintenance of approximately 10.5 miles of access roads throughout the Lenwood Spreading Grounds and along the Lenwood Channel.

The Draft MND details the proposed project; evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with 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 available at the County office listed below and at the Barstow Branch Library, located at 304 E. Buena Vista St., Barstow, CA

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 **June 8, 2019**:

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



Figure 1



LENWOOD SPREADING GROUNDS
Site Vicinity

Figure 2