

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

In accordance with Section 15072 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, this notice is to inform the general public and County residents that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), on behalf of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) has completed a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the following proposed project:

Project Title: Debris Basin Maintenance Program IS/MND for the Section 1605 Long-term Streambed Alteration Agreement

Project Description: The Debris Basin Maintenance Program consists of activities and protocols related to sediment removal and debris basin maintenance at 162 existing debris basins throughout the County of Los Angeles. The Program does not involve new construction, expansion or alteration of the debris basins, but rather includes longstanding and ongoing maintenance activities to protect downstream properties and allow the debris basins to adequately serve their main functions for debris flow reduction and flood control. The operation of the Program involves several basic activities carried out at the 162 debris basins. In the course of one year, each of the 162 debris basins receives at least one round of routine maintenance, which may include: (1) annual brush clearing, tree trimming, and vegetation mowing; (2) annual entrainment channel and outlet tower clearing; (3) sediment removal; (4) access road maintenance and other appurtenances; (5) State Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) compliance; (6) storm damage repair and restoration projects; and/or (7) exotic species eradication control.

The IS/MND will serve as the CEQA documentation required to support the request by the LACFCD for the issuance of a Section 1605 Long-term Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for continued implementation of the County of Los Angeles' Debris Basin Maintenance Program. As part of the issuance of the Section 1605 Agreement, the LACFCD is not proposing any change to ongoing activities that are being implemented under the Maintenance Program. Therefore, continued implementation of the Maintenance Program does not represent a change to the environment, and any potential environmental impacts identified within the IS/MND do not represent a change from historic Maintenance Program activities.

Project Locations: The majority of the 162 existing County-owned and maintained debris basins are located in the foothills of the Santa Monica, San Gabriel, Verdugo, and Puente Hills Mountains. However, three of the debris basins are located in the northern foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains near the Palmdale/Lancaster area.

Public Review Period:	Begins Friday, December 3, 2010 and ends Monday, January 3, 2011
Lead Agency:	Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Contact Person:	Ms. Jemellee Cruz, P E
	900 S. Fremont Avenue, Annex Building, 2 nd Floor
	Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Availability of Mitigated Negative Declaration: The IS/MND, as well as all referenced documents, will be available for public review at the LACFCD office listed above between the hours of 7.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday through Thursday. The document can also be reviewed on <u>http://dpw.lacounty.gov/lacfcd/mnd.cfm</u> as well as at the following 17 public libraries during normal business hours: Agoura Hills Library, La Cañada Flintridge Library, La Crescenta Library, Monrovia Public Library, Pasadena Central Library, Glendora Library, Glendale Central Library, Montrose-Crescenta Branch Library, Pacific Palisades Library. Palmdale City Library, Platt Branch Library, Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library, Rowland Heights Library, Sylmar Branch Library, South El Monte Library. View Park Library (Los Angeles), and Valencia Library.

Methods of Submitting Comments: Please submit any comments on the IS/MND to Ms. Jemellee Cruz at the above listed address or email to: <u>jcruz@dpw.lacounty.gov</u> before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 3, 2011.

Ms. Jemellee Cruz. P.E