

September 29, 2009

Approved 
Christopher Stone

TO: Christopher Stone

FROM: Patricia Wood 
Facilities Section

FREEWAY FIRE BURNED AREA REPORT

The Freeway Fire occurred on August 4, 2009. A total of 30 acres burned, all of which were within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District boundary. The northerly portion of the burned area is located within the City of Glendale and the southerly portion is located within the City of Los Angeles

Recommendations

1. Provide engineering advice to impacted residents upon request by City.
2. Authorize us to send copies of this report to the following entities apprising them of the potential impacts of the burn and recommended measures:
 - Supervisor Michael D Antonovich
 - City of Glendale
 - City of Los Angeles
 - Caltrans

Attachments

- A. Burned Area Map
- B. Description of Burn and Potential Sediment Impact
- C. Mudflow Phase Maps

Attachment C-1, Phase 1 Map
Attachment C-2, Phase 2 Map
Attachment C-3, Phase 3 Map

Summary of Potential Sediment Impact

The Freeway Fire burned approximately 30 acres within the City of Glendale and the City of Los Angeles. The burned area (Attachment A) is divided into a total of seven subarea watersheds across one Debris Producing Area (DPA Zone 2). During a design storm event (50-year frequency rainfall) mud and debris will flow directly into the lower region of the impacted canyons below the burned area. Streets maintained by the City

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of Glendale (Glenoaks Drive, Scholl Drive, Glen Ivy Drive, Waltonia Drive, and Blackmore Drive) maybe impacted by storm produced debris and mudflow. On August 20, 2009, a field reconnaissance of the burned area was conducted by Water Resources Division (WRD) staff and revealed a serious debris and mudflow hazard to some residents who live on the potentially impacted residential streets. On August 24, we contacted the City of Glendale Public Works and offered to provide engineering advice to property owners below the burned canyons. The City accepted our offer to contact affected residents in Scholl Canyon. On September 28, 2009, WRD staff initiated a response to provide engineering advice to affected residents. We will send the engineering advice information to the City of Glendale when the forms have been compiled

Details of potential sediment impacts are provided in Attachment B (Description of Burn and Potential Sediment Impact).

Mudflow Phase Maps

The phase maps for the fire are found in Attachment C. These maps are prepared when potential mudflows pose a major threat to private property, roadways, flood control facilities, or other public infrastructure. The phase maps identify the critical locations and magnitudes of potential mudflow impacts below the burned areas and are used in conjunction with the mudflow phase forecasts that are prepared prior to and during significant storms. The maps and mudflow phase forecasts can be accessed by emergency response agencies and the public at Public Works' website. The website also provides the means for individuals to sign up for automatic notifications of newly posted mudflow forecasts

The approved Burned Area Report and mudflow phase forecasts will be posted on the internet at <http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/fire>.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Michael Miranda at Extension 6164.

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HR

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Attach

cc: Mark Pestrella
Flood Maintenance (Lee, Vander Vis)
Watershed Management (Miranda, Ross)

ATTACHMENT A
BURNED AREA MAP

ATTACHMENT B

DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND POTENTIAL SEDIMENT IMPACT

ATTACHMENT B

Freeway Fire Description of Burn and Potential Sediment Impact

Fire Name: Freeway Fire
Date of Fire: August 4, 2009
Burned Area: Approximately 30 acres
Location: East of Freeway 2 and north of Freeway 134 within the Cities of Glendale and Los Angeles, the burned area boundary is delineated in Attachment A (Thomas Guide page 564 - J4).

Vegetation Type Before Burn

Grassland
Coastal Sage Scrub
Oak Woodland

Improvements Damaged

The Los Angeles County Fire Department reports no structures were damaged or destroyed as a result of this fire.

Fire History

The Glenoaks Canyon Fire that occurred on December 7, 1988, is the most recent significant fire in the same area. The Glenoaks Canyon Fire burned 350 acres and overlapped approximately 50 percent of the Freeway Fire burned area, primarily in the City of Los Angeles.

Potential Sediment Impact Below/Within the Burned Area

The burned area is divided into a total of seven subarea watersheds (Attachment A). One Debris Producing Area (DPA-2) lies within the burned area.

Subareas 1, 2, 3, and 4

Subarea 1 watershed has an area of 8 acres within the City of Glendale. The subarea was 16 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 1,050 cubic yards. During major storms, residential properties below the burned canyon may experience some mudflow deposition. Sediment flow from the burned canyon may impact portions of Glen Ivy Drive, Waltonia Drive, and Glenoaks Boulevard, which are maintained by the City of Glendale. Assessment of impacts is under the purview of the City of Glendale.

Subarea 2 watershed has an area of 8 acres within the City of Glendale. The subarea was 64 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 1,460 cubic yards. During major storms, residential properties below the burned canyon may experience some mudflow deposition. Sediment flow from the burned canyon may impact portions of Glen Ivy Drive, Waltonia Drive, and Scholl Drive, which are maintained by the City of Glendale. Assessment of impacts is under the purview of the City of Glendale.

Subarea 3 watershed has an area of 3 acres within the City of Glendale. The subarea was 73 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 600 cubic yards. During major storms, residential properties below the burned canyon may experience some mudflow deposition. Sediment flow from the burned canyon may impact portions of Scholl Drive, Glen Ivy Drive, Glenoaks Boulevard, and Blackmore Drive, which are maintained by the City of Glendale. Assessment of impacts is under the purview of the City of Glendale.

Subarea 4 watershed has an area of 7 acres within the City of Glendale. The subarea was 89 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 1,530 cubic yards. During major storms, residential properties below the burned canyon may experience some mudflow deposition. Sediment flow from the burned canyon may impact portions of Scholl Drive, Glen Ivy Drive, and Glenoaks Boulevard, which are maintained by the City of Glendale. Assessment of impacts is under the purview of the City of Glendale.

Subareas 5, 6, and 7

Subarea 5 has an area of 5 acres located on the privately owned land within the City of Los Angeles. The subarea was burned 6 percent creating an adjusted debris production potential of 650 cubic yards. As a result, during a major storm, mud and debris from the burned hillside could potentially flow onto the lanes of the 2/134 transition covering the drain inlets. Assessment of the impacts to the storm drain inlets is under the purview of Caltrans. The mud and debris flows are not expected to impact residences or County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) facilities.

Subarea 6 has an area of 10 acres located on the privately owned land within the City of Los Angeles. The subarea was burned 85 percent creating an adjusted debris production potential of 2,150 cubic yards. As a result, during a major storm, mud and debris from the burned hillside could potentially flow onto the lanes of the 2/134 transition covering the drain inlets. Assessment of the impacts to the storm drain inlets is under the purview of Caltrans. The mud and debris flows are not expected to impact residences or Public Works facilities.

Subarea 7 has an area of 10 acres located on the privately owned land within the City of Los Angeles. The subarea was burned 52 percent creating an adjusted debris production potential of 1,700 cubic yards. As a result, during a major storm, mud and debris from the burned hillside could potentially flow onto the lanes of the 2/134 transition, covering the drain inlets. Assessment of the impacts to the storm drain inlets is under the purview of Caltrans. The mud and debris flows are not expected to impact residences or Public Works facilities.

ATTACHMENT C

PHASE 1 MAP C-1

PHASE 2 MAP C-2

PHASE 3 MAP C-3