


September 17, 2009

Approved 
Christopher Stone

TO Christopher Stone
FROM Patricia Wood 
Facilities Section
Water Resources Division

**SLOAN FIRE
BURNED AREA REPORT**

The Sloan Fire occurred on July 17 and 18, 2009, and burned a total of 81 acres, all of which were within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District boundary. The entire burned area is located within the unincorporated County area of Castaic.

Recommendations

1. Authorize us, by copy of this report, to provide confirmation to the following
 - a. Flood Maintenance Division (FMD) of the potential sediment impacts to all storm drains and debris retention facilities maintained by Public Works within/below the burned area including Sloan Creek. As discussed with FMD staff, FMD will monitor these facilities for postfire sediment impacts during storms and clean out these facilities in accordance with established criteria and within environmental regulatory requirements. The monitoring should continue for the next four to five years until the watershed has significantly recovered from the burn.
 - b. Road Maintenance Division (RMD) of the potential sediment impacts to all roads and culverts maintained by Public Works within/below the burned area. It is our understanding from RMD that its established maintenance routines already incorporate monitoring for postfire sediment impacts during storms and cleaning out these facilities in accordance with established criteria.
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
 - Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority
 - County of Los Angeles Fire Department
 - Castaic Area Town Council

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 Sloan Fire, which started on July 17, 2009, burned approximately 81 acres in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The burned area (Attachment A) is divided into a total of five subarea watersheds across one Debris Producing Area (DPA Zone 5). The detailed evaluation of potential mudflow impacts to facilities and residences in this report concentrates on County facilities and unincorporated County residents of Castaic.

Increased sediment inflow is anticipated at Mustang Debris Basin in Castaic. FMD and Water Resources Division (WRD) staff reviewed this facility and discussed the potential impacts. FMD will monitor the debris basin and facility access roads during storms and clean them when necessary.

Sloan Canyon Road and Oakhorn Road, including any road drains below the burned area, may be subject to potential flooding/mudflow and deposition during storms causing possible periodic closure to traffic. The road and its drains are maintained by Public Works. RMD (MD5) was apprised of the potential impacts. It is our understanding from RMD that its maintenance routine for the road already incorporates monitoring of the roads and its drains during storms for debris deposition and cleaning them when needed.

WRD staff provided engineering advice to unincorporated area properties that are located along the southerly boundary of the burn area and may be potentially impacted by postfire mudflows during storms. Details of potential sediment impacts are provided in the Description of Burn and Potential Sediment Impact (Attachment B).

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Mudflow Phase Maps

The phase maps for the fire are found in Attachment C. These maps are prepared when potential mudflows may significantly impact homes, 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, maps, and mudflow 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.

HR:vt

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Attach.

cc: Mark Pestrella
Flood Maintenance (Lee, Vander Vis)
Road Maintenance (Lehman, Caddick)

ATTACHMENT A
BURNED AREA MAP

ATTACHMENT B

DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND POTENTIAL SEDIMENT IMPACT

ATTACHMENT B

Sloan Fire Description of Burn and Potential Sediment Impact

Fire Name: Sloan Fire
Date of Fire: July 17 to 18, 2009
Burned Area: Approximately 81 acres
Location: Northerly of Sloan Canyon Road and westerly of Interstate 5 within the unincorporated territory of Los Angeles County, near the community of Castaic. The burned area boundary is delineated in Attachment A (Thomas Guide page 4369, E6).

Vegetation Type Before Burn

Grass
Chaparral
Mixed Sage Scrub

Improvements Damaged

The Fire Department reports no structures were destroyed as a result of this fire.

Fire History

The August 27, 2001, Sloan Canyon Fire is the most recent significant fire in the same area. The 1,850 acre Sloan Canyon Fire burned area overlapped 96 percent of the Sloan Fire burned area. The Ridge 98 Fire on September 21, 1928, is another significant fire, which burned in the same area.

Potential Sediment Impact Below/Within the Burned Area

The burned area is divided into a total of 5 subarea watersheds (Attachment A). One Debris Producing Area (DPA-5) lies within the burned area.

Subarea 1

Subarea 1 comprises the watershed of Mustang Canyon and has a total area of 28 acres. The subarea is located on lands owned by the Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) and privately-owned property in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area. The subarea was 20 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 9,000 cubic yards. As a result, during a major storm, approximately 9,000 cubic yards of sediment from the burned hillsides could potentially deposit directly into Mustang Debris Basin (a Public Works maintained facility).

As discussed with Flood Maintenance Division (FMD), they will monitor sediment deposition behind the debris dam after major storms and clean out the basin as needed. While the burned watershed recovers over the next several years, FMD will continue to monitor this facility for postfire sediment inflow during major storms and continue to clean it out when it meets the appropriate cleanout criterion.

Subarea 2

Subarea 2 consists of an unnamed canyon adjacent to Sloan Canyon with a total area of 10 acres and is located on State-owned lands (MRCA) and privately-owned property in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area. The subarea was 13 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 5,400 cubic yards. During major storms, mud and debris flows from the burned hillsides on the west side of Sloan Canyon may flow onto the northerly portion of Sloan Canyon Road and into the Sloan Canyon Wash where it deposits in Sloan Canyon.

Subarea 3

Subarea 3 has a total area of 30 acres and is located on State-owned lands (MRCA) and privately-owned property in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area. The subarea was 85 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 4,300 cubic yards. During major storms, mud and debris from the burned area may spread onto Oakhorn Road and the wide, flat open area at the mouth of the canyon. Water Resources Division (WRD) staff has provided engineering advice to the owner of a residence that may be potentially impacted by postfire mudflows during storms (Attachment D).

Subarea 4

Subarea 4 has a total area of 12 acres and is located on State-owned lands (MRCA) and privately-owned property in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area. The subarea was 86 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 1,700 cubic yards. During major storms, mud and debris from the burned area may spread onto Oakhorn Road and the wide, flat open area at the mouth of the canyon.

Subarea 4a

Subarea 4a has an area of 1 acre and is located on privately-owned property in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area. The subarea was 43 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 60 cubic yards. During major storms, mud and debris may flow down the burned hillside and could potentially impact an out building at the rear of the residence. WRD staff has provided engineering advice to the owner of the residence that may be potentially impacted by postfire mudflows during storms (Attachment D).

ATTACHMENT C

PHASE 1 – C-1

PHASE 2 – C-2

PHASE 3 – C-3

ATTACHMENT D

POST-BURN ENGINEERING ADVICE