

August 18, 2009

TO: Christopher Stone *Stone*

FROM: Patricia Wood *PAW*
Facilities Section

**TUJUNGA FIRE
BURNED AREA REPORT**

The Tujunga Fire occurred on July 5, 2009, and continued to July 7, 2009. A total of 217 acres burned, all of which were within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District boundary. The entire burned area is within the Angeles National Forest.

Recommendations

1. No further action by Public Works is necessary.
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 Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power
 - U.S Forest Service, Angeles National Forest
 - County of Los Angeles Fire Department

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 Tujunga Fire, which started on July 5, 2009, burned approximately 217 acres within the Angeles National Forest boundary. The burned area (see Attachment A) is divided into a total of five subarea watersheds across one Debris Producing Area (DPA Zone 1). During a design storm event (50-year rainfall

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frequency), debris will flow directly into the low region of the canyon below the burned area. No Public Works facilities or residences are anticipated to be impacted by storm produced debris flows.

It is anticipated that during moderate storms, there may be potential debris deposition on ranch properties below the burned area. Also, potential mudflow may impact to the City of Los Angeles (City) transmission towers. Evaluation of potential impacts to the transmission towers is under the City's purview. It is our understanding that City personnel and private property owners are evaluating and monitoring these facilities.

The Marek Fire of October 2008, identified seven properties in the Little Tujunga Canyon watershed that were at risk for debris and mudflow damage. The engineering advice given to each property ranged from placing sandbags at strategic locations to constructing deflector walls to protect private property.

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.

SC:vt

Attach.

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

ATTACHMENT A
BURNED AREA MAP

ATTACHMENT B

DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND POTENTIAL SEDIMENT IMPACT

ATTACHMENT B

Tujunga Fire Description of Burn and Potential Sediment Impact

Fire Name: Tujunga Fire
Date of Fire: July 5 - 7, 2009
Burned Area: Approximately 217 acres
Location: East of Little Tujunga Canyon Road and in the area of Cottonwood Canyon within the Angeles National Forest, the burned area boundary is delineated in Attachment A (Thomas Guide page 4723 - D3, D4, E3, and E4).

Vegetation Type Before Burn

Grass
Chaparral
Mixed Sage Scrub

Improvements Damaged

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

Fire History

The Mill Fire burned this same area on November 21, 1975.

Potential Sediment Impact Below/Within the Burned Area

The burned area is divided into a total of 5 subarea watersheds (see Attachment A). One Debris Producing Area (DPA-1) lies within the burned area.

Subarea 1 □ Oak Spring Canyon

Subarea 1 consists of the watershed of Oak Spring Canyon along the northerly and easterly boundary of the burned area with the total area of 617 acres. The subarea is located on federally owned lands within the Angeles National Forest and privately owned property. The subarea was 14 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 68,000 cubic yards. As a result, during a major storm, approximately 68,000 cubic yards of mud and debris from the burned hillsides could potentially flow directly into an undeveloped channel of the lower west region of the canyon.

Subarea 2

Subarea 2 consists of a small canyon northwesterly of Cottonwood Canyon with a total area of 10 acres and is located on privately owned lands within the Angeles National Forest. The subarea was 66 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 3,000 cubic yards. During major storms, mud and debris may flow into an undeveloped channel from the burned hillsides and could potentially impact the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) transmission tower on the defined mudflow path. Evaluation of potential impacts to this facility is under the City's purview.

Subarea 3 Cottonwood Canyon

Subarea 3 consists of the watershed of Cottonwood Canyon with a total area of 115 acres and is located on federally owned lands within the Angeles National Forest and privately owned property. The subarea was 92 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 31,000 cubic yards. During storms, mud and debris flows from the burned hillsides may potentially impact the DWP transmission tower and animal pens on the defined mudflow path. Evaluation of potential impacts to the transmission tower is under the City's purview.

Subarea 4

Subarea 4 has a total area of 61 acres and is located on federally owned lands within the Angeles National Forest and privately owned property. The subarea was 22 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 14,000 cubic yards. During major storms, mud and debris flows from the burned canyon could potentially impact the DWP transmission tower and privately owned non-residential structures. Evaluation of potential impacts to the transmission tower is under the City's purview.

Subarea 5

Subarea 5 has a total area of 96 acres and is located on federally owned lands within the Angeles National Forest and privately owned property. The subarea was 6 percent burned creating an adjusted debris production potential of 18,000 cubic yards. As a result, during a major storm, approximately 18,000 cubic yards of mud and debris from the burned hillsides could potentially flow directly into an undeveloped channel and potentially impact a private non-residential structure at the lower west region of the canyon.

ATTACHMENT C

PHASE 1 MAP C-1

PHASE 2 MAP C-2

PHASE 3 MAP C-3