

September 14, 2010

Approved

  
for Christopher Stone

TO: Christopher Stone

FROM: Patricia Wood *P.W.*  
Facilities Section  
Water Resources Division

**BRIGGS FIRE  
BURNED AREA REPORT**

Recommendation

Authorize us to provide confirmation to Road Maintenance Division (RMD) of the potential sediment impacts to Soledad Canyon Road and inlets (maintained by Public Works) below the burned area. It is our understanding that RMD's standard routine calls for monitoring these facilities for postfire sediment impacts during storms and cleaning these facilities in accordance with its established criteria. The monitoring should continue for the next four to five years until the watershed has significantly recovered from the burn.

Attachments

- A. Burned Area Map
- B. List of residents either contacted or received engineering advice.

Background

Fire Name: Briggs Fire  
Date of Fire: July 29, 2010  
Burned Area: 553 Acres  
Location: Primarily in Indian Canyon south of Soledad Canyon Road near Acton. The brush fire occurred within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District boundary. Refer to Thomas Guide Page 4464, B-7. The burned area boundary is plotted on Attachment A.

Summary of Potential Sediment Impact

On August 3, 2010, Water Resources Division (WRD) staff conducted a field reconnaissance of the burned area to determine if County drainage facilities would potentially be impacted by flooding/debris flows during storms. It is anticipated that during a Design Debris Event (DDE) storm, mudflow from the burned canyons may

impact four properties downstream, County maintained culverts, and Soledad Canyon Road. The 553-acre burned area is located within the Debris Production Area (DPA) 5 and includes 11 subareas (see Attachment A).

### Subareas 1 and 2

**Subarea 1** has an area of 11 acres and is 18 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 830 cubic yards (cy) of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

**Subarea 2** has an area of 3 acres and is 33 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 260 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

Debris mudflow from these two watershed subareas could flow onto the Soledad Canyon Road and create a traffic hazard. RMD routinely monitors Soledad Canyon Road during storms and clears it as necessary. There are no homes below these watershed subareas that may be impacted.

### Subarea 3

**Subarea 3** has an area of 18 acres and is 50 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 1,700 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

Two residences are below the burned watershed subarea and may be impacted by debris mudflow during storms. WRD staff has provided engineering advice to the property owners.

### Subarea 4

**Subarea 4** has an area of 483 acres and is 95 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 28,600 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

The watershed is expected to experience an additional 30,000 cy of debris flow from the 2009 Station Fire. The 7- by 12-foot box culvert under Soledad Canyon Road, a wood bridge, may plug with large amounts of debris and mudflow. If the culvert plugs, the integrity of Soledad Canyon Road may be affected and may create a traffic hazard.

RMD routinely monitors the road and the culvert box and clears them as necessary during and after storms. Debris flows from this subarea can potentially impact a camp site at 8237 Soledad Canyon Road. WRD staff provided engineering advice to the resident.

#### Subareas 5 and 6

**Subarea 5** has an area of 7 acres and is 43 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 640 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

**Subarea 6** has an area of 8 acres and is 50 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 770 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

Debris mudflow from these two watershed subareas could flow onto Soledad Canyon Road and create a traffic hazard. RMD routinely monitors Soledad Canyon Road during storms and clears it when necessary. There are no homes below these watershed subareas that may be impacted.

#### Subareas 7, 8, and 9

**Subarea 7** has an area of 13 acres and is 31 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 1,100 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

**Subarea 8** has an area of 11 acres and is 64 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 1,150 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

**Subarea 9** has an area of 13 acres and is 54 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 1,300 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

Flows from the watershed subareas are collected at culverts at the mile markers (MM) shown on Attachment A. During a major storm, sediment flowing from the burned canyons may plug the culverts and spill onto Soledad Canyon Road and create a traffic hazard. RMD routinely monitors the road and culverts and clears them as necessary during storms. There are no residences below these three burned watershed subareas.

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### Subareas 10 and 11

**Subarea 10** has an area of 70 acres and is 64 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 7,000 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

**Subarea 11** has an area of 182 acres and is 7 percent burned. During a DDE storm (a debris event associated with a 50-year rainfall frequency), an estimated 8,000 cy of sediment (adjusted debris production due to burn) may be produced.

Flows from the watershed subareas are collected at culverts at the MMs on Attachment A. During a major storm, sediment flowing from the burned canyons may plug the culverts and spill onto Soledad Canyon Road and create a traffic hazard. RMD routinely monitors the culverts and road and clears them as necessary during storms.

There is a campground on the northern side of Soledad Canyon Road, which may directly be impacted from debris flow. WRD staff observed that berm work had been done on the site. WRD staff left a packet of general engineering mudflow advice with an employee inside the campground and notified him about the potential impact. Another packet was mailed to the property owner of record.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Hans Riedel at Extension 6300 or Mike Miranda at Extension 6164.

A.V.  
AV:vt  
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MM  
Attach.

cc: Road Maintenance (Caddick)