

October 20, 2011

Approved 
Christopher Stone

TO Christopher Stone
FROM Patricia Wood *PM.*
Facilities Section
Water Resources Division

ALIZIA FIRE – BURNED AREA REPORT

Recommendations

- 1) Authorize us to send a copy of this report to the City of Calabasas and the Los Angeles County Fire Department apprising them of the potential impacts within the City limits.
- 2) Authorize us to provide confirmation to Flood Maintenance Division (FMD) of the potential sediment impacts to PD 562 (maintained by Public Works) below the burned area. It is our understanding that FMD's standard routine calls for monitoring this facility for postfire sediment impacts during storms and cleaning this facility 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
- 3) No further action by Public Works is necessary

Background

Fire Name: Alizia Fire
Date of Fire August 29, 2011
Burned Area. 6 acres
Location: The fire occurred on the hillside west of Alizia Canyon Drive in the City of Calabasas. Refer to Attachment A (Thomas Guide Page 558–H3) This fire occurred within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Fire History

The Topanga Fire in 2005 was the most recent significant fire in the same area. The 23,000 acre Topanga Fire burned area overlapped 100 percent of the Alizia Fire burned area

Summary of Potential Sediment Impact

On September 19, 2011, Water Resources Division (WRD) staff conducted a field reconnaissance of the burned area to determine if residential properties and/or Public Works maintained facilities could potentially be impacted by the flooding/debris flows during storms. The burned area is divided into six subarea watersheds across one Debris Production Area (DPA) Zone 6. Vegetation of the watersheds prior to the burn consisted of grasses and coastal sage scrub.

Subarea 1

Subarea 1 consists of a total area of 9.4 acres and was 33 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential (50-year rainfall frequency) of 470 cubic yards (cy). During moderate to severe storm events, mud and debris material may potentially flow directly from the hillsides into Alizia Canyon north of the County boundary. The debris runoff is expected to flow southerly toward the PD 562 inlet. The storm drain is protected by a rail and timber structure and stand pipe riser (maintained by Public Works). Debris flow from the burned watershed is anticipated to be retained behind the rail and timber structure.

Subarea 2

Subarea 2 consists of a total area of 0.8 acres and was 75 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential (50-year rainfall frequency) of 50 cy. During moderate to severe storm events, mud and debris material from the burned hillside is expected to flow into a terrace drain behind a small retaining wall along the condominium property, potentially plugging a catch basin drain inlet (maintained by others). If the drain inlet plugs, mud and debris will likely overtop the retaining wall and likely cause flooding and sediment deposition impacts to the condominium complex driveways and garages below the inlet resulting in ingress/egress limitations.

Subarea 3

Subarea 3 consists of a total area of 0.2 acres and was 85 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential (50-year rainfall frequency) of 10 cy. During moderate to severe storm events, mud and debris material from the burned hillside is expected to flow into a terrace drain behind a small retaining wall along the condominium property, potentially plugging a catch basin drain inlet (maintained by others). If the drain inlet plugs, mud and debris will likely overtop the retaining wall and likely cause flooding and sediment deposition impacts to the condominium complex residential units.

Subarea 4

Subarea 4 consists of a total of 0.4 acres and was 83 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential (50-year rainfall frequency) of 30 cy. During moderate to severe storm events, mud and debris material from the burned hillside is expected to flow into a terrace drain behind a small retaining wall along the condominium property, potentially plugging a catch basin drain inlet (maintained by others). If the drain inlet plugs, mud and debris will likely overtop the retaining wall and likely cause flooding and sediment deposition impacts to the condominium complex residential units.

Subarea 5

Subarea 5 consists of a total of 1.6 acres and was 25 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential (50-year rainfall frequency) of 80 cy. During moderate to severe storm events, mud and debris material from the burned hillside is expected to flow into a terrace drain behind a small retaining wall along the condominium property, potentially plugging a catch basin drain inlet (maintained by others). If the drain inlet plugs, mud and debris will likely overtop the retaining wall and likely cause flooding and sediment deposition impacts to the condominium complex driveways and garages below the inlet resulting in ingress/egress limitations.

Subarea 6

Subarea 6 consists of a total of 10.2 acres and was 8 percent burned creating an adjusted debris potential (50-year rainfall frequency) of 410 cy. During moderate to severe storm events, mud and debris material from the burned hillside may flow down toward and into Las Virgenes Creek Channel (a concrete-lined trapezoidal open channel maintained by Public Works). Sediment impacts to the channel are expected to be minimal.

Coordination

On September 29, 2011, WRD staff notified the City via e-mail of the availability of our engineering advice services to the residents of the condominium complex. On October 19, 2011, the City requested us to proceed with engineering advice. We will schedule a visit to the condominium complex and provide the City and the Fire Department copies of any advice given.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Youssef Chebabi at Extension 6154 or at ychebabi@dpw.lacounty.gov

SC:vr (10/20)

P:\wrd\FACILITIES\FIRES\2011 Fires\Alizia Fire (Calabasas)\Alizia Fire BAR.docx

Attach