

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Backup Generator for Topanga Forks Pump Station in Los Angeles County Water Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu HMGP-4558-0163-0027

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu, California, to install a 400 kW emergency backup generator and automatic transfer switch system for the Topanga Forks Pump Station located at 144 Old Topanga Canyon Rd., Topanga, CA 90290 (34.090760, -118.605040). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives considered.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure continuity of operations of the Topanga Forks Pump Station, a critical water facility, during power outages. The Proposed Action includes installing a 400 kW backup generator and automatic transfer switch system, constructing a concrete pad and enclosure within the already developed facility footprint, and elevating the new generator 2.5 feet above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). All material and equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces within the facility's developed footprint. No expansion into previously undeveloped areas is proposed.

The project area is depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Los Angeles County, California 06037C1553G, effective date 12/21/2018. The FIRM shows that the Proposed Action is located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), Zone AE, an area with a 1-percent annual probability of flooding where base flood elevations have been established.

A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public review. Parties interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer using the contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the Proposed Action were considered: the No Action Alternative and Alternative 1: locating the backup generator system outside the floodplain. Under the No Action Alternative, no backup generator would be installed, and the Topanga Forks Pump Station would remain vulnerable to power outages. This alternative is not recommended because it would not provide reliable emergency power for this critical facility, thereby increasing the risk of service disruptions during emergencies. Under Alternative 1, the backup generator system would be sited outside the SFHA. This alternative is not recommended because the generator must be relocated with existing electrical and mechanical systems to function properly, and there is insufficient available land outside the SFHA in proximity to the pump station to support relocation, making this alternative not practicable from an engineering, operational, and cost standpoint.

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the Proposed Action must occur within the floodplain. The Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the floodplain because all work would occur within the existing developed footprint of the facility, and the generator would be elevated 2.5 feet above the BFE to

reduce the potential for flood damage. The project would benefit the area by improving the reliability and resiliency of an existing critical facility during power outages. Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu has stated that the Proposed Action conforms to local floodplain standards and would be responsible for management, construction, and maintenance of the Proposed Action.

Additional information about FEMA's Proposed Action may be requested by writing to the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or FEMA-R9-EHP@fema.dhs.gov. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.