

Approved Christopher Stone  
Christopher Stone

December 27, 2016

TO: Christopher Stone

FROM: ✓ Patricia Wood  
Facilities Section  
Water Resources Division

*Gregory Gacco*

### **WHEATLAND FIRE BURNED AREA REPORT**

The Wheatland Fire started on May 23, 2016, and was contained on May 24, 2016. The fire burned approximately 156 acres within the Lake View Terrace area of the City of Los Angeles and in the adjacent Angeles National Forest area. This report focuses on potential impacts to County-owned/maintained facilities and the residences below the burned areas.

#### Summary of Potential Debris Impact

In June 2016, Water Resources Division (WRD) staff conducted a field reconnaissance of the burned area to determine the residences and/or County-owned/maintained facilities that could potentially be impacted by flooding/debris flows during storm events.

The Wheatland Fire burned area is approximately 156 acres within the City of Los Angeles, specifically in the Lake View Terrace area adjacent to Tujunga Canyon, and is divided into three subarea watersheds across one Debris Production Area (DPA) zones (DPA 1). During storm events, debris flows from the burned area may impact:

- Debris basins and inlets under the purview of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) and maintained by Flood Maintenance Division (FMD): Cassara Debris Basin and Oliver Debris Basin.
- Foothill Boulevard, which is maintained by the City of Los Angeles.

The Burned Area Map for the Wheatland Fire is included as Attachment A. A more detailed discussion of the potential postfire debris flow impacts is provided as Attachment B.

### Debris Flow Phase Map and Debris Flow Forecasts

The Debris Flow Phase map for the Wheatland Fire is provided as Attachment C. The Phase Map (for Phases 1, 2, and 3) identifies the critical locations of potential debris flow hazards below the burned area for varying storm magnitudes. Debris Flow Phase Maps are prepared when potential debris flows pose a moderate to severe threat to residences, roadways, flood protection facilities, or other public infrastructure. WRD will prepare and post Debris Flow Potential Forecasts on Public Works' website for each forecasted significant storm event throughout the storm season for the next 4 to 5 years of burned area recovery. The approved Burned Area Report, Burned Area Map, Debris Flow Phase Map, and all future debris flow potential forecasts will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/fire>.

### Debris Flow Mitigation Measures

The watersheds of all of the debris basins and inlets in the vicinity of the fire area are less than 20 percent burned. The cleanout threshold for these facilities should remain at 25 percent full. It is FMD's established postfire routine to monitor its facilities in fire areas for debris inflow during storms and clean out the facilities as necessary.

### Coordination

#### *Local Property Owners/Managers:*

On June 15, 2016, the City of Los Angeles requested Public Works to provide postfire engineering advice to its residents, specifically in the Lake View Terrace area. WRD staff has offered/provided engineering advice to a total of seven homes in the City that could potentially benefit from the advice. For those residents who were not home at the time of the visit, WRD staff left in clear view at the residents' front doors a debris flow information packet with a telephone number to contact WRD. For those residents who were home or called back requesting advice, WRD staff discussed with them potential protective measures including, where warranted, evacuation during storms. WRD provided these residents with written advice forms, except when residents declined written advice or were comfortable with verbal advice.

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Attachments

Attachment A: Burned Area Map  
Attachment B: Description of Burn and Potential Debris Impacts  
Attachment C: Debris Flow Phase map  
Attachment D: List of Properties Visited for Engineering Advice

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Gary Guo at Extension 6342.

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cc. Disaster Services (Doudar, Eazell)  
Flood Maintenance (Kumar, Swanson)

**ATTACHMENT B**

**DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND  
POTENTIAL DEBRIS IMPACT**

## ATTACHMENT B

### WHEATLAND FIRE DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND POTENTIAL DEBRIS IMPACT

Fire name: Wheatland Fire  
Date of Fire: May 23, 2016  
Burned Area: 156 acres  
Location: The fire occurred on the hillsides and canyons in Lake View Terrace area of the City of Los Angeles. The burned area is entirely within the boundaries of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District). The burned area boundary is delineated in Attachment A.  
(Thomas Guide page 503)

#### **Vegetation Type before Burn**

Light brush, primarily sagebrush scrub, yuccas, and oak vegetation.

#### **Fire History**

Water Resources Division's (WRD) fire history records indicate there was one significant fire that previously occurred in the same area as the Wheatland Fire. The 1975 Mill Fire burned approximately 49,200 acres, and the Wheatland Fire area overlaps approximately 148 acres of the Mill Fire area.

#### **Summary of Potential Postfire Debris Flow Impacts**

The Wheatland Fire burned approximately 156 acres within the Lake View Terrace area of the City of Los Angeles and in the adjacent Angeles National Forest area. The burn area is divided into three subarea watersheds across one Debris Production Area zone. WRD staff offered/provided engineering advice to all properties identified as potentially impacted by postfire debris flows in or below Subareas 1 through 3. The debris volumes noted herein are those resulting from a moderate to severe storm event.

Cassara and Oliver Debris Basins are in the fire area vicinity. The facilities are under the purview of the Flood Control District and maintained by Flood Maintenance Division. The watersheds of these facilities are less than 20 percent burned. The cleanout threshold for these facilities should remain at 25 percent full. It is Flood Maintenance Division's established postfire routine to monitor its facilities in fire areas for debris inflow during storms and clean out the facilities as necessary.

The following public/community facilities are potentially impacted by postfire debris flows:

**Cassara Debris Basin** – The watershed of Subarea 1 drains to Cassara Debris Basin. During moderate to severe storms, the debris basin's watershed could produce an adjusted debris volume potential of 21,954 cubic yards (cy). The debris basin's capacity is 37,000 cy. Therefore, the debris basin can retain the full debris potential.

**Oliver Debris Basin** – The watershed of Subarea 3 drains to Oliver Debris Basin. During moderate to severe storms, the debris basin's watershed could produce an adjusted debris volume potential of 17,545 cy. The debris basin's capacity is 32,000 cy. Therefore, the debris basin can retain the full debris potential.

**City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) Right of Way** – during moderate to severe storms, an adjusted debris volume potential of 35,128 cy from Subarea 2 may be produced. A portion of this debris potential is anticipated to settle in DWP's right of way for power lines.

**Foothill Boulevard** – during moderate to severe storms, an adjusted debris volume potential of 35,128 cy from Subarea 2 may be produced. A portion of this debris potential may reach the Foothill Boulevard and deposit on the road.

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