



April 24, 2018

TO: Christopher Stone 
FROM: Ken Zimmer 
Post Fire Drainage Needs Program

SKIRBALL FIRE BURNED AREA BRIEF

The Skirball Fire started on December 6, 2017, and was contained on December 15, 2017. The fire burned 422 acres entirely within the City of Los Angeles. This report focuses on potential mudflow impacts to residences below the burned areas. There are no Public Works maintained facilities that could be impacted by storm produced debris flows from the burned watershed. The City requested Public Works contact residents who may be impacted by debris flows and offer engineering advice.

Summary of Potential Sediment Impact

The Skirball Fire (Attachments A and B) is located in Debris Production Area 4. During a design storm event (a 50-year frequency rainfall), debris from the burned canyons may potentially flow from the burned areas and possibly cause flooding and sediment deposition on Sepulveda Boulevard (maintained by the City) and Moraga Drive (a privately maintained road in a gated community). The mud and debris is also expected to flow into the debris basin (maintained by the City), north of Moraga Drive.

Detailed descriptions of potential sediment impacts are contained in Attachment C.

Debris Flow Phase Maps

The phase maps for the fire are found in Attachment D. The phase maps (Phases 1, 2, and 3) identify the critical locations of potential debris flow impacts below the burned area for varying storm magnitudes. These maps are prepared when potential debris flows pose a major impact to homes, roadways, flood control facilities, or other public infrastructure. The maps and this report can be accessed through the internet at <http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/fire>. The phase maps have been provided to the City's First Response Departments. Stormwater Engineering Division will post debris and debris flow potential forecasts on the internet at the aforementioned site for each forecasted significant storm event throughout this storm season and the four subsequent storm seasons.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Michael Miranda at Extension 6164.

 SC:sv

P:\wrd\FACILITIES\FIRES\2017 Fire\Skirball Fire\Skirball Fire BAR\Skirball Fire Burn Area Brief 2.docx

Attach.

cc: Disaster Services (Ezell), Stormwater Engineering (Zimmer)

ATTACHMENT C

SKIRBALL FIRE DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND POTENTIAL SEDIMENT IMPACT

Fire Name: Skirball Fire
Date of Fire: December 6 to 15, 2017
Burned Area: 422 Acres
Location: The fire occurred on the slopes of Sepulveda Pass, east of the 405 Freeway and hillsides of Moraga Drive, entirely within the City of Los Angeles. Refer to Attachment A (Thomas Guide page: 591–G5).

Vegetation Types before Burn

Vegetation in and around the watershed subareas prior to the burn consisted of various grasses, coastal sage scrub, and small trees.

Fire History

Public Works' fire history records indicate that there have been numerous fires that have previously occurred in the Skirball Fire burned area (Attachment E).

Summary of Potential Postfire Debris Flow Impacts

There are no Public Works maintained facilities impacted by storm produced debris flows from the burned watershed. The City requested Public Works to contact residents impacted and offer engineering advice. Public Works reviewed potential impacts to 20 residences below the burned canyons and hillsides. Engineering advice was offered and/or provided to 10 residents in the City.

During moderate to severe storms, debris from the burned hillside may potentially flow onto roadway surface of the cul-de-sac at the north end of the Moraga Drive (located within a private gated community). The flooding and accumulated mud and debris may potentially block access to residences along Moraga Drive. It is recommended that the residents' Home Owners Association monitor Moraga Drive during storms and clear the roadway as necessary. The monitoring should continue for the next four to five years until the watershed has significantly recovered from the burn (Attachment D).

During moderate to severe storms, debris from the burned hillside is anticipated to flow into a debris basin located at the upper end of Moraga Drive. The debris basin is maintained by the City of Los Angeles and the available capacity of the debris basin is unknown to Public Works. Operation and maintenance of the facility is under the purview of the City (Attachment D).

During moderate to severe storms, debris flows from the burned hillsides may potentially plug the drainage inlets at the base of the watershed subareas adjacent to Sepulveda Boulevard and may overflow onto the roadway surface causing flooding and sediment deposition. Maintenance of Sepulveda Boulevard is under the purview of the City (Attachment D).

SC:sv

p:\wrd\facilities\fires\2017 fire\skirball fire\skirball fire bar\skirball fire report_ attachment c .docx