

August 13, 2018

TO: Christopher Stone

FROM: Ken Zimmer 
Postfire Drainage Needs Program
Stormwater Engineering Division

PORTOLA FIRE BURNED AREA BRIEF

The Portola Fire started on June 12, 2018, and was contained on June 13, 2018. The fire burned 32 acres entirely within the City of Los Angeles (City). 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 that Public Works contact residents who may be impacted by debris flows and offer engineering advice.

Summary of Potential Sediment Impact

The Portola Fire (Attachments A and B) is located in Debris Production Area 4. During a design debris event (50-year frequency storm), debris from the burned hillsides may potentially flow from the burned areas directly into properties and possibly cause flooding and sediment deposition on Portola and Yoakum Drives and Benedict Canyon Road (maintained by the City).

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 infrastructures. 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.

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Attach.

cc: Disaster Services (Ezell), Stormwater Maintenance (Teran), Stormwater Engineering (Zimmer, Miranda)

ATTACHMENT C

PORTOLA FIRE DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND POTENTIAL SEDIMENT IMPACT

Fire Name: Portola Fire
Date of Fire: June 12 to 13, 2018
Burned Area: 32 Acres
Location: The fire occurred on the slopes of the Beverly Crest and Benedict Canyon areas, entirely within the City of Los Angeles (City).
Refer to Attachment A (Thomas Guide page: 562 – C3 and D3).

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 the Portola Fire burn area has not been burned previously, but a few fires that have occurred within the vicinity (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 46 residences below the burned canyons and hillsides. Engineering advice was offered and/or provided to 23 residents in the City.

During moderate to severe storms, debris flows from the burned canyons and hillsides may directly impact a few homes on Portola and Yoakum Drives. Most of the potential impact to properties would be caused by flooding of low-lying garages and doorways. The flooding and sediment deposition may cause ingress/egress issues for residents on Portola and Yoakum Drives and Benedict Canyon Road. Maintenance of these roads are under the purview of the City (Attachment D).

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