

Approved *Christopher Stone*  
Christopher Stone

December 8, 2016

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

## **OLD FIRE BURNED AREA REPORT**

The Old Fire started on June 4, 2016, and was contained on June 7, 2016. The fire burned approximately 671 acres within the City of Calabasas. 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 and July 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 Old Fire burned area is approximately 671 acres within the City of Calabasas, and is divided into 24 subarea watersheds across one Debris Production Area (DPA) zone (DPA 4). During storm events, debris flows from the burned area may impact:

- Dry Canyon - South Fork Debris Basin: under the purview of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) and maintained by Flood Maintenance Division (FMD).
- Streets within the boundaries of the City of Calabasas: Mulholland Highway and Dry Canyon Cold Creek Road maintained by Road Maintenance Division (MD3).
- Viewpoint School, a private institution.
- Creekside Park, a City of Calabasas facility.

The Burned Area Map for the Old 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 Old 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 severe threat to residences, roadways, flood protection facilities, or other public infrastructure. WRD will prepare and post Debris Flow Potential Forecasts on the Internet at 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 more than 20 percent burned. The cleanout threshold for these facilities should be reduced to 5 percent full during the next 5 years of postfire recovery in the fire area. FMD field staff reviewed the flood protection facilities in the fire area and found only Dry Canyon – South Fork Debris Basin required a prestorm season cleanout, which was performed in August 2016. 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. The monitoring and as-needed cleanouts are expected to last the next 4 to 5 years until the burned area has significantly recovered from the burn.

### Coordination

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

On June 15, 2016, the City of Calabasas requested Public Works to provide postfire engineering advice to its residents. WRD staff visited six properties that could be potentially impacted by debris flows and provided engineering advice verbally to their owners or managers. The City has been apprised of the advice.

### 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

Christopher Stone  
December 8, 2016  
Page 3

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)  
Road Maintenance (MacGregor, Even)

**ATTACHMENT B**

**DESCRIPTION OF BURN AND  
POTENTIAL DEBRIS IMPACT**

## ATTACHMENT B

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

Fire Name: Old Fire  
Date of Fire: June 4, 2016  
Burned Area: 671 acres  
Location: The fire occurred on the hillsides and canyons in the City of Calabasas. 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 pages 559 and 589)

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

Medium to heavy brush, primarily chamise chaparral, sagebrush scrub, 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 Old Fire. The 1943 Woodland Hills Fire burned approximately 14,919 acres and the Old Fire area overlaps approximately 200 acres of this fire area.

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

The Old Fire burned approximately 671 acres within the City of Calabasas. The burn area is divided into 24 subarea watersheds across one Debris Production Area (DPA) zone (DPA 4). WRD staff offered/provided engineering advice to all properties identified as potentially impacted by postfire debris flows in or below Subareas 1 through 24. The debris volumes noted herein are those resulting from a moderate to severe storm event.

Dry Canyon - South Fork Debris Basin is in the fire area vicinity. The facility is under the purview of the District and maintained by Flood Maintenance Division (FMD). The watershed of this facility is more than 20 percent burned. The cleanout threshold for the facility should be reduced to 5 percent full during the next 5 years of postfire recovery in the fire area. FMD field staff reviewed and found that Dry Canyon – South Fork Debris Basin required a prestorm season cleanout. FMD performed the cleanout in August 2016. 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. The monitoring and as-needed cleanouts are expected to last the next 4 to 5 years until the burned area has significantly recovered from the burn.

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

**Dry Canyon - South Fork Debris Basin** – The watershed of Subarea 24 drains to Dry Canyon – South Fork Debris Basin. During moderate to severe storms, the debris basin's watershed could produce a debris volume potential of 16,156 cubic yards (cy). The debris basin's capacity is 7,900 cy. In the event debris flows overtop the debris basin, the excess debris may reach Mulholland Highway.

**Mulholland Highway** – During moderate to severe storms, a debris volume potential totaling 28,623 cy from Subareas 1, 13 through 18, 20 through 22, and 24 may be produced. It is anticipated this debris may reach portions of Mulholland Highway.

**Dry Canyon Cold Creek Road** – During moderate to severe storms, a debris volume potential of 2,841 cy, 664 cy, 191 cy, and 1,474 cy from Subareas 2, 10, 11, and 12, respectively maybe produced. It is anticipated this debris may reach portions of Dry Canyon Cold Creek Road.

**Creekside Park** – During moderate to severe storms, a debris volume potential of 2,689 cy from Subarea 4 may be produced. This debris is anticipated to settle on the baseball field and parking lot in Creekside Park.

**Viewpoint School** – During moderate to severe storms, a debris volume potential totaling 293 cy from Subareas 5 through 7 may be produced. This debris is anticipated to settle through various locations of Viewpoint School.