



NOTICE OF COMPLETION

DATE: September 13, 2016

TO: Responsible Agencies and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability/Completion of a Recirculated (Revised) Draft Environmental Impact Report

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of San Bernardino (County) has prepared a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is being recirculated for public review pursuant to the California Public Resources Code and the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA Guidelines). The County of San Bernardino is the Lead Agency for the proposed project.

Project Title: Rimforest Storm Drain Project, State Clearinghouse Number: 2015051070

Project Location: The proposed project is located in the community of Rimforest, in the San Bernardino Mountains near Lake Arrowhead, approximately six miles north of the City of San Bernardino in the County of San Bernardino, California.

Project Description: The County proposes to construct and maintain a series of drainage facilities in the community of Rimforest, to address historic erosion and landsliding problems that have led to significant bluff retreat in southern Rimforest. The rerouting of stormwater flows away from the southern area of Rimforest, which has been most substantially affected by erosion and landslides, is necessary to minimize continued slope movement and reduce hazards to existing property in the area. The purpose and need for the proposed project is to restore stormwater flows away from Strawberry Creek and into Little Bear Creek in order to mediate ongoing erosion and landsliding hazards in southern Rimforest.

Phase 1 of the proposed project would intercept the largest part of runoff to be restored under the proposed project, and result in a 64 percent reduction in runoff into the landslide area. Improvements constructed under this phase would convey mountainside runoff from an area of approximately 51 acres, and deliver this runoff to Little Bear Creek. This phase of the proposed project includes approximately 0.8 miles of flood control improvements, comprised of approximately 0.2 miles of channel/basin and approximately 0.6 miles of pipe culvert and appurtenances. Phase 2 of the proposed project would restore the direction of runoff from 16 acres of the interior portion of the community of Rimforest and result in a 30 percent reduction in runoff into the landslide area. This phase includes installation of a culvert system to direct runoff from Pine Avenue, which runs parallel to the south of SR-18, and under SR-18 to join flows restored by Phase 1 in Little Bear Creek. The Phase 2 culvert system would include street inlets and storm drains within Rimforest to facilitate the routing of flows along Pine Avenue.

Construction of the proposed project would occur over three summer seasons (potentially 2017-2019): Phase 1-Basin Construction: May-September; Phase 1-SR 18 Storm Drain: Following May-August; and Phase 2-Pine Ave. Storm Drain: Undetermined May-July. Operation and maintenance of the proposed project would generally occur at 3-5 year intervals and would include but is not limited to the following activities:

Slope stabilization, where necessary to maintain the integrity of flood conveyance facilities; Removal of sediment and vegetation from the retarding basin(s) and channelized sections to maintain capacity; Regular inspection of facilities for wear and damage; Repair of facilities as needed; and Maintenance of vegetated landscape buffers.

The Recirculated Draft EIR for the proposed project has been prepared to inform the public of changes to the original document resulting from additional analysis for biological resources and hydrology and water quality. A downstream habitat and flow assessment for Strawberry Creek and Lower East Twin Creek was completed to more accurately characterize potential effects, downstream from the proposed project. Results from this assessment have been included in the Recirculated Draft EIR. Additionally, corrections have been made to the construction schedule and a few references in the original cultural resources Draft EIR section.

The Recirculated Draft EIR contains an updated Project Description (Section 2), air quality section (3.2), biological resources analysis (Section 3.3), cultural resources section (Section 3.4), hydrology and water quality analysis (Section 3.6), Cumulative Effects section (Section 5), Other CEQA Considerations section (Section 6), and an updated References section (Section 7). No changes to impact conclusions have occurred based on the additional analyses performed. Only those sections that have changed from the original Draft EIR published in September 2015 are included in this Recirculated Draft EIR, per CEQA Guidelines 15088.5(c).

Public Comment Period: The Recirculated Draft EIR is available for the CEQA required 45-day public review and comment period from September 14, 2016 through October 29, 2016. Written comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR must be received no later than 5:00 pm on October 29, 2016.

Submit written comments to:

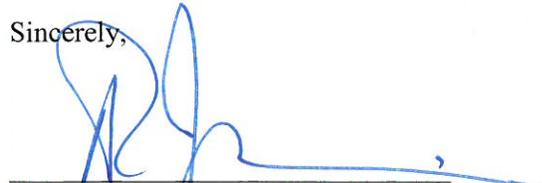
San Bernardino County
Department of Public Works, Environmental Management Division
Attention: Nancy Sansonetti, AICP, Senior Planner
825 East Third Street, Room 123
San Bernardino, CA 92415
(909) 387-8109

Email: nancy.sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov

Reviewing Locations: Copies of the Recirculated Draft EIR are available for review at the following locations: County of San Bernardino Public Works Department, 825 East Third Street, Room 123 San Bernardino, CA 92415 and via the internet on the County of San Bernardino's website at: http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/public_notices.asp.

Please include the name, phone number, and address of the appropriate contact person in your response.

Sincerely,



HAROLD ZAMORA, P.E., Chief
Environmental Management Division
San Bernardino County Department of Public Works