



The voice of our community

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August 10, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Santa Barbara County Flood Control District  
130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: Randall Road Debris Basin Project FEIR**

Honorable Members of the Board:

The Montecito Association (MA) supports the Randall Road Debris Basin project because, as stated in our letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, of March 13, 2020, "it will significantly improve the ability to withstand future high-level rain and flooding events for many parts of Montecito." Equally important, indeed the very essence of our organization's Land Use Committee (MLUC), is attention to aesthetic details of proposed projects.

At our MLUC meeting on August 4, 2020 we reviewed the responses to our comment letter on the Draft EIR, and there are three areas we would like to highlight for your Board.

**1. Mitigating Visual Impacts on Scenic East Valley Road/Highway 192**

This impact is identified in AES-2, "*The proposed debris basin would permanently degrade the scenic quality of public views from East Valley Road.*" Figure 3-5 (FEIR pg. 3-7) shows a landscaped berm, notes that Figure 3-5 may not reflect "regulatory permit requirements," such as required Caltrans Encroachment Permits. Because there is a precipitous 20+ foot drop from Highway 192 and since Caltrans safety and signage requirements are unknown, the MA requests a "courtesy review" from the Montecito Board of Architectural Review (MBAR), to look at the landscape screening and signage plans for this the roadway segment once Caltrans permit conditions are known. The courtesy review process by MBAR is important for our community.

**2. Providing Fill Dirt to Local Contractors**

MLUC appreciates Mr. Fayram's willingness to make fill dirt available to local projects, such as Highway 101, County road projects and the Hammonds Meadow. Our MA Executive Director, Sharon Byrne coordinated with the Hammonds Meadow project and they would be able to use some of the extra fill dirt

**3. Highway 192 Road Damage from Construction Activities**

MLUC is concerned about the amount of heavy-truck traffic and possible damage to Highway 192 due to the 9,000 truck trips estimated over a 90-day construction period. The response to the MA comment letter on page 9-27 of the FEIR was this is not an environmental impact. Therefore, we ask your Board to consider how to address a situation where Caltrans proposes to repair East Valley Road from damage associated with 2018 debris removal, prior to the proposed project which would have similar impacts to Highway 192 from heavy-trucks.

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We sincerely thank Tom Fayram and his staff for providing our MA and MLUC information on the Randall Road Debris Basin project as it proceeds through the approval process. Montecito appreciates how important this project is for our community and thank you for addressing our concerns.



Megan Orloff  
Montecito Association Board President



Dorinne Lee Johnson  
Montecito Land Use Committee, Chair

Cc: Honorable Salud Carbajal, Congressional Representative, 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Das Williams, Santa Barbara County Supervisor First District  
Tom Fayram, Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Flood Control District  
William Wolf, AIA, Montecito Board of Architectural Review, Chair