

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 09/03/04
Department Name: Flood Control/Public Works
Department No.: 054-04-03
Agenda Date: 09/23/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 10 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Document Name: BRDsep23.debrisbasin.DOC

TO: Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

STAFF CONTACT: Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, Ext. 3436
Karl Treiberg, Engineering Environmental Planner, Ext. 3443

SUBJECT: **Approval of the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Certify the addenda to the Flood Control District's Program EIR (01-EIR-01) for the Routine Creek Maintenance Program described in the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
- B. Certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Flood Control District's Program EIR (01-EIR-01) for the Routine Creek Maintenance Program and individual addenda contained with the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan as well as information presented during the public hearing prior to the approval of the individual projects presented in the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan;
- C. Adopt CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations included in the "Findings" Section of the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan;
- D. Adopt the Mitigation and Monitoring Programs included in the "Impacts/Mitigation Measures" Section of the Updated Debris Basin Plan; and
- E. Approve individual projects described in the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On July 16, 1996, the Flood Control District Board of Directors approved a Debris Basin Maintenance Plan. The District obtained 5 year permits for the plan, all of which have expired. Your Board approved the Updated Program EIR for Routine Flood Control Maintenance Activities on December 11, 2001. The Updated Program EIR describes debris basin maintenance and the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan consists of addenda to the Updated Program EIR for each basin.

The Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan has been prepared to describe the continuing routine maintenance of various debris basins. The Draft Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan was circulated for public review on July 24, 2003, for 30 days. No substantive comments were received.

The Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan contains some minor modifications to the original Plan. The project description includes the option of modifying specific basins to facilitate fish passage. Steelhead trout were listed as endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act in 1997 and modification of specific basins may expedite recovery of the species. District staff has been working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Cachuma Resources Conservation District (CRCD), and the Community Environmental Council (CEC) to modify existing impediments. Many of these efforts are being funded by grants and Gobernador Debris Basin is being considered for modification and will serve as a prototype for modification of additional basins.

Debris basin maintenance as described in the updated Plan has resulted in the establishment of healthy riparian forests in some of the basins. Although this vegetation will be removed if necessary as described in "long-term maintenance", some of the vegetation can be used as a source for District projects that include biotechnical bank stabilization and revegetation.

Assuming there are no significant changes such as additional listing of threatened or endangered species, the District expects to receive 10-year permits for the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan from the CDFG and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Plan may need to be revised after 10 years depending on environmental and regulatory conditions.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan contains addenda to the Program EIR for the District's Routine Maintenance Program (01-EIR-01), which was approved by your Board on December 11, 2001.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Costs associated with the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan are included in 2003/04 Adopted Budget under the Maintenance Cost Center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-322 in the budget book. The basins identified in the updated plan are existing facilities that are maintained by the Flood Control District.

Approval of the Updated Debris Basin Maintenance Plan

Date: 09/23/03

Page: 3

Special Instructions:

Director the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez.