



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Flood Control
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: February 25, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, (805) 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, (805) 568-3436

SUBJECT: Cold Springs Debris Basin Expansion Project, First Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Approve the Cold Springs Debris Basin Expansion Project (“Project”) after considering the proposed Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (19NGD-00000-00015) for the Project, included as Attachment A, including the comments received during the public review process;
- b) Make the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Findings for the Cold Springs Debris Basin Expansion Project, included as Attachment B;
- c) Adopt the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (19NGD-00000-00015) for the Cold Springs Debris Basin Expansion Project, included as Attachment A, and adopt the Mitigation Measures with their corresponding monitoring requirements as the Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Project; and
- d) Authorize the Public Works Director to advertise and receive bids for the Cold Springs Debris Basin Expansion Project.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); make Findings under CEQA, and approve the project and associated mitigation measures for the Cold Springs Debris Basin Expansion Project. This project

involves increasing the line and grade of the basin to enlarge the basin to the west within existing District owned property.

This project will enable the basin to retain more large rocks and debris. On January 9, 2018, the 1-9 Debris Flow filled and overtopped the Cold Springs Debris Basin (as well as many other debris basins below the Thomas Fire area). Other debris basin improvements are being designed for Cold Springs, San Ysidro, and Romero Debris basins with these projects scheduled for 2021 and 2022. The recommended designs will modify the basin dam and outlet works following the design concept of the Gobernador Debris Basin, which allows the basin to continue to trap large rocks and debris while allowing finer grain sands and sediment to continue downstream.

The District has prepared a MND pursuant to the requirements of CEQA and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. The MND prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts and associated mitigation measures for identified subject areas that reduce all potential impacts to a less than significant level. Incorporation of mitigation measures that have reduced an effect from a potentially significant impact to a less than significant impact occurs in the following subject areas: air quality, biological resources, geologic processes, noise, transportation/circulation, and water resources/flooding.

Public/Regulatory Outreach

The State Clearinghouse released the Draft MND on December 17, 2019, which started the State Clearing House 30-day review period. The local review period also allowed the same 30 days for public comment. Notices of document availability were sent to parcels within 1,000' of the project site, posted in the Santa Barbara News Press and Montecito Journal, and sent to regulatory agencies and interested parties. The local and State Clearing House review period ended on January 17, 2020. Three comment letters were received. Staff considered the comments and have included the comment letters and responses as an appendix to the MND. The comments did not result in text changes to the MND.

Background:

The 1-9 Debris Flow filled and overtopped many of the District's Debris Basins below the Thomas Fire. In addition, past flooding events have also filled the basins. As a result, changes to many basins have been proposed with grant funds being sought for some or all of the proposed improvements. These projects are actively being pursued and will be constructed as they become ready. Staff desires to stagger the construction of the projects, to the extent possible, to avoid competition for resources, impacts to the community, and to spread out costs incurred by the District.

The Cold Springs Debris Basin Expansion Project is scheduled for the summer/fall of 2020 because the technical issues are minimal and the excavation/trucking is a significant portion of the project. The scheduling of the trucking in the summer/fall of 2020 will avoid simultaneous trucking projects overlapping with other District projects.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

Construction of this project is scheduled for 2020 and funding was included in the proposed FY 2020-21 budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department. This project is also include in the County's CIP on page D-134

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A - Proposed Final MND 19NGD-00000-00015

Attachment B - CEQA Findings for the Proposed Final MND 19NGD-00000-00015

Authored by:

Maureen Spencer, Environmental Manager, (805) 568-3437

EXHIBIT A

