



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: CEO/Flood
Control/Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: 07/07/09
Placement: Admin
Estimated Tme: NA
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

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

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s) Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief, County Executive
Office
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Emergency Watershed Response Plan in Response to the Jesusita Fire

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors:

- a) Approve the County's Jesusita Fire Emergency Watershed Response Plan;
- b) Approve plans and specifications for installation of basin outlet modifications (cubes) on Mission, San Roque, San Antonio, and Rattlesnake Basins;
- c) Approve plans and specification for debris clean out of Mission, San Roque, San Antonio, and Rattlesnake Basins;
- d) Approve plans and specifications for installation of debris racks on San Antonio and Barger Canyon Creeks;
- e) Approve plans and specifications for construction of a temporary sediment basin on Barger Canyon Creek; and

- f) Approve the attached Budget Revision Request (BJE No. 2007865) to release designations in the amount of \$1,425,000 to the South Coast flood zone to pay for costs associated with response work relating to damage caused by the Jesusita Fire.

Summary Text:

The Jesusita Fire started on May 5, 2009 and burned almost 9,000 acres fuelled by extreme weather conditions and high winds. As experienced with previous fires, a burned watershed exhibits a drastically enhanced response the following winter including a dramatic increase in runoff volumes and correspondingly dramatic increases in debris production.

In the case of the Jesusita Fire, a very serious condition exists downstream. Several locations downstream have experienced flooding in years past. The risk for flooding following the fire is extreme because much higher rates of runoff, sedimentation, rocks, and woody debris is expected. The woody debris can clog bridges and culverts and induce flooding that would otherwise not occur. Sedimentation and rocks can fill in channels and reduces flood flow capacity, thus aggressive desilting operations will be needed to provide maximum capacity.

Staff has completed an Emergency Watershed Response Plan for areas generally downstream of the Jesusita Fire. The affected watersheds that are addressed in the plan include: Maria Ygnacia, San Antonio, Cieneguitas/Atascadero, Barger Canyon, San Roque, Rattlesnake, Mission Canyon, and Cold Springs.

The plan includes a variety of emergency actions in response to the fire including:

- channel clearing,
- rock deposition removal at selected locations in Mission Creek;
- vegetation hazard reduction/clearing,
- installation of debris racks,
- installation of basin outlet modifications (cubes),
- aerial mulching of non-federal lands within the fire perimeter as applicable, subject to and if federal funding is approved
- pre-winter excavation of existing sediment basins,
- construction of a temporary sediment basin on Barger Canyon Creek (subject to land owner approval), and
- emergency protective measures as identified.

Private property owner's approval is needed to construct some of the identified projects in plan. The County will only construct these projects if these individual property owners grant their approval.

Following the preparation work, the plan would provide for the following winter operations:

- monitoring and removal of vegetation from the installed debris racks
- removal of debris plugs and accumulated sediment deposits within stream channels within the urban area, and
- emergency disposal of excavated sediments at Goleta Beach, Foothill Landfill, and Cathedral Oaks County owned property if necessary.

Other activities will include the installation of an emergency sandbag distribution center located at the Flood Control maintenance yard and another location in coordination with the City of Santa Barbara (yet to be determined). These centers will provide free sand and bags to the public in areas affected by the fire. Public outreach meetings are being organized by the City of Santa Barbara. Written materials, including the Flood Control Districts pamphlet “*Homeowners Guide for Flood Prevention and Response*” will be available in hard copy shortly and a draft copy is available online at the Public Works Department’s website at: <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/> Helpful materials from other agencies are posted on the website as well.

Background:

The following watersheds that are affected by the fire are Maria Ygnacia, San Antonio, Cieneguitas/Atascadero, Barger Canyon, San Roque, Rattlesnake, Mission Canyon, and Cold Springs. While all the downstream risks associated with the burned area of the Jesusita Fire cannot be eliminated, staff believes that prompt implementation of the emergency watershed response plan is needed prior to the onset of the coming rains.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
SC Flood Zone	\$ 1,425,000.00		
Total	\$ 1,425,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Costs for the Annual Maintenance Plan work located in the burned watershed area was included in the 2009-10 proposed budget under the Maintenance cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department. Attached for approval is a budget revision requesting to release designations to the South Coast Flood Zone to pay for costs associated with necessary work needed to respond to the Jesusita Fire.

Since the Jesusita Fire was State Declared Emergency some of these project costs may be reimbursable through the State Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA, formerly State OES). Additionally, a funding request from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been made and federal funding may become available for the initial work for up to 80% of the project costs. In addition, the State may pay up to 75% of the local 20% cost share of the emergency response work.

Additional funds for ongoing emergency winter desilting and disposal operations will also be no doubt required. Reimbursement for these costs would only be eligible if a future state or federal disaster declaration occurs.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions and of the Budget Revision Request to County OES, Attn: Michael Harris and the Flood Control District office, attn: Christina Lopez.

Attachments:

Jesusita Fire Emergency Watershed Response Plan
Budget Revision Request (BJE #2007865)

Authored by: Tom Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

cc: