

## **FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **RANDALL ROAD DEBRIS BASIN**

#### **SANTA BARBARA FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT HMGP-4344-417-58**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District to construct an approximately 8 acre “off channel” debris basin along and upland of San Ysidro Creek (proposed action). The project limits are within the community of Montecito, at the intersection of East Valley Road (State Route 192) and Randall Road: APN 007-120-032, APN 007-120-033, APN 007-120-034, APN 007-120-035, APN 007-120-036, APN 007-120-101, APN 007-120-054, APN 007-120-103 (District owned), APN 007-120-100, and APN 007-120-090 (District easement). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA’s implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

The purpose of the proposed project is to capture sediment and debris generated by storm flows in San Ysidro Creek to minimize deposition of these materials in downstream areas and reduce the potential for flooding of adjacent lands. The debris basin would be constructed as an “off channel” basin, meaning the basin would only receive flows and material (sediment and debris) once the designed channel capacity has been exceeded which correlates to the water surface elevation generated in a 5-year flow event. Water flows of equal or lesser intensity than a 5-year event would remain in the channel to facilitate fine sediment transport and migratory fish passage. Flows above a 5-year event would exceed the channel capacity and leave the channel and expand into the debris basin. Areas along the San Ysidro Creek channel margins beyond the bankfull width, as well as the perimeter slopes of the basin, would be planted with riparian shrubs and trees.

The entire project area is located in a floodplain based on a review of Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Number 06083C1403G, effective date December 4, 2012. The FIRM shows that the project area lies within Zone AE, an area that has a 1% probability of flooding every year and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established, as well as withing a regulatory floodway, the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachment so that the 1% annual chance flood can be carried without substantial increases in flood heights. Approximately 0.60 acres of defined wetlands would be modified by the proposed project. A map showing the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public inspection. Parties interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at the contact information provided in this notice.

Three alternatives to the proposed action were considered: Alternative 1 (taking no action), Alternative 2 (proposed action), and Alternative 3 (second action alternative). Alternative 1 is not recommended because strom triggered debris flows woud continue to threaten homes and lives along San Ysidro creek, causing localized flooding and extensive property damage. Alternative 3 is not recommended because the action many not result in future debris flow protection for properties downstream. FEMA has determined that Alternative 2 (the proposed action) is the only practicable alternative available; therefore the proposed action must be located in a floodplain and wetland. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain or wetlands and would benefit the area by: 1) reducing the risk of residential structure damage downstream caused by debris flows and flooding; and 2) reduce the risk of future damage and flooding of East Valley Road (State Route 192). Therefore, measures to minimize impacts on the floodplain and wetlands are not necessary. Santa Barbara County has declared

that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards, and is responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be requested by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or [fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov), or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.