

INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Randall Road Debris Basin Santa Barbara County Flood Control District HMGP-4344-417-58

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's 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 a debris basin along and upland of San Ysidro Creek. 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 intent to carry out an action affecting a floodplain and wetlands.

The project site is in the floodplain. The project area is depicted on the 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.

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District proposes to construct a new approximately 8 acre "off channel" debris basin 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). The proposed debris basin design spans San Ysidro Creek, with most of the basin located west of the San Ysidro Creek channel and a smaller portion of the debris basin located east of the channel. Additionally, the San Ysidro Creek channel would be recontoured along approximately the existing alignment, and the existing banks, which are currently steep and near vertical in some locations, would be graded and recontoured to create wider, more gently sloped banks.

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 proposed easement on the western portion of APN 007-120-090 would facilitate construction and routine maintenance of the debris basin. The project site includes Randall Road, a private roadway. In addition, APN 007-181-010 (owned by the District) located south of East Valley Road may be used as a temporary construction office (with office trailer and parking) or for staging and storage of materials and equipment. A temporary construction easement may be required within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way along East Valley Road.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be obtained by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607; fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov; or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after the posting of this notice.