


Approved 
Adam Ariki

November 8, 2023

TO: Adam Ariki

FROM: Ken Zimmer 
Postfire Engineering and Drainage Needs Programs

OWEN FIRE BURNED AREA BRIEF

The Owen Fire started on July 26, 2023, and was contained on July 28, 2023. The fire burned approximately 16 acres within the Los Angeles County unincorporated area of Topanga Canyon located at the hillside below the Fair Hills Farms, located east of Topanga Canyon Road. This brief focuses on potential mudflow impacts to Santa Maria Road (privately owned) and residents adjacent to and below the burn areas. There are no Public Works' maintained facilities that will be impacted by storm produced debris flows from the burned watershed.

Summary of Potential Sediment Impact

The Owen Fire location was in Debris Production Area Zone 4. During a design debris event (50-year frequency storm), mudflow and debris flows from the burned canyon may cause flooding and sediment deposition onto Santa Maria Road compromising access to 19 residential and private properties along Santa Maria Road and access may be lost for an undetermined time. Due to the potential debris flow risk and loss of access, Public Works will notify the County Fire and Sheriff Departments.

Detailed descriptions of potential sediment impacts are discussed in Attachment A.

Attachments/Links

Attachment A – Description of Burn and Potential Sediment Impacts

Attachment B – Owen Fire History Map

Postfire Debris Flow Hazards Map:

[https://apps.gis.lacounty.gov/dpw/m/index.html?viewer=Post-Fire Debris Flow Hazards Map](https://apps.gis.lacounty.gov/dpw/m/index.html?viewer=Post-Fire%20Debris%20Flow%20Hazards%20Map)

Attachment C – Burned Area Map (pdf)

Attachment D – Debris Flow Hazard Map (pdf)

Postfire Debris Flow Hazards Map

The postfire debris flow hazards map (Phases 1, 2, and 3) identifies the critical locations of potential debris flow impacts below the burned area for various storm magnitudes. This map is prepared when potential debris flows would pose a significant impact to homes, roadways, flood control facilities, or other public infrastructure. Stormwater Engineering

Adam Ariki
November 8, 2023
Page 2

Division (SWED) will post debris flow potential forecasts through the County's eNotify System and on the internet for each forecasted significant storm event throughout this storm season and the four subsequent storm seasons. A letter to the 19 affected property owners will be sent via mail explaining the potential mudflow hazard, including loss of access at Santa Maria Road, and the eNotify system.

Coordination

Stormwater Engineering Division's staff conducted a field reconnaissance of the burned area to verify the fire boundary and perform calculations. SWED has shared its findings with the residents and County's first responders. The County Fire and Sheriff Departments will review and survey the potential impacts to the residents and will respond to any emergencies.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Michael Miranda at Extension 6164.

UO:kr

P:\wrd\POSTFIRE DRAINAGE\FIRE\2023 Fires\Owen Fire\BAR\Memo - Owen Fire Burned Area Brief kaz comments rev MM.docx

Attach.

cc: Disaster Services (Ezell)
Stormwater Engineering (Miranda, Zimmer)