



## Department of Public Works

- Environmental & Construction • Flood Control
- Operations • Solid Waste Management
- Surveyor • Transportation

Gerry Newcombe  
Director

### **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT DESERT KNOLLS WASH PHASE III FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to address the construction, operation, and maintenance of bank and invert stabilization improvements and an access road within an approximately 0.6-mile segment of Desert Knolls Wash, located within the Town of Apple Valley in the County of San Bernardino (See attached Figure 1: Project Location). The San Bernardino County Flood Control District will act as the lead agency under CEQA and will obtain all necessary regulatory permits.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide flood control protection to adjacent existing residential and education/development facilities. The project site is included in the Lewis Center Educational Research Specific Plan as a Flood Zone where the need for flood control improvements was identified. The proposed bank and invert stabilization improvements will follow the existing meandering footprint of Desert Knolls Wash and include grading of the wash side slopes to a 2:1 slope and the installation of grouted and ungrouted rock side slope protection. The wash invert will be mostly earthen with a series of grade stabilization structures constructed across the invert to prevent erosion during large storm events. A rock invert (wash bottom) is proposed at sections of the wash where higher erosion is expected to occur. A continuous access road will be constructed along the southerly side of the wash to facilitate access into the wash and future wash maintenance. An access road crossing over the wash from property owned by The Lewis Center to the east will be constructed through construction of a concrete box or arch culvert at one location in the northerly section of the wash. Following construction of the proposed project in 2018, the County will conduct annual maintenance activities consisting of sediment and debris removal to ensure that wash capacity is retained. Only woody vegetation will be removed from the wash bottom during maintenance. The proposed project includes annual maintenance activity for the first 5 years following construction.

The proposed project is generally located east of the Interstate 15 Freeway and south of State Route 18, in the Town of Apple Valley, County of San Bernardino, California. Specifically, the project site is located approximately 500 feet south of State Route 18 and west of the intersection of Potomac Road and Quantico Road. The project site incorporates an approximately 0.6-mile segment of the Desert Knolls Wash alignment, between the confluence of Desert Knolls Wash with the Mojave River and the existing upstream concrete trapezoidal channel.

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San Bernardino County Flood Control District  
Desert Knolls Wash Phase III Flood Control Improvement Project, cont.

The Draft MND details the proposed project; evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project; identifies those impacts that could be significant; and presents mitigation measures, which avoid, minimize or mitigate these impacts. As provided for by CEQA Section 21064.5, a MND may be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when the project will not result in significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level below significance.

The draft MND is available for public review on the San Bernardino County project website: [http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/public\\_notices/public\\_notices.asp](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/public_notices/public_notices.asp). Copies of the draft MND are also available at the Apple Valley Newton T. Bass Branch Library, located at 14901 Dale Evans Parkway, in the Town of Apple Valley, and at the County office listed below.

In accordance with CEQA, a good faith effort has been made during the preparation of this draft MND to contact affected agencies, organizations, and individuals who may have an interest in this project. In reviewing the MND and initial study, affected public agencies and the interested public should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects on the project area are proposed to be avoided or mitigated.

Comments may be made on the draft MND in writing before the end of the comment period. Following the close of the public comment period, the County Board of Supervisors will consider this MND and comments thereto in determining whether to certify the environmental document.

Written comments on the draft MND should be sent to the following address no later than (March 3, 2017):

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San Bernardino County's Board of Supervisors will consider this document for approval and certification during a future public hearing.