



## Department of Public Works

- Flood Control
- Operations
- Solid Waste Management
- Surveyor
- Transportation

Kevin Blakeslee, P.E.  
Director

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ELDER CREEK CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District (District) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to address channel improvements within a segment of Elder Creek in the City of Highland, CA. The Elder Creek Channel Improvement Project (proposed Project) is located east of Orange Street, north of Plunge Creek, and south of Old Greenspot Road. The proposed Project would extend from Old Greenspot Road (upstream, northern limit) approximately 2,100 feet downstream to just southwest of the confluence of Elder Creek and Church Street Channel, approximately 700 feet downstream of Abbey Road (downstream, southern limit).

The District will act as the Lead Agency under CEQA and will obtain all necessary regulatory permits.

The Elder Creek channel system provides flood protection to nearby residential neighborhoods. The channel at this location is currently undersized and lacks a 100-year storm capacity. Furthermore, stormwater and urban runoff back up into Elder Creek because of relatively flat grades in the area and because Elder Creek is at a lower elevation than Plunge Creek where the two drainages converge. This elevational difference is due in part to sediment deposition in Plunge Creek. Backed-up water impedes normal flow and exacerbates vector problems, such as the spread of mosquitoes. Improvements to the Elder Creek system would improve flood protection in the area and reduce the need for District maintenance of the system.

Improvements to the Elder Creek Channel would consist of the replacement of the existing channels and culverts with larger capacity channels and culverts. The proposed Project would construct a new concrete by-pass channel, small sedimentation basin, and regrade, enlarge, and revegetate the earthen channel below Abbey Way and maintain it as a low flow channel. Activities would also include grading and culvert pipe improvements to the East Highland Storm Drain that drains into Elder Creek, grouted rock placement at the downstream end where the Elder Creek by-pass channel, earthen low flow channel, and Church Street channel converge. A one-time maintenance of Church Street Channel and routine maintenance of the existing District-owned system within the project limits would be conducted. Additionally, the southeastern stockpile area (shelf) would be regraded to gently slope west and be revegetated.

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.

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Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration  
San Bernardino County Flood Control District  
Elder Creek Channel Improvement Project, cont.

The draft MND is available for public review on the County Public Works website under the “Public Notices” tab:

<http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/Home.aspx>

Copies of the draft MND are also available at the Highland Sam J. Racadio Library, located at 7863 Central Ave. in the City of Highland, 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 **October 30, 2019**.

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