



# County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

**Lisa Plowman, Director**

Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director

Steve Mason, Assistant Director

Published 9/23/2020

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED**

**Montecito Emergency Debris Flow Mitigation Project and Case No.19DVP-00000-00036**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Partnership for Resilient Communities proposes continued monitoring and as needed maintenance of the previously installed six debris nets for an additional 3 years, for a cumulative total of 5 years of maintenance activities

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is located in the Cold Spring, Buena Vista and San Ysidro Canyons, commonly known as 007-020-003, 151-180-019 (San Ysidro); 007-020-009 (Buena Vista) and 011-010-027, 011-010-028 (Cold Spring), in the Montecito area, 1<sup>st</sup> Supervisorial District.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department (P&D) is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of 20NGD-00000-00008. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on October 23 at 5:00 p.m. Due to the non-complex nature of the project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held.

**PROJECT DETAILS:** Six existing Geobrug flexible debris nets were installed - under an Emergency Permit and subsequent Development Plan - in Cold Springs Canyon, Buena Vista Canyon, and San Ysidro Canyon following a major debris flow in early 2018. The Emergency Permit authorized installation, 1 year of monitoring and maintenance, as well as subsequent removal of the debris nets after 1 year. The subsequent Development Plan authorized an additional year of monitoring and maintenance. The previously issued Emergency Permit and Development Plan set forth detailed monitoring and maintenance requirements for removal of accumulated debris necessary to maintain the low-flow stream channel, while protecting special-status species and sensitive habitats. In order to provide additional time for the recovery of the watershed affected by the Thomas Fire, the Applicant has submitted a new Development Plan application proposing continued monitoring and maintenance of the six debris nets, as needed, for an additional 3 years, for a cumulative total of 5 years of maintenance activities.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS:** P&D has prepared a Draft Negative Declaration (ND) (20NGD-00000-00008) pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. P&D's issuance of a ND affirms our opinion that any significant adverse

impacts associated with the proposed project may be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures and that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The ND prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Significant but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas:

**Biological Resources**  
**Cultural Resources**  
**Fire Protection**  
**Recreation**

If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. This reevaluation will be subject to all regular fees and conditions. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** If a copy of the draft ND is not attached, the draft ND may be obtained and all documents incorporated by reference in the ND may be reviewed at P&D offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara and on the P&D website at [INSERT website address/link]. Draft documents are also available for review at the [IDENTIFY libraries and addresses].

**HOW TO COMMENT:** Please provide comments to the project planner, Ciara Ristig, at [cristig@countyofsb.org](mailto:cristig@countyofsb.org) or 805-568-2077, prior to the close of public comment on October 23 at 5:00 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial. The project is scheduled to be heard at the Montecito Planning Commission on November 18, 2020.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the hearing, please contact Hearing Support Staff (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.