

Published October 13, 2022

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE
DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED
Buena Vista Channel Debris Basin Project**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (District) proposes construction and operation of a new debris basin facility in the 0.65-acre area of Buena Vista Creek immediately upstream of Park Lane. A new debris basin at this location would increase the debris retention and protect Park Lane and nearby infrastructure and properties.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Proposed Project is located in the County of Santa Barbara District 1, at 1550 Park Lane, Montecito CA. The Project Site is located between the intersections of Park Lane and Mariposa Ln and Park Lane and East Mountain Dr. The Project Site includes portions of Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 007-020-052, 007-020-057, 007-020-071, and 007-060-092.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The District is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document for the Project (State Clearinghouse Number to be assigned, contact Lead Agency). You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the District Environmental Manager identified below prior to the close of public comment on November 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. An environmental hearing will be held on October 27, at Planning Commission Hearing Room, County of Santa Barbara 123 E. Anapamu St. Santa Barbara CA 93101. Please contact Andrew Raaf before October 25 at 5:00 p.m. for the virtual meeting option asraaf@countyofsb.org or (805) 722-7250.

PROJECT DETAILS: The District proposes construction and operation of a new flood control debris basin on Buena Vista Creek at Park Lane in Montecito, California. Buena Vista Creek originates in the Los Padres National Forest and runs through the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains along residential neighborhoods of Montecito. The watershed was severely burned during the 2017/2018 Thomas Fire. The devastating debris flow that followed in January 2018 resulted in damage and destruction of property, public infrastructure, and natural habitats in the watershed and nearby. The creek crossing at Park Lane over Buena Vista Creek suffered severe damage within the January 2018 disaster zone. The volume and speed of the debris flow, following just behind a massive wildfire, overwhelmed the capacity of the existing culvert under Park Lane, resulting in debris accumulation and damage to adjacent properties. The District is now proposing the area of Buena Vista Creek immediately upstream of Park Lane as the location for a new debris basin facility. A new debris basin at this location would increase the debris retention and protect Park Lane and nearby infrastructure and properties.

The debris basin would comprise the following appurtenant structures:

- Vertical soil pile retaining wall on the east bank (RW1);
- Vertical soil pile retaining wall on the west bank (RW3);
- Concrete access road on the west with a gate;
- Soldier pile wall with tie-backs to stabilize the access road (RW2);
- Rock-slope protection with half-ton rock within upper channel;
- Pilot channel;

- Debris rack;
- Possible repairs to the upstream headwall of the existing Park Lane corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert;
- Restoration and regrading of the existing Buena Vista trailhead to baseline site conditions; and
- Replanting of native vegetation in any suitable areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: The District has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (State Clearinghouse Number to be assigned, contact Lead Agency) 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. The District's issuance of an IS/MND 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 IS/MND 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: **Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Hydrology, Geologic Process, Water Quality, Recreation and Noise**. If the project description changes, the District will conduct a re-evaluation to consider the changes. 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 IS/MND is not attached, the draft IS/MND may be obtained and all documents incorporated by reference in the IS/MND may be reviewed at District offices located at 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 and on the District website <https://www.countyofsb.org/2384/Environmental-Group>.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the District Environmental Manager, Andrew Raaf at 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200 Santa Barbara, CA 93101, asraaf@countyofsb.org, (805) 722-7250 or FAX (805) 568-3434 prior to the close of public comment on November 14, 2022 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 approval or denial.