

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 7- OFFICE OF REGIONAL PLANNING
100 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 266-3574
FAX (213) 897-1337
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



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April 28, 2023

Paddy Taber, Senior Management Analyst II
City of La Cañada Flintridge, Public Works
One Civic Center Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

RE: Flint Canyon Wash Trail Restoration Project
– Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH# 2023030371
GTS# 07-LA-2023-04190
Vic. I-210 PM R21.823

Dear Paddy Taber,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Proposed Project would improve a 1,000-foot section of the 2.4-mile-long Flint Canyon Wash Trail. Improvements include the installation of 3-foot by 3-foot gabions on the downslope of the unprotected bank. The purpose of the gabion wall is to stabilize the slope and to inhibit stream flows from eroding and undercutting the slope supporting the Flint Canyon Trail. In addition to the gabions, soil nails would be used to stabilize the embankment. The soil nails would be placed in a grid-like pattern along the length and height of the wall, inserted laterally into the slope. The gabions would be placed in front of the soil nails, facing the wash, for erosion protection. The Proposed Project would also include the installation of five erosion monitoring stations at key points along the stream where high velocity flows occur. These stations would help the city identify future problem areas that could affect the stability and safety of the Flint Canyon Trail. In addition a biological restoration plan is being prepared for the Proposed Project and will be included with the final engineering plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E). Habitat enhancement would include removal of non-native vegetation and may include planting of native vegetation. The biological restoration plan will include a maintenance, monitoring, and reporting component for a 120-day Plant Establishment Period (PEP) and for five years following the end of the 120-day PEP. Temporary staging for construction would be along the trail just south of the proposed improvements. Two other potential temporary staging areas also include a portion of the parking lot of the La Cañada United Methodist Church and an adjacent dirt lot located south of Berkshire Place and east of the westbound Interstate-210 off-ramp at Berkshire Place. The Proposed Project is funded by a Proposition 68 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant.


The nearest State facility to the proposed project is Interstate 210. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

While the currently proposed Project does not specify work within Caltrans Rights of Way (ROW), if there are any future impacts to State facilities as a result of this work then the City would be fully responsible for correcting and/or mitigating those impacts.

Additionally, due to the Project's proximity to I-210, any scope changes that may involve work on or in the vicinity of the Caltrans ROW will require an encroachment permit and all design and environmental concerns must be adequately addressed.

Finally, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2023-04190.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson
LDR Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse