

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

NOVEMBER 12, 2014

The 2009 Station Fire burned nearly 100 percent of the undeveloped watershed above Devil's Gate Dam and Reservoir, leaving vast areas of the San Gabriel Mountains denuded and making high volumes of sediment deposition inevitable. The two storm seasons that followed brought in approximately 1.3 million cubic yards of post-fire debris, reducing the flood control capacity of the reservoir and substantially increasing the level of flood risk to downstream communities.

Recognizing the intrinsic value of this natural area to the community, that project implementation should provide enough reservoir capacity to ensure public safety, and that the required sediment storage capacity would need to be sustainable, socially acceptable, economically viable, and environmentally sensitive, the Board of Supervisors directed the Department of Public Works on March 1, 2011, to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for a project to remove sediment from the Devils Gate Reservoir.

Public Works conducted an extensive and transparent public outreach process to look comprehensively at post-fire sediment management alternatives; meeting with the public in open community forums; communicating through social and traditional media; and working directly with local municipal representatives, task forces, and neighborhood councils. The public hearing process was extended twice to accommodate additional comments, and all 250 comment letters received were responded to and included in the Final EIR.

The vast majority of the issues raised focused on reducing the volume and rate of sediment removal, air quality, habitat, and traffic impacts. The Final Environmental Impact Report identifies alternatives and mitigation measures that directly address these issues and substantially reduce their impacts.

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MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

While no alternative is without its impacts, I believe Public Works has thoroughly considered all stakeholder input, has displayed flexibility and innovation by developing the recommended alternative with a final configuration that nearly mimics the City of Pasadena's Hahamonga Master Plan, has recommended an environmentally sensitive project that significantly reduces the flood risk to communities downstream of Devil's Gate Dam, and purposes a maintenance plan that manages future sediment buildup in the reservoir in a more sustainable and acceptable manner.

I would like to acknowledge the many stakeholders from Altadena, La Cañada Flintridge, and Pasadena who provided their input. Their work with Public Works, as well as my own staff, was conducted in a transparent manner and has helped shape what is being presented to the Board of Supervisors today as the recommended project alternative—one that is sensitive to all stakeholder needs and one I wholly support.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Works to:

1. Further reduce community impacts by including the following provisions in the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project design plans and specifications:
 - Limit hauling hours to Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - Hauling to occur only between April 15 to October 15 with the ability to go until December, if we have a late wet season and a dry fall.
 - Exclude work on major holidays and major Rose Bowl events.
 - Prohibit trucks from staging on city streets.
 - Balance truck traffic between the Cities of La Cañada Flintridge and Pasadena.
 - Work with the permitting agencies and stakeholders to restore habitat in the project area that is consistent with the Hahamonga Master Plan.
2. Continue collaboration on project design and implementation with the Altadena Town Council and Cities of La Cañada Flintridge and Pasadena.
3. Implement a regular maintenance routine, consistent with the Environmental Impact Report, by removing accumulated sediment annually to reduce the future frequency of major sediment removal projects.

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