

## **Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How and why was Viewridge selected?**

Viewridge is at the top of Topanga Canyon Creek Watershed and it makes sense to start at the top and go towards the sea when addressing water quality problems as gravity is on our side. In addition, the water quality model that was used to project pollutant loads from developed areas in Topanga identified Viewridge as a high priority candidate.

### **2. How and why was Viewridge chosen for this project over Summit Pointe?**

Access! Viewridge Estates is located within public road right of way and has existing drainage infrastructure that facilitates a treatment project. Also, the clean water coming from the project will flow directly into the headwaters of Topanga Canyon Creek.

### **3. Will the water from Viewridge Project reach the Santa Monica Bay?**

In the winter, probably. In the summer, sometimes. Flows from Viewridge Estates may or may not reach the Santa Monica Bay depending on intensity of storm events.

### **4. What percent of the Viewridge Estates water affects the Topanga Watershed compared to the town of Topanga downstream?**

This project improves water quality in *your* neighborhood. Cleaning up waterbodies is most effective when projects begin at the headwaters and move downstream, project by project – Viewridge Estates is first in line. Cleaning up sites downstream while dirty water flows downhill into them is not a winning strategy. The goal is to have cleaner water from upstream moving downstream.

### **5. Why not install a project further downstream near the Santa Monica Bay?**

A Project at this location would only benefit the Santa Monica Bay and will not protect the beneficial uses identified for Topanga Canyon Creek and would not make your neighborhood or Topanga Canyon Creek healthier. Furthermore, a project of this scale is cost prohibitive and would require sizing to accommodate flows from the entire comingled developed and undeveloped Topanga watershed.

The overall goal here is to improve water quality from developed areas and protect natural habitat.

**6. What in Viewridge Estates is causing pollutants?**

Common sources include fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, improper disposal of trash and pet waste, over irrigation, automobile brake dust, tire residue, leaking automobile fluids and aerial deposition of particulates in the air settling on hardscapes. There are legacy pollutants like DDT and PCB that predate the housing development but have lasting – and serious – impacts. The time to address this is now while funding is available.

**7. Is the Viewridge estates the only developed area in question?**

Definitely not. Viewridge Estates is first because the community is at the top of the watershed. Over time other communities downstream will be addressed. Management of stormwater and urban runoff throughout the watershed are required until water quality objectives are met.

**8. How will the project impact fire response?**

Good question. Representatives from LASD and LAFD indicated the project will not impact local first responders' activities. There will be ample room for parking emergency vehicles and community members both for parking and for driving up and down Viewridge Road throughout the project.

**9. How will construction be sensitive and responsive to fire danger?**

Project construction specifications will include Special Provisions for Red Flag Alert days. This includes suspension of construction on Red Flag Alert days as determined by USDA Forest Service Fire Station, and an evacuation plan, and restoring the project site to a passable condition.