DEVIL'S GATE DAM & RESERVOIR

POSTFIRE SEDIMENT REMOVAL

Presented by Los Angeles County Flood Control District





Flood Control District

Owns and operates complex flood protection and water conservation systems that includes:

- 14 major dams
- 155 debris basins
- 500 miles of open channels
- 20 sediment placement sites



Devil's Gate Reservoir

- Constructed in 1920
- Purpose: Flood Control and Water Conservation
- Watershed Size: 39.1 sq. miles
- Reservoir Size: 0.18 sq. mile
- Original Capacity: 7,423,000 cy
- Offers flood protection to the Cities of:
 - Pasadena
 - South Pasadena
 - Los Angeles

Devil's Gate Reservoir: photo taken in 1935.

Source: Arroyo Seco Foundation



2009 Station Fire

The 2009 Station Fire burned over 160,000 acres in the San Gabriel Mountains above:

- Altadena
- La Canada Flintridge
- La Crescenta
- Glendale
- Tujunga
- Acton



Source: Scientific American

Five County Reservoirs were significantly effected...

- Eaton Wash (13% burned)
- Pacoima (73% burned)
- Big Tujunga (87% burned)
- Cogswell (90% burned)
- Devils Gate (nearly 100% of undeveloped watershed burned)

Typically it takes 3-5 years to recover from a forest fire.

Five County Reservoirs were significantly effected... Eaton Wash (13% burned)



Five County Reservoirs were significantly effected... Pacoima (73% burned)



Five County Reservoirs were significantly effected... Big Tujunga (87% burned)



Five County Reservoirs were significantly effected... Cogswell (90% burned)



Five County Reservoirs were significantly effected...

Devil's Gate Reservoir (nearly 100% undeveloped watershed burned)



State of Emergency

- August 28, 2009 Governor proclaimed State of Emergency in Los Angeles
 County due to <u>Wildfires</u>
- January 21, 2010 Acting Governor proclaimed State of Emergency in Los Angeles due to <u>Severe Winter Storms</u>
- October 21, 2010 California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) recommends removal of silt/sediment buildup and vegetation growth in Devil's Gate Reservoir.



Source: Arroyo Seco Foundation



California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA Document: Notice of Exemption (NOE)

- State of California Public Resources Code - §21080(b)(3)
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Environmental Reporting Procedures - §307.B.(5)

Project Permitting



California Department of Fish and Game



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board



United States Army Corps of Engineers

Station Fire Effects on Devil's Gate

 2009-2010 Storms brought in 936,000 cy of sediment after only 1st year

Estimated Current Capacity: 1,242,000 cy (~17%)



The Rose Bowl \approx 400,000 cubic yards

Threat to Devil's Gate Dam



Threat to Devil's Gate Dam



Trash Racks clogged due to sediment buildup.



Future Sedimentation



Future Sedimentation



Threat to Downstream Residence



Threat to Downstream Residence



Design Debris Event (DDE)

- Estimated increased sediment accumulation after a 50year storm over an entirely burnt watershed.
- Devil's Gate DDE: 1,671,000 cy

Postfire Sediment Removal Project

Emergency Response to the 2009 Station Fire and 2010 Severe Winter Storms

- Planning to remove 1,671,000 cy (1 DDE) of sediment due to expected 5 year recovery
- Construction to begin September 2011
- Estimated 3 years to complete
- Sediment will be hauled to Manning Pit SPS and Azusa Land Reclamation

Excavation Site

- Excavation Area: < 50 acres
- Willow Tree Removal
 (permanent) : ≤ 15 acres
- Avoidance of sensitive species

VEGETATION COMMUNITY

Alder Woodland
Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub
Black Willow Series
Coast Live Oak Woodland - Disturbed
Coastal Sage Scrub
Mule Fat Scrub - Disturbed
Peppergrass Series
Posion Hemlock Series/ Mule Fat Scrub - Disturbed
Riparian Herbaceous
Stream
Ephemeral Pond
Disturbed

Ornamental



Haul Route



Source: Google Maps

Haul Route



Source: Google Maps

Haul Route Through Pasadena

- Approximately
 300-400 truck loads
 per day
- Work Season: May -December
- Working Days: Monday – Friday
- Working Hours: 7:30am – 5:00pm
- 3 years of work



Impacted Roadway

Haul Route in the Reservoir

- Widening of the west maintenance road.
- Possible impacts to local trails.
- Alternatives considered



Source: Google Maps



- Trail

Working with City of Pasadena

- Excavation area is consistent with Master Plan
- Our project is not meant to impede the Hahamongna Master Plan
- Current plans are to haul sediment off-site, but open to leaving sediment for fill once Multi-benefit Project is underway



Project Benefits

- Relieves threat to Devil's Gate Dam outlet works
- Establishes a permanent maintenance area
- Increased capacity = regaining necessary Flood Protection
- Improved Water Conservation
- Opportunity for better Water Conservation in the future (pool)

QUESTIONS?