

ACONA Meeting Notes

May 28, 2019

After introductions the following topics were covered.

Registration Deadline Extension for Out of Compliance Fences and Hedges

Ai-Viet Huynh & Alex Garcia, LA County Dept. of Regional Planning

The deadline has been extended to July 1. Registration forms are available on the ACONA website.

There have been over 400 registration so far. January 1, 2034 is the extension for compliance once your over-height fence/hedge is registered.

Search & Rescue in Altadena

Alex Canchola & Dan Paige, Altadena Sheriff's Station

Stats for the last three years are in the slides; 1 death per year. Half the S&R team members are volunteers; the others are reserve deputies, with an active duty deputy (Dan Paige) as supervisor of the team.

Rescues can be hazardous for rescuers because they are placing themselves at risk for harm during rescues.

Rescue helicopters land in park areas to get injured parties to medical facilities ASAP; often the team needs to go back out immediately to do another rescue. In critical cases the helicopters will land as close to a medical facility as possible if they don't have to do a second rescue.

Rescue teams work out of the area as well if there is need.

Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project Update

Brittany Barker & Steve Burger, LA County Public Works

Four-year project began last week. 1.3 million cubic yards of sediment came down after the Station Fire. Restoration project will remove 1.7 million cubic yards of sediment (up to 30 ft. deep behind the dam).

Hauling April-November using the cleanest diesel trucks on the road. There are 59-63 trucks currently operating, out of 95 planned. 16,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed over the five days since the project began.

Adjacent hiking trails will be closed 7am-5pm on weekdays, open on weekends and holidays.

Two sediment placement sites: Irwindale and Sun Valley.

Tested for glyphosate (Round-up) in the first area of sediment removal; none found.

Website: devilsgateproject.com. Users can sign up for email updates.

Update on Water in Altadena

Melvin Matthews, Kinneloa Irrigation District

Raymond Basin Aquifer is the major source of water for Altadena and Pasadena.

Managed water distribution (first adjudicated water source). In Altadena there's about a 50-50 mix of local and imported water (through the Metropolitan Water District).

It's been a good year for snowfall and rain.

Most water reservoirs are at close to 100%.

All Altadena water agencies are members of Foothill Municipal Water District.

State Water Resources Control Board is in the process of making regulations that take into account the area (lot size, economics, etc) when setting restrictions.

Headed for a 55 gallon per person daily limit.

Water conservation has unintended consequences for water agencies because most of the rate goes to fixed costs, so per-unit water rates have to go up to cover these costs when less water is being used.

Q&A

Devil's Gate

Q: How many local hires in the Devil's Gate project? A: There is a robust local hiring program. About 30-40% of the labor is local. Having local outreach events and taking job applications.

Q: Hahamonga Watershed Park presentation presented four drive-through air pollution comparisons. What are the two not covered in your presentation tonight? A: We will get that info for you.

Q: How is sediment removal going to help store water behind the dam? A: There was a shelved plan to pipe the water to Eaton Canyon spreading grounds. Since Devil's Gate is a flood control reservoir, there is mostly staged release into the concrete-lined LA River.

Q: Tarping of trucks: There's still sediment and dust on the road. Can the truckloads be tarred?

A: The dust is coming from the tires. Tracking it closely to try to reduce that. Trucks were loaded beyond the truck bed; now keeping the level below the top of the truck.

Q: Oak Grove Drive is not being measured for air quality safety. Arroyo-Windsor has no sensors. How are you going to protect cyclists, pedestrians, school children from traffic and air quality issues? A: A couple of monitors are fairly close to Oak Grove — about 75 ft. La Canada HS has a monitor. Not showing any issues. Will talk to air quality consultant about Windsor/Oak Grove. Regarding traffic, law enforcement and traffic monitors were out last week. Putting in left turn signals to mitigate traffic.

Q: Are the roadways being maintained/repared where the trucks are being driven? A: Don't think there are provisions for that but we can look into it. County is fixing potholes. There is a pavement condition index that records before/after so that if there's damage it can be remediated.

Q: If you are analyzing the traffic at Oak Grove/Windsor, a left turn should have a complementary right turn. A: Our folks are probably looking at that, but we'll pass the suggestion along.

Q: Who will decide how much water is left behind the dam? A: Reservoirs can have conservation pools and flood control pools. Devils Gate is a flood control pool.

Q: Are you going to reach the 95-truck capacity any time soon? What about noise (beeps)? A: As quickly as we can get up to 95 trucks we plan on doing that, but getting clean trucks is an issue. Trucks are about a minute apart. Shouldn't see more traffic impacts from the higher number of trucks, there will just be fewer gaps. Trying to tune backup beeps to reduce the noise level.

Fences & Hedges

Q: What percentage of non-compliance fences and hedges have not been registered? A: Don't have an estimate. The fear seems to be what the County is going to do with the information. 3-5 thousand houses are probably out of compliance.

Q: Part of the reason why there hasn't been more response to the fences/hedges issue could be because people are confused about how to measure. What happens if a non-compliant fence/hedge isn't registered? A: County will continue complaint-base enforcement, so if there are no complaints, no issue. If there's a complaint and the fence/hedge hasn't been registered, the county will follow through on compliance.

Q: Is registration necessary only for non-compliant fences/hedges? A: Yes.

Search & Rescue

Q: Where are the helicopters based? A: Sylmar, Pomona, and Altadena.

Q: Can you talk about where/why helicopters land? A: Haven't heard any complaints about frequency. Dispatch and landing location decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and Altadena assesses use of helicopters based on need.

Water

Q: I see a water company watering their lawn every morning. What can we do about that? A: Report it to the offending water agency.

Q: Have we captured the rainfall in the spreading grounds? Are the levels healthier? A: Through voluntary reductions we've managed to slow the decline. Eaton Canyon spreading grounds have been full. Need to do more to help the Raymond Basin to replenish. Water level is still going down.

Q: Rain that falls today: how long does it take to reach the water table? A: 10-15 years.

Q: Is collecting local water (roofs, yards) a viable possibility to help with replenishment? A: Yes, that's something that is being discussed.