

Notice of Section 401 Application Reception

File Number: 362023-18

Project Name: Forest Falls Watershed Protection

Received: 5/17/2023

Date Posted: 5/26/2023

End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 6/16/2023

Project City: Unincorporated Community of Forest Falls

Project County: San Bernardino

Applicant Organization: San Bernardino County Flood Control District

Applicant Name: Anthony Pham

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: Purpose and goal of the project is to provide continued flood protection to the community of Forest Falls.

Project Activities: Project consists of the upfront removal of approximately 25,000 CY of rock, debris and sediment within approximately 1,800 LF of drainages that cross Valley of the Falls Drive within the unincorporated area of Forest Falls. Using approximately 2 long-reach excavators, 4 loaders and 10 dump trucks, the facility will be restored. One damaged culvert will be repaired at Slide Creek and Valley of the Falls Drive Work will be limited to bank to bank material removal in an unnamed drainage, Slide Creek drainage, and Rattlesnake Creek drainage. The only trees to be removed are those damaged to the extent that they pose a safety hazard as determined by the County arborist, and those fallen across the drainages. Purpose of the project is to restore flow capacity in order to protect life and property from future rock and debris flows.

Heavy thunderstorms of September 11 - 12, 2022 and into February, 2023 in the 2020 El Dorado Fire burn area of the San Bernardino Mountains and subsequent storms resulted in significant rock, sediment and debris flows in Forest Falls. One person lost her life in the flooding. A local emergency was declared in September, 2022 and extended through June, 2023. NCRS/ USDA is providing federal funds to the County for the restoration of the above-mentioned drainages. RGP63 permits expire on May 30, 2023 in accordance with Federal rules and policies governing the RGP63 process. USACE staff determined the appropriate course of action to complete repairs in Forest Falls, which will not complete by May 30, is to obtain authorization under the NWP37 Emergency Watershed Protection Permit. Excavated materials would be transported offsite and is the responsibility of the contractor. Approximately 0.43 acres of WoUS/State will be temporarily impacted.