

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8-9, 2018**

**ITEM NUMBER:** 20  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Officer's Report  
**KEY INFORMATION:** Update Regarding the Montecito Debris Flow

The last incident update provided by Santa Barbara County, dated January 21, 2018, included the following information:

- Single family residences destroyed: 129
- Single family residences damaged: 307
- Commercial property destroyed: 6
- Commercial property damaged: 17
- Fatalities: 21
- Injuries: 28
- Missing: 2

<https://www.countyofsb.org/asset.c/3813>

Other ongoing impacts:

- An exclusion zone around the most highly affected areas is in effect. Only residents and contractors are allowed in the zone.
- A boil water/high chlorine notice is in effect for many Montecito Water District customers.
- Several beaches are closed to public access due to high concentrations in ocean waters.
- Santa Barbara County Public Health Department issued a warning to the public to avoid consuming raw fish and raw shellfish caught close to ocean waters where bacterial levels continue to be elevated, such as Goleta Beach and Carpinteria State Beach.

Montecito Sanitary District's wastewater treatment facility is operating normally and within Central Coast Water Board permit requirements. Flow is still lower than normal because of evacuations and damaged and destroyed homes that are currently not occupied. The district's collection system was not severely damaged and is operating normally except in the most highly affected areas. The district continues to inspect and clean collection system lines.

On January 19, 2018, Central Coast Water Board staff issued an individual Water Quality Certification to the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District for clearing of debris from creeks, basins, and roads, as well as placement of cleared sediment at Carpinteria and Goleta beaches. The Water Quality Certification requires each truckload of sediment that will be placed on the beach to be screened by a handheld volatile organic compound meter to help identify risk of contamination. Further, per the requirements of the Water Quality Certification, sampling of

the sediment in the trucks was initiated on January 23, 2018. Analytical results of samples collected on that date showed concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, ammonia, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and pesticides to be below screening levels. In addition, grain-size analysis of the samples showed the sediment to be approximately 15 percent fine material (silt and clay), which is below the usual standard of 25 percent fines maximum for placement of sediment on the beach. Fecal indicator bacteria sampling of the surf zone waters has found elevated concentrations of total coliform, e. coli, and enterococcus. Additional work is being performed by UCSB to try to identify the sources of the fecal indicator bacteria. The sources are not necessarily human; research has shown that these types of organisms are widely distributed in the environment.

County Flood Control and the US Army Corps of Engineers continue to remove sediment and debris from watercourses and debris basins. Most of that material is going to commercial locations for recycling, with some sediment disposal at local beaches, as described above. Debris and sediment on private property will be the responsibility of the property owners to remove. This process will generate huge quantities of mud, rocks, and debris in the upcoming months as property owners clean up and rebuild; County Flood Control staff estimates more than 90 percent of sediment material brought down during the storm event currently resides on private properties. Staff is working with the county to make sure adequate appropriate disposal sites are available.

On Tuesday, January 23, 2018, Chair Wolff, Executive Officer Robertson, Section Manager Harvey Packard, and other staff met with US EPA and County Flood Control representatives and toured portions of the affected watersheds and the sediment disposal areas at Carpinteria and Goleta beaches. We will have a brief presentation during the Board meeting.