

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Begins Post-Fire Sediment and Erosion Control Work

Fire impacted residents of Scripps Ranch and Tierrasanta to receive free erosion control materials

San Diego-- The City of San Diego is moving rapidly to address post-fire sediment and erosion control problems stemming from the Cedar Fire in the communities of Tierrasanta and Scripps Ranch. Frank Belock, Director the of City's Engineering and Capital Projects Department (E&CP) is heading this effort.

At recent meetings with homeowner association officers of both communities, Belock explained the City's process to identify the scope of work that lies ahead and the City's plan to put the communities on the long road to recovery.

The City hired GeoSyntec Consultants to assess fire damage, help determine the City's best plan of action to protect the public's health and safety, and minimize further damage to property from the impending winter rains.

Last week, GeoSyntec completed an assessment of both communities and recommended an erosion mitigation plan for each. All property was physically inspected for the following potential or existing hazards: landslides; mud, debris and sediment flows; flooding; rock falls, and retaining structure problems resulting from the fire.

These hazards were then correlated to five potential public impacts to determine a final work priority rating of high, medium and low. The five public impacts are: public health and safety; severity of public and private property damage; infrastructure damage or related concerns; transportation damage; and damage to the receiving waters of the United States (I.E. creeks, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, lagoons, bays, and ocean).

"Areas receiving a high priority rating were those with both a high hazard and high potential for public impact, and in need of the most immediate and urgent attention. A low priority rating is good, as it comes with a low potential hazard and public impact," Belock said.

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Based on this assessment, the City has determined to begin work immediately on the high and medium priority sites in both communities. At this time, the low priority areas will be allowed to naturally rebound and will be continuously monitored for potential future work.

Work will begin this week in Scripps Ranch and Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP), with Tierrasanta's high and medium priority area work commencing after the Army Corps of Engineers confirms that military ordinance from years past has not been uncovered by the fire.

Contractors have been hired by the City to install sediment and erosion control materials for the high and medium risk areas on both public and private properties. Three contractors will spray fire impacted slopes in both communities with a hydro-seeded mulch and tackifier.

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) has been contracted to install sediment and erosion control measures at all the medium and high priority public areas. The CCC will stake the public areas prior to the spraying of the hydro-mulch, then will cover the sprayed areas with a fiber blanket roll to keep it in place once the rains do come.

"We feel that if the weather forecasters are correct and we have a relatively mild and light rainy season, this should be a sufficient level of protection. But, if the rains are heavy, the erosion and sediment control measures we are taking may need to be reapplied, and additional measures looked at" Belock said.

For private property owners in the high and medium priority areas that have fire damaged property, free sediment and erosion control materials such as fiber rolls and an instructional brochure "Post Fire Best Management Practices (BMPs) For Runoff, Erosion and Sediment Control" are available for self-installation.

If you are a private property owner or a Homeowners Association in the high and medium priority areas of either community in need of assistance with installation of the erosion and sediment control measures, or need the hydro-mulch mixture applied to your burned slopes, a property release form must be signed and returned to the City. Scripps Ranch property owners may request a release form from their Homeowners Association, and Tierrasanta property owners can retrieve the release form from www.JimMadaffer.com. Signed and completed forms may be faxed to Frank Belock, Engineering and Capital Projects

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Department at (619) 533-4736. You will then be contacted by the City E&CP Department regarding the application of the hydro-mulch to your burned slopes. Questions regarding the release form can be directed to Belock at (619) 236-6274.

Additionally, residents having questions about proper installation of the free sediment and erosion control materials, call the E&CP Department's Field Engineering Division Fire Response Team at (858) 627-3200 Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. for assistance and clarification.

Materials will be available for pick-up beginning Saturday, December 13, 2003 during daylight hours at the following locations:

Scripps Ranch- Meanley Drive at the end of the cul-de-sac enter the far right drive way.

Tierrasanta- The eastern terminus of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, just east of Rueda Drive.

The materials will be in a secured, fenced off area and residents should be prepared to provide appropriate identification, including the property address at the time of pick-up.

The Tierrasanta residential pick-up area will remain open only as long as demand exists. If the residential supply area has low use by Tierrasanta residents, it will be closed and residents will be referred to the Scripps Ranch residential pick-up lot for their materials.

Residents are encouraged to stay updated on the latest post-fire news.

Information is available from the following sources:

www.JimMadaffer.com , www.Thinkbluesd.org , webmaster@scrippsranh.org , and www.sandiego.gov/newsflash/firealert.shtml .

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