



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

(626) 974-8371

March 4, 2014

Mr. James Makshanoff
City Manager
City of Azusa
213 East Foothill Boulevard
Azusa, CA 91702

Dear Mr. Makshanoff:

In January of 2014, The Colby Fire caused considerable damage to the watershed areas that drain into the Wildland Urban Interface, which includes a portion of the City of Azusa.

The area of the "Garcia Trail" has dry ravel, areas with slope failure and damage to retaining walls. An estimated 60 percent of the Garcia Trail tread has been covered by dry ravel and ninety percent of the retaining walls, which once supported the trail, are failing and in a state of disrepair. Unconsolidated loose materials continue to erode downhill covering the trail tread even under stable weather conditions. Ten to fifteen percent of the Garcia Trail treads run perpendicular to contour in alignment with drainages that may experience heavy run-off during medium to high precipitation.

In conclusion, based on this assessment, this area is a current threat to life and property. The temporary immediate closure of the entire burned area including the Garcia Trail is recommended to provide for public safety, limit the damage to private property; residences; vacant land; and also schools in the area, reduce private land owner liability and increase opportunity for natural land recovery with minimal impact from excessive land use.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS	CALABASAS	DIAMOND BAR	HIDDEN HILLS	LA MIRADA	MALIBU	POMONA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CARSON	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LA PUENTE	MAYWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CERRITOS	EL MONTE	INDUSTRY	LAKEWOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	CLAREMONT	GARDENA	INGLEWOOD	LANCASTER	PALMDALE	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	COMMERCE	GLENDDORA	IRVINDALE	LAWNDALE	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELL GARDENS	COVINA	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE	LOMITA	PARAMOUNT	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELLFLOWER	CUDAHY	HAWTHORNE	LA HABRA	LYNWOOD	PICO RIVERA	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAGE
BRADBURY							WHITTIER

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When soil erosion stabilizes and it is safe to proceed, land owners can have access to the burned area to conduct restoration projects.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (626) 974-8371.

Sincerely,

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF STEVE MARTIN
DIVISION II, EAST REGIONAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

SM:sc

c: J. Lopez