



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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August 12, 2004

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WR-2**

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe  
Interim Director of Public Works

### **FIRE STATUS REPORT EAST, PINE, FOOTHILL, AND CROWN FIRES**

As reported in our July 22, 2004, report to you, three significant fires occurred within the northern area of the County of Los Angeles in July 2004. Since then, a fourth sizeable fire called the East Fire has occurred. These fires burned a total of approximately 43,000 acres.

The East Fire located in the unincorporated area north of Castaic started on August 7, 2004, and was completely contained on August 9, 2004. The fire burned approximately 1,300 acres. Although the northbound Golden State Freeway (I-5) and other major roads in the vicinity were closed during the incident, all roads in the area are now open. Two outbuildings were destroyed. Preliminary reconnaissance is currently being undertaken by Public Works to identify residences that would likely benefit from engineering advice.

The Pine Fire located in the vicinity of Lake Hughes burned approximately 17,500 acres. All roads in the area are now open. The cost of removing damaged trees along Pine Canyon Road is estimated at \$9,000. Three homes were destroyed and one damaged. Approximately 15 residences in the fire area have been identified that would likely benefit from engineering advice.

The Foothill Fire located in the vicinity of Newhall burned approximately 6,100 acres. All roads in the area are now open. Our Road Maintenance staff continue to clean out road culverts and modify culvert inlets to prepare them for mudflows. No residences were destroyed or damaged. Seventeen residences in the fire area have been identified that would likely benefit from engineering advice. Potentially affected residents have been notified by letter of the availability of engineering advice by Public Works. We have commenced providing engineering advice to residents in coordination with City of Santa Clarita staff.

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The Crown Fire located in the vicinity of the unincorporated community of Acton burned approximately 18,000 acres. One bridge on Aliso Canyon Road was destroyed. Aliso Canyon Road, from Angeles Forest Highway to Avenue Y-8, remains closed. Public Works is evaluating whether to establish a detour or a temporary bridge for local residents. All other roads in the area are now open. The cost of permanently replacing the bridge is estimated at \$2 million. One home and six outbuildings were destroyed. Three residences in the fire area have been identified that would likely benefit from engineering advice. Public Works has notified the potentially affected residents by letter and the Acton Town Council of the availability of engineering advice and is awaiting the residents' responses.

A multiagency Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Committee has been formed to coordinate response activities and share information. The BAER Committee will meet weekly until response activities have addressed concerns. Among the entities attending were Public Works, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, City of Santa Clarita, Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon's Office, late State Senator William "Pete" Knights' Office, and other local agencies. These entities are cooperatively implementing all practical measures to protect fire area residents against flooding and debris flow problems.

I will continue to update you on a regular basis.

PW:jac

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Office