



JOINT NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBC Tea Fire 08-23
November 20, 2008
TIME: 4:45 PM

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RESIDENTS ADVISED OF INCREASED FLOOD POTENTIAL IN AREAS ADJACENT TO SYCAMORE CREEK DUE TO THE TEA FIRE City and County Offer Flood Preparation Information

Santa Barbara County & City Working Together to Help Reduce Flood Risk in Sycamore Creek Watershed Area; Residents Advised to Consider Buying Flood Insurance, or Re-Evaluate Existing Policies

The City of Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara via the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District are working cooperatively to protect the Sycamore Creek Watershed and adjacent areas from flood damage as a result of the Tea Fire.

Even before firefighters had extinguished the flames of the Tea Fire, Public Works officials were developing response plans to deal with the fire's soil erosion impacts and watershed damage. Sycamore Creek, from Highway 101 upstream to and within the burned area, currently is being cleared of debris. Debris basins along Sycamore Creek also are being cleared out and maintained.

City officials, meanwhile, are evaluating erosion control options in Parma Park and crews have cleared streets and protected street drainage structures in the burn area in anticipation of the coming winter rains.

Concurrently, the County is preparing other emergency response efforts, including the re-establishment of small debris basin built following the Sycamore Canyon Fire in the 1970s and clearing two existing debris basins on Rattlesnake and Cold Springs Creeks. Construction on these projects will commence a few days.

Both City and County officials anticipate increased flood potential adjacent to Sycamore Creek as a result of the recent Tea Fire. Residents are being provided with the following important flood preparation information:

- Residents are reminded that, if you have flood insurance, now may be a good time to re-evaluate your flood insurance policy with your local insurance provider to ensure adequate coverage. Flood insurance is available from local home insurance providers, however, flood insurance policies typically have a 30-day waiting period from the date of purchase before a policy goes into effect.

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For further information on Flood Insurance, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program website at <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>. Note that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Flood Insurance Program do not provide flood insurance.

SAND BAGS AVAILABLE NOW:

- The City of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara County Public Works Departments is opening a joint Emergency Sandbag Station at the City of Santa Barbara's Corporate Annex Yard, 401 E. Yanonali Street. The station will open Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM until further notice, except on holidays – beginning Thursday, November 20, 2008.
- The County, in cooperation with the City of Goleta, also has established a sand bag station at the County Fire Station 14, 320 Los Carneros, in Goleta, that is open 24/7, including holidays.

A “**Homeowners Guide for Flood Prevention and Response**” booklet is available on the County's website at www.CountyofSB.org.

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