



News for Immediate Release

December 6, 2007

Contacts:

- Ricardo Pineda, Chief, Floodplain Management Branch (916) 574-1475
- Ted Thomas, DWR Public Information Officer, (916) 653-9712

DWR Announces Appointment of 33 Public Members to Alluvial Fan Task Force First Public Meeting Dec. 7 in Riverside

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today announced the appointment of 33 public members, including five county supervisors, to the Alluvial Fan Task Force. Members of the task force are charged with reviewing alluvial fan flood history to develop a model ordinance that will reduce long-term flood damages and with creating land use guidelines for development on alluvial fans.

County Supervisors representing five regions of Southern California that will be affected by rapid growth projected on alluvial fans have accepted appointments from DWR Director Lester Snow. Members of the Elected Officials category include Marion Ashley from Riverside County, Michael Antonovich from Los Angeles County, Paul Biane from San Bernardino County, Bill Horn from San Diego County and Jon McQuiston from Kern County.

The remaining 27 members of the task force represent four categories of interest: the Development Community, Sustainable Land Use Advocates including Native Americans and the Environmental Community, Flood Managers/Public Works and At Large Concerns including the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the State Office of the Insurance Commissioner. A list of appointed members is attached.

Alluvial fans are prevalent throughout Southern California and are most common in San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Orange, Imperial and San Diego counties. An alluvial fan is a fan-shaped deposit formed where fast flowing water flattens, slows, and spreads – typically at the exit of a canyon or mountain pass onto a flatter plain. Principal hazards associated with alluvial fan flooding are high-velocity, debris-laden flows resulting from a series of storms, particularly following wildfires in semi-arid regions.

In March of 2007, DWR announced a partnership with the California State University, San Bernardino Water Resources Institute to coordinate task force activities. Seven plenary meetings are planned in communities most affected by rapid growth on alluvial fans.

The task force's first public meeting will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m on Friday, Dec. 7, at the

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, 1995 Market Street, Riverside.

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, funds 75 percent of the task force's activities under the Pre-Mitigation Disaster Planning Grant Program, with a matching cost share from the State of California.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

Contact the DWR Public Affairs Office for more information about DWR's water activities.