

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: May 18, 2005

To: Honorable Greig L. Smith, Chair
Public Works Committee
Los Angeles City Council

Honorable Tom LaBonge, Member
Public Works Committee
Los Angeles City Council

Honorable Jan Perry, Member
Public Works Committee
Los Angeles City Council

c/o Sharon Gin
City Clerk's Office
Room 395 City Hall

From: Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer William A. Robertson, Director
Bureau of Engineering Bureau of Street Services



**Subject: CF: 05-0716 LAUREL CANYON BOULEVARD BETWEEN
MOUNT OLYMPUS AND KIRKWOOD DRIVES**

On the evening of February 27, 2005, the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and Department of Building and Safety (DBS) responded to the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) closure of Laurel Canyon Boulevard. The road was closed due to a large landslide on private property west of Laurel Canyon Boulevard near Mt. Olympus Drive. The DBS red tagged three houses and yellow tagged a fourth. The BOE's Geotechnical Group (BOE/Geotech) recommended continued closure of the roadway due to the impending peril to persons and property caused by landslide debris coming directly onto the roadway. The Department of Transportation (DOT) maintained the closure.

BOE/Geotech continued to monitor the slide with each storm until it was ascertained to be safe to establish survey monitoring and to perform subsurface investigations. On March 7, 2005, after consultation between DOT and BOE/Geotech, one lane of traffic was opened, as the risk of the landslide crossing onto the north bound lanes was no longer deemed significant. At this time it was agreed that the southbound lane would remain closed until it was safe to perform further study.

Response to Item 1 of the motion;

As a consequence of BOE/Geotech's finding of impending peril from gradual movement of the slope, it was decided that the BOE/Geotech should proceed to conduct studies in parallel with private efforts on the advice and with the support of the Office of the City

Attorney (OCA). DBS is reviewing private efforts and obtaining rights of entry for Public Works personnel, equipment, and consultants.

Response to Item 2 of the motion;

Proposals have been received from consultants to perform subsurface exploratory work. A consultant will be selected from BOE/Geotech's Pre-Qualified On-Call consultant list. Funding for this study has been included in a report from the City Administrative Office and the Chief Legislative Analyst on this motion and a Weiss-Villaraigosa motion (C.F. 05-0049-S1). A thorough investigation of the landslide and formal reporting of the investigation results will take about six months. Preparation of a preliminary report is anticipated to take about three months. Data from this exploration will be provided to the DBS to share with property owners. BOE/Geotech is ready to move forward with the investigation pending the allocation of funding for the study.

Response to Item 3 of the motion;

Bureau of Street Services (BOSS) placed super k-rail barriers on the slope on private property above Laurel Canyon Boulevard during the weekend of May 21 and 22. Based on the findings of exploratory excavations by the BOSS and BOE/Geotech and the successful placement of super K-rail along the slope on the private property, the existing K-rails in Laurel Canyon Boulevard have been moved to the west to allow for two-way traffic on Laurel Canyon Boulevard. Subsequent to the grading and K-rail placement, the Department of Transportation Geometric Design Section staff is preparing a base plan to delineate the recommended street re-striping. Because the new striping configuration could stay in place for about a year, DOT needs to develop a permanent design. The re-striping is now scheduled for Friday, June 03, 2005, after which the street should be opened for two-way traffic.

Please contact Chris Johnson of BOE/Geotech at (213) 847-4008 if you have any questions or comments.

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