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CITY OF PALMDALE

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Palmdale Staff Canvassing Storm Affected Neighborhoods

PALMDALE – Staff from the City of Palmdale’s Neighborhood Services department visited several neighborhoods that were impacted by the October 15 West Lake Incident floods and mudslides to check on the welfare of residents and gather information on any damages.

More than 20 City staff went door to door on Wednesday, Oct. 21 asking residents if they had any damages and if they had any immediate needs. A flier with detailed information on how to report damages was left on the doors where residents were not at home.

“Collecting data on the damages is important for us as we will be presenting the information along with the County to the State for potential disaster relief funding,” said Director of Administrative Services Anne Ambrose. “We also reached out to the American Red Cross, and have numerous community organizations like Antelope Valley CERT, Boy Scouts of America, and local faith-based organizations that want to help out wherever possible.”

Both the City of Palmdale and the County of Los Angeles have declared a local state of emergency.

“We will provide updates about any possible disaster assistance program funds if and when they become available,” Ambrose said. “For now, anyone who has sustained damages from the storm should either call 211, or visit www.211LA.org.”

City of Palmdale Public Works crews continue to work on cleaning up the residual dirt and mud from the flooding.

At a special City Council meeting tonight, the Council will vote on a resolution ratifying the proclamation of a local emergency resulting from the West Lake Incident. The Council will also vote on a FY 2015/16 budget adjustment to appropriate \$1.2 million in funds for the cleanup efforts.

“We never before seen a storm like this before,” noted Ambrose. “The National Weather Service called it a ‘1,000-year rain event’ that dumped some 3 inches of rain parts of the Antelope Valley in a span of 30 minutes.”

With experts predicting a very wet winter season due to a strong El Nino forecasted, the City began its winter preparations earlier this month and is reminding residents to make preparations now.

“We always encourage our residents to prepare for emergencies as we live in an area that is susceptible to earthquakes, fires and floods,” Ambrose said. “In a major disaster it may be several days before help arrives. Residents should set aside enough food, water and other necessities to ‘shelter in place’ for a minimum of three days.”

Other resources for disaster preparedness include www.ready.gov, www.antelopevalleycert.com, and www.redcross.org/ca/los-angeles. For information and safety tips related to the expected coming of El Nino, please visit the County’s El Nino Web page at www.lacounty.gov/elnino.

“If our residents have any questions, please call 661/267-5115,” concluded Ambrose.