

## Public Works and Debris Removal Updates

### Chris Sheppard (LA County Public Works)

- **Debris Removal Options:** Homeowners can opt into the county program (free of charge) or opt out and remove debris at their own expense.
- **ROE (Right of Entry) Forms:** Deadline for submission is **March 31**.
  - Forms can be submitted online, in person, via mail, or email.
  - A new online ROE tracker is available to check submission status.
- **Abatement Process:** If properties are not cleaned up, they may enter a nuisance abatement process.
- **Concerns Addressed:** Issues regarding elderly residents who may not have completed ROEs and clarification on structural debris removal (e.g., garages and ADUs qualify).

### Col. Sonny Avichal (Army Corps of Engineers)

- **Debris Removal Progress:**
    - **910 ROEs** received; 800+ are already assigned to contractors.
    - **16 debris removal crews** are currently working.
    - **40 hazardous site assessment teams** and **13 asbestos abatement crews** are active.
  - **Process Overview:**
    - Homeowners will receive a **call 3-5 days in advance** of debris removal and another call the day before.
    - A **walkthrough** will be conducted with homeowners before and after debris removal.
    - Trees identified as hazardous within the work zone will be removed unless the homeowner objects.
  - **Challenges & Questions:** Retaining walls are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to avoid slope stability issues.
- 

## Water System Updates

### Overview by Nina Jasmodarian (Foothill Municipal Water District)

- **Water Agencies Present:** Rubio Canyon, Lincoln Avenue, Las Flores, Kinneloa, and Pasadena Water and Power.
- **Water Supply:** Foothill imports water and supplements local sources.

- **Mutual Water Companies:** Privately owned by shareholders (residents) and operate as non-profits.

## Water System Updates

### Overview by Nina Jasmodarian (Foothill Municipal Water District)

- **Water Agencies Present:** Rubio Canyon, Lincoln Avenue, Las Flores, Kinneloa, and Pasadena Water and Power.
- **Water Supply:** Foothill imports water and supplements local sources.
- **Mutual Water Companies:** Privately owned by shareholders (residents) and operate as non-profits.

### Agency Updates

#### Lisa Yamashita Lopez (Rubio Canyon Water)

- **Damage Report:** 35% of service area impacted.
- **Water Restoration Process:**
  - Initial testing required over **150 samples**.
  - **Seven** samples originally came back with benzene detection, requiring flushing and retesting.
  - After resampling, **two samples** still showed benzene contamination.
  - Final two resamples were taken on the day of the meeting; results are expected **next week**.
- **Debris Removal:**
  - Initially, mutual water companies were **not included** in county debris removal efforts.
  - Supervisor **Barger confirmed** that mutual water companies **will now be included**, allowing them to start rebuilding.
  - Lisa had discussions with **Public Works Director Mark Pastrella and Supervisor Barger's office** to ensure this support.

#### Jennifer Betancourt Torres (Lincoln Avenue Water)

- **Damage Report:** 56% of service area affected; **2,600 service connections damaged or destroyed**.
- **Water Testing:**
  - **350 samples** taken; **30 had benzene detection**.
  - Required **additional flushing and retesting**.
  - Additional **40 samples** were taken to **expand testing** beyond the initial detection areas.

- Results from these additional tests are expected **by the end of the week.**

#### **Bill Kimberling (Las Flores Water)**

- **Damage Report:**
  - **1,100 out of 1,500 service connections lost.**
  - **Two reservoirs destroyed.**
  - Loss of reservoirs also impacted upper zones, which rely on them for water distribution.
- **Timeline for Restoration:**
  - Awaiting Lincoln Avenue Water's clearance from DDW to deliver potable water.
  - If Lincoln Avenue is cleared, Las Flores expects to **begin restoring service by mid-March.**
  - The **Poppy Zone is the only area currently fully pressurized and drinkable.**

#### **Tom Majich (Kinneloa Irrigation District)**

- **Impact:**
  - Minimal damage to infrastructure.
  - All Kinneloa customers have access to potable water.
- **Public Hydrants Reminder:**
  - Only **fire departments or authorized water agencies** can access public hydrants.
  - Unauthorized hydrant use poses **cross-contamination risks** and violates multiple **penal codes.**
  - Residents needing alternative water sources should contact their **local water provider** rather than attempting to use hydrants.

#### **Stacie Takaguchi (Pasadena Water & Power)**

- **Water Service Restored:**
  - Pasadena's **Do Not Drink order was lifted on January 24.**
  - Pasadena's service area includes **4,400 connections** in Altadena.
  - Approximately **200 properties in Pasadena's service area were damaged.**
- **Resources Available:**
  - An **interactive map** is available to help residents determine their water provider.
  - A **Frequently Asked Questions page** with detailed water quality testing data is online.

## Q&A

### Debris Removal & Public Works

1. **Will contractors leave a voice message if they do not reach a live person?**
    - Answer: Yes, they will leave a voicemail and attempt multiple calls.
  2. **Can you clarify what happens when people don't submit an ROE by the deadline?**
    - Answer: Additional outreach will be conducted, and properties that don't clean up may enter nuisance abatement.
  3. **What happens if a resident is elderly and unable to submit their ROE?**
    - Answer: Public Works and local groups will assist them.
  4. **Is there a process to find out if neighbors have submitted ROEs?**
    - Answer: Information on neighbor participation is not publicly available, but inquiries can be directed to Public Works.
  5. **Will debris removal crews prioritize areas with standing homes?**
    - Answer: The primary consideration is operational efficiency, but it may be factored in.
  6. **How will retaining walls between properties be handled?**
    - Answer: Removal decisions will be made case-by-case to avoid slope instability.
  7. **Can homeowners find out when their debris removal is scheduled?**
    - Answer: They will receive a call **3-5 days in advance**, with another follow-up the day before.
- 

### Water System & Quality

8. **When will potable water be restored?**
  - Answer: Some areas expect clean water by mid-March.
9. **How much of Altadena's water pipes will need to be upgraded for new fire safety regulations?**
  - Answer: Each agency has a **master plan** to address upgrades, and FEMA and grant funding are being pursued.
10. **Will customers have to pay for water system upgrades?**
  - Answer: Costs will first be covered through FEMA, insurance, and grant funding before considering customer rate increases.
11. **How can Altadena's water system be improved for future wildfires?**
  - Answer: Agencies are considering fire-resistant materials, increased hydrant access, and backflow prevention devices.

**12. What can residents do to help water companies get funding?**

- Answer: Advocacy efforts with legislators and grant programs can help secure financial assistance.

**13. Can residents use private water tanks while waiting for service?**

- Answer: Yes, but they must not use public fire hydrants; instead, they should contact their water provider for proper filling methods.

**14. Have water agencies considered redesigning Altadena's water system for better fire response?**

- Answer: Yes, but full redesigning would require billions in investment; instead, agencies are focusing on upgrades, infrastructure improvements, and defensible space strategies.