

Box Elder and Perry Flood Control Special Service District Workshop
Perry City Offices 3005 South 1200 West
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Members Present: Chairman Greg Hansen, Board Member Boyd Hirschi, Board Member Kevin Pebley.

Others Present: Mayor Kevin Jeppsen, Chris Sands with BIO West, Shaun Keenan, with BIO West, and Susan K. Obray Board Secretary.

Chris Sands and Shaun Keenan with BIO west set up and gave a presentation of the proposed Evans and Mathias Canyons Debris Basins Project.

Mayor Kevin Jeppsen attended the meeting and asked questions regarding the process of the project. Chris Sands left some information and maps at the City Offices for the public to take if they are interested.

What is the Project?

The Perry Flood Control District (Flood District) is proposing to construct new debris basins in Evans and Mathias canyons in the northeast foothill areas of Perry, Utah. The locations are approximately 1900 South (Evans) and 1550 South (Mathias) 400 east, respectively. The basins are needed to increase the safety of current and future residential development and public infrastructure below these canyons in the event of a large, potentially catastrophic debris flow or flood occurrence, for instance following wildfire or a major storm event. The debris basins would be located at the mouth of the canyons within the Brigham Face Wildlife Management Area, which is owned by the State of Utah and managed by the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR).

At the Evans Canyon location, the Flood District has an existing debris basin that is inadequately sized to contain the debris flow potential from the canyon. Therefore, the Flood District proposes to expand the size of the existing basin and to construct a second, smaller basin upstream from the existing basin to be able to contain the estimated potential debris flow.

At the Mathias Canyon location, an existing concrete diversion structure would be removed and replaced with an earthen embankment and debris basin. The basin area that would be excavated behind the new embankment would be designed to retain the estimated potential debris flow.

In both locations, normal stream flows would be allowed to flow through the embankments. The disturbed areas would be re-seeded at the end of construction with a native seed mix to restore the vegetation. After construction, the Flood District will perform maintenance annually or after a debris flow event to remove any accumulated sediments and debris.

Why is an Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared?

The lands managed by DWR were purchased with support from a federal grant through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In order to approve construction of the debris basins, the DWR will need to amend its federal aid grant. The USFWS must agree to the amendment and, before making the decision, requires that an Environmental Assessment (EA) be prepared. The EA process includes an opportunity for the public to comment regarding the proposal and potentially relevant issues to be evaluated in the EA.

The public meeting ended at 7:15p.m.