



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Managing California's Working Lands

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California Geological Survey Releases Two Los Angeles-Area Landslide Inventory Maps

EDITORS: These maps can be found online at <http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/WH/index.htm>

SACRAMENTO – The California Geological Survey (CGS) today released its latest landslide inventory maps to enhance public safety and guide development in the greater Los Angeles area.

“Anyone who has lived in Southern California for any length of time probably is aware of how dangerous landslides can be, but these maps are both a reminder of that hazard and a way to be prepared,” said State Geologist Dr. John Parrish, head of CGS. “They offer local experts an extra layer of information to use in the land development process, helping to ensure landslide hazards are taken into account.”

The new maps cover roughly 62 square mile areas known as “quadrangles” that include portions of the cities of Burbank, Universal City, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Culver City, and Glendale; several communities that are parts of the City of Los Angeles; and the unincorporated Los Angeles County communities of View Park and Baldwin Hills.

Inventory maps indicate whether a landslide is considered active or dormant, the direction of movement, and the type of movement involved (some landslides are more destructive than others). CGS produces the maps by incorporating previous mapping work with a detailed review of aerial photography and geologic fieldwork. The maps released today show 114 in the Burbank Quadrangle, and 64 in the Hollywood Quadrangle.

CGS has created several varieties of landslide maps over the years – the most recent one showing landslide susceptibility around the state – but the inventory series is the most detailed to date. While the new landslide inventory maps are non-regulatory, they provide key details to geotechnical professionals and local government personnel, as well as property owners and developers dealing with properties in Zones of Required Investigations for earthquake-induced landslides.

“In making development plans and land-use decisions, communities need to know where the landslides

are located, how they move, and how recently they've moved. That's what these maps show," said CGS Supervising Geologist Tim McCrink, who oversees the mapping program. "These new maps are comprehensive overviews of the areas they cover at a user-friendly scale – one inch equals 2,000 feet.

"While the potential for landslides sometimes can be mitigated, many times the best thing to do is to avoid building on or near them."

The maps are available as a free download on the Web. Paper maps can be purchased by calling CGS at (916) 445-5716 or (650) 688-6327. The paper maps are \$12; shipping and handling is \$6.

A landslide is any mass of earth or rock that slides, flows and/or falls downhill. Landslides can affect land from a few square yards to hundreds of acres in area and can be a few feet to hundreds of feet thick. Many factors can contribute to the formation of landslides aside from rainfall, including improper construction or grading, earthquakes, weak or loose rock and soil, wildfires, and steep slopes.

Large, slow-moving landslides composed of bedrock can cause extensive property damage but usually do not result in loss of life. A debris flow, commonly called a mudslide, is a more dangerous type of slope failure because it is fast moving and can cause not only property damage, but also injuries.

"Landslides occur all around the state, but there have been some especially damaging ones in the greater Los Angeles area – La Conchita and Bluebird Canyon in Laguna Beach, for example," McCrink said. "More recently, a landslide took out a big chunk of the Paseo Del Mar in San Pedro, and that's an ongoing concern."

Property owners are advised to consult a licensed professional geologist or geotechnical engineer before taking any steps intended to mitigate potential risks or harm associated with landslides.

CGS provides technical information and advice about landslides, erosion, sedimentation, and other geologic hazards to the public, local governments, and agencies and industries that make land-use decisions in California. More information about landslides, links to landslide maps, and mitigation steps can be found at http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/geologic_hazards/landslides/Pages/Index.aspx.

CGS is part of the California Department of Conservation (DOC). In addition to studying and mapping geologic phenomena such as earthquakes and landslides, DOC categorizes mineral resources; administers agricultural and open-space land conservation programs; ensures the reclamation of land used for mining; and regulates oil, gas and geothermal wells. For more information, visit

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/Index/Pages/Index.aspx>

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