

July 31, 2024

Dear Property Owner:

The Santiago Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) has learned that the subapplication for a Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) grant to fund a mitigation plan for the Santiago landslide has been “waitlisted” by the reviewing agency, California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). If nothing changes, the current Santiago GHAD assessment will end in the upcoming assessment cycle. Under the current assessment, we generate approximately \$310,000 annually, of which approximately \$270,000 comes from individual supplemental property-tax assessments on property owners’ tax bills collected by the Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector, with another approximately \$40,000 in assessment fees that come from the City of Anaheim.

If nothing replaces the current assessment, operation of the GHAD, primarily operation of the vital dewatering system, will cease when the GHAD depletes its funds. In the upcoming months, the GHAD Board, with the City of Anaheim, will continue exploring the limited options available to avoid exhaustion of GHAD funds and minimize the risk of landslide reactivation associated with cessation of dewatering. Most prominently, property owners (and the City of Anaheim) will eventually be asked to approve a new GHAD assessment. As from previous assessment votes, any proposed assessment would need to be put forward to a weighted vote by the property owners and the City of Anaheim. It cannot go into effect by a simple board vote.

We are reaching out to property owners to invite helpful feedback and ideas on specific approaches that the GHAD should explore. Please feel free to contact the GHAD Board of Directors and the GHAD Manager (ENGEIO) with any questions and ideas.

In addition, we have prepared a survey to help gather community feedback on the future course of the GHAD. The survey can be found at <https://forms.office.com/r/L8T7uMzLKP>, on the GHAD’s website, or by scanning the QR code below with a smartphone camera.

Please let us know if you have questions or comments. Our contact information is:

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Santiago Geologic Hazard Abatement District Manager  
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Sincerely,



Matt Swanson



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