



DRAIN INSTALLATION RESUMED—The noise of heavy equipment began to sound again Monday on Chevy Chase Canyon

Drive in Glendale as installation of storm drains resumed. Work had been halted July 19 when equipment operators left their jobs. Times photos by Jeff Robbins

DRAIN JOB BEGUN AGAIN IN CANYON

BY DON SNYDER
Times Staff Writer

8/5/69

GLENDAL—Work on installing huge storm drains in Chevy Chase Canyon Drive resumed Monday even though a strike within the building industry still exists.

A labor-management emergency committee agreed to permit crews of the Norco Construction Co. to continue installation on an emergency basis.

The two-year project, being worked on a tight time schedule toward completion before the next rain season, came to a halt on July 19 when 23,000 operators of heavy equipment in 11 Southern California counties left their jobs over a labor dispute.

Appeal Made

City officials appealed to the strike emergency committee comprised of representatives of the International Union of Operating Engineers and the Associated General Contractors.

The appeals cited the critical nature of the Chevy Chase Canyon project which, "if not completed by the next storm season could result in millions of dollars in damage," according to C. E. Perkins, city manager.

Perkins said resumption of work "is certainly good news to hundreds of canyon residents. It now will be possible to complete the project before the heavy rains come. The period of inconvenience to canyon residents will be shortened and fire emergency access into the area is assured."

"The committee has acted in good judgment on letting this job go ahead," he said.

North Plunkett, contractor on the project, said, "I am very much relieved to be able to get back to work."

Plunkett said there still remains installation of about 1,000 feet of drain up to Linda Vista Drive. He estimated the remaining installation would be completed in late September.

A. W. Holland, city engineer, said that after the drains are in reconstruction of the street to include some widening will be done.

"If all goes well the entire project can be completed sometime in November," Holland said.

The canyon storm drain has long been wanted by San Rafael Hills residents.

Chevy Chase Canyon Drive is the only north-south access roadway through the San Rafael Hills. From Glenoaks Blvd. to the south winds

gradually up into the hills to reach the communities of La Canada and Flintridge.

The two-mile section of high-curbed canyon road from Glenoaks north to Linda Vista Drive has served as a natural wash for canyon storm waters.

The \$3 million project was started in 1967. Last October, with the project half completed up the canyon road, the drain aperture was sealed off and the street section covered up and smoothed for limited use in advance of the rain season.

When the heavy rains of January and February hit the area a 40 x 100-foot curb to curb hole measuring 25 feet deep appeared.

That part of the street just above the closed drain aperture gave way and washed down through the partially constructed drain.

The contractor has been working to complete the job since the cave-in.

A spokesman for the strike emergency committee said many requests for immediate work resumption, similar to those filed by Glendale, have been received and are under study.

Debris Projects

Among them are a \$1.6 million project to remove debris from Santa Anita Dam north of Arcadia and a \$765,000 job for the same work at Saw Pit Dam north of Monrovia.

Richard Bong, official for Clifford C. Bong & Co. of Arcadia and contractor for both debris removal projects, said "Our situation is similar to that of Chevy Chase Canyon's in Glendale."

"We need to complete the job before the arrival of the next storm season. A tunnel to bring debris out of the Santa Anita Dam is virtually finished and debris can now be removed. The Saw Pit Dam job is approximately 50% completed."