

Interactive comment on “Brief Communication: Meteorological and climatological conditions associated with the 9 January 2018 post-fire debris flows in Montecito and Carpinteria California, USA” by Nina S. Oakley et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This manuscript describes the meteorological conditions and climatological reference points (e.g., return period estimates) of the heavy rainfall that drove catastrophic debris flows following the 2017-2018 southern California wildfires. This is admittedly my first review of a "Brief Communication" submission, and in all honesty as I read it, I struggled to find novel aspects that were obviously worthy of publication. The event itself is interesting and high-impact, the data summary and meteorological analysis is sound, and the writing and communication is clear. Thus, the main issues that I have are more to do with what seems to be lacking, rather than problems with the material in the

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manuscript. However, suspecting that the problem may be with my own expectations of a full-length publication relative to the present manuscript type, I offer below only a few minor comments/suggestions that the editor and authors can consider as they deem appropriate.

General comment: 1. If part of the purpose of this manuscript is to “support investigations on this and other PFDFs in a range of fields...,” then I suggest adding at least some discussion of/references to relevant post-fire hydrologic or geologic concepts that might be of interest in future research, e.g., a. Neary et al. 2003: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228510172_Post-wildfire_watershed_flood_responses b. ‘Havel et al. 2018: <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-22-2527-2018> c. Brogan et al. 2017 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/esp.4194>

Specific comments: Lines 25 – 26: I’m not familiar with the language/terminology “having high debris flow hazard”...do you mean risk? Can you re-phrase/explain for a general audience?

Figs. 3a, b are highly suggestive of possible line echo wave pattern (“LEWP”) dynamics. Again, in the interest of supporting/inspiring future investigations, perhaps a reference to this idea/possibility be added.

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2018-179, 2018>.

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