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OAKLAND

2018 JUL -5 PM 4: 51

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Sabrina B. Landreth
City Administrator

FROM: Darin White
Fire Chief

SUBJECT: OFD Update on Vegetation
Management Plan & EIR

DATE: July 2, 2018

City Administrator Approval

Christine Delpho SBC

Date:

7/5/18

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Requests that the Public Safety Committee Receive An Update Regarding The Oakland Fire Department's (1) Vegetation Management Plan And (2) The Plan's Environmental Impact Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan as of July 2, 2018, at the request of Councilmember Kalb.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The severity and repetitive nature of wildfires in the East Bay Hills and the proximity of residential areas to open spaces that are susceptible to fires underscores the need for the City of Oakland to adopt and implement a Vegetation Management Plan.

In 2016, the City Council approved Resolution No. 86311 C.M.S, which authorized the City Administrator to negotiate and enter into an three-year agreement with Horizon Water and Environment, LLC for services related to the development of a vegetation management plan and accompanying California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

The goals of the Vegetation Management Plan are as follows:

- Reduce fire hazard on City-owned land and along critical access/egress routes within the City's designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone;
- Reduce the likelihood of ignitions and extreme fire behavior to enhance public and firefighter safety;
- Implement practices to avoid or minimize impacts to natural resources;

Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
July 17, 2018

- Maintain an active role in regional efforts to reduce fire hazard in the Oakland Hills.

As of this date, the following has occurred with respect to the Vegetation Management Plan:

- Contract was executed in November 2016;
- Project kick-off in November 2016;
- Community engagement plan devised in December 2016;
- Informal meetings with stakeholders occur;
- Project website www.oaklandvegmanagement.org went live in February 2017;
- Public meetings are held on March 29 and 30, 2017;
- Public meeting on June 29, 2017;
- Draft Vegetation Management Plan is released on May 11, 2018, and thirty (30) day comment period begins;
- Hosted a public meeting on the Draft Plan on May 23, 2018, the meeting may be viewed here: http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=93f82ae8-64e8-11e8-8074-00505691de41
- Comment period ended on June 11, 2018, consultant team compiles comments (viewable here: <https://oaklandca.nextrequest.com/requests/18-1630>) and begins revising the Draft Plan; and
- Consultant team and staff intend to continue meeting with community members/stakeholders regarding the plan.

The following action items are planned for the remainder of 2018:

- Release of a Notice of Preparation as required by CEQA;
- Consultation with Native American organizations as required by California law;
- Host CEQA Scoping Meetings and receive public comments; and
- Begin preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

FISCAL IMPACT

This item is for informational purposes only and does not have a fiscal impact or cost.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

This item does not require additional public outreach, other than posting on the City's website.

COORDINATION

The City Attorney's Office and the Budget Bureau were consulted in preparation of this report.

Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
July 17, 2018

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: There are no economic opportunities associated with this oral report.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities associated with this oral report.

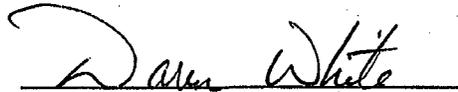
Social Equity: There are no social equity opportunities associated with this oral report.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Staff recommends that the Public Safety Committee receive an update regarding the Oakland Fire Department's (1) Vegetation Management Plan and (2) The Plan's Environmental Impact Report.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Angela Robinson Piñon, Chief of Staff of the Oakland Fire Department at (510) 238-4055.

Respectfully submitted,


Darin White
Fire Chief

Prepared by:
Angela Robinson Piñon, Chief of Staff
Oakland Fire Department

Attachment:
Oakland Vegetation Management Plan Fact Sheets, May 2018

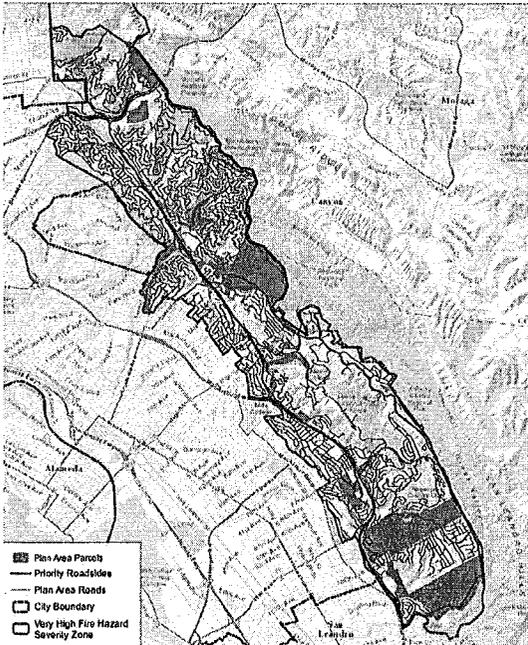
Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
July 17, 2018



Draft Vegetation Management Plan

The Oakland Fire Department released a Draft Vegetation Management Plan (Plan) for public review and comment. The goals of the Plan are to:

- Reduce wildfire hazard on City-owned land and along critical access/egress routes within the City's designated Very High Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone
- Reduce the likelihood of ignitions and extreme fire behavior to enhance public and firefighter safety
- Implement practices to avoid or minimize impacts to natural resources
- Maintain an active role in regional efforts to reduce wildfire hazard in the Oakland Hills



The Plan Area

The Plan Area encompasses City-owned parcels and the areas within 30 feet of the edge of roadsides. This includes:

- 422 City-owned parcels, ranging in size from <0.1 acres to 235 acres and totaling 1,925 acres
- Roadside areas along 308 miles of road, which includes surface and arterial streets, State Routes 13 and 24, and Interstate 580

Methodologies of Plan Development

Development of the Plan included an assessment of wildfire hazard within the Plan Area and an evaluation of variables that contribute to wildfire risk.

Field Assessments:

Conducted to identify vegetative communities and land cover types, fuel characteristics, fuel models, terrain, and hazard conditions in the Plan Area.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis:

Conducted to evaluate conditions in the Plan Area, including terrain, vegetative cover, land ownership, City-owned parcel distribution, the area of land within 100 and 300 feet of existing structures, and the extent and distances of Plan Area roads.

Fire Behavior Modeling:

Conducted in GIS for selected larger parcels to identify areas that may be subject to extreme fire behavior, considering weather, fuels, and terrain variables.

Research:

Conducted to document existing vegetation management practices used by the Oakland Fire Department and to identify anecdotal evidence of areas subject to high ignition potential.

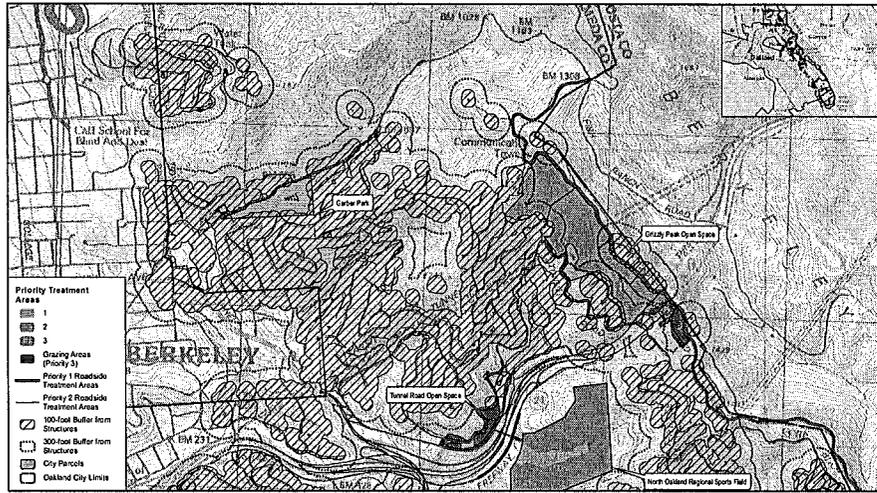
Vegetation Management Techniques

Vegetation management for fire hazard mitigation is the practice of thinning, pruning, removing, or otherwise altering vegetation in order to reduce the potential for ignitions and modify fire behavior. Given the dynamic nature of vegetation, a single treatment technique or management prescription may not be appropriate for one site over time. Therefore, an adaptive approach that allows for selection of management techniques is needed to achieve the vegetation management standards outlined in the Plan.



Treatment Prioritization

Given the variability of parcel size and distribution, terrain characteristics, vegetative fuel cover, and potential fire behavior across the Plan Area, uniform application of vegetation management standards is not feasible. Treatment areas were therefore prioritized and may be reduced based on field observations during annual field assessments, or where otherwise recommended. Treatment areas were broken down into three priorities, with Priority 1 areas to be focused on first. Priority 2 areas include those where annual vegetation management activities should be focused once Priority 1 areas have been completed or if schedules and budgets allow for completion. Priority 3 areas include those where annual vegetation management activities should be focused once Priority 1 and 2 areas have been completed or if schedules and budgets allow.

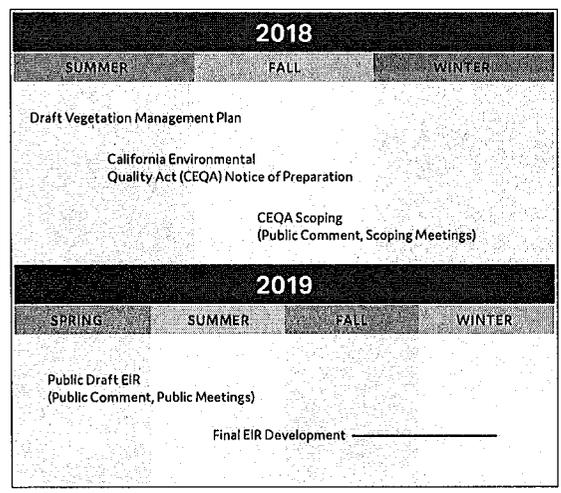


Plan Implementation

The Oakland Fire Department, or its designee, will be responsible for implementing the Plan and will be responsible for:

- Assessing field conditions on a routine basis to determine the need for vegetation management action implementation
- Developing annual work plans and budgets
- Prioritizing vegetation treatment actions and areas based on field observations
- Screening, selecting, and hiring contractors, or directing City personnel, to conduct identified vegetation management actions
- Monitoring vegetation management actions during operations to ensure that avoidance measures and BMPs are being properly implemented
- Monitoring treated properties following vegetation management actions to ensure that treatment standards have been achieved

Schedule and Next Steps



Adaptive Management

The following adaptive management practices will be used in the implementation of the Plan:

- Monitoring vegetation management activities during operations to ensure that avoidance measures and Best Management Practices are being properly implemented
- Monitoring treated properties following vegetation management activities to ensure that treatment standards have been achieved
- Monitoring treated properties to determine the need for follow-up treatment actions
- Monitoring treated properties to determine the need for post-operations Best Management Practices
- Monitoring to document the success of vegetation treatment activities and identify needs for adjustments to vegetation treatment activities or standards



Draft Vegetation Management Plan

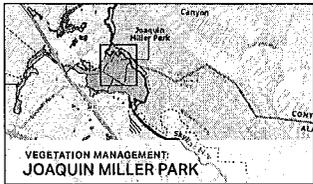
The following vegetation management actions are recommended as part of the City of Oakland Vegetation Management Plan.



Knowland Park and Arboretum property:

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures, within 30 feet of Golf Links Road, and within 30 feet of known human congregation/activity areas along Skyline Boulevard
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of on-site structures in the zoo portion of the property and within 100 feet of the zoo/open space interface to minimize ignition potential and modify potential fire behavior near this developed portion of the property
- Maintain the existing trail/road networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation

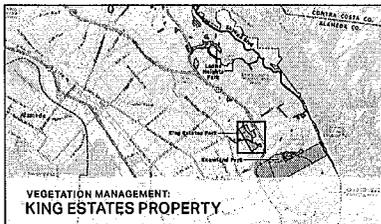
- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the property's dirt access roads
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads



Joaquin Miller Park:

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures, within 30 feet of Joaquin Miller Road and Skyline Boulevard, and within 30 feet of known human congregation/activity areas along Skyline Boulevard and the top of Woodside Glen Court
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of on-site structures, including the historic Joaquin Miller House. Implement thinning recommendations in the park's eucalyptus, pine, acacia, and mixed tree stands in areas exhibiting extreme fire behavior and within 300 feet of structures

- Maintain the existing fire trail/dirt road network to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation
- Avoid treatment within the pallid manzanita restoration area adjacent to the Chabot Space and Science Center
- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the park's dirt access roads
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads



King Estates property:

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures and within 30 feet of Fontaine Street and Crest Avenue
- Maintain the existing trail/road networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation
- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the property's dirt access roads
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads and minimize ignition potential, particularly prior to the 4th of July holiday.

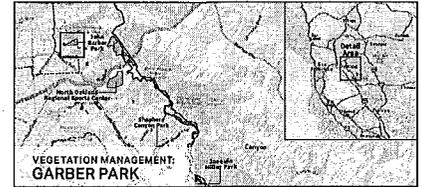
Urban and Residential Parcels:

annual treatment of vegetation, focused on

- REDUCING LADDER FUELS
- CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES (e.g., broom)
- REDUCING SURFACE FUELS (e.g., grasses, weeds, down material)
- MAINTAINING FUEL LOADS
- PRUNING TREE CANOPIES THROUGH THE USE OF HAND LABOR OR MECHANICAL TECHNIQUES
- GRAZING, PRIMARILY WHERE MULTIPLE CITY-OWNED PARCELS ADJACENT TO EACH OTHER, CREATING A LARGER AREA FOR TREATMENT

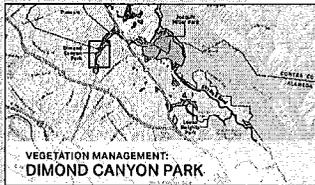
Canyon Areas:

Canyon areas are collections of multiple adjacent parcels that are situated within and along canyons and drainages in the Plan Area.



Garber Park

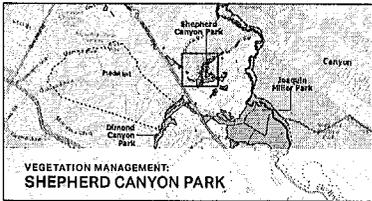
- Maintain the existing trail networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation
- Manage vegetation along adjacent roadside (Claremont Avenue) and near trailheads/entry points to minimize ignition potential
- Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet
- Manage vegetation within 10 feet of the south and west property boundary line to facilitate firefighter access



Dimond Canyon Park

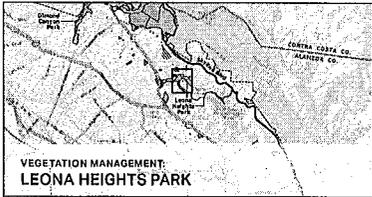
- Maintain the existing trail networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation
- Manage vegetation along adjacent roadsides (Park Boulevard, Monterey Boulevard, Leimert Boulevard, El Centro Avenue) and near trailheads/entry points to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet
- Manage vegetation within 10 feet of the south and west property boundary line to facilitate firefighter access

Canyon Areas (Cont.)



Shepherd Canyon Park:

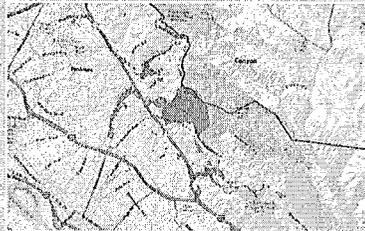
- Maintain the existing trail networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation
- Manage vegetation along adjacent roadsides (Shepherd Canyon Road and Escher Drive) to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads



Leona Heights Park:

- Manage vegetation along adjacent roadside (Campus Drive) to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures and within the current 9-acre management area

Ridgetop Areas (Cont.)

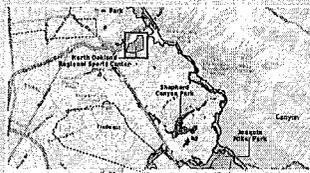


Grizzly Peak Open Space property:

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures, within 30 feet of Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Tunnel Road, and within 30 feet of known human congregation areas along Grizzly Peak Boulevard
- Implement thinning recommendations in the property's eucalyptus and pine stands in areas exhibiting extreme fire behavior and within 300 feet of structures
- Given the upper portion of the property's ridgetop location and potential for ember generation resulting from crown fire, implement thinning recommendations in the property's eucalyptus stand beyond 30 feet of the site's dirt access road when time and budgets allow
- Remove eucalyptus trees and other invasive species from oak woodlands, retaining native trees.

Ridgetop Areas

Ridgetop areas present high fire hazard conditions due to typically lower fuel moistures and the potential for high or erratic winds during wildfire events.



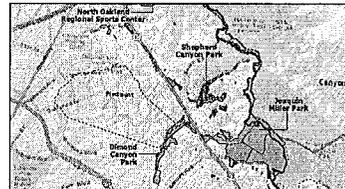
North Oakland Regional Sports Field property:

- Implement thinning recommendations in the property's eucalyptus stand within 30 feet of the site's dirt access road to compartmentalize fires and facilitate site access
- Given the upper portion of the property's ridgetop location and the potential for ember generation resulting from crown fire, implement thinning recommendations in the property's eucalyptus stand beyond 30 feet of the site's dirt access road when time and budgets allow
- Remove eucalyptus trees and other invasive species from oak woodland and riparian vegetation communities, retaining native trees
- Maintain the site's dirt access road in a serviceable condition, improving roadside drainage where erosion and gullying have deteriorated access road

- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the property's dirt access road
- Maintain vegetation along adjacent roadside (Broadway) and the edges of all parking areas to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet

City Park Lands and Open Space

Collections of multiple adjacent parcels, characterized by numerous vegetation types, and typically high fire hazard conditions due to terrain, vegetation, and increased human presence resulting in increased ignition potential.



Sheffield Village Open Space property:

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of on-site structures in the Dunsuir Estates portion of the property
- Maintain the existing trail/road networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads.