

#### FILED OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK OAKLAND

2019 NOV 21 PM 4: 17

## AGENDA REPORT

TO:

Sabrina B. Landreth

City Administrator

FROM:

Darin White. Fire Chief

Oakland Fire Department

SUBJECT:

Oakland Vegetation Management

DATE: November 7, 2019

City Administrator Approval

Plan

Date:

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive An Informational Report On The Status. Goals And Potential Impacts Of The Proposed Oakland Vegetation Management Plan, Including But Not Limited To A Status Report On The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Review Process, Including Scoping, Designation Of Lead Agency, Project Objectives And Description, And Timeline.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Oakland Fire Department (OFD) is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan ("Plan" or "Project"). The Plan outlines a framework for managing fuel loads and vegetation on City-owned properties and along roadways in the City's wildland urban interface (WUI) areas to reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic wildfire, such as the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire. The Planning Area encompasses approximately 1925 acres, and 308 miles along roadsides (including surface and arterial streets). State Routes 13 and 24, and Interstate 580. Please refer to the document entitled Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan (Attachment A, Figure 1).

The purpose of this report is to provide and update on the status of the Plan as well as the preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) for the Plan.

#### BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

#### **Project Goals**

The Plan will be a 10-year planning document, with a planning horizon to the year 2030. The Plan builds on extensive community feedback to meet the following goals:

Reduce wildfire hazard on City-owned land and along critical access/egress routes within the City's state-designated Very High Fire Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) and WUI:

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- 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.

#### **California Environmental Quality Act**

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA")¹ became law in 1970 and provides the foundation of environmental law throughout the state. The purpose of CEQA is to foster transparency and integrity in public decision-making while ensuring land use decisions take into account the full impacts of development on our natural and human environments. Disclosure and analysis of environmental impacts of a proposed project may be accomplished through the preparation of an Initial Study (IS), Negative Declaration (ND), or EIR.

Prior to commencement of the Plan, City staff understood that the Plan would be subject to CEQA and would require an EIR.

#### **Summary of Actions to Date**

This section provides a brief summary of task/deliverables completed to date on the Plan.

- In June 2016, the Oakland Council approved Resolution No. 86311 C.M.S authorizing the City Administrator, or designee, to negotiate a contract and scope of work with Horizon Water and Environment, LLC ("Horizon") for the preparation of a vegetation management plan and environmental analysis of the plan as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- A contract was executed with Horizon in November 2016.
- A kick-off meeting was held with City staff and members of the former Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) in January 2017.
- Plan Website was launched in February 2017.
- Public Workshops were held on March 29 and 30, 2017 and June 29, 2017.
- Draft Plan provided to City staff for review in December 2017.
- The draft Plan was released for public review on May 11, 2018.
- A public meeting coinciding with the Plan's comment period, was held on May 23, 2018.
- Councilmember Dan Kalb submitted a Rules/Legislation Request that OFD present the item at a Public Safety Committee meeting on July 17, 2018.
- OFD presented the item to the Public Safety Committee; a summary of the meeting is provided in the section entitled "July 17, 2018 Public Safety Committee Meeting" (Attachment B).
- Public meetings were held on November 15, 2018 and November 20, 2018. The results of these additional stakeholder meetings will be included in the Revised Draft Plan as a "Comment Summary Matrix".
- In March, April, and May 2019, the project consultant and City staff began conducting site visits at City parks and open space with volunteer organizations to meet and discuss treatment options for the area.

<sup>1</sup> California	a Public Resources	Code,	Sections 21000 -	- 21178,	and Title	14 CCR,	Section	753,	and
Chapter 3,	Sections 15000 - 1	15387							

- Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultations with Native American Tribes occurred as required.
- Internal review of the Revised Draft Plan in Summer 2019.
- Notice of Preparation for the EIR was released on Friday, November 1, 2019. (*Attachment A*)
- Scoping/comment period was from November 1, 2019 to December 2, 2019.
- On November 12, 2019, a revised NOP was released correcting staff contact information on the initial NOP; the publication of the second NOP extended the public comment period to December 12, 2019.
- Oakland Planning Commission will host a CEQA Scoping Meeting on November 20, 2019.
- Revised draft Plan released to public on November 1, 2019.

#### Responses to the Draft Plan, May 2018

The Consultant released the draft Plan for public review on May 11, 2018 and received approximately one hundred and sixty-five (165) comment letters. Some general themes were observed in the comments including the following:

- The Plan should include a description of the role of volunteers and stewardship groups that actively maintain vegetation at various City-managed parks/open space areas.
- The Plan should include more site-specific vegetation management recommendations at each City-managed parcel.
- The Plan should include cost estimates, or a range of potential costs, for the recommended treatments to assist the City for longer-term budgeting and planning purposes. The cost estimates and site-specific plans for City-managed parks would also help identify activities that volunteers can conduct.

#### July 17, 2018 Public Safety Committee Meeting

At their meeting on July 17, 2018, the Oakland City Council Public Safety Committee heard a report from the Oakland Fire Department (OFD) regarding the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan ("Plan"). There were eleven (11) speakers on the item. The Committee requested that staff do the following:

- Host additional meetings for the public and members of parks stewardship volunteer groups to provide input on the Draft Plan that was released in May 2018.
- Provide more specificity on the costs of implementing the plan.
- Clarify how, or if, herbicides will be used.
- Augment the consultant's budget (Horizon Water and Environment, LLC) as needed to carry out the tasks specified above.

#### Visits with Park and Open Space Stewardship Groups

Horizon reached out to ten (10) park steward/volunteer groups within the Plan's project area. They are:

- 1. Beaconsfield Canyon
- 2. Dimond Canyon
- 3. Garber
- 4. Joaquin Miller
- 5. Kings Estates

- 6. Knowland Park
- 7. Leona Heights
- 8. Montclair Railroad Trail
- 9. North Oakland Sports Complex
- 10. Shepherd Canyon

All additional outreach was completed in early May 2019. Horizon and the City also held an additional meeting with other Plan stakeholders, including representatives from the Hills Conservation Network and the Forest Action Brigade on May 17.

#### Revisions to the Draft Plan

In collaboration with various local stakeholder groups indicated below, the Plan has since been substantially revised in response to the Council's direction; the current text of the Plan may be accessed here: <a href="https://www.oaklandca.gov/documents/revised-draft-oakland-vegetation-management-plan-november-1-2019">https://www.oaklandca.gov/documents/revised-draft-oakland-vegetation-management-plan-november-1-2019</a>.

As with any document pending CEQA analysis, it should be noted that the Plan remains in draft form until Council votes to adopt the Plan. Additional revisions are possible up until the point of adoption.

#### **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

The proposed Plan will be analyzed for its conformance with CEQA thresholds, its adherence to adopted City policies, plans and projects, and its ability, if fully implemented, to achieve the Plan's goals.

#### **Overview of the Environmental Analysis**

As stated earlier, the City has determined that an EIR will be prepared for the Plan. An EIR is an informational tool to assist the City's decision makers and the public regarding the Project's environmental effects, mitigation measures, and Project alternatives. The EIR will be a product of a structured information gathering process specified in the CEQA guidelines. The EIR will study the proposed Plan to assess potential impacts and mitigation requirements. City staff and consultants will begin to prepare a Draft EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines to analyze potential physical environmental impacts of the proposed Project.

It should also be noted that, as is common with an EIR process, the Plan will not be finalized when the EIR process begins. CEQA is an iterative process, and analyzing a finalized Plan

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would remove the value of the EIR as a decision-making tool. The EIR will serve to inform the ongoing community discussion on the details contained in the Revised Draft Plan, and can direct the modification of proposed policies and programs in the Revised Draft Plan to help mitigate potential environmental impacts. Please refer to the CEQA flowchart (*Attachment C*) which summarizes the CEQA process.

#### **EIR Scoping**

The issuance of a Notice of Preparation and holding a scoping meeting are the first parts of the EIR process. A Notice of Preparation of the EIR for the Plan was published on November 1, 2019 (*Attachment A*). Comments on the scope of the EIR were due by 5:00 PM on December 2, 2019. A scoping meeting is being held before the Oakland Planning Commission on November 20, 2019.

The purpose of the scoping meeting is to solicit public input regarding the type of information and analysis that should be considered in the EIR. Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (*Attachment D*) outlines potential impacts that Lead Agencies must consider. Per the Notice of Preparation that was posted, it is anticipated that the Project *may have* environmental impacts on the following:

- Aesthetics, shadow and wind
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural and historic resources
- Flood Plain/Flooding
- Geology and soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions/climate change
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and planning
- Noise
- Population, housing and employment
- Public service and recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities and service systems

It anticipated that the Project *will not* have any significant environmental impact on the following environmental factors.

- Agriculture and Forestry (there are no agricultural and forest land resources in the Plan area)
- Mineral Resources (there are no mineral resources in the Plan area)
- Land use (there are no land use changes proposed as part of the plan)
- Population (there are no population inducing measures included in the plan)
- Public services (there are no changes to the level or availability of public services)

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- Recreation (there are no changes to the availability, location, or total area of recreational opportunities) Transportation (there are no changes proposed to existing circulation or traffic measures)
- Utilities (there are no actions that proposed pertaining to the availability of utilities services)

Nevertheless, the EIR will evaluate the full range of environmental issues contemplated for consideration under CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of the EIR would be to verify the presence and extent of environmental impacts associated with the Plan.

#### **EIR Development and Review Process**

The EIR is prepared by or under the direction of the Lead Agency, which for the proposed Project is the City of Oakland, OFD. The OFD the public agency which has the primary responsibility for approving or carrying out the Project. Further, Responsible Agencies, which are public agencies that have a level of discretionary approval over some component of the proposed Project, may rely upon the EIR prepared by OFD.

An EIR is prepared in two key stages. First, a Draft EIR is prepared and distributed for public and agency review. Once comments on the Draft EIR are received, responses to those comments and any additional relevant project information are prepared and compiled in a Final EIR. Both of these documents (i.e., the Draft EIR and the Final EIR), along with any related technical appendices, represent the complete record of the EIR.

The Final EIR is used by the recommending bodies (i.e., Oakland Planning Commission) and the final decision-makers (City Council) to weigh the environmental impacts against the proposed project.

During the forty-five (45) day public comment period commencing upon release of the Draft EIR, the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the Draft EIR. At the conclusion of the comment period, City staff, in collaboration with the consultant team, prepare a Response to Comments and Final EIR for the Project along with any required revisions to the Plan, which, together, will be considered thereafter at additional public hearings of the Planning Commission, and City Council.

#### **Project Alternatives**

The EIR will also examine a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project, including the CEQA mandated No Project Alternative, and other potential alternatives that may be capable of reducing or avoiding potential environmental effects.

#### Plan and EIR Timeline and Deliverables

This section outlines remaining tasks and deliverables as prescribed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) related to the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan and provides estimates of when those deliverables will be received or actions will take place.



- Horizon/Dudek provides Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to City (Spring 2020);
- City reviews EIR drafts (following preparation of Administrative Draft EIR);
- City publishes Public Draft EIR (to be released pending staff review; expected Summer 2020);
- Notices of Availability and Completion are prepared (Summer 2020);
- Notice of Completion filed with state agencies (Summer 2020);
- Notice of Availability posted (Summer 2020);
- Forty-five day Comment period on Draft EIR commences (Fall 2020);
- City presents the Draft EIR to Planning Commission and receives public comment (Fall 2020);
- Horizon/Dudek prepares final EIR including responses to comments received (Fall/Winter 2020);
- City revises Draft EIR and Revised Draft Plan (Fall/Winter 2020);
- City releases Final EIR to the public (Winter 2020);
- City presents the Plan and EIR to the Planning Commission (Winter 2020);
- Certification of Plan and EIR by the City's Planning Commission (early 2021);
- City Council Committee meetings (Public Safety and Public Works) (early 2021);
- City Council Hearings (expected early 2021);
- Adoption of the Plan by the City Council (early 2021); and
- File Notice of Determination filed with Alameda County Clerk Recorders Office and the CEQA State Clearinghouse (early 2021; must be posted for 30 days).

#### **Financing of Plan Implementation**

Members of the public have expressed interest in how the implementation of the Plan will be financed. Until 2017, OFD was able to use proceeds from the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) to pay for vegetation management activities. In order to provide funding for vegetation management and mitigation programs/services specific to the WPAD, a ten (10) year parcel assessment on properties located within the designated WPAD was approved by voters in 2004. The assessment resulted in an annual WPAD budget with expenditure line items recommended and approved by the WPAD Citizen Advisory Board in conjunction with the Oakland Fire Department (OFD), to be used for vegetation management and mitigation programs/services. The WPAD provided the City with on average about one million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$1,700,000) in revenues that could be used for wildfire hazard reduction services in the Oakland Hills. These services were described in the 2013-14 Engineer's Report for the Assessment District as: Goat Grazing;

Property Owner Chipping Program; Vegetation Management Program; Roving Fire Patrol Program; Support Services for Inspection Programs; and Public Outreach.

In November 2013, a ballot measure to continue the property tax assessment and activities supported by the WPAD was forward to voters; however, the WPAD failed to earn the affirmative vote of more than 2/3 of the electorate in the District. As a result, the parcel tax expired in 2014 and the remaining fund balance was be completely expended by June 30, 2017. Funds were collected through June 30, 2014. Please see the table below which describes WPAD revenues collected during the time that the assessment was in place.

#### Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Budgeted vs. Actual Revenue Received FY 2004-05 to FY 2013-14

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FY 2004-05	\$1,800,000	\$1,668,155	(\$131,845)	92.68%
FY 2005-06	1,775,277	1,687,406	(87,871)	95.05%
FY 2006-07	1,788,275	1,564,605	(223,670)	87.49%
FY 2007-08	1,789,292	1,599,430	(189,862)	89.39%
FY 2008-09	1,792,797	1,576,532	(216,265)	87.94%
FY 2009-10	1,797,337	1,785,163	(12,174)	99.32%
FY 2010-11	1,805,804	1,757,687	(48,117)	97.34%
FY 2011-12	1,807,452	1,765,137	(42,315)	97.66%
FY 2012-13	1,807,602	1,911,071	103,469	105.72%
FY 2013-14	1,656,409	1,834,471	178,062	110.75%
FY 2014-15*	0	63,946	63,946	
FY 2015-16*	0	34,926	34,926	
FY 2016-17*	0	8,853	8,853	
TOTAL	\$17,820,245	\$17,257,382	(\$562,863)	96.84%

#### Note:

OFD Vegetation Management currently relies on funding appropriated from the General Purpose Fund (Fund 1010) by City Council in the City's Adopted Policy Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2021. For FY 2019-20 and 2020-21, OFD Vegetation Management was appropriated two million nine hundred and twenty-0six thousand, five hundred and thirty dollars (\$2,926,530) and two million forty-six thousand, two hundred and twelve dollars (\$2,046,212), respectively. These amounts include for each FY one-time funding of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) for the Plan and one million one hundred thousand dollars (\$1,100,000) in lieu of a renewed Wildfire Prevention District. An additional nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) in one-time funding was also provided in FY 2019-20 (Year 1 of the biennial budget) with the intention of accelerating vegetation management operations to prepare for FY 2020-21 (Year 2) wildfire season.

The Plan itself does not provide any recommendations regarding where funding to implement the Plan shall come from. Those decisions are made by the City Council during the City's Biennial Budget and Mid-Cycle Budget processes. However, what the Plan does include are preliminary estimates about what actions contained in the Plan might cost the City. Please refer to Section 12.5, Implementation Costs, on page 236 of the Plan and Appendix H of the Plan for more information. It should be noted that these costs will fluctuate over time, based upon a number of different factors; however, these estimates will provide baseline information that can help inform the City's budget discussions and any planning for a future assessment.

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<sup>\*</sup> Additional Revenues from delinquency were collected from FY 2014-17

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

This item is for informational purposes only and does not have a fiscal impact or cost. Funding for the work of the consultant team was appropriated under City Council Resolution Number 86311 CMS; therefore, there are no additional fiscal impacts to the City as a result of this report.

#### **PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

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

#### COORDINATION

This report was reviewed by the City Attorney's Office and Budget Bureau.

#### SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

**Race & Equity:** There are no race and equity opportunities associated with this informational report.

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The Plan will be analyzed as required under CEQA. The informational report being heard at this meeting is not a project under CEQA.

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#### **ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive An Informational Report On The Status, Goals And Potential Impacts Of The Proposed Oakland Vegetation Management Plan Including But Not Limited To The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Review Process, Including Scoping, Designation Of Lead Agency, Project Objectives And Description, And Timeline.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Angela Robinson Piñon, Strategy & Planning Manager at (510) 238-3707 or <a href="mailto:arobinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov">arobinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov</a>.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin White Fire Chief

Prepared by: Angela Robinson Piñon Oakland Public Works

#### Attachments (4):

- A. Notice of Preparation
- B. July 17, 2018 Public Safety Committee Agenda Report
- C. CEQA Process Flow Chart
- D. CEQA Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form

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## NOTICE OF EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR

## THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE OAKLAND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROJECT TITLE: Oakland Vegetation Management Plan, SCH#2019110002

PROJECT SUMMARY: The City of Oakland ("City") is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan ("OVMP") for City-owned parcels located within the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) designated Very High Fire Severity Zone (VHFSZ). The City is requesting comments on the scope and content of the EIR. A description of the OVMP and its location, together with a summary of the probable environmental effects that will be addressed in the EIR, are included herein. The City is the lead agency undertaking preparation of a Draft EIR for the OVMP. City Staff prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) and will hold one public scoping meeting to obtain agency and public input regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis, including the significant environmental issues, the proposed range of alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be included in the EIR. Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15063(a), the City has not prepared an Initial Study.

The purpose of this second, supplemental NOP is to extend the comment period to allow the public and interested parties additional time to comment on the scope of the Draft EIR for the OVMP and to correct the below name and email address of Angela Robinson Piñon, the person receiving comments during the scoping period. The original comment period in the initial NOP was from Friday, November 1, 2019 to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2019, a total of 31 days. This comment period has been extended to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

All of the other information provided in the Notice of Preparation (NOP) published on November 1, 2019 and attached hereto at Attachment A remains unchanged.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: The City invites comments on the scope and content of the EIR in response to this NOP. The City prefers that comments be submitted via email at: <a href="mailto:arobinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov">arobinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov</a>. Comments may also be submitted via mail to the following address:

Oakland Public Works Department Attn: Angela Robinson Piñon, OVMP – Scoping Comments 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4314 Oakland, CA 94612

Please reference Oakland Vegetation Management Plan (OVMP) in all correspondence.

Pursuant to State law, comments will be accepted for 41 days after publication of the initial NOP and 30 days after publication of this second, supplemental NOP. Responses to the NOP must be received via the above email address, mailing or e-mail address by 5:00 p.m. on December 12, 2019. Comments will also be received at the EIR Scoping Meeting to be held on November 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers in Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA.

Attachment A: Initial Notice of Preparation, Oakland Vegetation Management Plan, November 1, 2019

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE OAKLAND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROJECT TITLE: Oakland Vegetation Management Plan

SUMMARY: The City of Oakland ("City") is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan ("OVMP") for City-owned parcels located within the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) designated Very High Fire Severity Zone (VHFSZ). The City is requesting comments on the scope and content of the EIR. A description of the OVMP and its location, together with a summary of the probable environmental effects that will be addressed in the EIR, are included herein. The City is the lead agency undertaking preparation of a Draft EIR for the OVMP. City Staff prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) and will hold one public scoping meeting to obtain agency and public input regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis, including the significant environmental issues, the proposed range of alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be included in the EIR. Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15063(a), the City has not prepared an Initial Study.

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD:** The City invites comments on the scope and content of the EIR in response to this NOP. The City prefers that comments be submitted via email at: <a href="mailto:arombinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov">arombinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov</a>. Comments may also be submitted via mail to the following address:

Oakland Public Works Department Attn: Angela Robison Piñon, OVMP – Scoping Comments 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4314 Oakland, CA 94612

Please reference Oakland Vegetation Management Plan (OVMP) in all correspondence.

Pursuant to State law, comments will be accepted for 30 days after publication of this notice. Responses to the NOP must be received via the above email address, mailing or e-mail address by 5:00 p.m. on December 2, 2019. Comments will also be received at the EIR Scoping Meetings to be held as noticed below.

Commenters should focus comments on potential impacts of the OVMP on the physical environment. Commenters are encouraged to identify mitigation measures that could minimize potential adverse effects resulting from the OVMP and to identify reasonable alternatives to the OVMP.

#### **EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:**

The City of Oakland Planning Commission will conduct a public scoping meeting on the EIR for the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan on November 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers in Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA.

The purpose of the public scoping meeting is to describe the proposed project and the environmental review process, and to receive verbal input. The City will consider all comments, written and oral, in determining the final scope of the evaluation to be included in the EIR.

The meeting facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. If special translation or signing services or other special accommodations are needed, please contact Angela Robinson Piñon at <a href="mailto:arobinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov">arobinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov</a> or at (510) 238-3707 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

**PURPOSE OF THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP):** Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15082(a), upon deciding to prepare an EIR, the City as lead agency must issue a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to inform the Governor's Office of Planning and Research trustee and responsible agencies, and relevant federal agencies that an EIR will be prepared. This notice is being sent to responsible or trustee agencies and other interested parties. Responsible and trustee agencies are those public agencies, besides the City of Oakland, that have a role in considering approval and/or carrying out the project.

The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the project and its potential environmental effects to affected agencies, so that they may comment on the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR. CEQA Guideline §15082(b) states: "... [E]ach responsible and trustee agency and the Office of Planning and Research shall provide the lead agency with specific detail about the scope and content of the environmental information related to the responsible or trustee agency's area of statutory responsibility that must be included in the draft EIR. The response at a minimum shall identify: (A) The significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures that the responsible or trustee agency, or the Office of Planning and Research, will need to have explored in the Draft EIR; and (B) Whether the agency will be a responsible agency or trustee agency for the project." The City encourages responsible and trustee agencies and the Office of Planning and Research to provide this information to the City, so that the City can ensure that the Draft EIR meets the needs of those agencies.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, notice will be given, and the Draft EIR will be made available for review. Copies will be sent to all responsible and trustee agencies, to persons or entities who comment on this NOP, and to any person or entity that requests a copy. The Draft EIR will also be available for review at the Oakland Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau Offices located at 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3341, Oakland, CA.

Following the close of the public review period for the DEIR, the City will prepare a final EIR, incorporating and responding to all comments received during the public comment period, for consideration by the Planning Commission, at a date for which notice shall be provided. As required by CEQA (§21092.5), the final EIR, including written responses to the comments submitted by public agencies, will be provided to commenting agencies at least 10 days prior to certification.

PROJECT LOCATION: The areas included within the OVMP encompass City-owned parcels and the areas within 30 feet of the edge of roadsides located within the City's Very High Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) as designated by CAL FIRE, and defined in Section 4904.3 of the Oakland Fire Code (Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 15.12). Specifically, as shown in Figure 1 (attached), the OVMP Area includes: 419 City-owned parcels, ranging in size from <0.1 acres to 235 acres and totaling 1,924 acres. Parcels have been divided into the following categories: urban and residential (51.2 acres), canyon areas (188.7 acres), ridgetop areas (130.2 acres), City park lands and open space (1,522.9), other areas (24.5 acres), and medians (6.1 aces). "Other areas" are developed City-owned properties in the OVMP Area that include fire stations (nos. 6, 7, 21, 25, and 28), City facilities (parking lots, police stations), paved areas, and parks and playgrounds (e.g., Montclair Park). The OVMP also includes roadside areas along 308 miles of road within the City's VHFHSZ, which includes surface and arterial streets, State Routes 13 and 24, and Interstate 580. The parks, recreational and open space areas discussed in the OVMP are as follows: Beaconsfield Canyon, Garber Park, Dimond Canyon Park, Shepherd Canyon Park, Leona Heights Park, North Oakland Regional Sports Complex, Grizzly Peak Open Space, City Stables, Sheffield Village Open Space, Knowland Park and Arboretum, King Estates Open Space Park, Joaquin Miller Park, Tunnel Road Open Space, Marjorie Saunders Park, and Oak Knoll.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The City has determined that there are areas within Oakland that are at high risk of wildfire, and that vegetation management/fuels reduction will significantly reduce wildfire

risk. The OVMP outlines a framework for managing fuel loads and vegetation on City-owned properties and along roadways in the City's VHFHSZ to reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic wildfire, such as the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire. Implementation of the OVMP would involve thinning, pruning, removal, and otherwise modification of trees and vegetation within the OVMP area to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire occurring and to minimize/slow the spread of a wildfire, should one occur. The City has identified the following primary goals to guide preparation of the Plan and its implementation:

- Reduce wildfire hazard on City-owned land and along critical access/egress routes within the City's designated VHFHSZ;
- 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 goals, objectives, and recommendations identified in the OVMP are based on a combination of evaluating existing field conditions and current vegetation and fire risk conditions at City parcels; analyzing spatial datasets of environmental and wildfire risk factors in a Geographic Information System (GIS); conducting GIS-based analysis and modeling to identify areas that may be subject to extreme fire behavior; identifying locations within the OVMP area that may present increased ignition potential or otherwise contribute to increase fire hazard; and receiving feedback and guidance from many stakeholders through various meetings, site visits, and written comments.

The OVMP describes various vegetation management techniques that may be employed depending on site conditions, including hand labor, mechanical processes (e.g., mowing), herbicide use, and grazing. Appropriate vegetation management techniques to be employed at a specific site would be identified by Oakland Fire Department personnel during annual workplan development. On an annual basis, OFD staff would conduct field assessments of vegetation conditions in the OVMP area to guide development of such annual vegetation management work plans. These plans would identify specific treatment types, area or properties to be treated, implementation timing, and other monitoring and tracking needs.

The OVMP also identifies best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented during vegetation management activities to reduce or avoid impacts to natural resources present in the OVMP area.

The revised Draft OVMP is available for public review at the following website: https://oaklandvegmanagement.org/#documents.

**ANTICIPATED ENTITLEMENTS AND APPROVALS:** Implementation of the OVMP may include approvals from the following agencies:

- Oakland City Council
- Oakland Planning Commission
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

**PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND PROPOSED SCOPE OF THE EIR:** The EIR will analyze and disclose the direct and reasonably foreseeable indirect potentially significant environmental impacts of implementation of the OVMP (CEQA Guidelines §15126.2, §15130). Where significant impacts are identified, the EIR will describe potentially feasible mitigation measures that could minimize significant adverse impacts (CEQA Guidelines §15126.4).

Topics to be analyzed in the EIR, include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Historic Resources (including Tribal Cultural Resources)
- Energy
- Geology and Soils (including Geological and Seismic Hazards)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Global Climate Change
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality

- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise and Vibration
- Population and Housing (including Growth Inducement)
- Public Services (including Police Services, Fire Protection Services, Parks and Schools)
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Cumulative Impacts

Potential issues and impacts to the existing environment are summarized below. These topics will be further evaluated in the Draft EIR.

Aesthetics – Vegetation management activities will impact trees in the OVMP area and will be visible along public roads, highways and parks, and open space. In some cases, vegetation management activities will be visible from private properties that abut parks and open space. In addition, some vegetation management activities will be visible from State Route 24, a portion of which has been designated by the State as a scenic highway (east end of Caldecott Tunnel). The activities proposed under the OVMP would not create a new source of substantial light or glare. The Draft EIR will evaluate whether the OVMP would adversely affect the existing visual character or quality of the Plan area and its surroundings.

Air Quality – Vehicle and equipment emissions generated by OVMP activities may impact air quality. The Draft EIR will describe the potential short- and long-term impacts of the OVMP on local and regional air quality based on methodologies stipulated by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and will include any required mitigation measures to address air pollutant emissions generated by the OVMP.

**Biological Resources** – The OVMP area includes plant and animal species that are identified as candidate, sensitive or special status species (i.e. "protected species") by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, there are riparian habitats and sensitive natural communities within the OVMP area. The Draft EIR will examine the potential for substantial adverse effects on biological resources.

Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources – The analysis in the Draft EIR will assess the potential for ground disturbing activities associated with the OVMP to damage or destroy recorded or unrecorded archaeological sites and paleontological resources, and will include the results of consultation with Native American representatives. The Draft EIR will also address potential effects on tribal cultural resources.

archaeological sites and paleontological resources, and will include the results of consultation with Native American representatives. The Draft EIR will also address potential effects on tribal cultural resources.

Geology and Soils - The OVMP will result in the removal and trimming of vegetation on slopes and topsoil; however, it will not result in the construction of new buildings or facilities. Therefore, the Draft EIR will evaluate the risk of geologic hazards associated with OVMP related activities.

Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and Global Climate Change — The City published a GHG emissions inventory in 2018. The City is implementing its 2020 Energy and Climate Action Plan (updated in 2018) and is developing a 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan. Transportation is the greatest contributor to GHGs, and the OVMP would generate some additional vehicle trips, as well as emissions from equipment used for vegetation management activities. The Draft EIR will evaluate the OVMP's potential contributions to GHG emissions and assess the OVMP's consistency with state, local, and regional plans and policies pertaining to GHG emissions and climate change.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials – The OVMP has identified a number of possible fuel reduction techniques, including the use of vehicles and mechanical equipment that require fueling. The Draft EIR will evaluate the potential for increased risks associated with potential uses or accidental release of hazardous materials within or near the OVMP area. In addition, the Draft EIR will identify, evaluate and propose mitigation measures to address potential hazards.

Hydrology and Water Quality — Water resources within the OVMP area includes perennial creeks and intermittent water sources. These resources may be impacted by vegetation management activities. The Draft EIR will identify the potential for vegetation management activities to alter existing drainage patterns and impact water quality.

Noise — Certain vegetation management methods proposed under the OVMP (such as the use of mechanical equipment to remove vegetation) would result in short-term generation of noise above ambient levels while those activities are taking place. The Draft EIR will consider whether the implementation of vegetation management activities will: exceed established standards in the City's General Plan and noise ordinance, and other applicable standards; have the potential to expose people to excessive ground borne vibrations and noises levels; and result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the OVMP area.

The Draft EIR will evaluate cumulative impacts of the OVMP, including the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the vicinity (CEQA Guidelines §15130). The Draft EIR will also identify and examine a range of reasonable alternatives to the OVMP, including, but not limited to, a No Project Alternative (Guidelines §15126.6).

Date

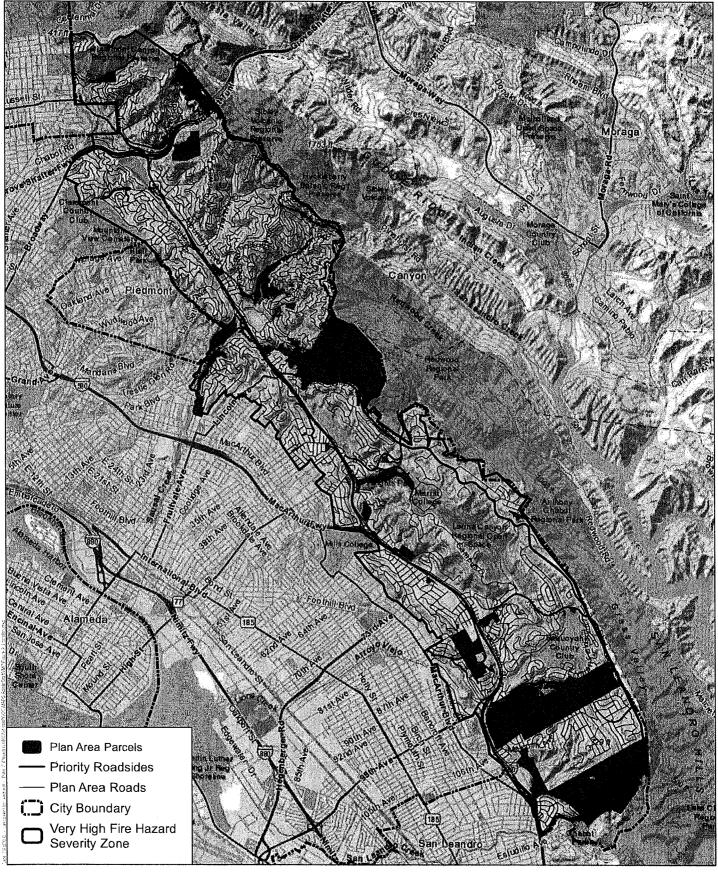
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Attachment:

Figure 1, Location Map



SOURCE: ESRI 2017; City of Oakland 2017

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FIGURE 1 Location Map



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## 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

Date:

#### 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 <u>www.oaklandvegmanagement.org</u> 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: <a href="http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\_id=93f82ae8-64e8-11e8-8074-00505691de41">http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\_id=93f82ae8-64e8-11e8-8074-00505691de41</a>
- Comment period ended on June 11, 2018, consultant team compiles comments (viewable here: <a href="https://oaklandca.nextrequest.com/requests/18-1630">https://oaklandca.nextrequest.com/requests/18-1630</a>) 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.

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#### **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

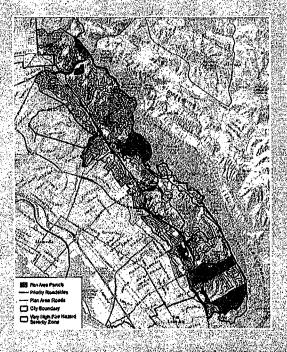




## Draft Vegetation Management Plan

# 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 Behavlor 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:

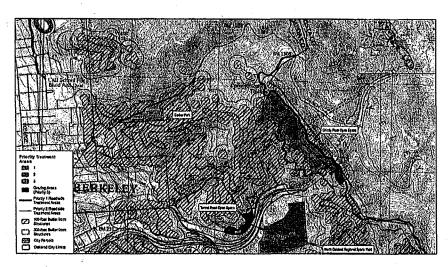
Conducted to document existing vegetation management practices used by the Oakland Fire Department and to identify anecdotal evidence of areas subject to high ignition potential.

## 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.

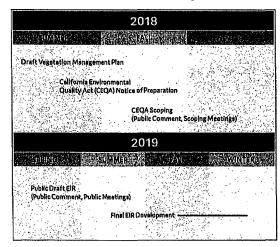


#### Plan Implementation

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

#### Gity Park Lands and Open Space (Cont.)



#### Knowland Park and Arboretum property:

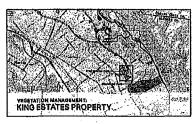
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures, within 20 feet of Golf Links Road, and within 30 feat of known human congregation/activity areas along Skyline Boulevard
- Managa vegetation within 100 feet of on-site structures in the 200 portion of the properly and within 100 feet of the zoolopen space interface to minimize ignition potential and modify potential fire believing near this
- Maintain the existing trail/road networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vagatation
- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the property's dist access roads
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads



#### Joseph Miller Park

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures, within 30 feet of Joseph 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 Joseph  ${\bf Miller House}$ implement thinning recommendations in the park's aucelyptus, pine, ecacia, and mixed tree stands in areas exhibiting extrame fire behavior and within 300 feet of structures
- Maintain the existing lise traifdist road network to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation
   Aproid treatment within the pallid manus palls restoration area adjacent to like Chebot Space and Science Center
   Implement measures to prevent unautherized vehicle access to the park's dut access roads

- . Continue to manage vagetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads



#### King Estates property:

- Manage vegetation within son 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 vagatation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to main fuel loads and minimize ignition potential. particularly prior to the 4th of July holiday

## City of Oakland

#### Draft Vegetation Management Plan

The following vegetation management actions are recommended as part of the City of Oaklane Vegetalion Management Plan.



MAINTAINING FUEL LOADS

PRUMING TREE CANOPIES THROUGH THE USE OF HAND LABOR OF MECHANICAL TECHNIQUES

Grazino primarily where Multiple City Of Med Parcels Abut 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 vagetation along adjacent readside (Claremont Avanue) and near traffeed afentry points to minimize ignition potential
- . Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 10 feet
- Manage vegetation within to feet of the south and west property boundary line to facilitate firefighter access



#### Distond Canyon Parks

- Maintain the existing trail networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vagatation
- Manage vagatation along sdije cent roedsides (Park Bodeverd, Montarey Boulevard, Lelmect Boulevard, El Centro Avanou) and near trailheadrighentry points to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to ascend 20 feet
- Manage vagetation within so feet of the south and west property boundary live to facilitate finalighter access

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#### Canyon Areas (Cont.)





#### Shepherd Canyon Parks

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

#### Leena Heights Park:

- Manage vegetation plang adjecent roadside (Cempus Drive) so minimize ignition potential. Yeatment widt should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet
- Manage vagetation within 100 feet of structures and within the current 9-acre management area

#### Ridgetop Areas (Cont.)



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT: GRIZZLY PEAK OPEN SPACE PROPERTY

#### Ridgetop Areas

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

Nem getest beginning in a property and the last of the party beginning the party beginni



VEGETATION MANAGEMENTS
NORTH DAKE AND REGIONAL SPORTS FIELD PROPERTY

#### 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.



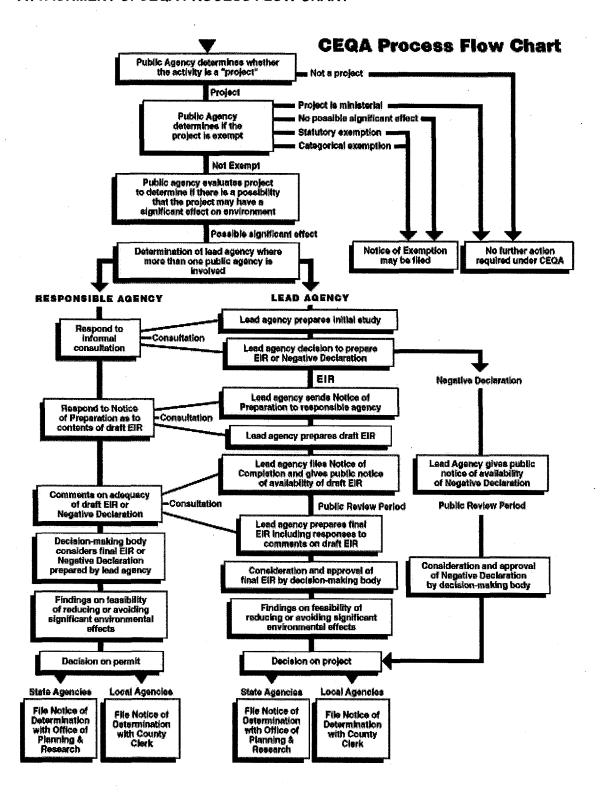
#### Sheffield Village Open Space property:

- Mersage vegatation within 100 feet of structures
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of on-situ
   structures in the Ounsmylr Estates partion of
- Maintain the exi vegetation
- · Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the rem maintain fuel loads.

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Source: http://resources.ca.gov/cega/flowchart/

#### CEQA APPENDIX G: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

NOTE: The following is a sample form and may be tailored to satisfy individual agencies' needs and project circumstances. It may be used to meet the requirements for an initial study when the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines have been met. Substantial evidence of potential impacts that are not listed on this form must also be considered. The sample questions in this form are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts, and do not necessarily represent thresholds of significance.

1.	Project title:
2.	Lead agency name and address:
	Contact person and phone number:
	Project location:
5.	Project sponsor's name and address:
ô.	General plan designation: 7. Zoning:
8.	Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
9.	Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:
10.	Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)
11.	Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?
	Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Agriculture and Forestry **Aesthetics** Air Quality Resources **Biological Resources** Cultural Resources Geology /Soils Greenhouse Gas Hazards & Hazardous Hydrology / Water **Emissions** Materials Quality Land Use / Planning Mineral Resources Noise Population / Housing **Public Services** Recreation **Utilities / Service** Transportation/Traffic Tribal Cultural Resources Systems Mandatory Findings of Significance DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation: I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. \_\_l I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. Signature Date Signature Date

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project,

#### **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

- A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

#### SAMPLE QUESTION

Issues:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?		,		
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				·
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?		·		
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in he significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?				
o) Cause a substantial adverse change in he significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?				
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				
d) Disturb any human remains, including hose interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?				
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				
ii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
v) Landslides?				
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				
XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				
XII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?				ľ
Police protection?				
Schools?				
Parks?				
Other public facilities?				
XV. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				

Significant **Potentially** with Less Than Significant Mitigation Significant No **Impact** Incorporated Impact Impact XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project: a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

**Less Than** 

	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				
XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.		•		
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or anima community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino, (1988) 202 Cal. App.3d 296; Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, (1990) 222 Cal. App.3d 1337; Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka (2007) 147 Cal. App.4th 357; Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency (2004) 116 Cal. App.4th at 1109; San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco (2002) 102 Cal. App.4th 656.

Revised 2016

Authority: Public Resources Code sections 21083 and 21083.09 Reference: Public Resources Code sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3/ 21084.2 and 21084.3