

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #2005082054

Project Title: Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP)

Lead Agency: California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Contact Person: Edith Hannigan
 Mailing Address: PO Box 944246 Phone: (916) 653-8007
 City: Sacramento Zip: 94244-2460 County: Sacramento

Project Location: County: Statewide City/Nearest Community: Communities near wildland on nonfederal

Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W Total Acres: _____
 Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____
 Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other: Revised NOP
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ FONSI _____

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: Program EIR

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD
 Educational: _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Recreational: _____ Other: Reduce wildland fuel loads & restore native ecosystems
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

As a programmatic document, projects may occur in any zoning designation depending on local government ordinances.

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The Board is updating & revising the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the VTP PEIR to seek input from responsible & trustee agencies & other interested parties regarding the scope & content of the environmental information to be included in the PEIR, & to ensure accurate information is contained in the public notices relating to this PEIR. This PEIR analyzes the potential environmental effects of the Program. The VTP is proposed to achieve the overarching goal of using vegetation treatments to alter fire behavior to reduce the harmful effects on the people, property & natural resources in the State of California. The VTP is proposed to be implemented primarily on privately owned land within the State Responsibility Area. By issuing this NOP, the Board intends to ensure the PEIR captures the most up-to-date scientific information available. See attachment for more info.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

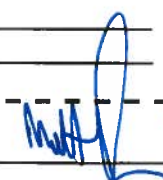
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB #All _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #All _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Sierra Nevada Conservancy</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Tahoe Conservancy</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 10/5/2015 Ending Date 11/3/2015

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone: _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 10/5/15

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

REVISED Notice of Preparation

To: Distribution List

From: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst
California Board of Forestry and
Fire Protection
VegetationTreatment@bof.ca.gov
Tel: (916) 653-8007

Subject: *REVISED* Notice of Preparation of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is the lead agency and will prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the proposed statewide Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP or Program). The proposed Program is part of the Board's comprehensive fire prevention policy, which will be implemented by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Portions of two earlier Program Environmental Impact Reports for the VTP are incorporated into this PEIR. Given the passage of time, the Board is updating and revising the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this PEIR to seek input from responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the PEIR, and to ensure accurate information is contained in the public notices relating to this PEIR.

This PEIR analyzes the potential environmental effects of the Program. The VTP is proposed to achieve the overarching goal of using vegetation treatments to alter fire behavior to reduce the harmful effects on the people, property and natural resources in the State of California. The VTP is proposed to be implemented primarily on privately owned land within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) (see attached map).

The VTP organizes treatments into three general types: (1) Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) treatments focused in WUI-designated areas, generally consisting of fuel reduction to prevent the spread of fire between wildlands and structures, or vice versa; (2) creating fuel breaks, which are strategically placed vegetation treatments that actively support fire control activities; and (3) ecological restoration projects, which would generally occur outside the WUI in areas that have departed from the natural fire regime as a result of fire exclusion and would focus on restoring ecosystem resiliency by moderating uncharacteristic wildland fuel conditions to reflect historic vegetative composition and structure.

The VTP is also intended to assist in supporting federal and local non-SRA fuel reduction projects through the use of vegetation treatments proposed in the PEIR. The VTP PEIR will study the potential environmental effects of the proposed Program's strategic treatment of wildland vegetation with the overarching goal of wildland fire prevention.

As proposed, the VTP would allow for vegetation treatment activities to meet specific project objectives for fire prevention, fire protection, and/or ecological restoration. These treatment activities may include: prescribed fire, manual activities and mechanical activities, prescribed herbivory (beneficial grazing), and targeted ground application of herbicides. These activities are

proposed to be used singularly or in combination, depending upon the treatment type and environmental considerations.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) a Program EIR may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related to, among other things, the issuance of general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program or individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority, and having generally similar environmental effects that can be mitigated in similar ways. The Board recognizes the link between fuels management and fire protection across the SRA, and has the statutory responsibility to establish policy for wildland resources in the SRA. CAL FIRE has the responsibility for implementation of Board policy, and will therefore take the lead on implementing the Program consistent with the PEIR. Responsible and trustee agencies will need to use the PEIR when considering permit or other approval for individual projects conducted pursuant to the PEIR.

By issuing this NOP, the Board intends to continue and further its consultation with responsible and trustee agencies and members of the public to ensure that the PEIR captures the most up-to-date scientific and environmental information available.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are more fully identified in the Preliminary Draft Program Environment Impact Report available on the Board's website at:

[http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_\(vtpeir\)/](http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_(vtpeir)/)

An initial study was not conducted because the Board determined that an EIR is required for the project. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15063.)

Agency Scoping Meetings: Pursuant to section 21080.4(b) of the Public Resources Code, responsible and trustee agencies have the right to request a meeting to determine the scope and content of the environmental information required. Please contact the Board at the address below to request such a meeting.

Public Scoping Process: In addition, and in accordance with section 21080.3 of the Public Resources Code, the Board will be conducting a scoping meeting at 10:30am on Tuesday, October 27th, in the Natural Resources Auditorium at 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and will hold open a public scoping period for 30 days from the date of this notice.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, any response to this Revised NOP must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please send your response, including the name of the designated contact person for your agency, to:

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Attn: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst

Telephone: (916) 653-8007

Fax: (916) 653-0989

Email: VegetationTreatment@bof.ca.gov

Project Title: Vegetation Treatment Program

Date: 10/5/15

Signature: 

Title: Acting Executive Officer

Telephone: (916) 653-8007

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14 (CEQA Guidelines), Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FOR FIRE PROTECTION

- SRA (State Responsibility Area)
- FRA (Federal Responsibility Area)
- LRA (Local Responsibility Area)
- Incorporated Cities



The State of California and its agencies and fire protection make no representation or warranty regarding the accuracy of this or any other map. The State and its agencies shall be held harmless for any damages, special, incidental or consequential, arising from or in any way by any user or third party on account of or arising from the use of data or maps.

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 For more information, contact: CAL FIRE, P.O. Box 941295, Sacramento, CA 95814-2495, (916) 327-7931

Prepared by: Edward G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California
 John L. Slaughter, Fire Resources, The National Fire Protection Agency
 Ken Frankel, Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MAPS: Geotop
 DATA SOURCES:
 CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA) 1.2
 CAL FIRE Incorporated Cities (Incorp) 1.2
 FRAP Data, FIREMAP, CA 02/2010