

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

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Accessory Building: Any building used as an accessory to residential, commercial, recreational, industrial or education purposes. California Building Code, 1989 Amendments Chapter 11, Group M Division 1 Occupancy.

Aerial Fuels: Standing and supported live and dead combustibles that are not in direct contact with the ground, and consist mainly of twigs, branches, stems, cones, bark and vines.

Aspect: Cardinal direction toward which a slope faces (i.e., exposure): north, south, east, west. Aspect has an effect of fire behavior and intensity.

Broadcast Fire: Prescribed burning activity where fire is applied generally to most or all of an area within well-defined boundaries for reduction of fuel hazards, as a resource management treatment, or both.

Brush: A collective term that refers to stands of vegetation dominated by shrubby, woody plants or low-growing trees, usually of a type undesirable for livestock or timber management.

Brushland: An area covered primarily with brush; shrubland.

Canopy: The upper or aerial portions of vegetation. Usually refers to trees, tall shrubs, and vines.

Canopy Cover: The percentage of ground covered by a vertical projection of the overhanging plant foliage.

Coastal Scrub: A plant community consisting of low shrubs intermixed with grassy meadows in a maritime climate.

Combustible Materials: Any element in the landscape that is easily ignited and capable of burning rapidly. Combustible materials include but are not limited to the following: waste paper, hay, grass or weeds more than 4 inches tall, flammable waste material, petroleum products, dead vegetation, dead branches on living plants, firewood, loose papery bark on trees, and housing construction materials.

Control Line: All built or natural fire barriers and treated fire edges used to control a fire.

Crown Fire: The movement of fire through the crowns of trees or shrubs, more or less independently of the surface fire.

Crowning Potential: The ability of a fire to move from ground level into the upper branches and foliage of shrubs or trees.

Dead-End Road: A road that provides only one point of ingress and egress.

Defensible Space: The area within the perimeter of a parcel, neighborhood, or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented. Providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildland fire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires. The treated distance from structure is established by State law (PRC 4291). The perimeter as used in this regulation is the area encompassing the parcel excluding the physical structure itself. The area is characterized by the establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, street names and building identification, and fuel modification measures.

Diablo Winds: Hot, dry winds generally from the northeast created by a combination of strong high atmospheric pressure, strongly sinking air aloft, and lower pressure off the California coast. Diablo winds are known to increase fire dangers in the Study Area and throughout the East Bay region.

Duff: The layer of decomposing organic materials lying below the litter layer of freshly fallen twigs, needles, and leaves and immediately above the mineral soil. Also called humus.

EBRPD Facilities at Risk: Facilities located on EBRPD parklands that are considered highly valuable, including structures and other physical improvements; natural and cultural resources; community infrastructure; and economic, environmental, and social values for which the wildland fire protection system is created and funded to protect. The facilities were considered to be "irreplaceable" such as the Tilden Merry-Go-Round, the Temescal boating facility and the Chabot Equestrian Center.

Endemic: Native to or restricted to a particular area or region.

Exotic: An organism or species which is not native to the region in which it is found.

Fire Brand: Flaming or glowing fuel particles that can be carried (sometimes up to a mile or more) naturally by wind, convection currents, or by gravity into unburned fuels.

Fire Hazard: Any thing or act which increases or may cause an increase of the potential for or menace of fire to a greater degree than that customarily recognized as normal. Any thing or act which may obstruct, delay, hinder, or interfere with the operations of the Fire District or the egress of occupants in the event of fire.

Fire Hazard Rating: An assigned level of potential fire hazard, based on the variables that determine the potential of different vegetation types to burn, the potential flame length from these vegetation types, and their anticipated heat output when burning. Fire hazard is categorized as Low, Moderate, High, or Extreme.

Flammable Materials: Any liquid or gas that is easily ignited and capable of burning rapidly.

Flammable Vegetation: Plants with one or all of these characteristics: accumulation of dead vegetation, high volume growth, or low fuel moistures. These plants may ignite easily, burn rapidly, or produce high-heat output and are capable of transmitting fire.

Flora: The plant species of an area.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous food that is available to livestock or wildlife.

Forb: Any broadleaf herbaceous plant (plants in the grass (Poaceae), sedge (Cyperaceae) or rush (Juncaceae) families are not broadleaf herbaceous plants.)

Fuels: Combustible structures and wildland vegetative materials, including dead plants, parts of living plants, duff, and other accumulations of flammable vegetation.

Fuel Break: An area, typically a strategically-located elongated strip, wherein vegetative fuels are reduced in volume and continuity and maintained to cause a reduction of fire intensity if ignited by a wildland fire. Over the years, EBRPD has conducted numerous vegetation management projects to reduce wildfire risks and has created and maintains a discontinuous fuel break along the western boundary of its East Bay Hill parks, per the East Bay Hills Wildfire Problem Statement prepared by the Hills EIR Working Group, revised in 2005.

Fuel Continuity: The degree or extent of continuous or uninterrupted distribution of fuel particles in a fuel bed that affects a fire's ability to sustain combustion and spread. This term applies to aerial fuels as well as surface fuels and may be either horizontally or vertically contiguous. See also Ladder Fuels.

Fuel Load: The quantity of fuel expressed in terms of weight per unit area of land, generally expressed in tons per acre (TPA).

Fuel Model: A simulated fuel complex for which all fuel descriptors required for the solution of a mathematical rate of spread model have been specified.

Fuel Modification Area: An area where the overall volume of flammable vegetation has been reduced, providing reduced fire spread, intensity, and duration. Modification actions include the removal of fuels, conversion of vegetation with low volume or less ignitable fuel characteristics, increased spacing of individual plants, or lowering of age class within a given area.

Fuel Mosaic: The removal of vegetation to create distinct and separate groups of plants with the goal of breaking up fuel continuity.

Geographic Information System (GIS): A system of hardware and software used for storage, retrieval, mapping, and analysis of geographic data.

Ground Fuels: All combustible materials (including dead fuels) below the surface litter, including duff, tree or shrub roots, punky wood, peat, and sawdust that normally support a glowing combustion without flame.

Hazard: Any real or potential condition that can cause injury, illness, or death of personnel, or damage to or loss of equipment or property.

Hazardous Vegetation (called Flammable Vegetation in State Fire Code): Any vegetation, including ornamental, that, either by its intrinsic species characteristics, spacing, placement or lack of care, is easy to ignite, spreads fire rapidly, produces high heat or creates fires that are difficult to suppress.

Hills Emergency Forum (HEF): An organization composed of members from various public agencies and municipal governments in the East Bay which coordinates the collection, assessment, and sharing of information on East Bay Hills fire hazards and provides a forum for building interagency consensus on the development of fire safety standards and codes, incident response and management protocols, public education programs, multi-jurisdictional training, and fuel reduction strategies. EBRPD is a member of the HEF.

Horizontal Separation: Spacing between plants designed to minimize the spread of fire from plant to plant.

Ignition Potential: The likelihood of vegetative and other flammable materials to combust under given weather, topographic, and fuel load conditions.

Integrated Pest Management: A management approach that incorporates the use of ecologically compatible treatment strategies to control or eradicate plant and animal pests.

Introduced (Species): A species not part of the original plants or animals of an area.

Invasive (Plant): Plants that move into and establish themselves in another area.

Ladder Fuels: Typically consisting of dense vegetation near the forest floor and extending up a tree, these are fuels that can carry a fire vertically between or within a fuel type and increase the likelihood of fire reaching the crowns of trees.

Listed: A term used to define plant and animal species that are known by a regulating agency to require additional protection from injury, death, or loss of habitat due to the species' threatened or endangered status.

Local Responsibility Area (LRA): Area or district under the jurisdiction of a local fire department. (See also State Responsibility Area)

Managed Domestic Landscape: Privately owned parcels that receive regular maintenance and are kept free of flammable vegetation. These landscapes may include structures or be essentially undeveloped.

Non-Native Species: Any species not originally from the area in which it presently occurs.

Noxious Weed: Any plant designated by a Federal, State or county government as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property.

Overstory Removal: The elimination of the uppermost layer of trees and shrubs to reduce the potential for crown fires and decrease the vertical continuity of ladder fuels within vegetative communities.

Ornamental: Any vegetation or group of native or introduced plants that have been planted and are maintained for functional or aesthetic purposes.

Parcel: A portion of land of any size, the area of which is determined by assessor's maps and records and identified by an assessor's parcel number. Each parcel has a zoning designation that identifies its permissible use and requirements for any development.

Pyrophyte (Pyrophytic plant): A plant adapted to withstand or achieve a competitive advantage from wildfire, often dependent on fire for reproduction, nutrient recycling, and removal of senescent vegetation.

Prescribed Fire: Any fire ignited by management actions under certain, predetermined conditions to meet specific objectives related to hazardous fuels or habitat improvement. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist and CEQA and/or NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) requirements must be met, as required, prior to ignition.

Rated Roof: A roof constructed of materials that are listed as meeting the requirements for Class A, B, or C roofing materials.

Recommended Treatment Area: A defined spatial unit with a unique set of physical circumstances including topography, vegetation types, and habitats that require consistent fuel management and treatment considerations identified as a result of the wildfire hazard assessment process conducted by the consultant team and EBRPD staff as part of the preparation of this Plan.

Reduced Fuel Zone: The area that extends out from 30 to 100 feet away from the building or structure (or to the property line, whichever is nearer to the building or structure).

Residual Dry Matter (RDM): Old herbaceous plant material left standing or on the ground at the beginning of a new growing season.

Riparian Vegetation: Plant communities dependent upon the presence of free water near the ground surface, especially along streams and rivers.

Risk: The source or potential for ignition to occur.

Ruderal Vegetation: Plants or plant communities growing on barren or newly-cleared land that form the initial layer of ground cover. Over time, this vegetation is replaced by perennial species as the duff layer increases and provides the nutrients and soil layer needed to sustain perennial species. May also be used to describe invasive non-native plant species that invade barren or newly-cleared land.

Shrub Islands: Distinct groupings of shrubs designed to help control the spread of fire. Islands should be small enough to provide adequate horizontal separation between groupings. These groupings may be established during initial planting or created by removing and maintaining existing shrubs.

Slope: Upward or downward incline or slant, usually calculated as a percentage of slope (rise or fall per 100 feet of horizontal distance).

Spotting: The phenomena of fire brands or live embers being carried by wind to ignite new fires outside the perimeter of the main fire.

State Responsibility Area (SRA): Area or district under the jurisdiction of the State of California and State Fire Marshall's Office. Fire protection is provided by CalFire, EBRPD, and others. (See also Local Responsibility Area)

Stream Environment Zone (SEZ): An area consisting of a stream and its riparian corridor, as well as any adjacent marshes and wet meadows.

Surface Fuels: Loose surface litter on the soil surface, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones and small branches that have not yet decayed enough to lose their identity; also grasses, forbs, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, heavier branches, and downed logs.

Torching: The ignition and flare-up of a tree or small group of trees, usually from bottom to top.

Unmaintained Landscape: Privately owned parcels with flammable vegetation that do not receive regular treatment to reduce fire hazard. These landscapes may include structures or be essentially undeveloped.

Understory: Plants growing beneath the canopy of other plants, usually referring to grasses, forbs and low shrubs under trees or tall shrubs.

Values at Risk: Public and private values including property, structures, and other physical improvements; natural and cultural resources; community infrastructure; and economic, environmental, and social values for which the wildland fire protection system is created and funded to protect.

Vegetation Management Prescription: Measurable criteria that define conditions under which a prescribed fire or other vegetation management activity may be conducted, guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicate other required actions.

Vegetation Type: A distinctive stand of plant species or combinations of species which dominate a given area.

Vertical Separation: The distance from the top of shrubs or groundcover to adjacent trees, designed to minimize the spread of fire to the crown of trees or structure roofs. The minimum distance is two times the height of the shrub to the leaves or needles of adjacent overstory trees.

Wildland: An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, power lines and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered and primarily for recreation purposes or management support.

Wildland Fire: An unplanned and unwanted fire requiring suppression action. An uncontrolled fire, usually spreading through vegetative fuels, but often threatening and involving structures. Wildland fires are not restricted to undeveloped areas but may also occur in the Wildland Urban Intermix.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): An area where built development and wildland fuels meet at a well- defined boundary.

Wildland Urban Intermix: An area where built development and wildland fuels mix with no clearly defined boundary.