

# CLAREMONT CANYON CC001 - STONEWALL FUELS MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:**

The site is 19 acres of open and closed eucalyptus groves and brush on steep slopes above homes near Stonewall Drive in Berkeley. Access is either from the gate near the bottom of Stonewall Road, through Clark Kerr campus on Sports Lane Drive, or from the gate near the EBMUD water tank as shown on the map. Isolated areas of initial treatment small diameter eucalyptus thinning and brush reduction occurred in 2004 and has been repeated approximately every three to four years. Large eucalyptus were removed in 2006 and 2007 near the access gate at the EBMUD water tank and behind the homes at the eastern end of Stonewall Road. Brush thinning, weedeating, and French broom hand pulling are repeated annually in these areas to help maintain the site.

## **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GOALS:**

Open eucalyptus stand with minimal understory, oak-bay woodland, patches of north coastal scrub away from structures. Create a fire safe buffer of grass without eucalyptus above homes.

## **FUELS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:**

- 1 - Reduce fuel volume and the intensity of wildland fires in the area above the homes and other structures, and along heavily-used trails.
- 2 - Thin the eucalyptus stands to reduce the potential for crown fires and ember dissemination, leaving a shaded fuel break.
- 3 - Continue to maintain previously treated areas to prevent regrowth of eucalyptus, brush, and exotics.

## **RESOURCE OBJECTIVES AND CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Conduct all initial work during the period from July 31<sup>st</sup> to Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid disturbance to nesting raptors and song birds, as recommended by the District's biologist. If work will occur during nesting season, Stewardship will conduct a pre-work nesting survey within 15-days of work beginning and flag any buffer sites around identified nests.
- Conduct surveys and treatment activities in a manner that will minimize potential adverse effects to Alameda whipsnakes. At rocky outcrops, or within grasslands, work may occur between Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. If work occurs outside this window, a biological monitor must be present for all activities on site.
- Conduct surveys and treatment activities in oak and bay habitat to identify and avoid dusky-footed woodrat nests. Any nest will have a buffer zone described by the current protocol developed by Stewardship.
- Install erosion control measures if needed in areas where duff has been removed.

## **FUELS TREATMENT PRESCRIPTION:**

### Initial Treatment

Continue to maintain existing fuelbreak area and expand into previously untreated parts of the Recommended Treatment Area as follows:

### *Eucalyptus*

Eucalyptus trees ranging up to 8" to 12" dbh, depending on the site, will be removed to help maintain a shaded fuelbreak with minimal understory. In some cases, where large, healthy, oak and bay are present, eucalyptus exceeding 12" in diameter may be selected for removal to further increase residual spacing and improve healthy growing conditions. Up to 50% of eucalyptus trees between 12" dbh and 24" dbh and up to 30% of trees greater than 24" dbh may be removed. Eucalyptus trees will be removed by logging contractors using a range of logging methods, including directional hand fellers, feller-bunchers, skidders, cable yarding equipment, and possibly helicopters. Boles will be stripped of their limbs, skidded and removed by truck. Limbs and boles less than 4" diameter on the large end and accumulations of eucalyptus bark or "ribbons" will be either masticated on site, piled and burned, chipped and spread to a depth of 4" or less, or completely removed from the site. To suppress potential eucalyptus resprouts, all cut stumps will be treated with herbicide per the District's pest control recommendation. Logs greater than 10" diameter will be retained onsite at a rate of 2 per acre averaged over the treatment site and must be 20ft or longer. The logs must be limbed, topped, and positioned so that they are substantially in contact with the forest floor throughout their length.

### *Other Fuels*

Dead and down material and ladder fuels will be reduced, including removal of young pines and pittosporum, limbing up or removing small oak and bays, removal of French broom by cutting or hand pulling, maintaining grass in low condition, and using animal grazing and weedeating to reduce grass heights. Small diameter cut material (less than 4" diameter) may be piled and burned or removed off site. Herbicides will be used on invasive brush. In areas where slopes are less steep, brushing or mastication equipment may be used. Within 200 feet of homes, all brush can be removed to create a buffer of grass. Remnants of dead pines may be left for moisture retention and wildlife habitat.

### Hazard Trees

Though not necessarily posing a significant fuels management problem, eucalyptus or other trees that may be a hazard or future hazard along trails, near homes, or overhanging developed areas should be assessed by park staff and treated appropriately through the District's hazardous tree program.

Follow-up/Maintenance (Note: if initial treatment is spread over more than one year, adjust the maintenance schedule as needed to accommodate)

YEAR	FUELS TREATMENT
01	Initial Treatment.
02-04	Use a combination of weedeating, hand pulling, grazing, and herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads throughout entire site.
05	Repeat initial ladder fuels treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
06-09	Use a combination of weedeating, hand pulling, grazing, and herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads throughout entire site.
10	Repeat initial ladder fuels treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal

	grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
11-14	Use a combination of weedeating, hand pulling, grazing, and herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads throughout entire site.
15	Repeat initial ladder fuels treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
16-19	Use a combination of weedeating, hand pulling, grazing, and herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads throughout entire site.
20	Repeat initial ladder fuels treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
21-24	Use a combination of weedeating, hand pulling, grazing, and herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads throughout entire site.
25	Repeat initial ladder fuels treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
26-29	Use a combination of weedeating, hand pulling, grazing, and herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads throughout entire site.
30	Repeat initial ladder fuels treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.

**MONITORING:**

Staff from the District's Fire Department, Planning/Stewardship, and Operations will evaluate the success and efficacy of the initial and follow-up fuels treatments. Monitoring results will be documented.

**PRESCRIPTION PREPARED BY:**

Brad Bullup  
Fire Captain, EBRPD

[Signature]  
Signature

8/23/12  
Date

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL:**

This prescription meets the District's standards for fuels management, natural resource protection and achievement of Best Management Practices according to the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan and is consistent with the mitigation measures contained in the EIR:

John R. Swanson  
for Fire Chief, EBRPD

[Signature]  
Signature

08.29.2012  
Date

NEM FUJITA  
Stewardship Manager, EBRPD

[Signature]  
Signature

8/29/12  
Date





Claremont Canyon CC001 Fuels Management Prescription  
8/23/2012