

Notice of Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan and Notice of Fourth Public Meeting and Scoping Session

Lead Agency/Applicant:

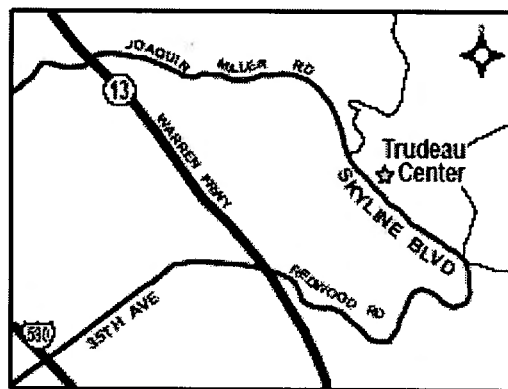
East Bay Regional Park District
Brian Wiese, Chief of Planning and Stewardship
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
Fax: (510) 635-3478

Consultant:

LSA Associates, Inc.
Judith Malamut, Project Manager
2215 Fifth Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
Fax: (510) 540-7344

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) will be the Lead Agency for and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan (Plan), as described below, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). EBRPD needs to know your views as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. The project description, location, and preliminary EIR scope are included with this notice; a copy of an Initial Study Environmental Checklist prepared for this project is available for review at EBRPD headquarters, Planning & Stewardship Department (510-544-2300), or may be downloaded from EBRPD's web site: www.ebparks.org/stewardship/fireplan.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but *not later than 5 p.m. on May 22, 2008*, 30 days after this Notice of Preparation is posted with the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Comments on the proposed scope of the EIR may be sent by mail or fax to Brian Wiese (at the address above), or comments may be submitted at the **fourth project meeting and scoping session scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Trudeau Center, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland (three blocks north of Redwood Road).**



Project Title: Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan

Project Location: The Study Area for the Plan consists of EBRPD park lands (approximately 19,000 acres) within the Measure CC zone in western Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Bond Measure CC was passed in 2004 to provide funding for park maintenance, including the vegetation management and wildfire hazard reduction efforts undertaken for parks in this area. The 13 hillside parks within this zone, from north to south, are: Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve; Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area; Wildcat Canyon Regional Park; Tilden Regional Park; Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve; Temescal Regional Recreation Area; Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve; Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve; Roberts Regional Recreation Area; Redwood Regional Park; Leona Canyon Regional Open

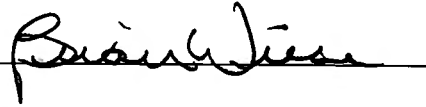
Space Preserve; Anthony Chabot Regional Park; and Lake Chabot Regional Park. Seven shoreline parks are also included within the Study Area. From north to south, they are: Point Pinole Regional Shoreline; Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline; Brooks Island Regional Shoreline; Eastshore State Park; Middle Harbor Shoreline Park; Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach; and Martin Luther King, Jr., Regional Shoreline. While the Study Area for the Plan includes the 13 hillside and 7 shoreline parks listed above, the primary focus of the Plan will be on the urban wildland interface (UWI) located at the western edge of the hillside parks and adjacent to the Point Pinole and Miller/Knox Regional Shorelines where high wildfire hazards and fuel loads are present. Figure 1 shows the project location.

Project Description: EBRPD is developing the Plan to guide ongoing vegetation management activities on EBRPD park lands along the UWI to reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic, wind-driven wildfire, such as the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire. EBRPD has determined that there are areas within its lands that are at high risk to produce or conduct a devastating wildfire, and that ongoing management is needed to reduce the risk of a fast-moving wildfire emerging from, or moving through, park lands and igniting residential neighborhoods and other structures and facilities within the UWI along these parks. Resource management considerations and best management practices (BMPs) for wildfire fuel reduction and vegetation management will be incorporated into the Plan to ensure that these activities are conducted in a manner consistent with protecting and enhancing environmental resources in EBRPD's park lands.

Specific goals have been established by EBRPD for the Plan and include the following:

- Reduce fire hazards on District-owned lands in the East Bay's UWI to an acceptable level of risk;
- Maintain and enhance ecological values for plant and wildlife habitat consistent with fire reduction goals;
- Preserve aesthetic landscape values for park users and neighboring communities; and
- Provide a vegetation management plan which is cost-effective to EBRPD on a continuous basis.

Scope of the EIR: The EIR will evaluate each of the environmental topics developed according to recommendations in the CEQA Guidelines, input from the lead agency and the consultant team, and the results of an Initial Study Environmental Checklist that was prepared for the project. Topics to be evaluated in the EIR include: Aesthetics; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology/Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; and Noise.

Date: 4/16/08 Signature: 
Title: Chief, Planning and Stewardship

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