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June 24, 2019

Re: Notice of Availability of Draft Program Environmental Impact Report
Regarding a Proposed Statewide Vegetation Treatment Program
To Interested Parties:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) as lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the proposed California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP). This PEIR is prepared to provide the public, responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested parties with information about the potential environmental effects of the proposed CalVTP. This PEIR was prepared in compliance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14 [CEQA Guidelines], section 15000, et seq). The Board invites public comments on the adequacy and completeness of the environmental analysis in the document.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The Board will only respond to comments exclusively pertaining to the CalVTP filed under State Clearinghouse number 2019012052.

PROGRAM LOCATION: The State Responsibility Area (SRA) is the land in California where the state has the financial responsibility for the prevention and suppression of wildfires. (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 4102, 4125.) The SRA landscape consists of approximately 31 million acres across California that include lands covered wholly or in part by forests or are principally used for range or forage purposes. (Pub. Resources Code, § 4126.) Approximately 20.3 million acres within the 31 million-acre State Responsibility Area were identified that may be appropriate for vegetation treatments. This area will be referred to as the "treatable landscape" in the Draft PEIR. CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) modeled the areas where each of the three proposed treatment types could be implemented within the treatable landscape. Multiple treatment types can be implemented where modeled treatment areas for treatment types overlap. Qualifying treatments under the CalVTP would occur within the 20.3 million acres of treatable landscape. Proposed treatment types and treatment activities are described below.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This CalVTP PEIR addresses the following:

- Expansion of CAL FIRE's vegetation treatment activities to reach a total treatment acreage target of approximately 250,000 acres per year to contribute to the achievement of the 500,000 annual non-federal acres expressed in Executive Order (EO) B-52-18, signed by former Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in May 2018.

- A project-specific implementation approach for streamlining CEQA review of later site-specific, vegetation treatment projects consistent with the CalVTP and this PEIR, in accordance with procedures described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15168. The streamlined CEQA review approach would document the extent to which an individual proposed treatment project's environmental effects are covered by the PEIR and which feasible mitigation measures from the CalVTP PEIR would be incorporated into the approval of the individual project. More specifically, this project-specific review would include evaluation under section 15168 of whether later activities and impacts of site-specific vegetation treatment projects are within the scope of the CalVTP and the PEIR. A "within the scope" finding for later activities would facilitate an increase in the pace and scale of project approvals in a manner that includes environmental protections in compliance with CEQA. Where later proposed vegetation treatment projects do not qualify for a "within the scope" finding, additional CEQA documentation would be prepared.

The proposed CalVTP comprises the following three treatment types:

- ▶ **Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction:** Located in WUI-designated areas, fuel reduction would generally consist of strategic removal of vegetation to prevent or slow the spread of non-wind driven wildfire between structures and wildlands, and vice versa.
- ▶ **Fuel Breaks:** In strategic locations, fuel breaks create zones of vegetation removal and ongoing maintenance, often in a linear layout, that support fire suppression by providing responders with a staging area or access to a remote landscape for fire control actions. While fuel breaks can passively interrupt the path of a fire or halt or slow its progress, this is not the primary goal of constructing fuel breaks.
- ▶ **Ecological Restoration:** Generally outside of the WUI in areas that have departed from the natural fire regime as a result of fire exclusion, ecological restoration would focus on restoring ecosystem processes, conditions, and resiliency by moderating uncharacteristic wildland fuel conditions to reflect historic vegetative composition, structure, and habitat values.

These treatment types would be implemented using various treatment "activities" that may be applied singularly or in combination. The treatment activities that would be applied under the proposed CalVTP are:

- ▶ **Prescribed Burning:** Includes pile burning (prescribed burning of piles of vegetative material to reduce fuel and/or remove biomass following treatment) and broadcast burning (prescribed burning to reduce fuels over a larger area or restore fire resiliency in target fire-adapted plant communities; would be conducted under specific conditions related to fuels, weather, and other variables).
- ▶ **Mechanical Treatment:** Use of motorized equipment to cut, uproot, crush/compact, or chop existing vegetation

- ▶ **Manual Treatment:** Use of hand tools and hand-operated power tools to cut, clear, or prune herbaceous or woody species
- ▶ **Prescribed Herbivory:** Use of domestic livestock to reduce a target plant population thereby reducing fire fuels or competition of desired plant species
- ▶ **Herbicides:** Chemical application designed to inhibit growth of target plant species

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

As described in the Draft PEIR, implementation of the proposed CalVTP would result in potentially significant impacts to the following resource areas: aesthetics; air quality; archeological, historical, and tribal cultural resources; greenhouse gas emissions; public services, utilities and service systems; transportation.

To the best of the Board’s knowledge, none of the areas that are potentially subject to vegetation treatment under the CalVTP include hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, or hazardous waste disposal sites reflected in the list required by Government Code section 65962.5.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The CalVTP Draft PEIR is available for download from the Board’s website: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/>

Electronic copies of the CalVTP PEIR, as well as any documents incorporated by reference therein, can be reviewed at the locations listed below. To arrange to view documents at Board offices during business hours, call (916) 862-0120. CDs or printed copies are available at cost upon request by phoning (916) 862-0120 or emailing CalVTP@bof.ca.gov.

Online: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/>

Board Office: 1416 9th Street, Room 1506-12, Sacramento, CA 95814

Library	Branch	Street	City	State	Zip
Alameda	Fremont	2400 Stevenson Blvd	Fremont	CA	94538
Alpine	Markleeville	270 Laramie St	Markleeville	CA	96120
Amador	Jackson	530 Sutter Street	Jackson	CA	95642
Butte	Chico	1108 Sherman Ave	Chico	CA	95926
Calaveras	San Andreas	1299 Gold Hunter Rd	San Andreas	CA	95249
Colusa	Colusa	738 Market Street	Colusa	CA	95932
Contra Costa	Pleasant Hill	1750 Oak Park Blvd	Pleasant Hill	CA	94523
Del Norte	Crescent City	190 Price Mall	Crescent City	CA	95531
El Dorado	Placerville	345 Fair Lane	Placerville	CA	95667
Fresno	Fresno	2420 Mariposa Street	Fresno	CA	93721
Glenn	Willows	201 North Lassen St.	Willows	CA	95988
Humboldt	Eureka	1313 3rd Street	Eureka	CA	95501
Imperial	El Centro	1125 West Main Street	El Centro	CA	92243
Inyo	Independence	168 North Edwards St.	Independence	CA	93526

Library	Branch	Street	City	State	Zip
Kern	Bakersfield	701 Truxtun Ave	Bakersfield	CA	93301
Kings	Hanford	401 N. Douty Street	Hanford	CA	93230
Lake	Lakeport	1425 N. High Street	Lakeport	CA	95453
Lassen	Susanville	1618 Main Street	Susanville	CA	96130
Los Angeles	Castaic	27971 Sloan Canyon Rd	Castaic	CA	91384
Madera	Madera	121 N. G Street	Madera	CA	93637
Marin	San Rafael	3501 Civic Center Dr, Rm 427	San Rafael	CA	94903
Mariposa	Mariposa	4978 10th Street	Mariposa	CA	95338
Mendocino	Ukiah	105 N. Main St.	Ukiah	CA	95482
Merced	Merced	2100 O Street	Merced	CA	95340
Modoc	Alturas	212 West Third St.	Alturas	CA	96101
Mono	Mammoth Lakes	400 Sierra Park Rd	Mammoth Lakes	CA	93546
Monterey	Seaside	550 Harcourt Ave	Seaside	CA	93955
Napa	Napa	580 Coombs Street	Napa	CA	94559
Nevada	Nevada City	980 Helling Way	Nevada City	CA	95959
Orange	Orange	407 E. Chapman Ave	Orange	CA	92866
Placer	Auburn	350 Nevada Street	Auburn	CA	95603
Plumas	Quincy	445 Jackson Street	Quincy	CA	95971
Riverside	Riverside	3581 Mission Inn Ave	Riverside	CA	92501
Sacramento	Sacramento	828 I Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
San Benito	Hollister	470 5th Ave	Hollister	CA	95023
San Bernardino	San Bernardino	555 West 6th Street	San Bernardino	CA	92410
San Diego	Ramona	1275 Main Street	Ramona	CA	92065
San Joaquin	Stockton	605 N. El Dorado St.	Stockton	CA	95202
San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	995 Palm St.	San Luis Obispo	CA	93403
San Mateo	Half Moon Bay	620 Correas Street	Half Moon Bay	CA	94019
Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	40 E. Anapamu St.	Santa Barbara	CA	93101
Santa Clara	Milpitas	160 N. Main St.	Milpitas	CA	95035
Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	230 Gault St.	Santa Cruz	CA	95062
Shasta	Anderson	3200 West Center St.	Anderson	CA	96007
Sierra	Downieville	318 Commercial St.	Downieville	CA	95936
Siskiyou	Yreka	719 Fourth St.	Yreka	CA	96097
Solano	Fairfield	1150 Kentucky St.	Fairfield	CA	94533
Sonoma	Santa Rosa	211 E St.	Santa Rosa	CA	95404
Stanislaus	Modesto	1500 I Street	Modesto	CA	95354
Tehama	Red Bluff	645 Madison St.	Red Bluff	CA	96080
Trinity	Weaverville	351 Main St.	Weaverville	CA	96093
Tulare	Visalia	200 West Oak Ave	Visalia	CA	93291

Library	Branch	Street	City	State	Zip
Tuolumne	Sonora	480 Greenley Rd	Sonora	CA	95370
Ventura	Ventura	651 E. Main St.	Ventura	CA	93001
Yolo	Davis	315 E. 14th St.	Davis	CA	95616
Yuba	Yuba City	750 Forbes Ave	Yuba City	CA	95991

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The CalVTP Draft PEIR is available for a 45-day public review and comment period, which begins June 24, 2019 and ends on August 9, 2019. Please send comments at the earliest possible date, but postmarked no later than August 9, 2019, in order for your comments to be considered.

Written comments are preferred via email and may be submitted to CalVTP@bof.ca.gov. Comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
 Attn: CalVTP
 PO Box 944246
 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official public record. A Final PEIR will be prepared which will include responses to comments received during this public review period that raise significant environmental issues.

The Board will hold a webinar to provide information on the CalVTP and a summary of the Draft PEIR on July 11, 2019 at 10:30am. Comments on the Draft PEIR will not be received at this informational meeting. Participants may access the webinar by registering online at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/611618035943889676>.



Source: Data received from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in 2019

Treatable Landscape