



PHYSICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
A & E BUILDING # 1382
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-1382

August 14, 2020

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND ONLINE PUBLIC SESSION FOR THE
PROPOSED WILDLAND VEGETATIVE FUEL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code (PRC) 21091 (a) and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines), the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) has released for public review a Draft EIR for the Hill Campus Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan (WVFMP or Plan). The Draft WVFMP is also available for public review.

Project Title: Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California

Draft EIR Review Period: The public review period for the Draft EIR begins on Friday, August 14, 2020, and ends on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Project Location: The UC Berkeley Hill Campus (or Plan Area) is located in the hills adjoining and east of the UC Berkeley Campus Park and California Memorial Stadium, and is primarily in Alameda County with a small area in unincorporated Contra Costa County (see *Attachment A* for a location map). Approximately 85 percent of the Plan Area is located within the City of Oakland; the lower and westernmost portion of the Plan Area lies within the City of Berkeley. The Plan Area is bounded on the east by Grizzly Peak Boulevard; on the west by Stadium Rim Way and private residences; on the south by Grizzly Peak Boulevard and the East Bay Regional Park District's Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve; and on the north by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and private residences. LBNL manages approximately 200 acres adjacent to the Hill Campus, which are not included in the Plan Area.

Project Description: The WVFMP is proposed by UC Berkeley to treat vegetation that could become fire fuel within the Plan Area. The WVFMP includes implementation of four vegetation treatment types across the Hill Campus: 1) evacuation support treatments, 2) temporary refuge areas, 3) fuel break treatments, and 4) fire hazard reduction treatments. Five different vegetation treatment activities would be used to implement the four vegetation treatment types: 1) manual treatment, 2) mechanical treatment, 3) prescribed broadcast burning, 4) managed herbivory (livestock grazing), and 5) targeted ground application of herbicides. UC Berkeley would implement vegetation treatment activities on an average of 200 acres per year within the Plan Area. Up to 600 acres of the 800-acre Plan Area would be treated under the WVFMP because 200 acres are inaccessible (i.e., in Hamilton Gulch) or are not expected to carry fire, due to a lack of vegetative fuel.

UC Berkeley is also proposing specific vegetation treatment projects, which comprise two fuel break projects, four temporary refuge areas, and three fire hazard reduction projects in the Plan Area. Fuel breaks (FB) are proposed on Claremont Ridge (the East-West FB) and between the Hill Campus and the Hearst Gate to LBNL (the Hearst Gate FB). The temporary refuge areas (TRAs 1 through 4) are proposed adjacent to Claremont Avenue, in two areas along Jordan Fire Trail, and adjacent to Centennial Drive in the Lawrence Hall

of Science parking area. The fire hazard reduction (FHR) projects comprise vegetation treatments in Strawberry Canyon (Strawberry FHR Project), Claremont Canyon (Claremont FHR Project), and on areas along Frowning Ridge (Frowning FHR Project). These nine specific projects are collectively referred to as the “Identified Treatment Projects.” See *Attachment B* for a map of the Identified Treatment Projects.

The four treatment types and five treatment activities are reviewed for use throughout the Plan Area at a programmatic level, and the nine Identified Treatment Projects are studied at a project level of detail in the EIR. The near-term implementation of the Identified Treatment Projects along with the longer-term implementation of treatment activities studied at a program level together comprise the proposed “project,” as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

Document Availability: The Draft EIR and the Draft WVFMP are available for review online at: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/hill-campus>.

If assistance accessing documents is needed, including documents incorporated by reference in the Draft EIR, please contact UC Berkeley’s Physical and Environmental Planning department at (510) 643-4793 or by email at planning@berkeley.edu.

Public Review and Comment Period: UC Berkeley is soliciting written comments on the Draft EIR and Draft WVFMP during a 45-day public review period that begins on August 14, 2020, and ends on September 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments via e-mail and mail can be provided no later than **September 28, 2020**.

Mail comments to:
UC Berkeley, Physical & Environmental Planning
Attention: Raphael Breines, Senior Planner
300 A&E Building
Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Email comments to: planning@berkeley.edu
Include “Draft EIR Comments: WVFMP” in the subject line.

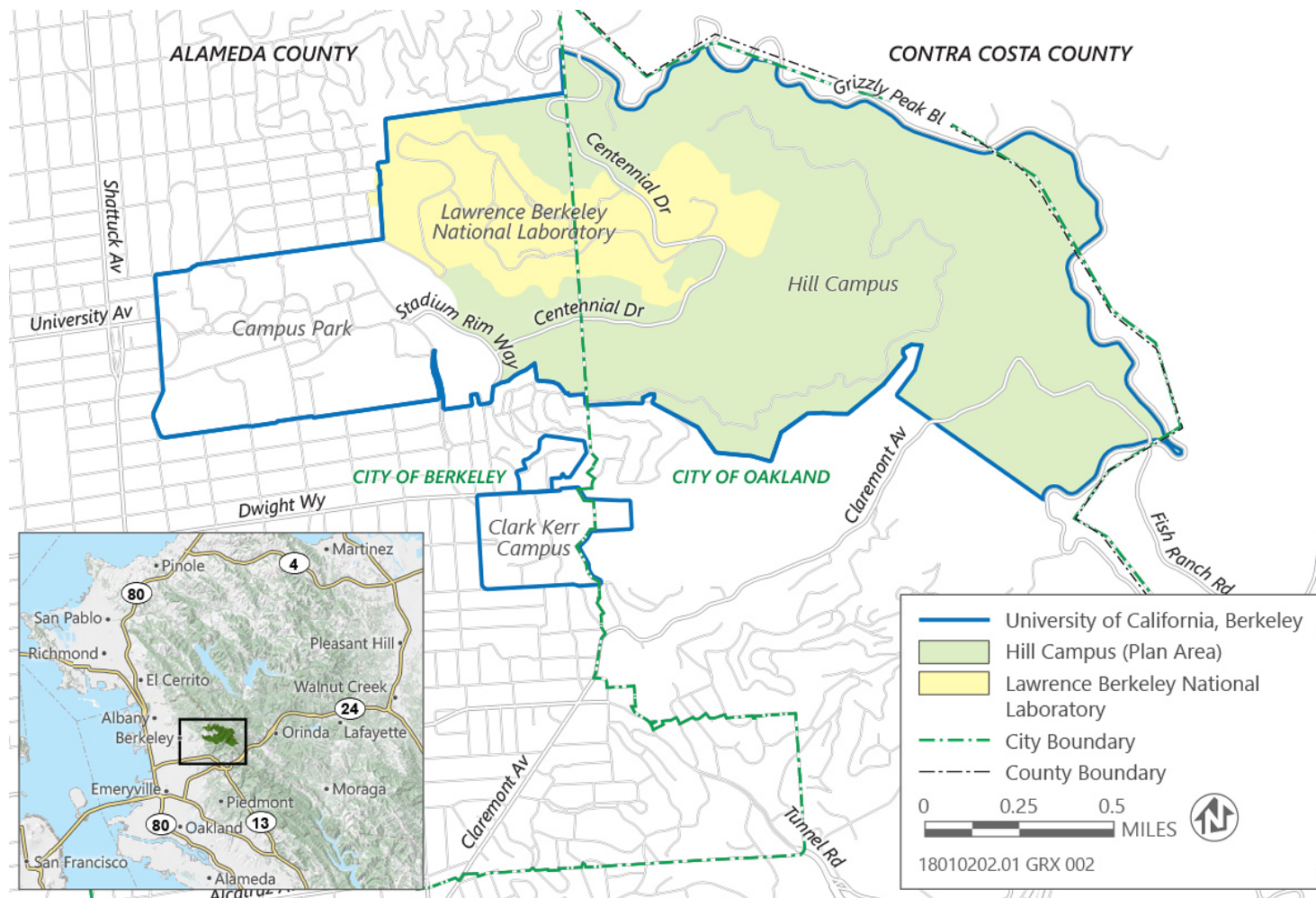
Public Meeting to Provide Comments: As a result of the expanding outbreak of COVID-19 and restrictions placed on in-person gatherings throughout California, UC Berkeley will host an online public session to receive public comments on the Draft EIR, rather than hold an in-person event. The online public session will be hosted on the evening of Monday September 14, 2020, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM and conducted via a live video feed. For more information about how to participate in the online public session, including information on how to submit a comment to be read aloud during the online public session, please visit: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/hill-campus>.

Anticipated Significant Environmental Effects: As identified in the Draft EIR, implementation of the WVFMP would have significant environmental effects to aesthetics, air quality, tribal cultural resources, and noise.

Hazardous Materials/Waste Disclosure: Within the Plan Area, there are no sites listed in the EnviroStor and Geotracker databases maintained pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The Hazardous Waste Handling Facility at LBNL would not be affected by implementation of the WVFMP.

Attachments:

- A) *Location Map*
- B) *Identified Treatment Projects Map*

Attachment A: Location Map (Plan Area)

Attachment B: Identified Treatment Projects Map

