2017

Vegetation Treatment Program

Program Environmental Impact Report
Update

Review Summary

- This presentation will only cover the larger elements changed in the PEIR as a result of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's review of public comment.
- Please note that there were over 500 separate concerns that the Board reviewed between August 2016 and March 2017.

New Cover – This will help distinguish the difference between the 2015 version and the 2017.

Program Environmental Impact Report
for the
Vegetation Treatment Program

California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
June 2017

Prepared By:
The California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

Executive Summary

- CEQA Clarification between "Project" and a "Subsequent activity"
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures outlined in Table ES-1 (page E-10)

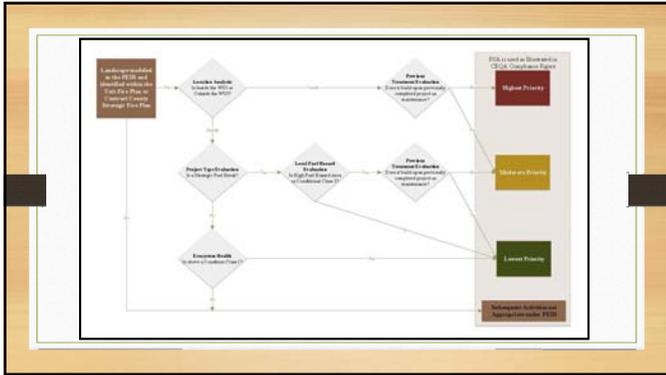| Resource of Concern	Significant and Unavoidable	Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less than Significant	Significance and Threshold Criteria	Mitigation
Aesthetics and Visual Resources			X	4.2.2.1	NM
Air Quality		X		4.3.2.1	4.3.3
Archeological, Cultural & Historic Resources		X		4.4.2.1	4.4.3
Biological Resources		X		4.5.2.1	4.5.3
Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas		X		4.6.2.1	4.6.3
Geology, Hydrology, Minerals and Soils		X		4.7.2.1	4.7.3 5.5.6
Hazardous Material, Public Health and Safety		X		4.8.2.1	4.8.3
Noise		X		4.9.2.1	4.9.3
Population, Employment, Land Use, Housing, & Socio-Economic Well-Being			X	4.10.2.1	NM
Recreation			X	4.11.2.1	NM
Transportation and Traffic		X		4.12.2.1	4.12.3
Utilities and Energy			X	4.13.2.1	NM
Water Quality		X		4.14.2.1	4.14.3

Chapter 1, Introduction

- Added additional language regarding the interaction of the VTP in relation to the "house out" concept.
- Increased discussion of other parallel programs implemented by the Board and CAL FIRE to provide the reader a complete picture of the State's fire prevention activities.

Chapter 2, Program Description

- Added additional language regarding structure hardening
- Listed potential objectives for each treatment type (WUI, Fuel Breaks and Ecological Restoration)
- Updated datasets utilized for footprint modeling:
  - WUI16_2
  - SRA16_2
  - FVEG15_1
- Added more description on the purpose of the case studies
- Subsequent Activity Priority Ranking has been clarified

Chapter 2, Program Description Cont.

- Added additional language discussing that there is an element of uncertainty in the science regarding fuel breaks and fuel breaks are NOT intended to be used passively under the VTP.
- Implementation process has been changed to meet CEQA.
- Standard Project Requirements – Have been re-evaluated under CEQA to distinguish from mitigations. Mitigations are discussed starting in Chapter 4.
- Inclusion of Mitigation Monitoring Program

Chapter 2, Program Description Cont.

- Added additional language discussing potential objectives for each treatment.

Chapter 3, Summary of Alternatives

- Updated tables.

Chapter 4, Affected Environment, Effects and Mitigations

- Alphabetical reorganization – Easier to find topics.
- Mitigations are identified and analyzed throughout this chapter.
- Reorganization of 4.1
  - Added language discussing data used for vegetation typing (4.1.4).
  - Reworked the Life History Features . . . Tree, shrub & grass-dominated subtypes (4.1.4).
  - Added more description regarding the spatial modeling for WUI, Fuel Breaks and Ecological Restoration (4.1.5).
  - Added additional support information regarding WUI, Fuel Breaks and Ecological Restoration (4.1.5)

Chapter 4, Affected Environment, Effects and Mitigations Cont.

- Archaeological Resources – Updated to specifically address Tribal Cultural Resources (AB 52 requirement).
- Biological Resources – Impacts analysis for each activity type (e.g.. mechanical, manual) have been combined to a single discussion by potential impact category (e.g.. vegetation, wildlife).

Chapter 5, Cumulative Effects Analysis

- Alphabetical reorganization – Easier to find topics.
- Changes have been made in several sections to align with Chapter 4 better.
- Added a cumulative impact mitigation in Geology, Hydrology, Minerals and Soils section (5.5.6.3).

Chapter 7, Project Scale Analysis

- No significant changes to Chapter 6.
- Complete re-haul of the PEIR checklist in Chapter 7.
  - Based on Mitigations, SPRs and Significance Criteria identified within Chapters 2, 4 and 5.
  - More solid CEQA checklist designed to filter projects out of the PEIR or justify that a project is within the scope of the PEIR.
  - Mitigations and SPRs are folded into the checklist as opposed to referenced in the back only.

Chapters 8 and 9, Preparers and References

- Both chapters have been updated.

Appendix I, Monitoring and Communication

- Adapted implementation monitoring component to become Mitigation Monitoring Program
- Provide examples of key uncertainties to be addressed through Formal Adaptive Management as per Board Member's requests

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2017 VTP PEIR

Questions?