



MARIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Committed to the preservation of life, property and environment.



January 2, 2018

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst

Jason Weber
FIRE CHIEF

33 Castle Rock Avenue
PO Box 518
Woodacre, CA 94973
415 473 6717 T
415 473 7820 F
CRS Dial 711
www.marincounty.org/depts/fr

Woodacre
Throckmorton Ridge
Marin City
Point Reyes
Hicks Valley
Tomales
Ross Valley: Medic 18
Tamalpais Fire Crew

Marin County Fire Department supports the VTP PEIR preferred alternative for its emphasis on vegetation treatment options to modify fire behavior to help reduce losses to life, property and natural resources. Marin County has recently completed Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP, 2016) adopted by Marin County Board of Supervisors with significant collaboration between land management agencies, fire departments, communities and land owners. This plan has prioritized fuel reduction projects including WUI treatments and high priority fuel breaks utilizing combinations of prescribed fire, mechanical and manual treatment methods.

The VTP is consistent and in direct alignment with the Marin County Fire Department's Strategic Unit Fire Plan which clearly identifies the need to modify fire behavior thru vegetation/fuel reduction methods specifically utilizing strategically placed treatments focused to protect Marin's numerous values at risk.

Treatments described in the VTP are consistent with Marin County CWPP and would be implemented on privately owned land within the SRA and implemented by Marin County Fire – Contract County thru contract or agreement.

The VTP would provide the streamlined CEQA analysis significantly reducing the need for repetitive process of multiple CEQA documents, reducing cost and time to the department and land owner with limited resources.

At the close of the 2017 high severity wildfires with significant loss of life in the Bay Area Delta region, this program is long overdue. While the impacts of climate change suggest an accelerated risk of wildfire becoming the "new normal" there should be no further delay implementing the VTP in California.

Sincerely,

Jason Weber
Fire Chief