

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: San Rafael Hill and Deer Valley Fuel Reduction Project

Lead Agency: Marin Wildfire Prevention Agency (Marin Wildfire)

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Project Location: San Rafael, Marin County

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The City of San Rafael Fire Department (SRFD) is proposing a Marin Wildfire-funded Core Project, referred to as the San Rafael Hill and Deer Valley Fuel Reduction Project (proposed project). The proposed project involves conducting vegetation management activities within Boyd Memorial Park, also known colloquially as San Rafael Hill, and within the Deer Valley open space area in the city of San Rafael. Of the 122 acres of total treatment area, 79.1 acres would be treated within the San Rafael Hill open space area and 42.9 acres would be treated within the Deer Valley open space area. The proposed project would create expanded fuel reduction zones to slow wildfire spread, reduce wildfire intensity, extend the time residents would have to evacuate, and provide firefighters with better access to the fire's perimeter should a wildfire occur. Removal of fire-hazardous, invasive species and dead vegetation in the fuel reduction zones would be intended to reduce fire hazards to the adjacent community and restore these areas to more natural and fire-resilient habitat.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Impacts to burrowing owl from proposed project activities at the Deer Valley fuel reduction zone could be significant due to the comparatively large area of fuel reduction in relation to the available open space area. Mitigation is incorporated to address potential effects on burrowing owls by requiring targeted surveys for burrowing owls if off-road equipment and or pile burning is proposed in suitable grassland habitat (MM BIO-1). Project activities may occur during February to April, impacts to Monarch butterfly eggs, caterpillars, and pupae could be significant due to the likely presence of milkweed and the comparatively large area of proposed fuel treatments relative to the overall size of the open space, which would be reduced with pretreatment surveys for monarch butterflies and milkweed in certain areas (MM BIO-2). These mitigation measures would reduce impacts to candidate, sensitive, and special-status species to a less-than-significant level.

Graton Rancheria requested incorporation of MM CUL-1, which requires any precontact resources or Tribal Cultural Resources encountered during project activities be identified in a DPR 523 form, which would be shared with Federated Indians Graton Rancheria (Graton Rancheria) for review and input prior to submittal to the Northwest Information Center. Effects to cultural and tribal cultural resources would be less than significant with mitigation. All other impacts to resources documented would be less than significant and would not require mitigation.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

There are no areas of controversy known to Marin Wildfire at this time. Although not necessarily controversial, Graton Rancheria identified the precontact archaeological site found during surveys as a Tribal Cultural Resource. As a result, project design and implementation features (PDIFs) are incorporated into the proposed project to avoid effects to this resource, including monitoring around and avoidance of the precontact resource and involvement of tribal monitors during all monitoring. Additionally, MM CUL-1 is required per request by Graton Rancheria, which expands upon the PDIFs and requires review of the DPR 523 form prior to finalization.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

The applicant for this proposed project is the San Rafael Fire Department, which will serve as the responsible agency.