



Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration - San Rafael Hill and Deer Valley Fuel Reduction Project

This notice is to inform the public and interested agencies that in accordance with Section 15072 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (Marin Wildfire) is circulating a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for public comment with the intent to adopt.

Project Location

The proposed project is within two City of San Rafael-owned and managed open spaces. The San Rafael Hill fuel reduction zone is located north of the city's downtown commercial district and approximately 0.2 mile west of U.S. 101. The San Rafael Hill fuel reduction zone contains the Boyd Memorial Park and the Falkirk Cultural Center (formerly the Robert Dollar Estate). Parcels surrounding the San Rafael Hill site primarily consist of residential properties and the Elks Lodge.

The Deer Valley fuel reduction zone is located along the north boundary of the city of San Rafael and south of the St. Vincent community. The Deer Valley fuel reduction zone is bounded by residences to the north, west, and south of the project site. The Las Gallinas Golf Club is approximately 230 feet east of the project site.

Project Description

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 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.

Document Availability

A hard copy of the Draft IS/MND will be available for public review at the Marin Wildfire office listed below between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, beginning on June 16, 2025 and ending July 16, 2025:

Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority
1600 Los Gatos Dr., Suite 345,
San Rafael, CA 94903

Refer also to the Marin Wildfire website for the Draft IS/MND:

<https://www.marinwildfire.org/project/san-rafael-hill-and-deer-valley-fuel-reduction-project>.

Public Review Period and Public Hearing

The public review period begins on Monday June 16, 2025, and public comments on the IS/MND will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on July 16, 2025.

Comments: Comments may be submitted by email to SROpenSpaceMND@panoramaenv.com.

Written comments may be sent to:

Kate Anderson, Wildfire Prevention Program Manager, SRFD
1400 Fifth Ave
San Rafael, CA 94901

Marin Wildfire Board of Directors Public Meeting: The proposed project will be presented to the Marin Wildfire Board of Directors on August 21, 2025 for consideration of approval and adoption of the IS/MND. This meeting can be attended in person or virtually. Refer to the Marin Wildfire website for up-to-date meeting details: <https://www.marinwildfire.org/meetings/record-of-meetings>.

Project Impacts

Based on the findings of the Draft Initial Study, it has been determined that the proposed project will not have any remaining significant effect after implementation of mitigation measures, which will be required as conditions of approval for the proposed project. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared outlining mitigation measures to reduce the effects to burrowing owl, monarch butterfly, and precontact resources and Tribal Cultural Resources. With this mitigation, there will be no significant or potentially significant impacts. Additionally, there are no sites on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code in the project site.

