

7/23/2025

SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By O. Lobato, Deputy
21 - 2025 - 114

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk County of: Marin
Marin Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Dr., Suite 234,
San Rafael, CA 94903

From (Public Agency):
Marin County Fire Department
1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 300
San Rafael CA 94903

Project Title: Muir Woods Park Evacuation Route and Defensible Space Project

Project Applicant: Marin County Fire Department

Project Location – Specific: Vegetation treatment along roadways and around adjacent structures in the Muir Woods Park community.

Project Location – City:
City of Mill Valley

Project Location – County:
Marin County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the proposed project is to establish and maintain a defensible space zone and improve ingress/egress along the perimeter of the Muir Woods Park between homes and open space areas. The proposed project would reduce wildfire intensity, ember production, and rate of spread in the event of ignition in the wildland or built environment. By increasing defensible space between structures and open space, the proposed project would also improve safety for firefighting and emergency personnel while engaged in fire suppression during a wildfire and extend evacuation times for the community.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Fire Department

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Marin County Fire Department

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304(i). Minor alterations to land for fuel management activities. 15301. Existing facilities maintenance and minor alterations for vegetation removal along roadways
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 for Minor Alterations to Land and Section 15301, Class 1, for Existing Facilities. A Class 4 exempt project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature,

scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. A Class 1 exempt project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The proposed project would involve fuels treatment by removing and thinning vegetation within 100 feet of structures and within 25 feet of the road edge. The scope of the proposed project is consistent with a minor alteration to the condition of the vegetation along the routes and maintenance of the existing roadways, as shown in Figure 1.

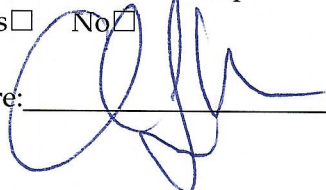
Additionally, no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed; no work would take place within sensitive habitat, including wetlands or waterways; and no ground disturbance, such as excavation, would take place. There are no facts or circumstances specific to this project that would support an exception to the categorical exemption. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person:
Jordan Reeser

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:
415-473-6245

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
Yes No

Signature: 

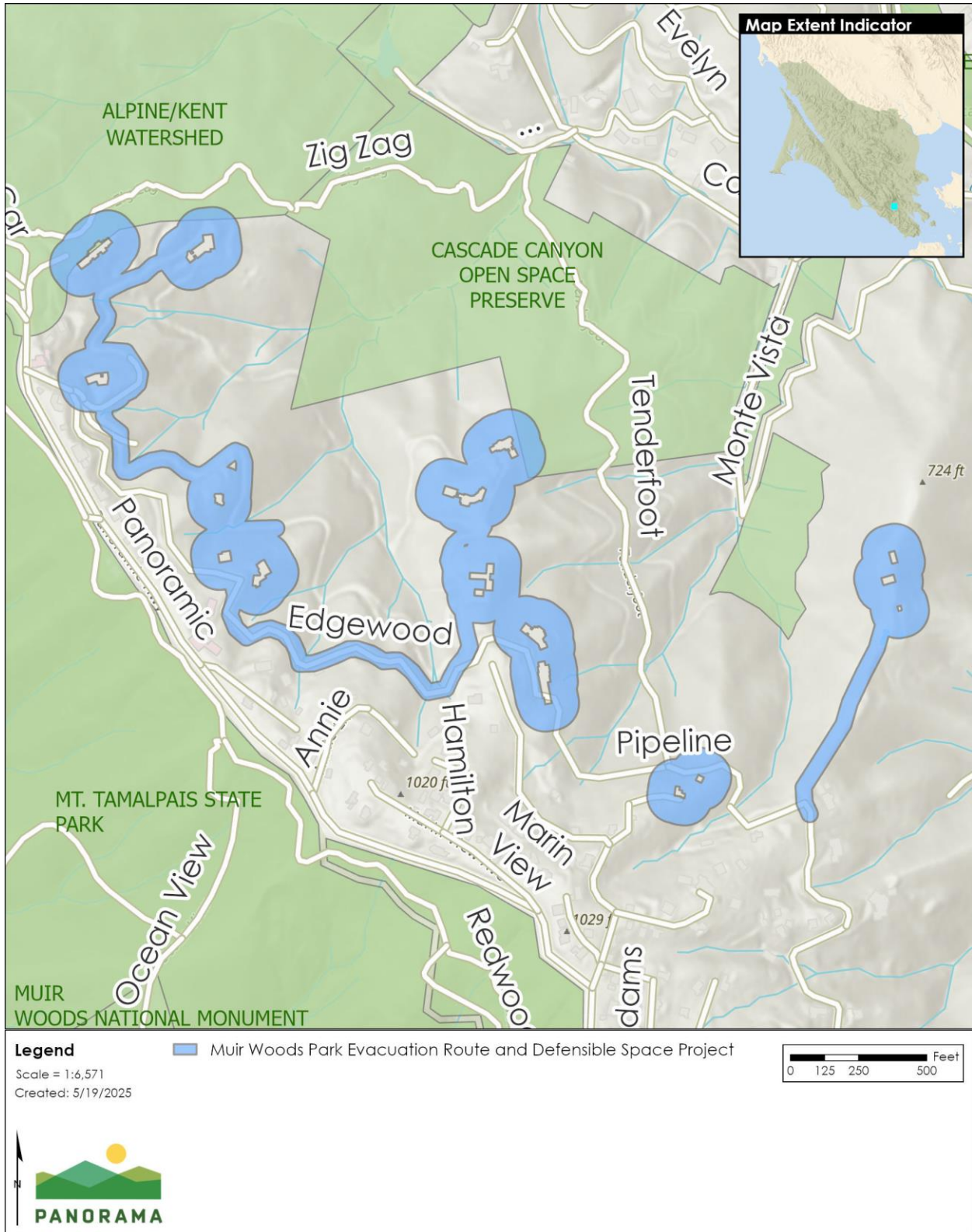
Date: 7/23/05 Title: Battalion Chief

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code. _____

Figure 1 Proposed Project Location



Date: June 26, 2025

Project: Muir Woods Park Evacuation Route and Defensible Space Project

Categorical Exemption Summary

The Marin County Fire Department (County Fire) as the lead agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has determined that the Muir Woods Park Evacuation Route and Defensible Space Project (proposed project) is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 for Minor Alterations to Land and Section 15301, Class 1, for Existing Facilities. A Class 4 exempt project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. A Class 1 exempt project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (Marin Wildfire), as the responsible agency under CEQA, concurs with County Fire's determination that the proposed project is exempt under CEQA. The proposed project would involve fuels treatment by removing and thinning vegetation within 100 feet of structures and within 25 feet of the road edge. The scope of the proposed project is consistent with a minor alteration to the condition of the vegetation along the routes and maintenance of the existing roadways, as shown in Figure 1.

The following analysis demonstrates that the proposed project would not result in adverse environmental effects, supporting Marin Wildfire's determination that the proposed activities are categorically exempt under CEQA. The proposed project would be conducted in compliance with applicable federal, State, and local regulations and under contractual provisions prohibiting work in violation of applicable regulations and plans.

Information regarding the purpose and need for the proposed project, a description of proposed activities, a discussion of why the potential exceptions to a categorical exemption do not apply here, and an assessment of the potential for environmental effects are provided below.

Background

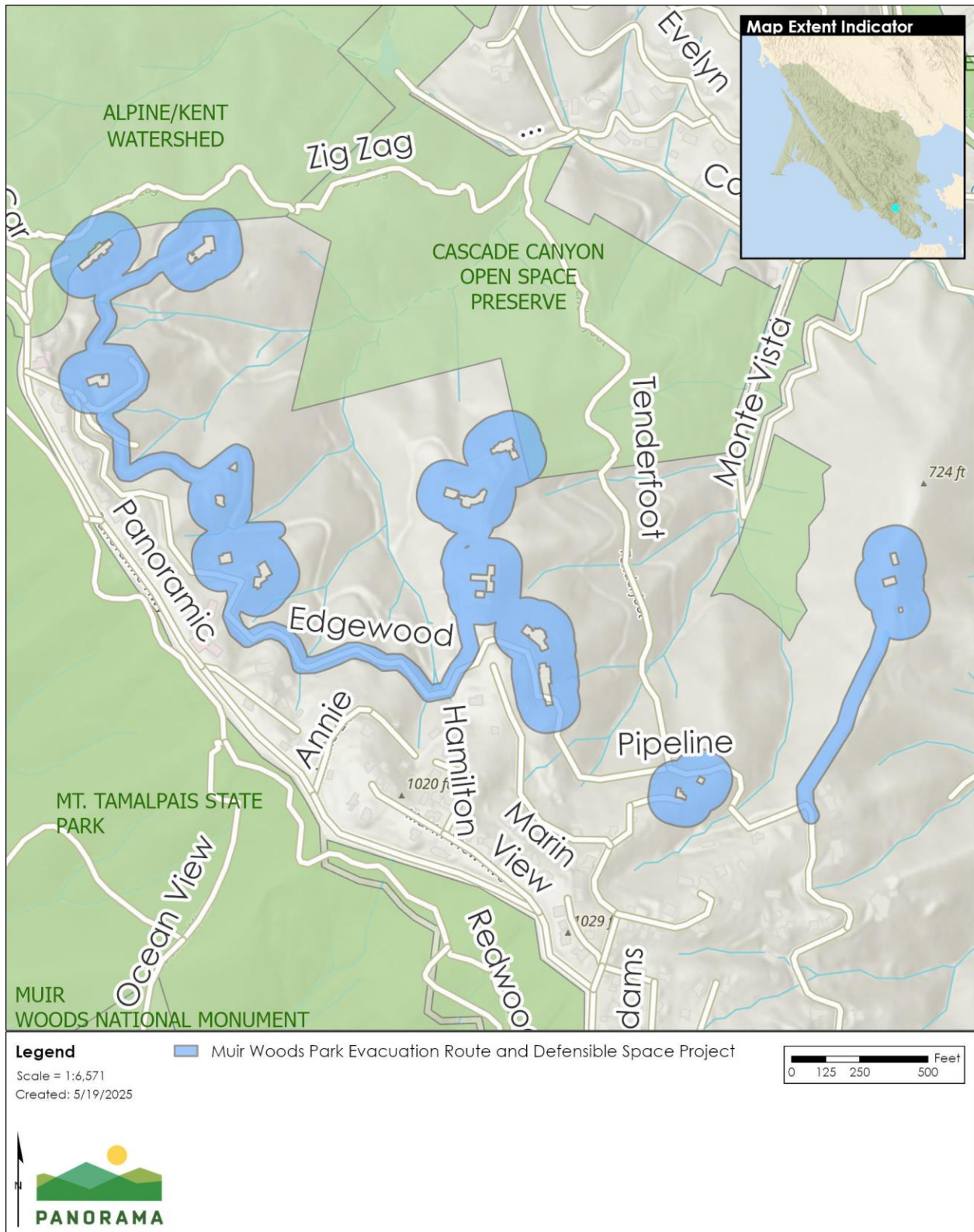
Marin County voters passed Measure C in 2020, which established a 17-member Joint Powers Authority, the Marin Wildfire, to fund and oversee proactive state-of-the-art wildfire prevention and preparedness efforts within the County. Members include several cities and towns, fire protection districts, and community service districts. The Marin Wildfire was formed to develop and implement a comprehensive wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness plan throughout almost all of Marin County. This proposed project is a Core Project that is funded by and within the purview of Marin Wildfire. Core Projects include those projects that focus on wildfire detection, notification, and evacuation; vegetation management and fire hazard reduction; grants management; and public education.

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Figure 1 Project Location



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Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to establish and maintain a defensible space zone and improve ingress/egress along the perimeter of the Muir Woods Park neighborhood in the City of Mill Valley between homes and open space areas. The proposed project would reduce wildfire intensity, ember production, and rate of spread in the event of ignition in the wildland or built environment. By increasing defensible space between structures and dense vegetation, the proposed project would also improve safety for firefighting and emergency personnel while engaged in fire suppression during a wildfire and extend evacuation times for residents and the community.

Project Description

Treatment Locations

The proposed activities would be completed primarily along Edgewood Road, driveways, and around structures, as shown in Figure 1. The proposed project would involve enhancing and increasing defensible space up to 100 feet from structures and within 25 feet from roadsides. A total of 22.6 acres of roadside and defensible space may be treated under this proposed project.

Treatment Activities

Overview

No healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed under this proposed project. Defensible space and evacuation route treatments would avoid wetted streams and wetlands within the proposed project site.

Evacuation Route Treatment

To improve evacuation routes, invasive, non-native, and fire-hazardous vegetation and accumulated dead biomass would be reduced within up to 25 feet from road edges. The types of topographical features (e.g., steep slopes) or vegetation fuels (e.g., dense eucalyptus or broom) present determine the extent of roadside treatments, which would be determined by a forester or otherwise qualified professional who understands forest ecology and fuel management or a fire professional, prior to treatments. Work would focus on thinning and removing vegetation (e.g., overhanging limbs, understory brush) up to 15 feet above the road surface and up to 25 feet from road edges. Generally, invasive, non-native species, hazardous trees, and fire-hazardous vegetation would be targeted. Small trees under 8 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) may be removed from the understory. In areas with fire-hazardous invasive trees, removal of trees up to 10 inches DBH may be performed. Hazardous trees (e.g., dead or dying trees) identified by an arborist or qualified fire professional may also be removed along this evacuation route.

Defensible Space Treatment up to 100 feet from Structures

Grassland and Chaparral

Treatment within grassland and chaparral communities would be limited to handheld manual and mechanical removal of grasses, dead woody vegetation, and removal of low-lying shrubs and brush to achieve horizontal spacing and reduce overall fuel loading. Native stands of brush would be thinned to a spacing of up to 5 to 10 feet, depending upon the site conditions. Non-

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native plant species such as broom would be removed. Typically, non-native species would be pulled by hand for removal, although larger individuals may be cut.

Forest and Woodland

Treatment within woodland communities would be limited to manual and mechanical thinning using a hand crew. Defensible space work within woodland treatment sites would involve pruning tree branches 8 to 10 feet above ground (not to exceed 1/3 of the tree's height), removal of dead/downed branches, and the removal of small diameter (less than 10 inches DBH) live trees to achieve appropriate horizontal spacing. Understory ladder fuels including non-native, invasive Scotch broom and French broom and shrub-like understory tree saplings would be removed or thinned, preferably by hand pulling. Hazardous trees (e.g., dead or dying trees), dead standing trees, and non-native trees would be removed where deemed appropriate in coordination with an arborist or qualified fire professional. In general, one snag (i.e., standing dead tree) would be retained per acre for habitat if the retained snag would not be a hazard. A hazard tree generally poses a risk of failure or fracture with the potential to cause injury to people or damage to property.

Redwood Forest

Treatment within redwood communities would be conducted by a hand crew using manual and mechanical tools. Dead and downed branches would be removed. Smaller native trees, such as toyon or bay, which are growing in redwood communities would typically be retained unless the densities pose a fire hazard risk, but may be pruned. Native redwood and other trees would be pruned to 8 to 10 feet above ground (not to exceed 1/3 of the tree's height). Dead standing trees and hazard trees would be removed where deemed appropriate by an arborist or qualified fire professional, retaining one snag an acre for habitat, if not a hazard.

Treatment Method

Project treatments would include handheld manual and mechanical fuel reduction using chainsaws, brush cutters, string trimmers, loppers, pole pruners, and other similar handheld tools. The treatment activities would be conducted by hand crews. No heavy equipment would be used off-road due to steep slopes and limited access to the work site. A trailer-mounted chipper would be operated from nearby paved roads.

Non-native, invasive shrubs, notably broom and eucalyptus, may be treated with herbicides after cutting, if permitted per the land managers/owners. The vegetation would be cut with tools and then herbicide applied in a targeted manner such as the cut-stump or painted application methods, which have been found to have the best success rate for control of certain species, including broom (Oneto, Kyser, and JM 2010). Should chemical treatments be applied as part of initial or follow-up treatment, herbicide application would be implemented according to all applicable regulations. Herbicides would not be applied within 24 hours of a known rain event and signs would be posted at the project site within or adjacent to public recreation areas, residential areas, schools, or any other public areas at least 1 day prior to application and would remain posted on-site at least 1 day following application (HAZ-4).

Biomass Processing

Project debris and cut material would be disposed of through chipping and hauling, chipping and broadcasting, or pile burning depending upon the location and condition of the work site. Approximately 20 to 25 cubic yards of material could be disposed of each workday. If chipped,

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the vegetative material would be fed through the chipper and broadcast at treatment sites or hauled away for disposal. Chipped material spread on site would be chipped to under 3 inches in size and would be applied at most to 2 to 4 inches in depth to minimize wildfire risk. Disposed debris would be hauled to the Marin Resource Recovery Center or other appropriate facility.

Cut material may be pile burned depending upon the conditions of the work site. Suitable pile burning treatment sites are typically flat or have gentle slopes and have open areas away from tree canopies and power lines. Locations selected for pile burning would be away from waterways. Piles would generally be 4 feet in diameter and 4 feet in height but may vary. Multiple piles may be burned on a single day. Pile burning would be conducted in compliance with Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Regulation 5 for open burning and burn day restrictions.

Workers

Contractors and County Fire crews would conduct the vegetation removal and chipping along the specified roadways. A single contractor crew would generally consist of 3 to 6 workers. Two to three crews may operate within the defensible space zones or along roadsides on a single day.

Site Access

Treatment sites would be accessed via existing roads, fire roads, and trails to the maximum extent feasible. Private residences may be used as access points with the landowner's permission. Vehicles and equipment would be staged at the contractor's yard daily.

Schedule and Duration

All work would be performed on weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. The initial treatments are anticipated to start in Fall 2025. Following initial project implementation, the condition of the defensible space zones or roadways would be monitored and reassessed by County Fire staff every year to evaluate if maintenance is needed. Maintenance treatments are anticipated to be similar to the proposed activities but are subject to change depending on the condition following initial treatment of the defensible space zone or roadside. Homeowners would also conduct maintenance of the defensible space zones on their parcels after initial treatment, in accordance with Public Resources Code section 4291.

Project Design and Implementation Features

Marin Wildfire has developed specific design and implementation features adapted from several source documents referenced in footnotes after each name that will be incorporated as applicable into the project design and implementation for each of its projects. The following specific design and implementation measures are part of the proposed project:

CUL-1 Training¹

For all activities with the potential for ground disturbance (excluding prescribed herbivory, vegetation and tree trimming, and hand pulling smaller vegetation) all contractors and crew will

¹ Adapted from measures in the Marin Municipal Water District, Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP EIR), October 2019.

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receive training prepared by and/or conducted by a qualified archaeologist (who meets the U.S. Secretary of Interior's professional standards set forth in 48 FR Parts 44738-44739 and Appendix A to 36 CFR Part 61) prior to beginning work. The Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer(s) (THPO) from a local tribe (Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria [Graton Rancheria]) will be notified of the opportunity to attend and/or train crews. The training will address the potential for encountering subsurface cultural resources, recognizing basic signs of a potential resource, understanding required procedures if a potential resource is identified including reporting the resource to a qualified archaeologist and/or THPO, as appropriate, and understanding all procedures required under Health and Safety Code § 7050.5 and PRC §§ 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99 for the discovery of human remains.

CUL-2 Unanticipated Discovery²

In the event that a previously unidentified cultural resource is discovered during implementation of an activity all work within a minimum of 150 feet of the discovery will be halted. The resource will be located, identified, and recorded in the Marin Wildfire cultural resources GIS database.

The boundaries around the buffered resource will be temporarily marked, such as with fencing or flagging. A qualified archaeologist will inspect the discovery and determine whether further investigation is required. Data regarding archaeological resources will be kept confidential per law. As appropriate, the qualified archaeologist will inform Graton Rancheria's THPO of the discovery. If the discovery can be avoided and no further impacts will occur, the resource will be documented on California State Department of Parks and Recreation cultural resource record forms and no further effort will be required. If the project proponent wishes to continue work in the area, only work performed using hand tools or powered hand tools is allowed, work cannot include ground disturbance and the work area can only be accessed on foot as determined acceptable by the qualified cultural resource specialist/archaeologist.

Alternatively, the qualified archaeologist and/or THPO or tribal monitor will evaluate the resource and determine whether it is:

- Eligible for the CRHR (and a historical resource for purposes of CEQA),
- A unique archaeological resource as defined by CEQA, and/or
- A potential tribal cultural resource (all archaeological resources could be a tribal cultural resource).

If the resource is determined to be neither a unique archaeological, an historical resource, nor a potential tribal cultural resource, work may commence in the area.

If the resource meets the criteria for either a historical resource, unique archaeological resource, and/or tribal cultural resource, work will remain halted in the buffered area around the resource. No work will occur within the buffered area except those methods previously discussed as determined acceptable by the qualified archaeologist and/or THPO or tribal monitor. After work is completed, all cultural resource delineators (e.g., flags or fencing) will be removed in order to avoid potential vandalism, unauthorized excavation(s), etc.

² Adapted from measures in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Wildland Fire Resiliency Program Final Environmental Impact Report (WFRP EIR), May 2021.

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CUL-3 Cultural Resource Investigation²

Prior to implementation of vegetation management activities that have potential for intensive ground disturbance below the ground surface, significant heat from a burn, or use of heavy equipment off established roads and trails, a qualified archaeologist will conduct a records search and/or site-specific survey of the project areas where such disturbances could occur. Monitoring may also be identified by the qualified archaeologist as an appropriate measure to avoid damage or destruction of previously documented or potential resources (e.g., areas with a high sensitivity for buried resources) if conducting activities in the vicinity (refer to CUL-5). Outreach with Graton Rancheria will be conducted as early as feasible to obtain information regarding culturally sensitive areas and/or the location of tribal cultural resources within the project areas. Graton Rancheria will be notified of the opportunity to attend any surveys or monitoring, if there is the known or potential presence for precontact resources. Any information provided by Graton Rancheria and/or tribal monitor(s) is confidential and exempt from public disclosure in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements (Cal. Gov. Code § 6254(r), 6254.10; PRC § 5097.98(c); Cal. Code Regs. § 15120(d); 40 CFR § 1516.9; PRC § 21082.3 (c)(1)). Records searches, field survey results, and monitoring results will be shared with Graton Rancheria, as appropriate. Resources found during the records search, tribal outreach, survey and/or monitoring will be flagged for avoidance with an appropriate buffer identified by the qualified archaeologist, or the qualified archaeologist may identify modifications to the prescriptions using only hand tools or powered hand tools and access by foot with no ground disturbance, provided it would avoid all impacts to the resources. Any resource found during the site survey will be documented on California State Department of Parks and Recreation cultural resource record forms and a survey report will be completed for every cultural resource survey completed. The specific requirements will comply with the applicable state or local agency procedures.

CUL-4 Native American Project Notification

For core projects subject to a CEQA determination or compliance and requiring Marin Wildfire Board of Directors' approval, Graton Rancheria will be notified and project maps and/or spatial data provided for projects that will potentially entail ground disturbance. Any input from Graton Rancheria regarding specific resources that could be affected will be considered during project implementation through the methods of avoidance as described in CUL-3.

CUL-5 Cultural Resources Monitoring

Based on the results of CUL-3 and -4, cultural resources monitoring may be conducted in order to avoid impacts to known resources. In addition to flagging the resource for avoidance (as described in CUL-3) if monitoring is conducted, a qualified archaeologist will be present during ground disturbance work to ensure the known resources are avoided and protected during project implementation, and if the resource is identified to be pre-contact archaeological and/or a tribal cultural resource, a tribal monitor will be invited to attend during the ground disturbance work.

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ET-1 Environmental Training for Biological Resources^{3,4}

All crew members and contractors will receive training from a qualified registered professional forester (RPF) or biologist prior to beginning a treatment project where sensitive biological resources could occur in the work areas. The training will describe the appropriate work practices necessary to effectively implement the appropriate project design and implementation features and to comply with the applicable environmental laws and regulations. The training will include the identification, relevant life history information, and avoidance of potentially present special-status species with potential to occur; identification and avoidance of sensitive natural communities and habitats with the potential to occur in the treatment area; best management practices; and reporting requirements. As appropriate, the training will include protocols for work, such as specific trimming methods, where applicable. The training will instruct workers when it is appropriate to stop work and allow wildlife encountered during treatment activities to leave the area unharmed and when it is necessary to report encounters to a qualified RPF or biologist. The qualified RPF or biologist will immediately contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as appropriate, if any wildlife protected by the CE Species Act (CESA) or Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) is encountered and cannot leave the site on its own (without being handled).

ES-1 Environmental Surveys for Rare Plants

Within areas where rare and special-status plants have a moderate to high potential to occur, based on desktop data of habitat types, known site-specific information, and the professional judgment of qualified biologists, surveys will be conducted prior to any activity that has the potential to damage perennial plants or is proposed to occur during the flowering season for the specific annual plant species that has the potential to damage the flowering body and seeds of these plant species. Activities that have the potential to damage the flowering body may include but may not be limited to mowing, weed whacking, off-road vehicle and heavy equipment use, discing, and prescribed burning.

Surveys for rare plants will occur for these species across the entire project footprint. Surveys will occur during the blooming period, if feasible, and will occur prior to work for the specified special-status plant. If blooming period surveys are not feasible and the sensitive plant in question can be keyed to genus outside of the blooming period, surveys will be conducted for all members of the genus. Individuals will be flagged for avoidance or modified methods. Physical avoidance will include flagging, fencing, stakes, or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway) to delineate the boundary of the avoidance area around the suitable habitat and removal after completion. For physical avoidance, a buffer may be implemented as determined necessary by the biologist. Sensitive species damage or loss avoidance may include implementation of appropriate species-specific no-activity buffers around sensitive resources. Temporary fencing will also be implemented, as and where determined necessary based on the species tolerance, if grazing is prescribed in the area of flagged individuals for avoidance or modified methods (WILD-1).

³ Adapted from the measures in the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Practices and Procedures Monitoring and Reporting Plan Section 01 35 44 Environmental Requirements, August 2018.

⁴ Adapted from measures in the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection California Vegetation Treatment Program Final Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP EIR), November 2019.

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IP-1 Clean Equipment^{4,5}

All crew members, surveyors, and other personnel on site related to project activities will clean clothing, footwear, and equipment used during treatments of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, other debris or seed-bearing material, or water (e.g., rivers, streams, creeks, lakes) before entering the treatment area or when leaving an area with infestations of invasive plants, noxious weeds, known plant pathogens, or invasive wildlife.

IP-2 Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species and Plant Pathogens^{4,5}

Segregate and treat soils and vegetation contaminated with invasive plant seeds and propagules. Treat, as appropriate, to prevent the spread of invasive plants. Treatment may include disposal on site within already infested areas, chipping or pile burning and mulching to eliminate viable seeds, or disposal at an approved cogeneration plant or green waste facility.

Minimize soil disturbance to the greatest extent possible to reduce the potential for introducing or spreading invasive plants or plant pathogens, to protect topsoil resources, and to reduce available habitat for the establishment of new invasive plants.

IP-3 Treat Invasive Plants Prior to Seeding^{4,5}

Schedule activities to maximize the effectiveness of control efforts and minimize introduction and spread of invasive plants as feasible, with consideration for project objectives and location (e.g., install and maintain fuel breaks, disc lines, and other work before non-native plants set seeds).

IP-4 Retain Native Plants^{4,5}

When removing vegetation, focus first on removing invasive and highly flammable species, and dead or diseased vegetation. Retain beneficial, low-fire risk, healthy native plant species whenever possible, except where the historic disturbance regime for the vegetation community has not been maintained or the vegetation poses a hazard to the public.

GEO-1 Erosion and Soils Loss Stabilization Measures²

Soils will be stabilized if a vegetation management activity may leave less than 70 percent groundcover or native mulch/organic material.

For areas between 50 percent and 70 percent ground cover left:

- Sow native grasses and other suitable native vegetation on denuded areas where natural colonization or other replanting will not occur rapidly; use slash or chips to prevent erosion on such areas.
- Use surface mounds, depressions, logs, rocks, trees and stumps, slash and brush, the litter layer, and native herbaceous vegetation downslope of denuded areas to reduce sedimentation and erosion, as necessary to prevent erosion or slope destabilization.

⁵ Adapted from measures in the draft Ecologically Sound Practices Partnership, Ecologically Sound Practices for Vegetation Management (ESP) report, May 2021.

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- Install approved, biodegradable erosion-control measures and non-filament-based geotextiles (e.g., coir, jute) when:
 - Conducting substantial ground-disturbing work (e.g., use of heavy equipment, pulling large vegetation) within 100 feet and upslope of currently flowing or wet wetlands, streams, lakes, and riparian areas;
 - Causing soil disturbance on moderate to steep (10 percent slope and greater) slopes; and
 - Removing invasive plants from stream banks to prevent sediment movement into watercourses and to protect bank stability.
- Sediment-control devices, if installed, will be certified weed-free, as appropriate. Sediment control devices will be inspected daily during active work to ensure that they are repaired and working as needed to prevent sediment transport into the waterbodies.

For areas with less than 50 percent ground cover:

- Any of the above measures
- Stabilize with mulch or equivalent immediately after project activities, to the maximum extent practicable.
- If project activities could result in substantial sediment discharge from soil disturbance, as determined by the qualified personnel (e.g., RPF), organic material from mastication or mulch will be incorporated onto at least 75 percent of the disturbed soil surface where the soil erosion hazard is moderate or high, and 50 percent of the disturbed soil surface where soil erosion hazard is low to help prevent erosion.
- Where slash mulch is used, it will be packed into the ground surface such as with heavy equipment so that it is sufficiently in contact with the soil surface.

Once work is completed, the areas will be inspected at least annually if accessible, until groundcover exceeds 70 percent or slopes have stabilized, as determined by a qualified professional. At that time, erosion-control and slope-stability devices may be removed.

GEO-3 Soil Saturation and Rain Event Measures^{1,2,4}

The following measures will be implemented to prevent soil loss and erosion during rain events and following rain events:

- Shut down use of off-road heavy equipment, skidding, and truck traffic when soils become saturated (from rain event) and unable to support the machines. Saturated soil means that soil and/or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such an extent that runoff is likely to occur.
- Off-road heavy equipment work will be suspended if the National Weather Service forecast is a “chance” (30 percent or more) of rain within the next 24 hours
- Ground disturbing work (e.g., use of heavy equipment, pulling large vegetation) will not occur during rain events (i.e., 0.5 inch of rain within a 48-hour or greater period \geq 1.5 inches in 24 hours) and may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated. Indicators of saturated soil conditions may include, but are not limited to: (1) areas of ponded water, (2) pumping of fines from the soil or road surfacing, (3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road

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surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, (4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produces a wet slurry, or (5) inadequate traction without blading wet soil or surfacing materials.

- Ground disturbing work (e.g., use of heavy equipment, pulling large vegetation) will not occur during rain events (i.e., 0.5 inch of rain within a 48-hour or greater period \geq 1.5 inches in 24 hours) and may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated. Indicators of saturated soil conditions may include, but are not limited to: (1) areas of ponded water, (2) pumping of fines from the soil or road surfacing, (3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, (4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produces a wet slurry, or (5) inadequate traction without blading wet soil or surfacing materials.
- For activities that involve ground disturbing work and have not been stabilized, inspect for evidence of erosion after the first rain event (i.e., 0.5 inch of rain within a 48-hour or greater period) as soon as is feasible after the event. Any area of erosion that will result in substantial sediment discharge will be remediated within 48 hours.
- For activities that involve ground disturbing work, inspect project areas for the proper implementation of erosion control, as necessary and determined by the qualified personnel (e.g., RPF), prior to the rainy season. If erosion control measures are not properly implemented, the measures will be remediated prior to the first rainfall event.

GEO-4 Mulch Application

When applying mulch, limit the depth of the chips to 2 to 4 inches to the extent feasible to minimize risk of increasing smoldering in the event of a wildfire. Chips should not be piled up around the base of trees.

HAZ-1 Leak Prevention and Spill Cleanup^{1,4}

The project proponent will, at a minimum, implement measures that address the following procedures related to the use of hazardous materials during work:

- Proper disposal or management of contaminated soils and materials (i.e., clean up materials)
- Daily inspection of vehicles and equipment for leaks and spill containment procedures
- Emergency response and reporting procedures to address hazardous material releases
- Emergency spill supplies and equipment will be available to respond in a timely manner if an incident should occur
- Response materials such as oil-absorbent material, tarps, and storage drums will be available in the plan area at all times during management activities and will be used as needed to contain and control any minor releases
- The absorbent material will be removed promptly and disposed of properly
- Use of secondary containment and spill rags when fueling
- Discourage “topping-off” fuel tanks

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- Workers using fuels or other hazardous materials must be knowledgeable of the specific procedures necessary for hazardous materials cleanup and emergency response
- All diesel and gasoline powered equipment will be maintained per manufacturer's specification, and in compliance with all state and federal emission requirements

HAZ-2 Wildfire Risk Reduction^{1,3,4}

The following measures will be implemented during activities that involve the use of equipment that can generate sparks or heat:

- Maintain fire suppression equipment (e.g., shovel, extinguisher) in work vehicles and ensure workers are trained in use
- Closely monitor for ignited vegetation from equipment and tool use
- Train workers to properly handle and store flammable materials to minimize potential ignition sources
- Prohibit smoking in vegetated areas
- Avoid use of spark- and/or heat-generating equipment during high fire danger days (e.g., Red Flag Days and Fire Weather Watch)
- Outfit off-road diesel vehicles and equipment with spark arrestors
- Avoid metal string or blade weed trimmers
- Maintain one fire extinguisher for each chainsaw

HAZ-3 Pile Burning³

The following measures will be implemented to reduce hazards associated with pile burning:

- Pile burning will only be allowed on days when fire is less likely to spread (e.g., wind speeds are less than 15 mph).
- Piles will only be constructed in areas where burning can be safely controlled, for example, on the flattest area possible. Bottoms of steep, vegetated hills will be avoided.
- Piles should be constructed with 10 feet of clearance around them.
- Piles will be set back from public roads and trails at a distance to minimize risk to the public or cordoned off from the public.
- All requirements of CAL FIRE, the local fire department, and/or the BAAQMD will be met, including any permit, notification, burn bans, and reporting requirements.
- Have fire suppression crews on-site during the fire season determined by CAL FIRE or the local fire department (typically mid-May to mid-November) during curtain and pile burns.
- Pile burning will adhere to BAAQMD criteria pollutant thresholds and Regulation 5 for open burning.

HAZ-4 Application of Herbicides⁴

Projects will comply with all herbicide application regulations and ecologically sound integrated pest management principles.

- Herbicide containers will be triple rinsed with clean water at an approved site, and rinsate will be disposed of by placing it in the batch tank for application.

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- Herbicide drift to public areas or sensitive areas will be minimized through the following measures:
 - Application will cease when weather parameters exceed label specifications or when sustained winds at the site of application exceeds 7 miles per hour (whichever is more conservative).
 - No herbicide will be applied during precipitation events or if precipitation is forecast 24 hours before or after project activities.
 - Spray nozzles will be configured to produce the largest appropriate droplet size to minimize drift.
 - Low nozzle pressures will be utilized.
 - Spray nozzles will be kept within 24 inches of vegetation, if spraying.
- For herbicide applications occurring within or adjacent to public recreation areas, residential areas, schools, or any other public areas within 500 feet, signs will be posted at each end of herbicide application areas and any intersecting trails notifying the public of the use of herbicides at a minimum 1 day before and 1 day after herbicide use.

HAZ-5 Protect Vegetation and Special-Status Species from Herbicides⁴

The project proponent will implement their approved integrated pest management (IPM) procedures when utilizing herbicides, or the following measures if no IPM is in place that addresses herbicide use in sensitive areas:

- Locate herbicide mixing sites in areas devoid of vegetation and where there is no potential of a spill reaching non-target vegetation or a waterway.
- Use only herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments when working in riparian habitats or other areas where there is a possibility the herbicide could come into direct contact with water. Only hand application of herbicides will be allowed in riparian habitats and only during low-flow periods or when seasonal streams are dry.
- No terrestrial or aquatic herbicides will be applied within Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs) of Class I⁶ and II⁷ watercourses, if feasible. If this is not feasible, hand application of herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments may be used within the WLPZ.
- No herbicides will be applied through any method within a 50-foot buffer of federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California ESA listed plant species or within 50 feet of dry vernal pools other than painted or sponged on applications to invasive and/or non-native species cut stumps.

⁶ A Class I watercourse includes any domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area, and/or fish are always or seasonally present onsite, and includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.

⁷ A Class II watercourse has fish always or seasonally present offsite within 100 feet downstream, and or aquatic habitat for nonfish aquatic species. Class II watercourses excludes Class III waters that are tributaries to Class I waters.

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- For spray applications in and adjacent to habitats suitable for special-status species, use herbicides containing dye (registered for aquatic use by California Department of Pesticide Regulation, if warranted) to prevent overspray.

NOI-1 Minimization of Noise Disruption to Nearby Neighbors and Sensitive Receptors^{4,8}

All projects will comply with applicable local noise ordinances. All powered equipment and power tools will be used and maintained according to manufacturer specifications. All diesel- and gasoline-powered treatment equipment will be properly maintained and equipped with noise-reduction intake and exhaust mufflers and engine shrouds, in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

Measures to minimize noise disruption to nearby neighbors and sensitive receptors will be implemented as needed. These measures may include but are not limited to:

- Using noise control technologies on equipment (e.g., mufflers, ducts, and acoustically attenuating shields)
- Locating stationary noise sources (e.g., pumps and generators) away from sensitive receptors
- Closing engine shrouds during equipment operations
- Shutting down equipment when not in use. Equipment will not be idled unnecessarily
- Operating heavy equipment during daytime hours if such noise would be audible to receptors (e.g., residential land uses, schools, hospitals, places of worship)
- Locating project activities, equipment, and equipment staging areas away from nearby noise-sensitive land uses (e.g., residential land uses, schools, hospitals, places of worship), to the extent feasible

NSO-1 Northern Spotted Owl Nesting Season Avoidance¹

Each project will be reviewed by a qualified biologist to determine if northern spotted owls have potential to occur near proposed project activities. Within areas where northern spotted owl have the potential to occur, work, including mowing with heavy equipment, the mechanical removal of vegetation, or prescribed burning, including pile and broadcast burning, will occur outside of the northern spotted owl nesting season to the extent feasible (February 1 to July 31).

If work must occur during the northern spotted owl nesting season, either NSO-2 or NSO-3 will apply.

NSO-2 Work During Northern Spotted Owl Nesting Season – Surveys¹

Within an area where northern spotted owl has the potential to occur, when work will occur during the northern spotted owl nesting season (February 1 through July 31), and work is not considered low-impact by a qualified biologist the following measure will apply. Low impact type activities include, but are not limited to, goat grazing, hand pulling of weeds, hand trimming of trees and vegetation with non-mechanized equipment, chipping from existing roadways in residential areas, and use of mechanized equipment adjacent to roads or in residential areas

⁸ Adapted from San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Standard Construction Measures, July 2015.

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that is a typical noise for the environment. In contrast, high-impact activities may include operation of heavy machinery in wildlands with lower baseline environmental noise, or work which produces noise disturbance for a longer duration than is typical in the environment.

The biologists will determine if a known breeding pair is found within 0.25 mile of the proposed activity (i.e., from existing surveys that season or historic data) and perform a nest check to confirm presence. If no survey data for the season has been completed for the areas, two surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist (whose qualifications have been approved by Marin Wildfire or lead public agency) for nesting northern spotted owls during the months of April and May preceding the commencement of these activities. At a minimum, the survey area will include all suitable nesting habitats within 0.25 mile of any planned activity sites, and then one of the two options listed below will be implemented. If access cannot be secured for surveys, then work should be delayed until after the nesting season, unless it can be shown that noise generation from the activities and the activities proposed would be below noise and visual disturbance levels for northern spotted owls (refer to USFWS Revised Transmittal of Guidance: Estimating the Effects of Auditory and Visual Disturbance to Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets in Northwestern California) at the nest site, if known.

- If it is conclusively determined that there are nesting northern spotted owls, planned activities that generate noise (e.g., mowing, heavy equipment usage, crews with hand tools that generate noise) in areas without regular human disturbances from human residency (e.g., leaf blowers, home construction and remodeling, roadways), that are within 0.25-mile of an identified active nest will not begin prior to September 1 unless the young have fledged, at which time work may begin no earlier than July 10. Prescribed burns may only occur within suitable northern spotted owl habitat (as determined by a qualified biologist) during the nesting season if protocol surveys have determined that northern spotted owl nesting is not occurring in the area of planned activity.
- If work must occur within 0.25 mile, and work has been determined to have the potential to impact an active northern spotted owl nest, CDFW and USFWS would be consulted to determine if take could occur and whether further permits are required.

NSO-3 Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Alteration¹

For projects involving removal of large trees (10-inches DBH or greater) in potential northern spotted owl roosting, or nesting habitat (as identified during the desktop review) in areas without regular human disturbances from human residency, habitat alteration within core use areas (nesting and roosting habitat) will be planned in consultation with a qualified northern spotted owl biologist.

NSO-4 Retain Dusky-footed Woodrat Nests^{1,5}

Dusky-footed woodrats are important prey for northern spotted owls. Wherever feasible, project activities will leave dusky-footed wood rat nests intact. If possible, maintain a 3-foot buffer of vegetation around dusky-footed woodrat middens.

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NB-1 Nesting Bird Season Avoidance^{1,4,5,9}

Whenever possible, schedule work outside of the bird nesting season, which is generally from February 1 through July 31st¹⁰. Not all species nest between the regulatory season, and active nests that are encountered year-round are protected.

NB-2 Nesting Bird Surveys^{1,4,5}

If work that has the potential to impact nesting birds commences between February 1 and July 31 (during the nesting season), a qualified biologist (whose qualifications have been approved by Marin Wildfire or lead public agency) will conduct a pre-activity survey for nesting birds.

Nesting bird surveys are recommended during the nesting season for work involving mowing with heavy equipment, other vegetation (including tree) removal or limbing and trimming activities, and prescribed (broadcast and pile) burning. Low-impact activities including goat grazing, hand-pulling weeds, and herbicide application do not generally require nesting bird surveys. Determination of need for surveys for low-impact activities should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in consultation with a qualified biologist or RPF.

Nesting bird surveys will occur within no more than 7 days prior to work to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during vegetation management work. If work pauses for more than 7 days, a follow-up survey will be conducted prior to the restarting of work. Appropriate survey areas will be determined by the qualified biologist depending on the project footprint, type of activity proposed, and suitable habitat for nesting birds. Surveys will be conducted during periods of high bird activity (i.e., 1-3 hours after sunrise and 1-3 hours before sunset). If the qualified biologist determines that visibility is significantly obstructed due to on-site conditions (such as access issues, rain, fog, smoke, or sound disturbance [including high wind]), surveys will be deferred until conditions are suitable for nest detection.

NB-3 Nesting Birds: Active Nest Avoidance^{1,4,5,7}

If active nests (i.e., presence of eggs and/or chicks) are observed in areas that could be directly or indirectly disturbed (including noise disturbance), a temporary, species-appropriate no-disturbance buffer zone will be created around the nest sufficient to reasonably expect that breeding would not be disrupted. No work will occur inside the buffer zone.

The size of the buffer zone will be determined by the biologist, by taking into account factors including but not limited to the following:

- Noise and human disturbance levels at the site at the time of the survey and the noise and disturbance expected during the work;
- Distance and amount of vegetation or other screening between the site and the nest; and

⁹ Adapted from Marin County Parks (MCP), Bird Nesting Survey Training Manual, 2017.

¹⁰ Note that the general nesting season between February 1 and July 31 is a guideline, and that birds may begin nesting beforehand, and complete nesting after these dates. Regardless, active nests are protected year-round. Avian nesting season may begin as early as January 1.

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- Sensitivity of individual nesting species and behaviors of the nesting birds, taking into account factors such as topography, visibility to source of disturbance, noise/vibration, nesting phase, and other case-by-case specifics.

Buffer sizes may be altered during the course of work at the recommendation of the biologist. Raptor nests are subject to additional protections, including during the “branching” phase, when fledglings begin to fly but do not fully leave the nest. Buffers will be maintained until young fledge or the nest becomes inactive, as determined by the qualified biologist.

If work must occur within the buffer, proceed to NB-4.

NB-4 Nesting Birds: Active Nest Monitoring^{1,4,5,7}

If an avoidance buffer is not achievable, a qualified biologist may monitor the nest(s) during work activities within the recommended nest buffer to document that no take of the nest (nest failure) has occurred related to work activities. If it is determined that work activity is resulting in nest disturbance, work should cease immediately.

RB-1 Pework Survey^{3,4}

If vegetation management activities would (1) occur in trees with potential for roosting bat species (e.g., trees with a diameter at breast height of 10 inches or greater), (2) would include removal of trees where a bat could be roosting and (3) the work would commence between March 1 and July 31, during the bat maternity period, a pre-activity survey will be conducted for roosting bats within 2 weeks prior to work to ensure that no maternity roosting bats will be disturbed during work. This survey can be conducted concurrent with other surveys for other sensitive species. Potentially suitable bat roosting habitat within the work footprint that have been determined to be unoccupied by roosting bats, or that are located outside the avoidance buffer for active roosting sites may be removed. Roosting initiated during work is presumed to be unaffected, and no buffer would be necessary.

RB-2 Avoidance of Maternity Roosts and Day Roosts³

If active maternity roosts or day roosts are found within the project site, or in areas subject to disturbance from work activities, avoidance buffers will be implemented. The buffer size will be determined in consultation with the qualified biologist or RPF.

RB-3 Bat Roosting Tree Removal – Seasonal Restrictions³

If it is determined that a colonial maternity roost is potentially present, the roost will be avoided and will not be removed during the breeding season (March 1 through July 31) unless removal is necessary to address an imminent safety hazard.

Operation of mechanical equipment producing high noise levels (e.g., chainsaws, heavy equipment) in proximity to buildings/structures supporting or potentially supporting a colonial bat roost will be restricted to periods of seasonal bat activity (as defined above), when possible.

RB-4 Bat Roosting Tree Removal – Emergency Removals³

Potential non-colonial roosts that must be removed in order to address a safety hazard, can be removed after consultation with a biologist. Removal will occur on warm days in late morning to afternoon when any bats present are likely to be warm and able to fly. Appropriate methods will be used to minimize the potential of harm to bats during tree removal. Such methods may

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include using a two-step tree removal process. This method is conducted over two consecutive days, and works by creating noise and vibration by cutting non-habitat branches and limbs from habitat trees using chainsaws only (no excavators or other heavy machinery) on Day 1. The noise and vibration disturbance, together with the visible alteration of the tree, is very effective in causing bats that emerge nightly to feed, to not return to the roost that night. The remainder of the tree is removed on Day 2.

SH-1 Riparian Resources – Project Design^{4,5}

In riparian areas, treatments will be limited to removal of uncharacteristic fuel loads (e.g., removing dead or dying vegetation), trimming/limbing of woody species as necessary to reduce ladder fuels, and select thinning of vegetation to restore densities that are representative of healthy stands of the riparian vegetation types that are characteristic of the region. Allowable activities include hand removal (or mechanized removal where topography allows) of dead or dying riparian trees and shrubs, invasive plant removal, selective thinning, and removal of encroaching upland species. Mature, healthy trees will not be removed from a riparian corridor. Any activities conducted within a riparian corridor will be conducted so as to avoid alteration to a bed, channel, or bank of a waterway and all debris, including sawdust, chips, or other vegetative material, will be prevented from entering the bed, channel, or bank of a waterway, unless a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game under Section 1600 is obtained.

SH-3 Minimization of Pile Burning Disturbance^{11,12}

Pile burning will not be performed in sensitive habitats, such as serpentine-associated communities, wetlands, or riparian areas. If piles are burned on a different day than piled, the piles should be moved prior to burning to ensure wildlife is not present, such as by re-piling by hand, or a qualified biologist will inspect the pile prior to burning to ensure wildlife are not present. If moving or inspection of the piles is not feasible, the pile will be lit from one side and allowed to burn slowly to the other side, in order to allow any wildlife to relocate, rather than lighting the entire pile at once.

TR-1 Emergency Access to Project Areas^{1,2}

The following measures will be implemented to maintain emergency access:

- At least one week prior to temporary lane or full closure of a public road for vegetation management-related work, the appropriate emergency response agency/agencies will be contacted with jurisdiction to ensure that each agency is notified of the closure and any temporary detours in advance and obtain all required encroachment permits
- In the event of any emergency, roads blocked or obstructed for maintenance activities will be cleared to allow the vehicles to pass.

¹¹ Adapted from Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD). (2015, April). Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan. *Best Management Practices*.

¹² Adapted from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). (2011). California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2011-046-03. *Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan*. East Bay Regional Parks District

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- During temporary lane or road closures on public roads, flaggers equipped with two-way radios will be utilized where needed to control traffic. During an emergency, flaggers will radio to the crew to cease operations and reopen the public road to emergency vehicles.
- All authorized vehicles at the treatment site will be parked to not block roads when no operator is present to move the vehicle.

TR-2 Traffic Control Measures³

Traffic control measures will be implemented to maintain traffic and pedestrian circulation on streets affected by project activities. The following measures may include:

- All traffic control devices will conform to the latest edition of the MUTCD, and as amended by the latest edition of the MUTCD California supplement.
- Any work that disturbs normal traffic signal operations and ensure proper temporary traffic control (lane shifts, lane closures, detours etc.) will be coordinated with the agency having jurisdiction, at least 72 hours prior to commencing work.
- Flaggers and/or warning signage of work ahead.
- A minimum of twelve (12) foot travel lanes on public roads must be maintained unless otherwise approved.
- Maintaining access to driveways and private roads at all times unless other arrangements have been made.
- Traffic control devices will be removed from view or covered when not in use.
- Sidewalks for pedestrians will remain open if safe for pedestrians. Alternate routes and signing will be provided if pedestrian routes are to be closed.
- Scheduling truck trips during non-peak hours to the extent feasible.

Discussion of Potential Exceptions (CEQA Section Guidelines 15300.2)

(a) Location:

Sensitive habitats, including flowing watercourses and wetted wetland areas, would be avoided by manual and mechanical treatments. Riparian woodlands may be encountered but any vegetation trimming or thinning would be conducted by hand and would avoid alteration to and deposition of debris within the bed, channel, or bank of a waterway (SH-1). Only herbicides approved for use in aquatic environments would be applied by hand in riparian habitats and only during low-flow periods (HAZ-5). Due to the scope and design of the proposed project, the proposed project would not adversely affect riparian habitats as the work would not affect shade or species diversity and could be beneficial if invasive species are removed, therefore, exception (a) does not apply.

(b) Cumulative Impact:

Other roadside vegetation thinning treatments and defensible space projects are occurring in the Southern Marin Zone and greater Marin County and would not result in cumulative impacts as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The Southern Marin Zone Throckmorton Ridge Evacuation Route Vegetation Management Project involves vegetation thinning and removal within 30 feet of roadways in the Throckmorton Ridge community and overlaps with the proposed project along Edgewood Avenue. The proposed Greater Mill Valley Fuel Break project would be implemented in and around the area of the proposed treatment sites and would treat

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approximately 673 acres around the City of Mill Valley perimeter. Ongoing maintenance of the defensible space and evacuation routes would be limited to the types of activities previously described, which would be performed periodically to create and maintain defensible space between structures and roadways and open space. The visual character of the treated sites would be modified each time vegetation treatments are implemented as vegetation regrows, due to reduction in vegetation cover and type (e.g., broom removal), but the natural character would remain. The design and implementation of this proposed project (e.g., PDIFs ES-1, CUL-1) ensures that significant effects on environmental resources are avoided over successive years of maintenance. The proposed project would not contribute to any potential significant cumulative effect and therefore, exception (b) does not apply.

(c) Significant Effects due to “Unusual Circumstances”:

The proposed fuel reduction activities and future maintenance activities are considered routine and are prevalent and typical throughout the County and Bay Area region. Sensitive waterways would be avoided. Significant effects on special-status species would not occur through the design and implementation of the proposed project (e.g., PDIFs NB-1, RB-1). The proposed project would modify vegetation, but the natural character would remain, and the aesthetic change would not be substantial. Therefore, there are no unusual circumstances associated with the proposed project or the environment in which it would be implemented, and exception (c) does not apply.

(d) Scenic Highways:

No designated California State Scenic Highways occur in the vicinity of the defensible space and evacuation route treatment sites; therefore, exception (d) does not apply (California Department of Transportation 2024).

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites:

Per the current government database of hazardous waste sites at the time of this filing, there are no hazardous waste sites located within or adjacent to the evacuation routes and defensible space sites (California State Water Resources Control Board 2025). No substantial ground disturbing activities that could unearth potentially contaminated soils would occur; therefore, exception (e) does not apply.

(f) Historical Resources:

The proposed project would involve handheld manual and mechanical vegetation trimming and removal and pile burning. Some hand pulling of invasive plants could occur. As part of the proposed project, workers would participate in a cultural training prior to proposed project implementation (CUL-1). Should a previously unidentified cultural resource be discovered, work would halt in the area and the resource fully avoided or only methods allowed by a qualified cultural resource specialist/archaeologist would be implemented (CUL-2). If any resources are discovered during implementation that require monitoring to continue treatment in the area, a qualified archaeological would be present and, as appropriate, a tribal monitor would be invited to monitor during ground disturbance (CUL-5). Proposed project activities would not alter any built environment features and would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known or previously undiscovered historical resource. Therefore, exception (f) does not apply.

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Environmental Assessment

Aesthetics

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The visual character within the proposed defensible space and evacuation route treatment sites is characterized by primarily low density residential and forested areas. Vegetation consists of densely forested mountain areas as well as grassy lowlands and hills. Viewers in the vicinity of the defensible space and evacuation routes treatments would primarily be homeowners and recreationalists that are adjacent to the fuel reduction sites. Motorists along Edgewood Avenue and nearby roadways would be able to see crews and treatment activities.

Equipment and trucks performing the work would be temporarily visible along or staged near the evacuation routes and fuel reduction sites. The vegetation thinning activities would be in one area for a short period of time (a few hours to a day) and the work would be performed in a limited area within the treatment sites at any given time.

Minor changes to the vegetation patterns and form would occur from manual and mechanical removal of small or hazard trees and shrubs up to 30 feet from road edges and up to 100 feet from structures. The vegetative material would be chipped or cut and either broadcast on site or hauled away from the work site, or pile burned. Viewers in the immediate vicinity may notice changes in the density and type of the vegetation within the defensible space and evacuation route treatment sites. These methods of vegetation thinning currently occur in the Southern Marin Zone as well as throughout broader Marin County to create defensible space between structures and open space. This type of work and vegetation management is typical of the area and a characteristic part of the existing environment. The proposed project would not degrade residential, recreationalist, or motorist views from nearby residences, roads, or trails because the visual change would be minimal, is typical in the area, and would extend up to 25 feet from road edges and 100 feet from structures. The natural vegetation and characteristics of the areas would remain. Visual degradation as seen from State or locally designated scenic roads or vistas, including the Marin County ridge and upland greenbelt areas, would not occur.

Pile burning, if conducted, would result in visual impacts from the staging of debris to allow the vegetation to dry, burning the debris, smoke plumes from the burn, and the appearance of scorched vegetation. Piles would be located in open areas away from any dense vegetation or forests. While piles may be visible to the public, pile burning would be temporary. Pile burns may result in smoke plumes which may be visible from a distance. Pile burns would typically last a day, and visual exposure to the public from smoke plumes would be minimal. Significant adverse effects to aesthetics would not occur.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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The proposed fuel reduction activities would not convert designated farmland to non-agricultural uses. Project activities would primarily involve thinning and removal of small fire-hazardous trees, shrubs, and underbrush along evacuation routes and within 100 feet of structures and along road edges. The proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land, nor would it convert forestry land to non-forestry use. Adverse effects on agriculture and forestry resources would not occur.

Air Quality

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Vehicles and equipment for fuel reduction activities would emit diesel particulate matter and criteria air pollutants. In a typical day, it is assumed that equipment—such as worker trucks, chainsaw, chipper, and mechanical hand tools—would operate for a few hours per crew and up to one off-haul truck would travel to a green waste disposal center a day. No tilling or grading activities that could generate fugitive dust emission would occur.

Pile burning may be used to dispose of vegetative debris instead of chipping depending on the conditions of the work site. Pile burning would emit air pollutants including particulate matter. Pile burning of vegetative debris would comply with restrictions required by BAAQMD Regulation 5 for open burning and burn day restrictions (HAZ-3). Because of the relatively small size of the proposed project, limited expected number of burn piles, and compliance with open burning and burn day restrictions, treatment activities would not exceed the BAAQMD significance thresholds. Pile burning would be conducted by qualified professionals in accordance with the burn permit and standard industry practices including the California Forest Practice Rules, which would ensure the safety of workers conducting the pile burns. In addition, studies have found that particulate matter emission rates for wildland fires are more than two times higher than for prescribed burns in the western United States, indicating that treatments to reduce fuels could reduce the likelihood of higher emission wildland fires (Liu et al. 2017). Significant air quality impacts would not occur.

Biological Resources

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Biological database searches for the vicinity of the defensible space and roadside fuel reduction sites were conducted (California Native Plant Society 2025; California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2025b). Of the species identified during the database search, species were determined to have potential to occur within the work sites if the species is known to occur in the vicinity of the sites and if the sites or immediate vicinity contains suitable habitat to support these species.

Special-Status Plants and Sensitive Vegetation Communities

Riparian, pond, redwoods, and other sensitive habitats are known occur along or near the evacuation routes and defensible space sites. No critical habitat for sensitive plants occurs within the vicinity of the work sites. Serpentine soils are documented within the proposed

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treatment sites (see Figure 2) and serpentine-associated communities therefore have the potential to be present (USDA NRCS 2025). Several special-status plant species have a moderate potential to occur in the treatment sites (refer to Table 1 for information and Figure 3 for locations of known occurrences in relation to the proposed project).

Project activities may occur within riparian areas but any vegetation trimming or thinning would be conducted by hand and alteration to and deposition of debris avoided within the bed, channel, or bank of a waterway (SH-1). Treatment within the defensible space and evacuation route treatment sites would be limited to vegetation thinning and the removal of fire-hazardous and dead vegetation, which would not alter the vegetation communities leading to type conversion or loss and would make the communities more resilient to threat of type conversion after wildfire. Pile burning may be conducted as a vegetation disposal method. Material would not be piled and burned in sensitive habitats (SH-3). Pile burns would affect a relatively small area within the defensible space and evacuation route treatment areas.

Herbicides may be applied in a targeted manner, such as stump treatment or spot application, to non-native, invasive plant species to prevent resprouting, minimizing risk to non-target species from drift. Herbicides would not be applied within a 50-foot buffer of any ESA or California ESA listed species (HAZ-5).

Workers would receive training from a qualified professional prior to beginning the vegetation treatments in areas where sensitive biological resources could occur. Training would include identification of special-status plant species and sensitive communities for avoidance (ET-1). The training for this proposed project would involve identification of species that have been found as having a moderate potential to occur within the project area for avoidance if encountered within treatment areas, including Napa false indigo, Mt. Tamalpais manzanita; Marin manzanita, thin-lobed horkelia, and Tamalpais oak, the majority of which are perennials.

The vegetation trimming and removal would generally focus on removing invasive and fire-hazardous species, leaving native species in place (IP-4) and the types of activities generally would not disrupt the seed banks of these species. Workers would clean equipment and handle vegetation to avoid spreading invasive species and plant pathogens when moving between different project locations (IP-1, IP-2, IP-3).

The blooming season for thin-lobed horkelia, the only herbaceous special-status plant with a moderate potential to occur that blooms annually, ranges from May to July. Initial treatment of the defensible space and evacuation route is anticipated to begin in Fall 2025, but may continue into the blooming season for this species.

The scope of the vegetation thinning and cutting activities is limited to 100 feet from structures and up to 25 feet from road edges as determined appropriate by a qualified professional. Roadways have been studied to act as vectors for and be beneficial to non-native and invasive plant species, particularly in forested or grassland areas (Lázaro-Lobo and Ervin 2019; Lemke et al. 2021). The vegetation trimming and removal would generally focus on removing invasive and fire-hazardous species, leaving native species in place (IP-4) and the types of activities generally would not disrupt the seed banks of these species. Research indicates that appropriate management of roadsides supports high levels of biodiversity and reduces effects such as the spread of invasive species (Lázaro-Lobo and Ervin 2019). A reduction in invasive plant species may be beneficial for native plants including the special-status species with a potential to occur in the area.

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Additionally, because of the relatively narrow scope of the proposed evacuation route treatments (up to 25 feet from road edges), the lack of serpentine-associated blooming annuals with a moderate or high potential to occur, and that manzanita, which are sensitive to trimming or cutting, are readily identifiable for full avoidance regardless of whether they are special-status or not, no surveys per ES-1 would occur in evacuation route treatment sites as special-status plant species would not be substantially affected. If treatment activities that could result in mortality of manzanitas or oaks are needed to minimize wildfire risk, surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine whether the individual plant is a special-status species.

To avoid disturbance to special-status plants that have a moderate potential to occur, plant surveys would be conducted in areas of treatment that could result in plant mortality during the blooming season before the species goes to seed (ES-1). For this proposed project, that includes defensible space treatment sites due to the aforementioned low likelihood of harming special-status species along roadsides. Any individuals found during the pre-work surveys would be flagged for avoidance or modified methods. All sensitive plant species have a low to no potential to be impacted by vegetation removal activities with the worker training (ER-1) and surveys for avoidance or modified methods, when and where needed, as shown in Table 1. Significant impacts on native vegetation communities and special-status plants species would not occur.

Special-Status Wildlife

Northern spotted owl, pallid bat, and Townsend's big-eared bat have a moderate potential to occur along the project evacuation routes and within defensible space areas, as shown in Table 1 and Figure 4. Workers would be trained to identify and avoid the types of wildlife species with a potential to occur in the work areas (ET-1).

Migratory birds and birds of prey have a potential to nest or forage within the treatment sites and are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Sections 3503 and 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code. Proposed project activities are currently planned to occur outside of the nesting season, but follow up maintenance activities could occur from February 1 to July 31, during which time appropriate nesting bird surveys would be conducted to avoid any effects to nesting birds (per NB-1, NB-2, NB-3, NB-4). If active nests are observed at the project site, an avoidance buffer would be implemented, or a qualified biologist may monitor the nests during work activities if an avoidance buffer is not achievable (NB-3, NB-4).

The pallid bat and Townsend's big-eared bat have a moderate potential to occur within specific portions of the proposed treatment sites because suitable roosting habitat is likely present. There is a low likelihood that the proposed project would affect these bat species because RB-1 requires pre-activity bat surveys if a) work occurs in trees with potential for roosting bat species, b) work would include removal of trees where a bat could roost, and c) the work would occur during bat maternity period (March 1 through July 31). If maternity roosts or day roosts are found, avoidance buffers will be implemented (RB-2) and treatment timing restrictions would be instituted between March 1 through July 31 if a colonial maternity roost is potentially present (RB-3 and RB-4). Workers would also be trained to identify both bat species as needed for avoidance (ET-1).

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Figure 3 California Natural Diversity Database Botanical Occurrences

Figure 4 Special Status Wildlife Occurrences

Figures omitted to protect special-status wildlife and plant species

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Critical habitat for northern spotted owl is adjacent to the proposed project area. Several activity centers have been documented within 500 feet of the proposed treatment sites. As such, there is a high potential for northern spotted owl to occur within the project area. Vegetation treatment and removal would target invasive, non-native, and fire-hazardous vegetation and accumulative dead biomass within the treatment area. Small trees, 8 inches DBH and smaller, would be removed as needed from the understory and trees smaller than 10 inches DBH would be removed in areas with fire-hazardous invasive trees. This vegetation would grow back and maintenance treatments would be performed as needed. Vegetation treatment would occur within up to 100 feet from structures and up to 25 feet of road edges. Northern spotted owls typically prefer dense canopy closure of mature and old-growth trees with logs, standing snags, and live trees with broken tops. The owls also require open space in the understory or less dense habitats to allow flight under the canopy to forage (Gutiérrez, Franklin, and Lahaye 2020). Most of the Marin County owls are known to use younger forests than those further north in California (Marin Municipal Water District 2019). The proposed project would thin vegetation in the understory and reduce the risk of high intensity fire that could permanently damage established nest sites. The proposed project may also improve foraging habitat for northern spotted owl by reducing understory density and therefore permitting foraging by owls in flight. Impacts to prey density should not be affected as vegetation immediately surrounding woodrat nests would also be left and only a subset of available habitat to woodrats would be treated (NSO-4). Vegetation treatment activities would occur outside of the northern spotted owl nesting season to the extent possible (NSO-1). If work occurs during the nesting season, surveys would be conducted to determine if a breeding pair are located within 0.25 mile of the work area, and treatments would not occur before July 31 if an active nest was present, unless the young have fledged (NSO-2). If any large trees 10 inches DBH or greater are identified for removal based on forestry practices, a qualified northern spotted owl biologist would be consulted (NSO-3). Given the work would be focused on removal of hazardous fuels near structures and adjacent to roadways and structures and the relatively low intensity of the vegetation thinning activities, the work would not be considered major habitat alteration for northern spotted owls.

Piles for burning would be moved prior to burning to ensure wildlife could relocate, or a qualified biologist would inspect the piles prior to burning. If the piles are unable to be re-piled or inspected, the piles would be lit from one side and allowed to burn slowly to the other side of the pile to allow any wildlife time to vacate the pile (SH-3). Significant impacts on special-status wildlife species would not occur.

Wetlands

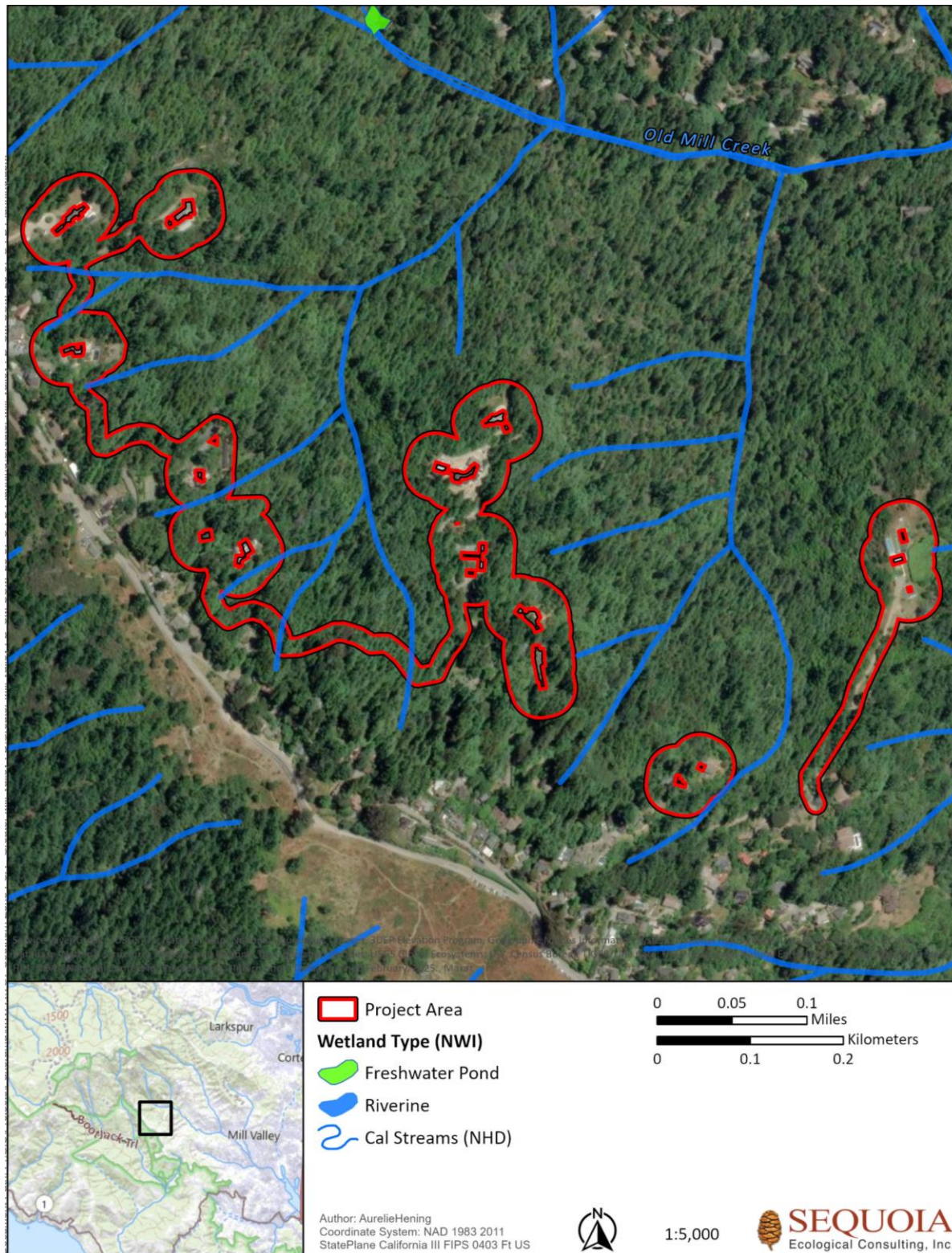
Streams and ponds that intersect or occur near to the project work areas as shown in Figure 5 (USFWS 2025). Streams would be avoided by project activities. Seasonal wetlands may be encountered within the fuel reduction areas. Only herbicides approved for use in aquatic environments would be applied by hand in riparian habitats and only during low-flow periods (HAZ-5). Training would ensure that workers conducting manual and mechanical activities will avoid wetlands (ET-1). Significant impacts on wetlands would not occur.

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Figure 5 Wetlands and Waterways



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Table 1 Special-Status Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
Sensitive Plants					
<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i> <i>var. sonomensis</i>	Sonoma alopecurus	FE, CRPR 1B.1	Marshes and swamps (freshwater), riparian scrub	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatments.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Amorpha californica</i> <i>var. napensis</i>	Napa false indigo	CRPR 1B.2	Wetland, riparian woodland	Moderate; suitable habitat may be present, 17 records within 1.5 miles, nearest documented occurrence is 0.5 miles from defensible space and evacuation route treatment on Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail (Calflora 2025).	Low; will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1); if work that could result in mortality of individuals occurs, surveys will be conducted and if encountered, the species and buffer will be flagged for avoidance (ES-1).
<i>Amsinckia lunaris</i>	bent-flowered fiddleneck	FE, CRPR 1B.1	Foothill woodland, valley grassland	Low; suitable habitat may be present, nearest documented occurrence located on West Ridgecrest Blvd approximately 2.8 west of defensible space and evacuation route treatment (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Arctostaphylos franciscana</i>	Franciscan manzanita	FE, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal scrub (serpentinite)	Low; suitable habitat may be present; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur in project area. Manzanitas will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
<i>Arctostaphylos montana ssp. montana</i>	Mt. Tamalpais manzanita	CRPR 1B.3	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland; Serpentine slopes in chaparral and grassland	Moderate; suitable habitat present within defensible space and evacuation route treatment area, 48 occurrences within 1.5 miles of defensible space and evacuation route treatment, primarily on Mount Tamalpais, nearest occurrence is 1.1 miles away on Panoramic Highway (Calflora 2025).	Low; Manzanitas will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1); if work that could result in mortality of individuals occurs, surveys will be conducted and if encountered, the species and buffer will be flagged for avoidance (ES-1).
<i>Arctostaphylos montana ssp. ravenii</i>	Presidio manzanita	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.3	Chaparral, Coastal prairie, Coastal scrub	Low; suitable habitat may be present; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatments.	None; species is unlikely to occur in project area. Manzanitas will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Arctostaphylos virgata</i>	Marin manzanita	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.3	Chaparral, Coastal prairie, Coastal scrub	Moderate; suitable habitat may be present, 17 occurrences within 1.5 miles, nearest occurrence 0.3 miles west of defensible space and evacuation route treatment (Calflora 2025)	Low; Manzanitas will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1); if work that could result in mortality of individuals occurs, surveys will be conducted and if encountered, the species and buffer will be flagged for avoidance (ES-1).
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	marsh sandwort	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Marshes and swamps (brackish, freshwater)	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
<i>Calochortus tiburonensis</i>	Tiburon mariposa-lily	FT, ST, CRPR 1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland (serpentinite)	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Castilleja affinis var. neglecta</i>	Tiburon paintbrush	FE, ST, CRPR 1B.2	Valley and foothill grassland (serpentinite)	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Ceanothus masonii</i>	Mason's ceanothus	SR, CRPR 1B.2	Chaparral (openings, rocky, serpentinite)	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatments.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum ssp. palustre</i>	Point Reyes salty bird's-beak	CRPR 1B.2	Marshes and swamps (coastal salt)	None; suitable habitat does not occur, two occurrences in Bothin Marsh approximately 2.8 miles east of defensible space and evacuation route treatment area.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Clarkia franciscana</i>	Presidio clarkia	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.2	Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland (serpentinite)	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Dermatocarpon meiohyllizum</i>	silverskin lichen	CRPR 2B.3	Coastal prairie, Lower, montane coniferous, forest, North Coast, coniferous forest,	Low; suitable habitat may be present, two occurrences in Rock Spring approximately 1.9	None; species is unlikely to occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
			Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	miles from defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	
<i>Dirca occidentalis</i>	western leatherwood	CRPR 1B.2	North Coastal Coniferous Forest, Closed-cone Pine Forest, Mixed Evergreen Forest, Foothill Woodland, Chaparral, wetland-riparian	Low; suitable habitat may be present, 1 occurrence in Rock Spring approximately 1.9 miles west of defensible space and evacuation route treatment (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Eriogonum luteolum</i> <i>var. caninum</i>	Tiburon buckwheat	CRPR 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal prairie, valley grassland, serpentine	Low; suitable habitat may be present, 3 occurrences in Rock Spring approximately 1.9 miles west of defensible space and evacuation route treatment (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Fissidens pauperculus</i>	minute pocket moss	CRPR 1B.2	North Coast coniferous forest; grows on damp soil in dry streambeds and on stream banks from 33 to 3,360 feet in elevation	None; suitable unlikely to occur, most recent occurrence from 1963 on Mt. Tamalpais.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Gilia millefoliata</i>	dark-eyed gilia	CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Hesperolinon congestum</i>	Marin western flax	FT, ST, CRPR 1B.1	Serpentine soils; primarily serpentine bunch grass, chaparral	None; suitable unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
			or other low elevation grasslands		
<i>Holocarpha macradenia</i>	Santa Cruz Tarplant	FT, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal prairie along central coast, grassy areas, clay soil	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Horkelia marinensis</i>	Point Reyes horkelia	CRPR 1B.2	Coastal Strand, Northern Coastal Scrub, Coastal Prairie	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Horkelia tenuiloba</i>	thin-lobed horkelia	CRPR 1B.2	Chaparral; open areas on coastal hills and mountains	Moderate; suitable may be present, 10 occurrences within 0.5 miles on Hog Back Road, Gravity Car Road and Old Railroad Grade (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1); if work that could damage the flowering body occurs during the blooming season, surveys will be conducted and if encountered, the species and buffer will be flagged for avoidance (ES-1).
<i>Kopsiopsis hookeri</i>	small groundcone	CRPR 2B.3	North Coast coniferous forest. Open woods, shrubby places, generally on Gaultheria shallon	Low; suitable habitat may be present, nearest documented occurrence 0.5 miles away on Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail (CNDDDB 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1). Pre-treatment surveys will be conducted; if encountered, species and

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
<i>Layia carnosa</i>	beach layia	FT, ST, CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes, Coastal scrub (sandy)	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	buffer will be flagged for avoidance (ES-1). None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Lessingia micradenia</i> var. <i>micradenia</i>	Tamalpais lessingia	CRPR 1B.2	Chaparral, Valley Grassland	Low; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, nearest documented occurrence 1.2 miles north of defensible space and evacuation route treatment on Mt. Tamalpais (Calflora 2025).	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Lessingia germanorum</i>	San Francisco lessingia	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal scrub (remnant dunes)	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Navarretia rosulata</i>	Marin County navarretia	CRPR 1B.2	Closed-cone pine forest, chaparral	Low; suitable habitat may be present, nearest documented occurrence on 1.1 miles away on Mt. Tamalpais (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Pentachaeta bellidiflora</i>	white-rayed pentachaeta	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland (often serpentine)	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
<i>Plagiobothrys diffusus</i>	San Francisco popcornflower	CE, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal prairie, Valley and foothill grassland	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Pleuropogon hooverianus</i>	North Coast semaphore grass	ST, CRPR 1B.1	Broad-leaved upland forest, meadows and seeps, North Coast coniferous forest	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Polygonum marinense</i>	Marin knotweed	CRPR 3.1	Marshes and swamps (brackish, coastal salt)	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Quercus parvula var. tamalpaisensis</i>	Tamalpais oak	CRPR 1B.3	Moist woodland or forest areas, often below elevation of 35 ft, specifically on Mt. Tamalpais	Moderate; suitable habitat may be present, 21 occurrences within 2 miles northwest of defensible space and evacuation route treatment on Mt. Tamalpais, nearest documented occurrences 0.25 mi away on Sierra Trail and near Old Mill Creek (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1); if work that could result in mortality of individuals occurs, surveys will be conducted and if encountered, the species and buffer will be flagged for avoidance (ES-1).
<i>Sanicula maritima</i>	adobe sanicle	SR, CRPR 1B.1	Chaparral, Coastal prairie, Meadows and seeps, Valley and foothill grassland	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatments.	None; species is unlikely to occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
<i>Stebbinsoseris decipiens</i>	Santa Cruz microseris	CRPR 1B.2	Northern Coastal Scrub, Closed-cone Pine Forest, Mixed Evergreen Forest, Chaparral, Coastal Prairie	Low; suitable habitat may be present, nearest documented occurrence on 1.2 miles north on the north slope of Mt. Tamalpais (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Streptanthus batrachopus</i>	Tamalpais jewelflower	CRPR 1B.3	Closed-cone Pine Forest, Chaparral (serpentine)	Low; suitable may be present, nearest documented occurrence on 1.2 miles north on the north slope of Mt. Tamalpais (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Streptanthus glandulosus ssp. pulchellus</i>	Mt. Tamalpais bristly jewelflower	CRPR 1B.2	Chaparral, Valley Grassland	Low; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, 22 records within 2 miles of defensible space and evacuation route treatment, nearest documented occurrence on 0.9 miles west of defensible space and evacuation route treatment on Matt Davis Trail (Calflora 2025).	Low; species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Streptanthus glandulosus ssp. niger</i>	Tiburon jewelflower	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.2	Serpentine soils; southwest facing slopes of the Tiburon Peninsula	None; only known to occur on Tiburon Peninsula at Old St. Hilary's preserve, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Trifolium amoenum</i>	two-fork clover	FE, 1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub, Valley and foothill grassland (sometimes serpentine)	None; suitable habitat unlikely to occur, no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; species is unlikely to occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
Sensitive Wildlife					
<i>Dicamptodon ensatus</i>	California giant salamander	SSC	Meadows and seeps within North Coast coniferous forest, and riparian forest. Known from wet coastal forests near streams and seeps from Mendocino County south to Monterey County and east to Napa County. Aquatic larvae found in cold, clear streams, occasionally in lakes and ponds. Adults typically found in wet forests under rocks and logs near streams and lakes	Low; suitable habitat unlikely as species is highly associated with streams in wet coastal forests, but defensible space and evacuation route treatment may be within dispersal range. 7 occurrences documented 2010-2016; recent occurrences located in Fern Creek 0.5 miles from defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	Low; species is unlikely to occur, and work will not occur in suitable habitat, species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Rana boylei pop. 1</i>	foothill yellow-legged frog - north coast DPS	CE, SSC	Closely associated with rocky streams in a variety of habitats, including foothill hardwood, valley-foothill riparian, coastal scrub, mixed conifer, mixed chaparral, and wet meadows	None; suitable habitat does not occur. Single occurrence from 1955 occurred in Redwood Creek 0.85 miles from defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	Breeds in ponds and slow moving streams, may use grassland and	Low; suitable habitat unlikely to occur. Several streams begin within the defensible space and evacuation route treatment	None; species is unlikely to occur, and work will not occur in suitable habitat; species will be included in

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
			oak woodland for dispersal and foraging	situated at top of watershed, but streams lack ponds or slow moving water suitable for breeding and escape behavior; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatment, 2 recent occurrences are from 2004 and 2007 near Muir Beach approximately 2.75 miles away.	environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	marbled murrelet	FT	Breeds inland on mountains near coast	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatments.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>	western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Nests in coastal dunes and salt ponds	None; suitable habitat does not occur; no occurrences recorded within or near defensible space and evacuation route treatments.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	willow flycatcher	SE	Breeds in shrubby areas and willow thickets with standing water or along streams.	None; suitable nesting habitat unlikely to occur, potential for flyovers with 2 observations approximately 0.8 miles away in Muir Woods (eBird 2025).	None; species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	California black rail	ST, FP	Wetlands and marshes. Nests in higher elevations of salt and freshwater marshes and	None; suitable nesting or foraging habitat does not occur. 1 occurrence located 3 miles from defensible space and evacuation route treatment	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
			periodically inundated tall vegetation	near Richardson Bay, no eBird occurrences recorded (CNDDDB 2025).	
<i>Rallus obsoletus obsoletus</i>	California Ridgway's rail	FE, SE, FP	Resident in coastal salt marshes	None; suitable nesting or foraging habitat does not occur. 2 occurrences located 3 miles from defensible space and evacuation route treatment near Richardson Bay, no eBird occurrences recorded (CNDDDB 2025).	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i>	California least tern	FE, SE	Nests on beaches, mudflats, and sand dunes	None; suitable nesting or foraging habitat does not occur. Least terns forage over open water and nest in coastal dunes. Flyovers possible, though no occurrences nearby.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.
<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	northern spotted owl	FT, ST	Dense canopies of mature and old-growth forests. Nests in tree hollows	High; suitable nesting habitat likely to occur. One activity center and 129 positive observations within 0.25 mile of defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	Low; work would occur outside nesting season (NSO-1), or NSO protocol level surveys will be conducted (NSO-2). Treatment will focus on small trees and hazardous fuels; healthy, mature trees would not be removed. Removal of large hazard trees will occur with consultation with a qualified biologist (NSO-3). Dusky-footed woodrat nests would

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
					be retained as this species is an important prey item for NSO (NSO-4). NSO and prey species will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Bombus caliginosus</i>	obscure bumble bee	SSC	Narrow coastal range; associated with developed habitat and often seen foraging on blackberry, raspberry, or clover species	Low; suitable nesting and foraging habitat may be present within defensible space and evacuation route treatment. Difficult to distinguish from common <i>B. vosnesenskii</i> .	Low; limited potential for crushing of underground nests due to no off-road ground based equipment use; species can disperse and will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus pop. 1</i>	monarch - California overwintering population	FC	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby. Overwinter from November to February	Low; no occurrences recorded within defensible space and evacuation route treatments. Potentially suitable habitat is present in the form of floral resources within the defensible space and evacuation route treatments, but breeding is not likely due to lack of suitable breeding habitat. No historic overwintering documented within or in proximity to defensible space and evacuation route treatments.	Low; can disperse from other areas. Species life stages and host plant (milkweed) will be included in environmental training for avoidance (ET-1).
<i>Acipenser medirostris pop. 1</i>	green sturgeon - southern DPS	FT, SSC	Freshwater, saltwater, and estuaries	None; species does not occur in riparian habitat within defensible space and	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species does not occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
				evacuation route treatment. Species occurrence from 2021 occurred in Mare Island USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.	
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	tidewater goby	FE	Brackish water lagoons, estuaries, and marshes along the California coast	None; species does not occur in riparian habitat within defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species does not occur.
<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch pop. 4</i>	coho salmon - central California coast ESU	FE, SE	Federal listing applies to populations between Punta Gorda and San Lorenzo River. State listing includes populations south of Punta Gorda. Require beds of loose, silt-free, coarse gravel for spawning. Also need cover, cool water and sufficient dissolved oxygen	None; species does not occur in riparian habitat within defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species does not occur.
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys pop. 2</i>	longfin smelt - San Francisco Bay-Delta DPS	FE, ST	Aquatic, estuary. Euryhaline, nektonic and anadromous. Found in open waters of estuaries, mostly in middle or bottom of water column. Prefer salinities of 15–30 ppt. but can be found in a range of salinity from freshwater to seawater	None; species does not occur in riparian habitat within defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species does not occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	SSC	Found throughout California in all habitats but subalpine and alpine; Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting	Moderate; suitable roosting habitat is likely to occur within the defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	Low; work will occur outside the bat maternity roosting period or surveys conducted (RB-1) and roosting trees avoided (RB-2, RB-3, and RB-4). Bat roost avoidance will be included in environmental training (ET-1).
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	SSC	Found throughout California in all habitats but subalpine and alpine; Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting	Moderate; suitable roosting habitat is likely to occur within the defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	Low; work will occur outside the bat maternity roosting period or surveys conducted (RB-1) and roosting trees avoided (RB-2, RB-3, and RB-4). Bat roost avoidance will be included in environmental training (ET-1).
<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>	salt-marsh harvest mouse	FE, SE, FP	Marshes and wetland edges	None; suitable habitat does not occur, 1 occurrence from 1959 in Corte Madera Ecological Reserve along shoreline approximately 3 miles from defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species does not occur.
<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	northwestern pond turtle	FC, SSC	Freshwater ponds and streams	None; suitable habitat is unlikely to occur due to lack basking, underwater shelter, or nesting habitat within defensible space and evacuation route treatment. 2	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species is unlikely to occur.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive Status	Habitat Types	Potential to occur in treatment areas	Potential to be impacted by treatment
				recent occurrences from 2015 occur in Lake Lagunitas and Phoenix Lake, more than 2.5 miles north of defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	green sea turtle	FT	Marine	None; suitable habitat does not occur within defensible space and evacuation route treatment.	None; work will not occur in suitable habitat and species does not occur.

Notes:

Species with occurrences within 3 miles of project areas were examined. Species which are considered "extirpated" or those with occurrence data greater than 75 years old were removed from the analysis as they are not anticipated to occur in the vicinity of the work area. Species with occurrence data which was greater than 50 years old was examined for inclusion on a case-by-case basis.

FE	Federally Endangered	CR	California Rare
FT	Federally Threatened	CC	California State Candidate
FC	Federal Candidate	FP	Fully Protected
CE	California State Endangered	SSC	California State Species of Special Concern
CT	California State Threatened	CNPS	California Native Plant Society Ranks

Source: (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2025a; 2025b; California Native Plant Society 2025; Stebbins 2003; Baldwin et al. 2012)

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Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources¹³

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Equipment and vehicles for the defensible space and evacuation route activities would operate from existing roads and driveways adjacent to the work areas. No intense ground disturbing activities (e.g., discing) would occur. While some hand pulling of invasive species may occur, the potential to disturb cultural resources is generally low since this work results in little ground disturbance and no heavy equipment. Workers would participate in a cultural training and the Graton Rancheria would be notified of this project prior to proposed project implementation (CUL-1 and CUL-4). Should any documented cultural resources occur in the area, in accordance with a cultural records search, appropriate surveys and avoidance would occur prior to potentially ground disturbing activities (CUL-3). If a previously unidentified cultural resource is discovered, work would halt in the area and the resource fully avoided conducted (CUL-2). If any resources are discovered during planning or implementation that require monitoring to continue treatment in the area, a qualified archaeological would be present and, as appropriate, a tribal monitor would be invited to monitor during ground disturbance (CUL-5).

Heat from a wildfire or a prescribed burn may scorch, create a buildup of residue on the resource, fracture the resource, or destroy the resource (Sturdevant et al. 2009). Pile burning would be conducted so as to avoid impacts on cultural resources. Pile burning would only occur in areas that has been identified and inspected for the presence of cultural resources, depending on the location and previous use, as appropriate, or in areas that have had a cultural survey conducted and evidence of no resources to ensure avoidance of any cultural resources (CUL-3). Significant impacts on cultural resources and human remains would not occur.

Energy

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The vehicles and equipment conducting the defensible space and evacuation route activities would consume energy, including gas, diesel, and motor oil. Vehicle engines and fuel used during implementation of the proposed project would comply with State and local energy reduction and efficiency requirements. The use of fuel to implement the proposed project would be minimal. In addition, the proposed fuel consumption would be considered beneficial and not wasteful given the positive outcome of the work to create defensible space between occupied structures and open space areas as well as improve evacuation routes. Implementation of fuel reduction activities would not cause a significant impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.

¹³ No tribal consultation requirement is associated with filing a notice of exemption per Assembly Bill 52 (PRC §21080.3.1.(b)).

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Geology and Soils

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Vehicle travel to the work sites would generally occur on existing paved roads. Work sites would be accessed on foot, and operation of ground-based equipment would occur using existing paved roads adjacent to the work sites.

Soil erosion and loss of topsoil could occur during manual and mechanical vegetation cutting and removal through the exposure of bare soils or ground disturbance from pulling large vegetation. After the vegetation thinning is completed, erosion and topsoil loss through loss of root-soil matrix strength if root systems die is expected to be minimal. Root systems of larger vegetation would generally be left in place, minimizing the potential for erosion. Serpentine soils, which are typically vulnerable to erosion, are documented within the project area (Figure 2). While some soil types present in work areas may be more prone to erosion than others, vegetation removal and cutting that maintain at least 70 percent of groundcover would not result in substantial erosion (Lang and McDonald 2005). Erosion control devices would be installed (GEO-1) in areas where erosion could occur (e.g., steep slopes with apparent erosion). Pulling of large vegetation would not occur during rain events or when soils are saturated (GEO-3). Vegetation debris piles are localized and relatively small in size (up to 4 feet in diameter). Burn scars from pile burning would not be large enough to result in increased soil erosion and topsoil loss. Significant impacts related to erosion and loss of topsoil would not occur.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Vegetation thinning activities would involve manual and mechanical vegetation removal and pile burning within the defensible space sites and along roadways. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from pile burning would vary daily depending on the number of piles burned each workday. However, pile burns would have lower GHG emissions than GHG emitted from catastrophic wildfires. Use of vehicles and GHG. Project activities would not generate significant quantities of GHG emissions.¹⁴

The proposed project would involve vegetation thinning and would not typically remove any healthy, mature trees. Thinning can result in greater sequestration rates by reducing competition for the larger, more resilient trees (Forest Climate Action Team 2018). These processes are not quantified but would fluctuate during initial treatment and future maintenance. Due to the current higher fuel loads, it is anticipated that a net release of carbon from removal of vegetation could occur, at least in the near-term as the ecosystem fuel loads are restored closer to pre-fire

¹⁴ BAAQMD has established thresholds of significance for GHG emissions meant primarily for evaluating GHGs associated with land-use development or stationary-source projects, but the thresholds are not recommended for vegetation-management projects (Flores 2020).

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suppression conditions and wildland fire risk is minimized while defensible space is improved. The fluctuation would be insignificant compared to overall carbon stock in Marin County. Significant greenhouse gas emission impacts would not occur.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Trucks, vehicles, and equipment are used for ongoing fuels reduction activities throughout Marin County. Workers handling hazardous materials are required to adhere to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Cal/OSHA health and safety requirements to protect workers and minimize risks of accidental spills of fuels and lubricants. As part of the proposed project, spill prevention and response measures would be implemented that would ensure that hazardous materials are properly stored on-site and that any accidental releases of hazardous materials would be properly controlled and quickly cleaned up (HAZ-1). The proposed project would comply with all herbicide regulations (HAZ-4), including the City of Mill Valley Integrated Pest Management Policy where the proposed project would occur in City of Mill Valley lands and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and the Agricultural Worker Protection Standards (WPS). Herbicides prohibited by the EPA would not be applied, and the proposed project would comply with the requirements of the WPS to protect workers applying herbicides from occupational exposure. The proposed project would also require the minimization of herbicide drift to public areas, herbicide containers would be triple rinsed at an approved site, and signage would be placed in any herbicide application area within 500 feet of adjacent public recreation areas (HAZ-4). Off-road grading or other intense ground disturbance would not occur, ensuring that any potential existing contamination would not be disturbed and would not pose a risk to the environment or public. Pile burning would occur in areas of lowest risk for fire spread and under conditions to ensure control of the burn. Burning would only be performed with a burn permit by qualified personnel. Pile burning would adhere to all BAAQMD Regulation 5 Open Burning requirements. Work crews would maintain fire suppression equipment in work vehicles (HAZ-2). Significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would not occur.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Work areas would be mostly accessed using existing paved roads adjacent to the work areas. Riparian woodlands may be encountered but any vegetation trimming, or thinning would be conducted by hand and alteration to and deposition of debris avoided within the bed, channel, or bank of a waterway (SH-1). Herbicide mixing would occur in areas devoid of vegetation and where there is no potential of a spill reaching a waterway (HAZ-5). The majority of the proposed manual and mechanical vegetation removal activities would not result in significant ground cover removal and, thus, significant erosion and subsequent sedimentation. For the instances where erosion could occur, erosion control measures would be implemented (GEO-1). Burn piles would generally only be 4 feet in diameter and would not impact a large enough area to

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cause a significant change in stormwater runoff patterns that could result in sedimentation or siltation. Erosion and subsequent sedimentation of waterways would not occur and therefore significant water quality impacts would not occur.

Land Use and Planning

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Implementation of treatment activities would not involve any new development or changes to land uses that could physically divide a community. The proposed project is consistent with the objectives of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, the Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Mill Valley municipal code ordinance § 15.06 Wildland-Urban Interface, and the Mill Valley Fire Prevention & Vegetation Management Program (Marin County Fire Department (MCFD) 2023; Southern Marin Fire Protection District 2023; City of Mill Valley 2007; n.d.). All activities conducted would comply with local land use regulations and policies.

Mineral Resources

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Fuel reduction activities would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource because the work would occur within up to 100 feet of existing structures and up to 25 feet of road edges and would not permanently alter any features. Vegetation clearance is intended to increase defensible space between communities and open space and would not alter land uses, access, or subsurface areas that could impact mineral resources.

Noise

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed fuel reduction activities would occur on weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. This timeframe would conform with § 6.70.030 - Enumerated Noises for Marin County and § 7.16.080 for the City of Mill Valley where the proposed project would occur on land owned by the City of Mill Valley. Marin County limits construction to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, provided that the noise level at any point outside of the property plane of the project shall not exceed 90 dBA (Marin County 2005). The City of Mill Valley's construction noise requirements state that construction projects shall not take place between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, or at any time on Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday without issuance of a special permit (City of Mill Valley 2001). Most recreationalists or motorists are only in a single area for a short duration and would be able to move away from noisy areas with little impact on their experience. Residences would experience noise associated with activities, but it is anticipated that activities in any one location would only occur for a few hours. A single

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residence may be able to hear equipment operating for a day as activities progress along the roadways and defensible space areas. Measures to minimize noise disruption to nearby neighbors would be implemented, as needed (NOI-1). Exceedances of local noise standards would not occur (given the short duration of noise generation in any one location and existing noise levels) and significant noise impacts would not occur.

Population and Housing

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The workers implementing the defensible space and evacuation route treatment activities are anticipated to be sourced from the existing contractor and conservation crews in the region. As such, this proposed project would not induce population growth. No impact related to population and housing would occur.

Public Services

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth, which would indirectly necessitate more public services. No new or altered governmental facilities would be needed to provide public services as a result of the proposed project, and the proposed project would not result in increased demand for public services. No impact related to public services would occur.

Recreation

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Treatments would occur partially within the City of Mill Valley Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve and the Marin Municipal Water District Alpine/Kent Watershed. (see Figure 1). Fuel reduction activities would be performed within 100 feet of structures and 25 feet of road edges. Treatment areas and trails that are accessible to the public may be closed for short durations during fuel reduction activities. Treatment areas and trails that are accessible to the public may be closed for short durations during proposed project activities. Recreational trails would be unavailable if needed or flagged off during fuel reduction activities, treatments and pile burning would be for a short duration in one area, typically for only a few hours to a few days. Signs would be posted at each end of herbicide applications areas and any intersecting trails notifying the public of the use of herbicides in recreational areas (HAZ-5). Ample recreational opportunities would continue to be available within that preserve and surrounding the Southern Marin Zone (e.g., Muir Woods National Monument, other open space preserves). Any displaced recreationalists could continue to use the surrounding areas for the short time period that portion of the preserve is closed. The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce

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population growth, which could increase the use of recreational facilities. Significant recreational impacts would not occur.

Transportation

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Multiple crews could conduct fuel reduction activities within the defensible space and evacuation route treatment sites in a single day. A single crew of generally up to six workers would likely be working at a single work area and up to three crews may operate at a time. An estimated 6 to 36 daily one-way vehicle trips would occur, which would not exceed the screening threshold of 110 trips per day.¹⁵ The vehicle miles traveled associated with implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with State CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Pile burning could be conducted as a method of vegetative debris disposal. Pile burns would be performed away from roadways and would not be a hazard to passing motorists or recreationalists due to the small size of the burns and monitoring during the burn. No significant traffic impacts would occur.

Utilities and Service Systems

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Biomass generated from vegetation removal activities may be processed using a chipper and hauled to a processing facility if pile burning is not used. As the vegetation grows back and follow up maintenance is conducted in future years, additional vegetative materials would be chipped and trucked away. Materials would be trucked to the West Marin Compost, Marin Resource Recovery Center, or Green Waste Recycle Yard which have a permitted capacity of 3,870 tons per day, or other appropriate processing facility, and would be able to accept the chipped material (Marin Sanitary Service 2023; CalRecycle 2025). No impact related to utilities and service systems would occur.

Wildfire

Question	Yes	No
Relevant to the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for significant impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

¹⁵ The Office of Planning and Research identifies a screening threshold for a small land-use project as a project that generates or attracts fewer than 110 trips per day. Projects that generate fewer than this threshold may be assumed to cause a less-than-significant transportation impact (Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) 2018). Although a vegetation treatment project is not a land use project, it is assumed that the screening threshold would still apply to the project.

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The treatment sites are within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Local Responsibility Area (LRA) in very high and high fire hazard severity zones (CALFIRE 2024). The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce fuel loads, which would reduce the spread and intensity of a wildfire, should one occur and to provide defensible space for fire suppression crews to safely defend communities. Fuel reduction crews would maintain fire suppression equipment (e.g., Pulaski axe, shovel, fire extinguisher) in work vehicles during activities that can generate sparks or heat (HAZ-2). The proposed project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan. The proposed project does not involve installation or maintenance of any infrastructure that could exacerbate fire risk. The proposed project does not involve intense ground disturbing activities that could result in downslope or downstream flooding or landslides should a wildfire occur. Impacts on people and structures from increased fire risk would not occur.

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