



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
CALFIRE BEU- San Benito- Monterey
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January 13, 2025

Subject: Defensible Space Garland Ranch Ranger Station and Cooper Barn

To Whom It May Concern:

The CAL FIRE BEU/Monterey Unit has determined that vegetation treatments extending up to 100 feet from structures—particularly around the Garland Ranch Station compound, the historic Cooper Barn, and their associated outbuildings—may be implemented at Garland Ranch Regional Park, provided that such activities do not result in the take of, or negative impacts to, endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species potentially present in these areas. This determination is consistent with Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291, which requires defensible space around structures to reduce wildfire risk.

This determination has been made due to the accumulation of vegetative fuels that increase the likelihood of hazardous wildfire conditions during the upcoming fire season. Implementing fuel reduction measures in these areas, generally consistent with a Zone 0 through Zone 2 Defensible Space model as outlined in PRC 4291, will address unnaturally high fuel loads and help buffer critical park infrastructure, offices, and residential structures from catastrophic wildfire events.

Likewise, the CAL FIRE BEU/Monterey Unit has determined that vegetation treatments extending up to a 30-foot buffer along designated access roads used for emergency vehicle traffic may be implemented at Garland Ranch Regional Park, provided that these activities do not result in the take of, or negative impacts to, endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species potentially present in these areas. These emergency ingress and egress routes are at heightened risk of severe fire behavior due to overgrowth and dense fuel accumulation, particularly within 30 feet of the roadways.

Removing fuels in these areas, generally consistent with a Zone 3 Defensible Space model and the intent of PRC 4291, will mitigate unnaturally high fuel conditions and improve firefighter access, thereby facilitating timely, safe, and effective emergency response during wildfire incidents.

Sincerely,
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