
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHO: Kern County Fire Department

WHAT: An Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the *Pine Mountain Club Vegetation Project* is complete and available for public review and comment. The document addresses the environmental impacts that may be associated with activities related to the implementation of the project. The Kern County Fire Department, after completion of the Initial Study, finds that there is substantial evidence that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not necessary. Therefore, a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and CA Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.) has been issued on 3/16/2026. Mitigation measures are proposed to address impacts associated with Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Land Use and Planning, Noise, and Tribal Cultural Resources.

PROJECT: The proposed project consists of the Kern County Fire Department's (KCFD) implementation of vegetation treatment activities within an area of up to 212.42 acres in Kern County. The project would include manual and mechanical vegetation treatments and prescribed burning activities, including broadcast burns and pile burns, to reintroduce fire to the landscape, reduce heavy fuel loading, mitigate the risk of large wildfire, provide biological benefits, and support training opportunities for KCFD staff. Treatment activities would involve brush removal, trimming, tree felling and pruning, handline construction in steep or sensitive areas, and mechanical treatments using masticators, chippers, bulldozers, feller bunchers, and cable yarders to reduce fuels, create and maintain control lines, and establish fuel breaks. Vegetative slash generated by these activities would be treated through prescribed burning, chipping, or cable yarding, with broadcast burns occurring throughout the project site and contained using handlines, dozer lines, and/or non-burnable fuel breaks.

WHERE: A copy of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and all of the associated documents referenced in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are available for review on the Governor's Office of Planning and Research CEQAnet Web Portal (<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>).

HOW TO COMMENT OR GET MORE INFORMATION:

Anyone interested in commenting on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration should email your comments or questions to Kern County Fire Hazard Reduction Program at hazardreduction@kerncountyfire.org. The 30-day public review period for this Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration begins **March 25th 2026 and ends April 26th, 2026.** Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the review period to be considered.

DATED: March 16th, 2026