JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

1. Project Overview

	Proposed	Actual
Treated Acres	45.60	Project Not Finished
Start Date	03/15/2026	Project Has Not Started Yet
End Date	03/15/2028	Project Has Not Started Yet

Primary Project Objectives

Removal of hazardous, dead, and/or dying trees,

Removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation, CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans,

Removal of vegetation for community defensible space,

Removal of vegetation along roadways, high-ways, and freeways for the creation of safer ingress and egress routes for the public and responders and/or to reduce roadside ignitions,

Maintenance of previously established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects

Anticipated cooperating agencies and/or resources

CALFIRE/BEU Monterey,
Cypress Fire Protection District,
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC),
Monterey County State Parks,
California Conservation Corps

2. Applicant Information

Name

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)

Organization

Public Agency

3. Jurisdictional Information

Responsibility Area

State

CAL FIRE Unit

BEU

4. Commercial Component

Will this project generate revenue? - No

If yes, explain:

5. Acres by Treatment Type

Mechanical 0	**Manual** 45.6
Prescribed Herbivory 0	**Herbicide** 0
Pile Burning 0	**Broadcast Burning** 0
Cultural Burning	**Other**

0	0

Other Approved Activities

No Other Activities are approved for this project

6. Project Details

Description of Work

JSMPP is designated to protect the Monterey pine ecosystems and its associated flora and fauna. However, the Preserve also abuts the wildland urban interface; the preserve boundaries along Aguajito Road, Monhollon Road, Olmstead Road, and Loma Alt Road and the interior Jacks Peak Drive all serve as critical fire roads, both for firefighter access and as fuelbreaks offering the last lines of defense for the community. Decades without active fire/fuels management have lead to a high fuel load within an already high fire risk location. Lack of healthy fire regime has also lead to heigh loading of standing dead trees and dead and downed wood.

This project would create a strategic shaded fuelbreak along the roadside boundaries of the JSMPP, improving the benefit already offered by the existing roads. Mowing would be limited to the first 30 feet from the roadside. Understory thinning will continue from the edge of the road to 100 feet interior.

This project is consistent with and in support of the Pebble Beach CSD, Cypress FPD, and Carmel Highlands FPD Fire Defense Plans (2018) and will be conducted to meet Local and CALFIRE Standards.

Fuels Management

Vertical separation of fuels will be addressed by removing ladder fuels and limbing large trees up to 8ft. Small trees ≤8" DBH will be for removed (not to exceed a 25% total reduction in canopy cover. Standing dead trees will be removed from the buffer area, to reduce fuel load and ember cast.

Horizontal Fuels will be managed by manual thinning and chipping within the first 30 ft. Brush will be thinned to provide a functional mosaic with spaces between brush

an average of 2x the height of the brush. herbaceous brush will be retained at an average of 18" to provide habitat and ground cover.

Ground-based Equipment

Vegetation management work will conducted by trained crews under supervision of MPRPD Staff, CALFIRE, Cypress Fire District, and/or the CCC.

Brush cutters, chainsaws, pole-saws, weed-whips, hand tools, 4x4 trucks, UTVs will be used.

Vehicles/equipment will stay on established roads except under emergency situations.

No new roads will be built.

Slash Treatment

Woody debris/slash will be managed within the season that it is cut to prevent fuel buildup and to protect soils.

Material will either be chipped in place or lopped and scattered (no greater than 4in fuel bed thickness in sensitive areas).

Larger logs (>10" DBH) will be laid to the ground and retained for habitat.

Maintenance Plan

MPRPD will maintain the land through ongoing monitoring, retreatment and community engagement.

MPRPD staff will track vegetation recovery, invasive species control, and fuel loads annually to guide adaptive management.

The proposed project area is expected to require re-treatment (either mechanical treatment, prescribed herbivory, or prescribed burning) every 5-10 years, as needed.

MPRPD will partner with Cal Fire, local and regional partners for follow-up treatment.

On going maintenance will likely be dependent on grant funding and ongoing partnerships with CALFIRE and Cypress FPD.

7. Beneficial Fire Information

Burn Duration Estimate (Hours) -

Overnight Activity -

Impact on Smoke Sensitive Areas -

Burn Management

Smoke Sensitive Areas

Actions Taken

Public Notification

Joshua Carpenter

From: Mendez, Nicole@CNRA <nicole.mendez@resources.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Joshua Carpenter
Subject: CalEPA/CNRA SECRETARIAL SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION - JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project
Attachments: JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project_CDFW_Advisories.pdf; FINAL Fuels Reduction Authorization JSMPP Roadside Fuels Project.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)

Regarding Project ID: bfeb9f39-65f3-4fd6-8a48-f2a030f4d9be

Please refer to the attached letter of determination for the above-referenced project. Please note that prior to commencing project activities Applicant must submit a **Notice of Commencement** specifying the date activities will actually commence.

Of special note:

- Be advised that the **Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan** (EPP) referenced in the attached approval letter was recently updated December 2025; please review the updated requirements and guidance.
- **CDFW:** See attached advisory.
- **Water Boards**
  1. Work near watercourses, pollution prevention: Ephemeral drainages are mapped within and adjacent to the roadside treatment areas. Ensure vegetation removal, chipping, and slash management activities are implemented in a manner that prevents chipped material, slash, or disturbed soils from entering nearby drainages, which could convey sediment to downstream waters of the State, consistent with EPP Section 4(d).
  2. Steep slopes and erosion potential: The treatment area occurs on steep terrain. Ensure vegetation removal and roadside treatment activities are implemented in a manner that does not create concentrated runoff pathways or destabilize slopes where sediment could be delivered to downslope drainages, consistent with EPP Sections 1(g) and 4(d).
  3. Saturated soil conditions: Ensure vegetation removal, chipping, and other ground-disturbing activities do not occur during saturated soil conditions where soil disturbance could mobilize sediment toward nearby drainages, consistent with EPP Section 5(d).
  4. Woody debris and slash management: Ensure chipped material and slash are managed and placed in a manner that does not allow material to be mobilized into adjacent drainages, particularly along roadside slopes, consistent with EPP Section 4(d).
  5. Work from existing roads: The project description states vehicles and equipment will remain on established roads and no new roads will be constructed. Ensure all vegetation treatment

activities and access are limited to existing roads and previously disturbed areas to avoid ground disturbance that could result in sediment delivery to nearby drainages, consistent with EPP Sections 1(g) and 4(d).

Any questions related to your project should be directed to: **fuelsreductionsoe@resources.ca.gov**. Please reference your project name and project ID in your email. Thank you for your submission.

Nicole A. Mendez (she/her)
Deputy Director

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

715 P St, 20th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Twitter | Instagram | LinkedIn | YouTube
Sign up for our Agency newsletter, *The Buzz: News to Know*, and check out our blog, *NatureWorks.*

Date: April 7, 2026
Project No.: bfeb9f39-65f3-4fd6-8a48-f2a030f4d9be - JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

SECRETARIAL SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION

BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2025, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in the State of California due to the catastrophic wildfire risks created by forest conditions across the state. It was extended by Executive Order N-38-25, signed on December 31, 2025. The Proclamation suspends state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to the extent necessary for expediting certain critical fuels reduction projects. It requires individuals or entities who desire to conduct such activities under the suspension to request that the appropriate agency secretary, or the secretary's designee, make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under this suspension. (That determination is referred to herein as the "secretarial suspension authorization" or "suspension authorization.") The Secretary for CalEPA and the Secretary for CNRA must use sound discretion to ensure that the secretarial suspension authorization serves the purpose of accelerating critical fuels reduction projects, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment.

The Proclamation further provides that critical fuels reduction projects are eligible for a suspension authorization only if they are initiated and if they include as a primary objective at least one of the following activities ("permissible primary objective"): removal of hazardous, dead, and/or dying trees; removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans; removal of vegetation for community defensible space; removal of vegetation along roadways, highways, and freeways for the creation of safer ingress and egress routes for the public and responders and to reduce roadside ignitions; removal of vegetation using cultural traditional ecological knowledge for cultural burning and/or prescribed fire treatments for fuels reduction; or maintenance of previously-established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects.

The Proclamation further requires that any activities performed under the suspension be in accordance with the State Environmental Protection Plan describing how such actions will balance expeditious fuels reduction and environmental protection. The Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan was developed by CalEPA, CNRA, the California Air Resources Board, the California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (each a Regional Water Board), the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the California Geological Survey, to apply to fuels reduction projects granted a secretarial suspension authorization. The EPP is appropriate for application to certain fuels reduction activities. It specifies methods

intended to allow the fuels reduction activities to continue without delay while still preserving the intent of the suspended laws and protecting the environment.

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) (Applicant) has submitted a request for a suspension authorization (Application) on December 30, 2025. Applicant has included a description of the work, a description of treatment activities, a long term maintenance/retreatment plan and included a project map. The activities described in the Application are hereinafter referred to as the Project. The information contained in the Applicant's Application is hereby incorporated by reference.

CONDITIONS OF SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION

The suspension of laws set forth below is conditioned on the following:

1. **Applicability:** This suspension authorization applies only to the Project. It does not apply to any activities not set forth in the Application. This suspension authorization does not alter any requirements imposed by any law not specifically identified herein, including local and federal laws, and any material modification of or departure from the Project described in your Application may independently trigger obligations under the state laws identified in this authorization.
2. **EPP:**
    - The Project must be conducted in conformance with the EPP. This suspension authorization is only valid to the extent the Applicant and individuals conducting Project Activities comply with the EPP. Failure to comply with the EPP, and with any applicable federal and non-suspended state and local environmental laws and regulations, may result in an enforcement action by CalEPA departments and/or CNRA departments.
    - Staff of the State Water Board, appropriate Regional Water Board, California Air Resources Board, California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the California Geological Survey will have the opportunity to inspect operations and verify proper implementation of best management practices and other measures set forth in the EPP. Inspections may occur throughout the life of the project and within eight months of filing a Notice of Completion to the State. Staff will ensure they provide reasonable notice to the applicant for all site visits. Applicant must work with staff to ensure access is granted.
    - The EPP may be amended at any time during planning or implementation of project activities. The Project must be conducted in conformance with the then-applicable EPP. If such amendment occurs, CNRA and CalEPA will notify all applicants of such changes.
3. **Qualified Responsible Party**:
    - All Project work must be conducted by or under the direction of a qualified responsible party, such as a Registered Professional Forester, Certified Rangeland Manager, qualified vegetation management contractor, qualified incident commander, certified arborist, certified burn boss and/or authorized cultural burner.
    - If no qualified responsible party was listed in the Application, or the Applicant substitutes a different or adds additional qualified party/parties, Applicant must submit a Notice of Qualified Responsible Party prior to commencement of on-the-ground work.

4. **Landowner Consent**: Applicant must have a legal entitlement to enter the property or consent of landowner of record.
5. **Commencement and termination of on-the-ground project activities:**
    - On the ground fuel project activities must commence no later than October 15, 2026.
    - Applicant must submit a Notice of Commencement to CalEPA, CNRA, and the applicable CAL FIRE unit prior to commencing on-the-ground project activities and specifying the date on which on-the-ground project activities will actually commence. Ideally, this will be the same date set forth in the Application. The Notice of Commencement must set forth the target completion date.
    - Operations should conclude no later than 2 years after commencement of on-the-ground project activities.
    - In the event operations will not conclude before the target completion date identified in the Notice of Commencement, Applicant must submit of a Notice of Amended Completion Date prior to the previously identified target completion date.
    - Applicant must submit a Notice of Completion promptly after on-the-ground work has been completed. The Notice of Termination will specify the date on which on-the-ground project activities concluded and identify the total acres treated.

SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION BY CALEPA

I, Alana Mathews, Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement and General Counsel, have been delegated authority by Secretary for Environmental Protection Yana Garcia, to issue suspension authorizations where appropriate. I find that Applicant's Project is eligible for a suspension authorization because it was submitted by May 1, 2026, and has the permissible primary objectives of removal of hazardous, dead, and/or dying trees; removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans; removal of vegetation for community defensible space; removal of vegetation along roadways, highways, and freeways for the creation of safer ingress and egress routes for the public and responders and to reduce roadside ignitions; maintenance of previously-established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects. I further find that issuance of a suspension authorization in this case would serve the purpose of expediting critical fuels reduction activities and that Applicant's compliance with the EPP in conducting the Project will protect public health and the environment.

Based on the foregoing, I find that the Project is eligible to be conducted under the suspension authorized by the Proclamation. This suspension authorization, however, is conditioned on compliance with the conditions listed above. In the exercise of my discretion under the Proclamation, I hereby authorize the Project to proceed pursuant to the suspension of the following laws within the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board or appropriate Regional Water Board and the following laws within the jurisdiction of the California Air Resources Board:

- California Water Code, § 13160, and all regulations pursuant to that section; requires an applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity which may result in any discharge to navigable waters to file an application for a water quality certification from the appropriate Regional Water Board or the State Water Board.

- California Water Code, § 13260, and regulations pursuant to that section; requires that any person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, within any region that could affect the quality of waters of the state shall file with the appropriate Regional Water Board a report of the discharge.
- Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, §§ 80100-80330; establishing smoke management guidelines for agricultural and prescribed burning.

Suspension Approved by:



April 9, 2026

Alana Mathews, Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement and General Counsel
California Environmental Protection Agency **Date**

SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION BY CNRA

I find that Applicant's Project is eligible for a suspension authorization because it was submitted by May 1, 2026, and has the permissible primary objectives of removal of hazardous, dead, and/or dying trees; removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans; removal of vegetation for community defensible space; removal of vegetation along roadways, highways, and freeways for the creation of safer ingress and egress routes for the public and responders and to reduce roadside ignitions; maintenance of previously-established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects. I further find that issuance of a suspension authorization in this case would serve the purpose of expediting critical fuels reduction activities and that Applicant's compliance with the EPP in conducting the Project will protect public health and the environment.

Based on the foregoing, I find that the Project is eligible to be conducted under the suspension authorized by the Proclamation. This suspension authorization, however, is conditioned on compliance with the conditions listed above. In the exercise of my discretion under the Proclamation, I hereby authorize the Project to proceed pursuant to the suspension of the following laws within the jurisdiction of the following agencies:

- California Fish and Game Code (FGC) § 86 where "Take" shall be avoided. Take is defined as to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.
- FGC § 1600 et seq.; Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, notification of significant alteration to stream channel, bank, or bed.
- FGC § 1900 et seq.; Native Plant Protection Act.
- FGC § 1927 et seq.; Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act.
- FGC § 2000; Taking is unlawful except as provided.
- FGC § 3503 and § 3503.5; Protection for bird nests and eggs and birds of prey.
- FGC § 3511; California Fully Protected Birds.
- FGC § 3513; California Migratory Bird Protection Act.
- FGC § 4700; California Fully Protected Mammals.
- FGC § 5050; California Fully Protected Reptiles and Amphibians.
- FGC § 5515; California Fully Protected Fish.
- FGC §§ 5650 and 5652; Deposition of deleterious material into waters of the state.

- FGC § 5901; Fish passage.
- FGC § 5937; Sufficient water for fish.
- FGC § 5948; Obstruction of streams.
- FGC §§ 2050-2115.5: California Endangered Species Act; prohibition of the take of any species of wildlife designated as endangered, threatened, or candidates for listing.
- Public Resources Code §§ 30000-30900: California Coastal Act
- Public Resources Code §§ 21000-21189.91: California Environmental Quality Act
- All regulations implementing the code sections identified above.

Suspension Approved by:



Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency

April 14, 2026
Date

JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

CDFW Biological Resources Advisories

1. (a) The Project has the potential to impact the following species and sensitive natural resources: the State threatened and fully protected California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*); the State and federally endangered coastal dunes milk-vetch (*Astragalus tener var. titi*), Hickman's cinquefoil (*Potentilla hickmanii*), Menzie's wallflower (*Erysimum menziesii*), Monterey clover (*Trifolium trichocalyx*), and Tidestrom's lupine (*Lupinus tidestromii*); the State endangered and federally threatened beach layia (*Layia carnosa*); the State endangered seaside bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus ssp. littoralis*); the State threatened and federally endangered Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria*); the federally endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*), and Yadon's rein orchid (*Piperia yadonii*); the State and federally threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense pop. 1*); the State threatened bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) and tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*); the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens*), and western snowy plover (*Anarhnchus nivosus nivosus*); the State rare Pacific Grove clover (*Trifolium polyodon*); the State proposed endangered burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*); the federally proposed endangered California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis pop. 1*); the federally proposed threatened monarch (*Danaus plexippus plexippus pop. 1*), southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*), and western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*); the California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1 Congdon's tarplant (*Centromadia parryi ssp. congdonii*), Eastwood's goldenbush (*Ericameria fasciculata*), Fort Ord button-celery (*Eryngium montereyense*), Kellogg's horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata var. sericea*), Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), Pajaro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pajaroensis*), pink Johnny-nip (*Castilleja ambigua var. insalutatal*), Robbins' broomrape (*Aphyllon robbinsii*), Santa Cruz clover (*Trifolium buckwestiorum*); the CRPR 1B.2 California screw moss (*Tortula caliufornica*), Carmel Valley bushmallow (*Malacothamnus involuratus*), Carmel Valley malacothrix (*Malacothrix saxatilis var. arachnoidea*), Fort Ord spineflower (*Chorizanthe minutiflora*), Gowen cypress (*Hesperocuparis goveniana*), Hickman's onion (*Allium hickmanii*), Hooker's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos hookeri ssp. hookeri*), Hospital Canyon larkspur (*Delphinium hutchinsoniae*), Hutchinson's larkspur (*Delphinium hutchinsoniae*), Jolon clarkia (*Clarkia jolonensis*), marsh microseris (*Microseris paludosa*), northern curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuate ssp. nigrescens*), pine rose (*Rosa pinetorum*), Point

Reyes horkelia (*Erigonum nortonii*), saline clover (*Trifolium hydrophilum*), San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*), sand-loving wallflower (*Erysimum ammophilum*), sandmat manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pumila*), Santa Cruz microseris (*Stebbinsoseris decipiens*), Toro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montereyensis*), twisted horsehair lichen (*Sulvaria spiralifera*),and woodland woollythreads (*Monolopia gracilens*); and the CRPR 1B.3 Pinnacles buckwheat (*Eriogonum notyonii*).

(b) CDFW advises the applicant contact the USFWS regarding federally listed species.

(c) Please refer to EPP Section 1(d) regarding identifying and marking sensitive resources prior to project commencement, and EPP Section 3 which includes BMPs for sensitive biological resources. There are several known sensitive biological resources within treatment areas and it is unclear if these areas can be fully avoided, per EPP Section 3(a) the applicant shall contact CDFW regarding location and avoidance of sensitive biological resources prior to project activities, please email R4Timber@wildlife.ca.gov.

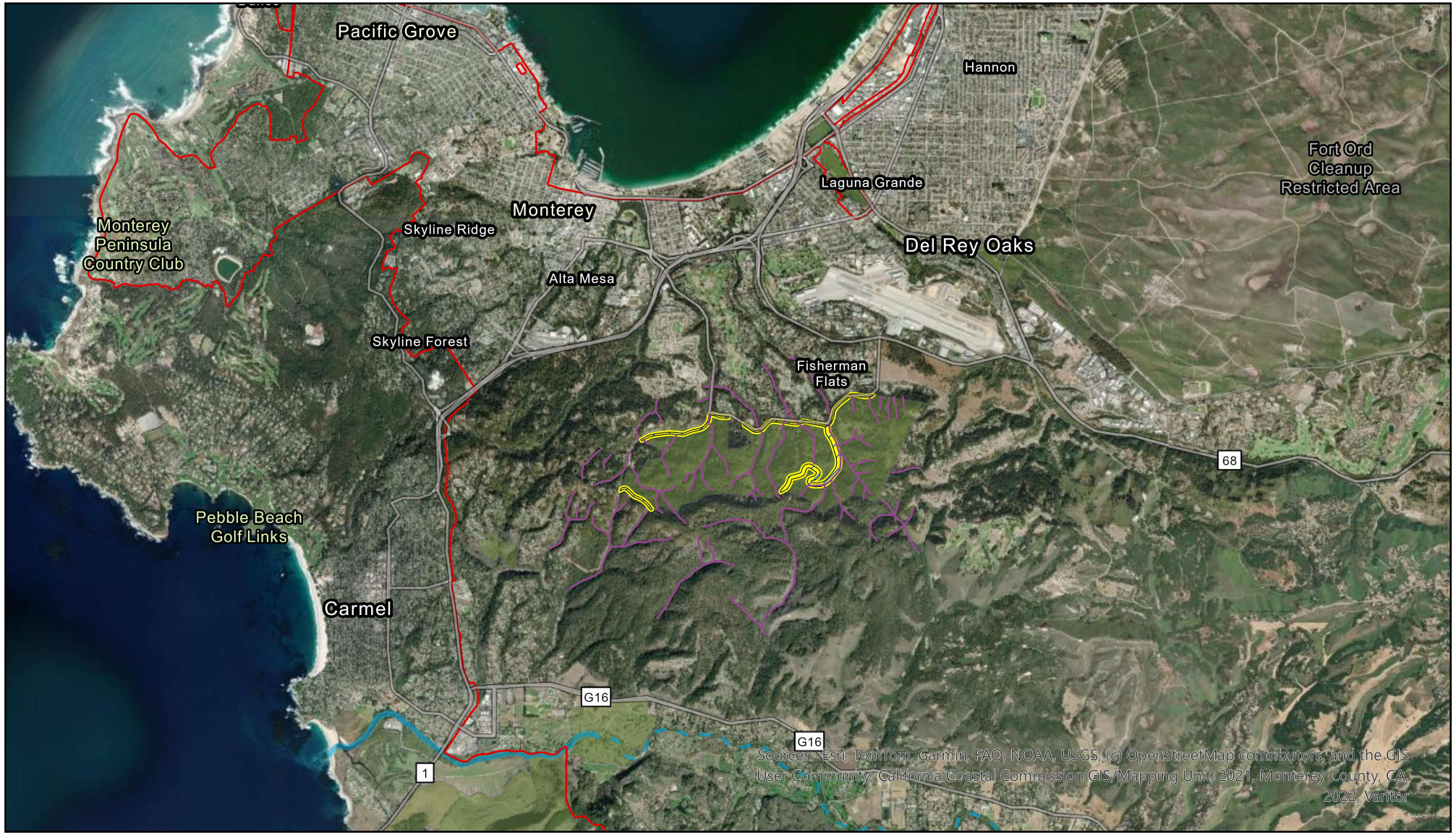
2. Several project points are adjacent to or within 50-feet of intermittent streams. Heavy equipment shall not operate within the perennial stream buffer per EPP section 4(a) & (d); and Section 5(b), burn piles shall be placed in a manner to help prevent their entering surface water bodies per EPP 5(b).

3. Project activities may occur near or within potential California Tiger Salamander (CTS) habitat. Potential or known breeding habitat shall be protected with a minimum 250-foot no-disturbance buffer. Slash shall not be piled or scattered within known or potential CTS upland habitat.

4. Please be advised that future maintenance will be subject to the Fish and Game Code. Please contact CDFW at R4Timber@wildlife.ca.gov for future maintenance activities.

JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

Upper Right: 121°46'5"W 36°37'20"N



Legend

- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Ephemeral Stream
- UnderstoryThiningArea
- Fuels Treatment Boundary
- MPRPD_LandHoldings_S
- Coastal_Zone_Boundary

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

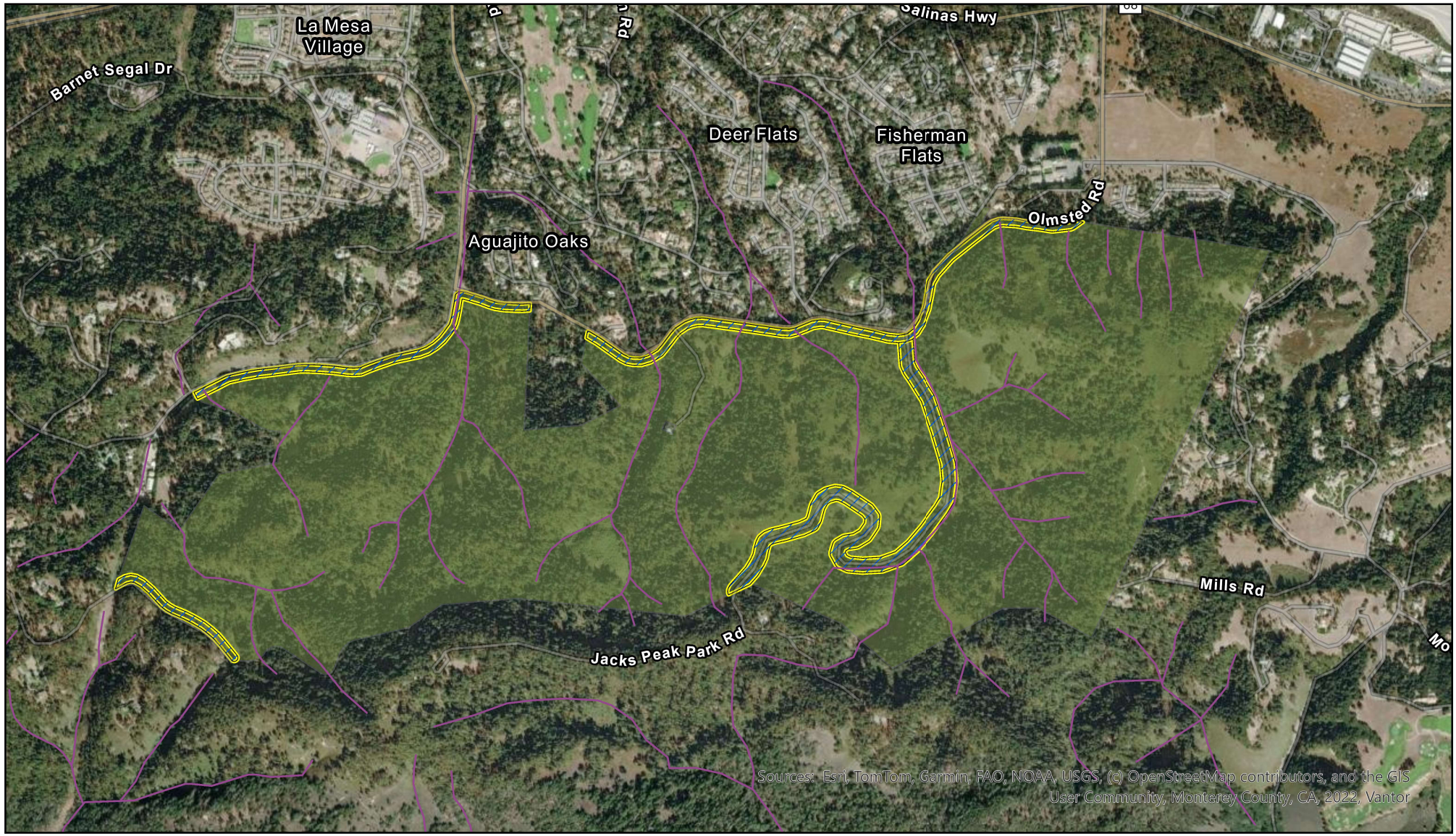
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Author: Joshua Carpenter

Copywrite: MPRPD 2025

JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

Upper Right: 121°50'12"W 36°35'2"N



Legend

- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Ephemeral Stream
- UnderstoryThiningArea
- Fuels Treatment Boundary
- MPRPD_LandHoldings_S

0 0.17 0.35 0.7 Miles

N

Author: Joshua Carpenter

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JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

Upper Right: 121°46'5"W 36°37'20"N



Legend

- Perennial Stream
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- MPRPD_LandHoldings_S
- Coastal_Zone_Boundary

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

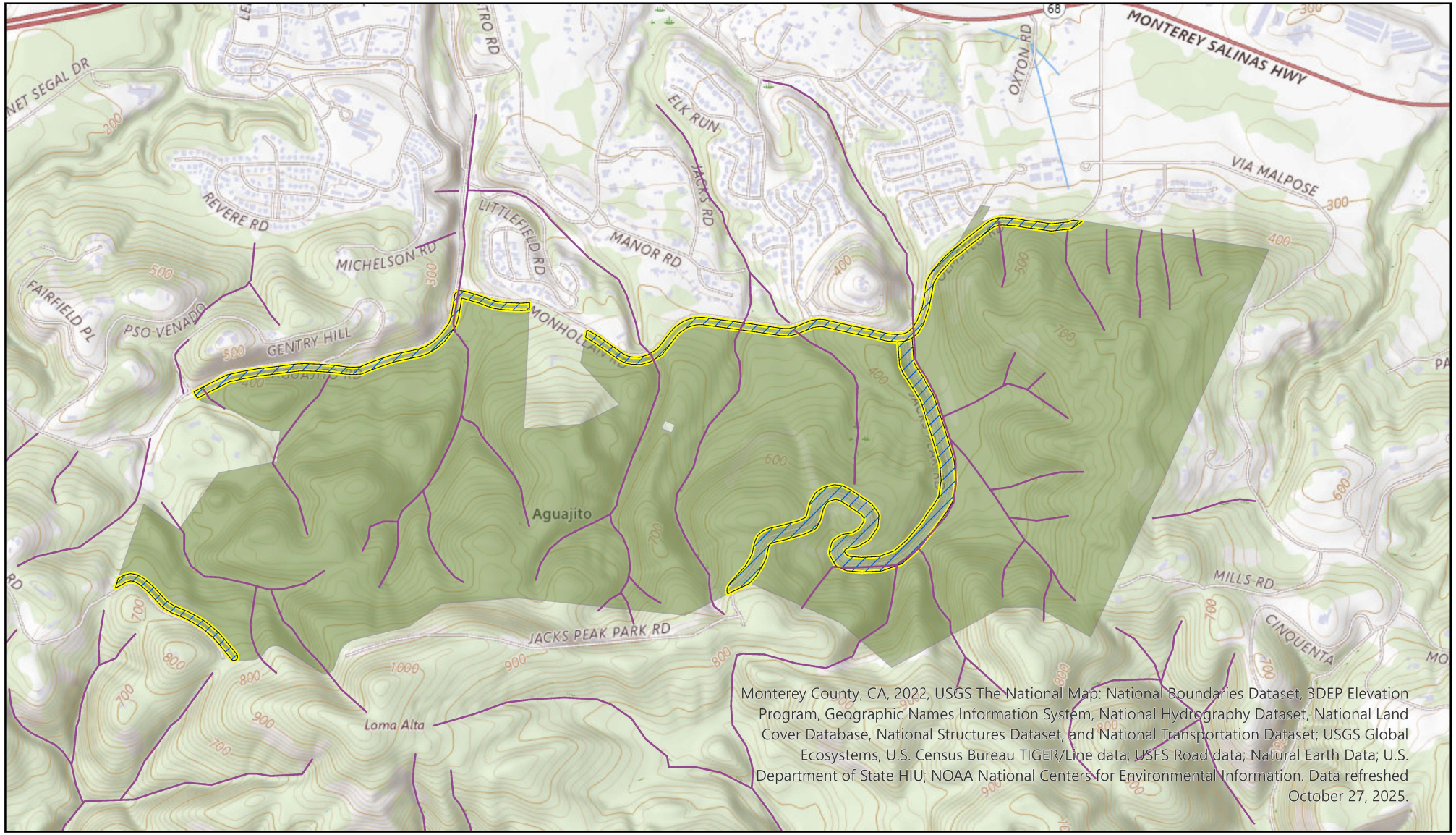
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JSMPP Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

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0 0.17 0.35 0.7 Miles

N

Author: Joshua Carpenter

Copywrite: MPRPD 2025