Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Lead Agency) East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
P.O. Box 5381, Oakland, CA 94605-0381
(Address)

County Clerk / County of Contra Costa County
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Project Title: East Bay Regional Park District Defensible Space Project

Project Applicant: East Bay Regional Park District

Project Location – Specific:

The project encompasses vegetation treatments in defensible space areas within 200 feet of structures on East Bay Regional Park District property in Contra Costa County. The total project area would be 591 acres within Contra Costa County, dispersed across multiple small areas.

The legal description of the project area is:

T01N R01E Sec. 1, 7, 8, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, 25, 28, T01N R01W Sec. 2, 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 29, 32, T01N R02E Sec. 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, T01N R02W Sec. 6, 8, 11, 17, 18, 19, 25, 29, 30, 32, 33, T01N R03E Sec. 3, 14, 23, T01N R03W Sec. 1, 2, 10, 11, 13, 24, 31, 32, T01N R04W Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 32, 36, T01N R05W Sec. 2, 9, 23, 25, 26, 27, T01S R01E Sec. 10, 13, 14, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, T01S R01W Sec. 5, 6, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 26, 29, 30, 32, 35, T01S R02E Sec. 3, 4, 10, 29, 30, T01S R02W Sec. 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 36, T01S R03E Sec. 17, 21, 26, 27, 29, 32, 33, T01S R03W Sec. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 24, 27, T02N R01E Sec. 27, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, T02N R01W Sec. 3, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 36, T02N R02E Sec. 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, T02N R02W Sec. 7, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 29, 30, 33, T02N R03E Sec. 34, T02N R03W Sec. 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 21, 24, 28, 36, T02N R04W Sec. 1, 2, 11, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 30, 35, 36, T02N R05W Sec. 24, 25, 36, T02S R01E Sec. 14, T02S R01W Sec. 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 34, 35, T03N R03W Sec. 32, 33, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian (M.D.B.M.)

Project Location - City: Throughout Contra Costa County **Project Location - County:** Contra Costa

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

East Bay Regional Park District has approved the implementation of vegetation treatments for reduction of fire fuel and wildfire risk by establishing defensible space or fuel breaks surrounding structures within East Bay Regional Park District lands and adjacent neighboring residences abutting Park District lands. The project would implement treatments in defensible space areas to comply with local and State ordinances designed to mitigate the risks of wildland fire, particularly locations classified as high and very high fire hazard severity zones by the Office of the State Fire Marshall. Project activities could include manual thinning of understory and trees, chipping of material, mechanical thinning of shrubs and trees, pruning of tree branches, removal of ladder fuels, mowing, grazing, and selective herbicide application to manage invasive species and resprouting vegetation. Dead, dying, and diseased trees could also be removed, particularly if they pose a hazard to structures or increase the risk of crown fire and active fire behavior. Non-native and fire-prone tree species would be targeted for removal where the trees present a fire hazard to structures. The project area would consist of East Bay Regional Park District property (see attached figure) in areas that qualify for the California Environmental Quality Act exemption under Public Resource Code Sections 21080.49(c) or 21080.49 (d) which specify that vegetation would only be removed within 200 feet of structures. Desired post-treatment conditions would be a well-spaced healthy native forest and plant community strategically managed to reduce wildfire risk by hindering fire from reaching tree crowns, slowing the rate of spread of fire, and minimizing flame length.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: East Bay Regional Park District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: East Bay Regional Park District

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));

☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:

☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Sec. 21080.49(c); 21080.49(d)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project meets the requirements of a CEQA statutory exemption under Public Resource Code section 21080.49(c) "*A project consisting of the establishment or enhancement of residential home hardening or defensible space for wildfire risk reduction within 200 feet of a legal structure located in a high or very high wildfire hazard zone*" and 21080.49(d) "*A project consisting of a fuel break that extends up to 200 feet from structures, including the clearance of flammable vegetation and trees less than 12 inches in diameter as measured at chest height.*"

In areas within high or very high wildfire hazard severity zones (as defined by the Office of the State Fire Marshall), the project would follow Section 21080.49(c) to implement vegetation treatments for defensible space within 200 feet of legal structures. For areas outside high or very high wildfire hazard severity zones, the project would follow Section 21080.49(d) to construct a fuel break within 200 feet of structures, including the removal of vegetation and trees less than 12 inches in diameter at chest height.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Kristen Van Dam Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 510-544-2324

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

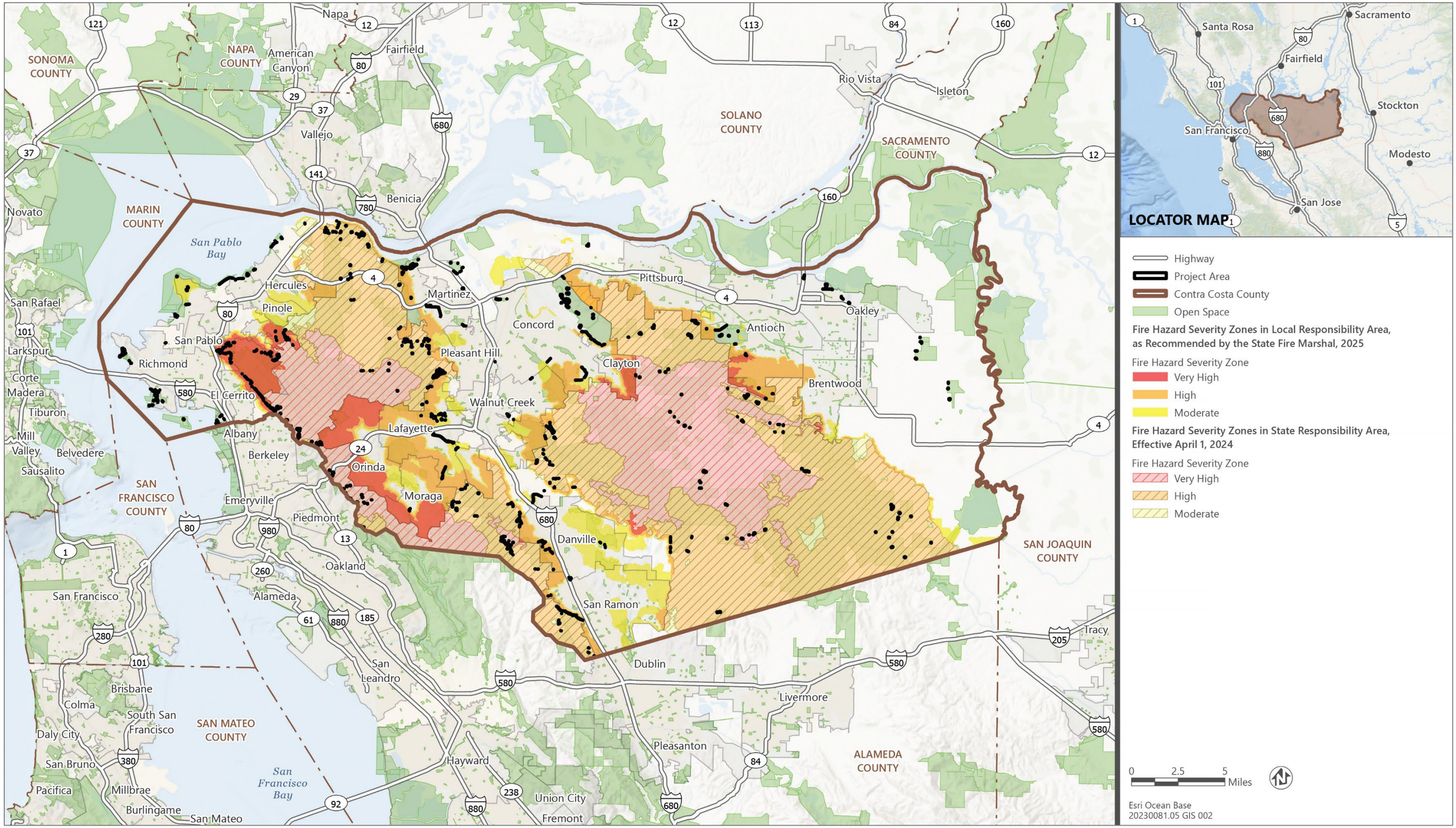
Signature: Neoma Lavalle Date: 10/6/2025 Title: Planing Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Section 21080.49, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21080.49(c), 21080.49 (d) Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at LCI: _____

Revised 2011



Source: Data downloaded from CAL FIRE in 2026; adapted by Ascent in 2026.

East Bay Regional Park District Defensible Space Project, Contra Costa County

EBRPD_Def_Space_Contra_Costa_NOE

Final Audit Report 2026-10-06

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