NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

FROM: **Marin County Parks and Open Space District**
1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 750, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.marincountyparks.org (415) 473-6387

TO: ☒ **Office of Planning and Research**
PO Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ **Marin County Clerk**
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code

FILED
10/24/25
SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By O. Lobato, Deputy
21 - 2025 - 166

Date: October 21, 2025

CEQA Lead Agency: California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

CEQA Responsible Agency: Marin County Parks and Open Space District

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: **Greater Mill Valley Fuel Break**

Project Location (include county): Alto Bowl, Blithedale Summit, and Camino Alto Open Space Preserves and Bothin Marsh, Mill Valley-Sausalito Path, Marin County

Background: The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board of Forestry) was the CEQA Lead Agency for the California Vegetation Treatment Program's Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP PEIR), which directs implementation of vegetation treatments within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and for which a Notice of Determination was filed on December 30, 2019. Consistency with the CalVTP PEIR is demonstrated through preparation of a Project Specific Analysis (PSA) analyzing proposed activities by the project proponent.[1] Proposed projects must overlap the "treatable landscape" as defined by CalFire and may extend beyond the treatable landscape and remain consistent with treatment types and treatment activities covered by the CalVTP PEIR, in which case the project proponent may prepare a joint PSA and Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR.

The MWPA is a joint powers authority created for the purpose of funding, planning, and implementing wildfire risk reduction activities in cooperation with its 17 member agencies and is also providing funding and support for the proposed project. The MWPA staff and member agencies worked with consultants to model and design the proposed project and then completed the CEQA compliance utilizing the California Board of Forestry's (CalFire) CalVTP Program EIR. The MWPA met with CalFire staff who confirmed that the project and the approach of conducting CEQA analysis through a PSA and PEIR Addendum were consistent with the CalVTP PEIR process. The MWPA coordinated with the Southern Marin Fire Department (SMFD) and the Marin County Fire Department (MCFD) to define the project and as a Project Proponent, prepared a PSA and Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR consistent with CEQA and the process outlined in the CalVTP PEIR. The MWPA Board of Directors adopted Resolution 25-008 on August 21, 2025 that the project qualifies as an activity within the scope of the CalVTP and PEIR and adopted the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and approved the project. The MWPA filed a Notice of Determination on the PSA after their Board's approval. The project would be implemented on private and public lands including lands managed by the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) and Marin County Parks (MCP), and therefore the MCOSD and MCP are each a Project Proponent as defined in the CalVTP PEIR and is a Responsible Agency pursuant to CEQA. The MCOSD's Board of Directors and the Marin County Board of Supervisors adopted Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and approved the portion of the project on MCOSD open space preserves and MCP land. The MCP is filing this Notice of Determination in the capacity of a CEQA Responsible Agency and Project Proponent utilizing the CalVTP PEIR. For the portions of the proposed project that would be implemented on MCOSD and MCP lands, the MCOSD and the County are referred to herein as the "Project Proponent," and acting as a responsible agency under CEQA, respectively. Implementation of the proposed project on land owned and managed by the MCOSD and MCP would be permitted through right-to-enter agreements in coordination with SMFD and MCFD.

POSTED 10/24/25 **TO** 11/23/25

[1] For the purposes of implementing the CalVTP, a project proponent is a public agency that provides funding for vegetation treatment or has land ownership, land management, or other regulatory responsibility in the treatable landscape and is seeking to fund, authorize, or implement vegetation treatments consistent with the CalVTP. If through the Project Specific Analysis (PSA) a project proponent determines that a proposed project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR, then the project proponent would act as a responsible agency pursuant to CEQA. A regulatory agency seeking to use the CalVTP PEIR to issue any secondary approval or permit for vegetation treatments would also be a responsible agency.

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Location: The purpose of the proposed project is to create and maintain a continuous fuel reduction and wildfire resilience zone around the City of Mill Valley, residential communities in southern unincorporated Marin County including Muir Woods Park, and small areas within the boundaries of the City of Larkspur and Town of Corte Madera to reduce wildfire risk including wildfire intensity and rate of spread, and to provide strategic locations for firefighters and emergency personnel to fight a wildfire in the event of ignition. The total project area is 673 acres including 345 acres of fuel break and 328 acres of wildland urban interface (WUI) work, of which 153.4 acres of fuel break and 51.8 acres of WUI work is within MCOSD open space preserves and 5 acres of fuel break area is within MCP's Mill Valley-Sausalito Path, as shown on Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed Project Acreage Within MCOSD and MCP Lands

MCOSD Preserve/MCP	300-foot Fuel Break Area	WUI Fuel Reduction Area	Total Treatment
Alto Bowl	21.6		21.6
Blithedale Summit	81.4	28.4	109.8
Camino Alto	50.4	23.4	73.8
Bothin Marsh: Mill Valley-Sausalito Path	5.0		
Total	**158.4**	**51.8**	**210.3**

Project Description: The purpose of the proposed project is to create and maintain a continuous fuel reduction and forest health restoration zone around the City of Mill Valley to reduce wildfire risk including wildfire intensity and rate of spread, and to provide strategic locations for firefighters and emergency personnel to fight a wildfire in the event of ignition. The proposed project would conduct vegetation management activities to create an approximately 23-mile-long continuous shaded fuel break within a 345-acre project area in the greater Mill Valley area and a WUI fuels reduction area up to 328 acres adjacent to the fuel break. The proposed project would reduce excess and ladder fuels within a fuel break 200-foot wide and adjacent wildland areas to restore ecological health to resemble pre-fire suppression conditions by enhancing native, fire-resilient plant communities, primarily through invasive species removal, removing lower tree limbs, thinning small trees and understory species, and removal of dead and down woody debris. Treatment methods range include manual, ground-based mechanical treatment, prescribed herbivory, and the use of herbicides. Treatment methods and prescriptions would vary by cover type in the project site. The condition of the treatment areas after treatment would be monitored annually or as appropriate depending upon the vegetation types and presence of broom, and maintenance treatments would be performed as needed. Project implementation would begin in Fall 2025. Manual and ground-based mechanical treatments would continue through 2030. Prescribed herbivory, herbicide application, and pile burning would occur as needed. The proposed project includes the following two primary components:

1. Initial vegetation treatment and maintenance of a 23-mile-long continuous shaded fuel break within a 345-acre analysis area around structures in the WUI, at the periphery of communities adjacent undeveloped open spaces; and
2. Initial vegetation treatment and maintenance within several extended areas of vegetated open space between the fuel break and structures or in areas with structures intermixed in heavily vegetated areas within the 328-acre Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels reduction analysis area.

This is to advise that Marin County Parks, as a Responsible Agency through the Marin County Board of Supervisors, has approved the above-described project on **October 21, 2025** and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project.

1. The project [☒ will ☐ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☒ A Project Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigations measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☒ were ☐ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

This is to certify that the final Project Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR, with comments and responses and record of project approval, and the associated CalVTP PEIR, is available to the General Public at the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority administrative office located at 28 Liberty Ship Way, Ste 2800; Sausalito, CA 94965.

Signature:

Chris Chamberlain

Chris Chamberlain, Director and General Manager
Marin County Parks and Open Space District

Date: October 21, 2025

Contact: Michelle Julene, Senior Regulatory Open Space Planner at Michelle.Julene@MarinCountygov or 415.444.6740

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.