

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research

U.S. Mail:

P.O. Box 30441400

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

Tenth St., Rm 113

Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

Public Agency: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Address: P.O. Box 94426, Sacramento, CA 92444-2460

Contact: Shannon Johnson, Staff Chief

Phone: (530) 338-8197

Email: shannon.johnson@fire.ca.gov

Lead Agency, if different from above

Public Agency: University of California, Santa Cruz

Address: 1156 High Street Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Contact: Erika Carpenter, Principal Environmental Planner

Phone: 831-212-0187

Email: escarpen@ucsc.edu

Project Proponent, if applicable

Title: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

Address: 2425 Porter Street, Suite 19 Soquel, CA 95073

Contact: Laurel Bard, Forest Health Project Manager

Phone: 831-205-4486

Email: lbard@rcdsantacruz.org

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: UC Santa Cruz Wildfire Vegetation Management Project

Project Location: Santa Cruz County

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) is providing funding to help implement treatments on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands on the University of California Santa Cruz (UC Santa Cruz), immediately northwest of the city of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County. UC Santa Cruz has prepared a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and addendum for the project as a later activity covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Project (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the UC Santa Cruz Wildfire Vegetation Management Project, which entails implementation of vegetation treatments on up to 2,017 acres; CAL FIRE is providing funding to the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County to implement treatments on up to 165 acres. The proposed treatment types (WUI Fuel Reduction, Fuel Break, and Ecological Restoration) and treatment activities (manual thinning and mastication) are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR and the writ of mandate issued by the Superior Court of San Diego on November 14, 2025 in *California Chaparral Institute and Endangered Habitats League v. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection*, and pursuant to PRC § 4483, have been designed to avoid type conversion in areas where chaparral and/or coastal sage scrub plant communities may be present. Maintenance treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment types and activities used in the initial treatments. The purpose of these treatments is to promote forest and watershed health, reduce fuel load, and demonstrate efficacy of climate beneficial prescriptions.

This is to advise that CAL FIRE (☐ Lead Agency ☒ Responsible Agency) has approved the above-described project on August 13, 2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP Program EIR) was previously prepared (SCH# 2019012052) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. A Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum was prepared for the UC Santa Cruz Wildfire Vegetation Management Project. This analysis determined the project is within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR and consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2).
4. The CalVTP Program EIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project, and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant environmental impacts identified in the CalVTP Program EIR.

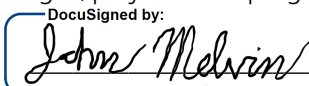
Dated Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

4. Mitigation measures and standard project requirements from the CalVTP Program EIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project specific mitigation measures are required.
5. The implementation of applicable CalVTP Program EIR mitigation measures and standard project requirements will be monitored and reported pursuant to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that was adopted for this project.
6. The previous statement of overriding considerations in the CalVTP Program EIR was reaffirmed and adopted for this project by CAL FIRE.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the UC Santa Cruz Wildfire Vegetation Management Project PSA and Addendum and record of project approval for the CalVTP Program EIR are available to the public on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection webpage with the environmental documentation associated with individual approved CalVTP projects:
<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp-homepage-and-storymap/>.

Signature:  _____
John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date: 8/13/2026