

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
(DEIR) FOR THE OAKLAND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AND NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING ON DEIR**

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and Notice of Public Hearing on the same.

**LEAD AGENCY/PROJECT SPONSOR:** The City of Oakland

**CASE NO:** TBD

**CEQA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER:** 2019110002

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The areas included within the VMP encompass City-owned parcels and the areas within 30 feet of the edge of roadsides located within the City's Very High Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) as designated by CAL FIRE, and defined in Section 4904.3 of the Oakland Fire Code (Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 15.12). Specifically, as shown in **Figure 1** (attached), the VMP Area includes: 419 City-owned parcels, ranging in size from <0.1 acres to 235 acres and totaling 1,924 acres. Parcels have been divided into the following categories: urban and residential (51.2 acres), canyon areas (188.7 acres), ridgetop areas (130.2 acres), City park lands and open space (1,522.9), other areas (24.5 acres), and medians (6.1 acres). "Other areas" are developed City-owned properties in the VMP Area that include fire stations (nos. 6, 7, 21, 25, and 28), City facilities (parking lots, police stations), paved areas, and parks and playgrounds (e.g., Montclair Park). The VMP also includes roadside areas along 308 miles of roadways within the City's VHFHSZ, which includes surface and arterial streets, State Routes 13 and 24, and Interstate 580. The parks, recreational and open space areas discussed in the OVMP are as follows: Beaconsfield Canyon, Garber Park, Dimond Canyon Park, Shepherd Canyon Park, Leona Heights Park, North Oakland Regional Sports Complex, Grizzly Peak Open Space, City Stables, Sheffield Village Open Space, Knowland Park and Arboretum, King Estates Open Space Park, Joaquin Miller Park, Tunnel Road Open Space, Marjorie Saunders Park, and Oak Knoll.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The City has determined that there are areas within Oakland that are at high risk of wildfire, and that vegetation management/fuels reduction will significantly reduce wildfire risk. The VMP outlines a framework for managing fuel loads and vegetation on City-owned properties and along roadways in the City's VHFHSZ to reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic wildfire, such as the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire. Implementation of the VMP would involve thinning, pruning, removal, and otherwise modification of trees and vegetation within the VMP area to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire occurring and to minimize/slow the spread of a wildfire, should one occur. The City has identified the following primary goals to guide preparation of the Plan and its implementation:

- Reduce wildfire hazard on City-owned land and along critical access/egress routes within the City's designated VHFHSZ;
- Reduce the likelihood of ignitions and extreme fire behavior to enhance public and firefighter safety;
- Implement practices to avoid or minimize impacts to natural resources;
- Maintain an active role in regional efforts to reduce wildfire hazard in the Oakland Hills.

The goals, objectives, and recommendations identified in the VMP are based on a combination of evaluating existing field conditions and current vegetation and fire risk conditions at City parcels;

analyzing spatial datasets of environmental and wildfire risk factors in a Geographic Information System (GIS); conducting GIS-based analysis and modeling to identify areas that may be subject to extreme fire behavior; identifying locations within the VMP area that may present increased ignition potential or otherwise contribute to increased fire hazard; and receiving feedback and guidance from many stakeholders through various meetings, site visits, and written comments.

The VMP describes various vegetation management techniques that may be employed depending on site conditions, including hand labor, mechanical processes (e.g., mowing), herbicide use, and grazing. Appropriate vegetation management techniques to be employed at a specific site would be identified by OFD personnel during annual workplan development. On an annual basis, OFD staff would conduct field assessments of vegetation conditions in the VMP area to guide development of such annual vegetation management work plans. These plans would identify specific treatment types, area or properties to be treated, implementation timing, and other monitoring and tracking needs.

The VMP also identifies best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented during vegetation management activities to reduce or avoid impacts to natural resources present in the VMP area.

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD:** The City invites comments on the Draft Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and DEIR during a 45-day comment period that begins on November 24, 2020 and ends on January 7, 2021 at 5:00 PM. The City prefers that written comments be submitted via email at: [DEIR-comments@oaklandvegmanagment.org](mailto:DEIR-comments@oaklandvegmanagment.org). Please reference **VMP DEIR Comments** in all correspondence. Comments may also be submitted via mail to the following address:

Horizon Water and Environment, LLC  
Attn: Ken Schwarz, Principal, VMP DEIR Comments  
266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210  
Oakland, CA 94610

Comments will also be received at the public meetings to be held as noticed below. Written comments submitted via e-mail and mail can be provided no later than **January 7, 2021 at 5:00 PM.**

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** The DEIR and the Draft VMP are available for review online at: [www.oaklandca.gov/projects/oakland-vegetation-management-plan](http://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/oakland-vegetation-management-plan).

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** In accordance with the revised Emergency Order No. 3 of the City of Oakland that was adopted due to the outbreak of COVID-19, meetings of the Oakland City Council and of the Planning Commission are being conducted online, rather than in person.

The City Planning Commission will conduct a public meeting on the DEIR for the project on **December 16, 2020 at 3:00 PM.**

For more information about how to participate in this meeting, please visit: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/planning-commission>

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared for the project under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to the Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et. seq.* The DEIR analyzes potentially significant environmental impacts in the following categories: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Historic Resources (including Tribal Cultural Resources), Energy, Geology and Soils (including Geological and Seismic Hazards), Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Global Climate Change, Hazards and Hazardous Materials,

Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise and Vibration, Recreation, Transportation, and Wildfire. The DEIR identifies one significant and unavoidable environmental impact related to a temporary increase in noise levels that exceed local noise standards due to VMP activities.

The City of Oakland is hereby releasing this Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), finding it to be accurate and complete and ready for public review. Members of the public are invited to comment on the DEIR and the project. There is no fee for commenting, and all comments received will be considered by the City prior to finalizing the DEIR and making a decision on the project. Comments on the DEIR should focus on the sufficiency of the DEIR in discussing possible impacts on the physical environment, ways in which potential adverse effects might be minimized, and alternatives to the project in light of the DEIR's purpose to provide useful and accurate information about such factors.

If you challenge the environmental document or project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the hearings described above, or in written correspondence received on or prior to January 7, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Following the close of the public review period for the DEIR, the City will prepare a final EIR, incorporating and responding to all comments received during the public comment period, for consideration by the Planning Commission, at a date for which notice shall be provided. As required by CEQA (§21092.5), the final EIR, including written responses to the comments submitted by public agencies, will be provided to commenting agencies at least 10 days prior to certification. For further information, please contact Angela Robinson Piñon, at (510) 238-3707 or at [arobinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov](mailto:arobinsonpinon@oaklandca.gov).

November 24, 2020



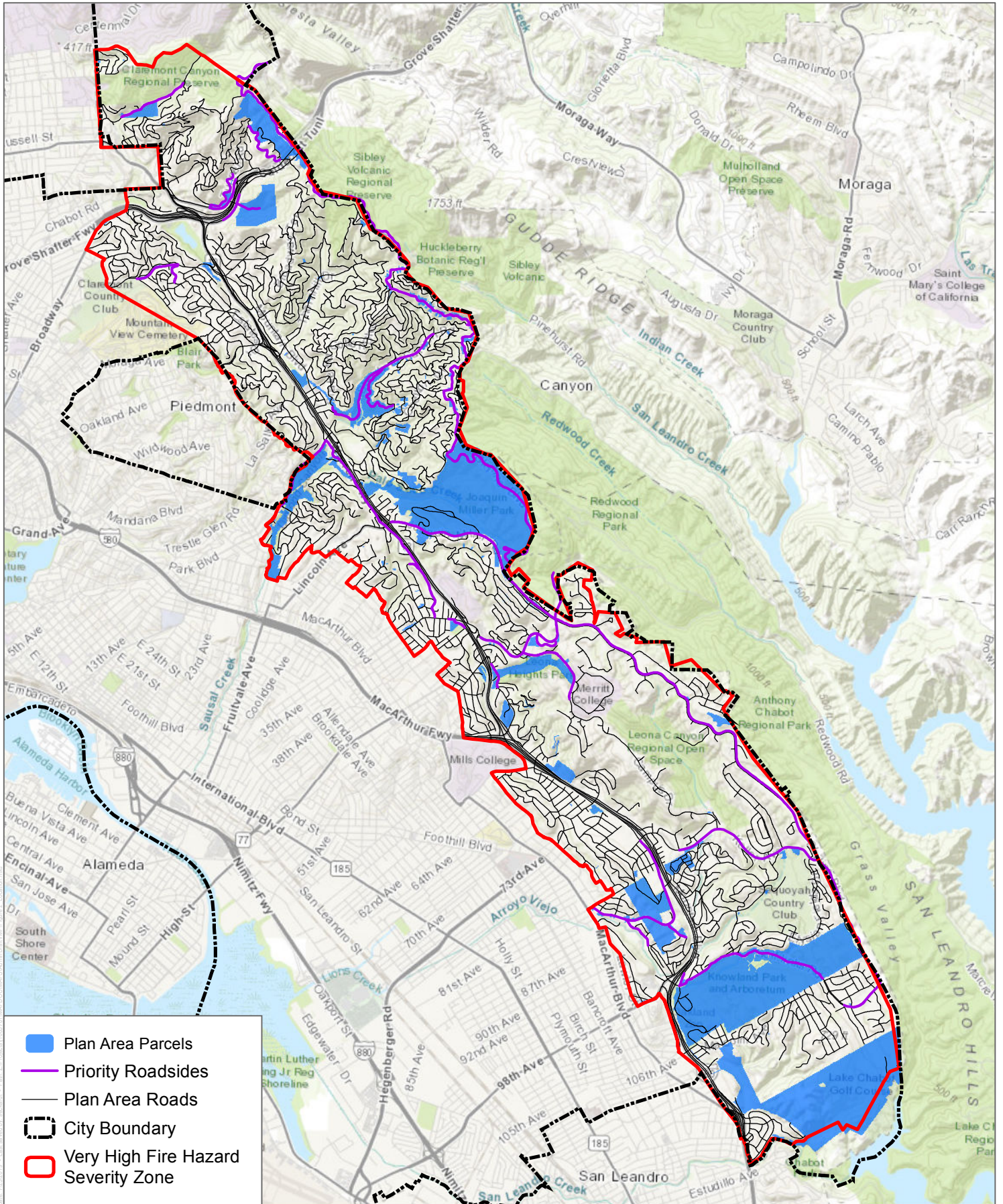
for

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EDWARD MANASSE  
City of Oakland  
Environmental Review Officer

Attachment:

Figure 1, Location Map



SOURCE: ESRI 2017; City of Oakland 2017

**FIGURE 1**  
Location Map