

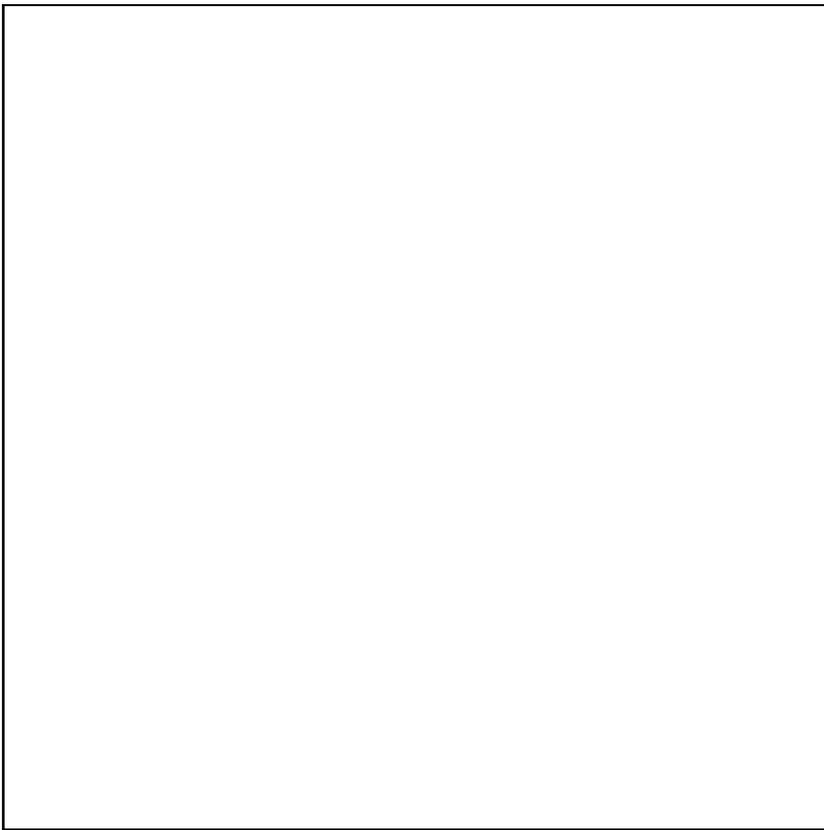
Mikayla Vaba

From: Jillian Knox
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Mikayla Vaba
Subject: FW: Public Notice: Availability of Final EIR - Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: UC Berkeley Capital Strategies <capitalstrategies@berkeley.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 10:02 AM
To: OPR State Clearinghouse <State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov>
Subject: Public Notice: Availability of Final EIR - Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan





PUBLIC NOTICE

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Availability of Final EIR: Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan

University of California, Berkeley has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan (WVFMP).

Project Description: The Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan for the UC Berkeley Hill Campus (Plan Area) is proposed by UC Berkeley to treat vegetation that could become fire fuel within the 800-acre Plan Area. The WVFMP includes implementation of four vegetation treatment types across the Plan Area, which are referred to as evacuation support treatments, temporary refuge areas, fuel break treatments, and fire hazard reduction treatments. Five types of vegetation treatment activities are proposed to implement the four vegetation treatment types; these include manual treatment, mechanical treatment, prescribed broadcast burning, managed herbivory (livestock grazing), and targeted ground application of herbicides.

The WVFMP also identifies two fuel break projects, four temporary refuge areas, and three fire hazard reduction projects in designated locations (project areas) within the Plan Area. Fuel breaks are proposed on Claremont Ridge and between the Hill Campus and the Hearst Gate to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The temporary refuge areas are proposed adjacent to Claremont Avenue, in two areas along Jordan Fire Trail, and adjacent to Centennial Drive in the Lawrence Hall of Science parking lot. The fire hazard reduction

projects include vegetation treatments in Strawberry Canyon, Claremont Canyon, and along Frowning Ridge. These nine specific projects are collectively referred to as the Identified Treatment Projects.

Implementation of the various treatment types and activities are reviewed for use throughout the Plan Area at a programmatic level, and the nine Identified Treatment Projects are studied at a project level of detail in the EIR. The near-term implementation of the Identified Treatment Projects along with the longer-term implementation of treatment activities studied at a program level, together comprise the proposed “project,” as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. Upon certification of the EIR, UC Berkeley will implement the proposed Identified Treatment Projects, whereas future vegetation treatment projects must be evaluated to determine whether such activities have been analyzed in the EIR. Such evaluations must ascertain whether these future vegetation treatment projects are consistent with the activities contained in the WVFMP and would have effects that were analyzed in the EIR. If UC Berkeley finds that the impacts were analyzed in the EIR and no new or substantially more severe significant effects could occur or no new mitigation measures would be required for a later treatment project, the project can be found to be within the scope of this EIR. In this circumstance, no additional CEQA documentation would be needed (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168[c][2] and [4]). The documentation used to substantiate the “within the scope” finding would provide the substantial evidence required to reach that conclusion.

Environmental Review: The CEQA environmental review process for the WVFMP commenced on November 20, 2019, with UC Berkeley’s issuance of a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR. The NOP was issued to provide responsible and trustee agencies, property owners, and other interested parties with a description of the proposed WVFMP and information on its potential environmental effects, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a).

Comments on the NOP were accepted during a 30-day review period that began on November 20, 2019, and ended on December 20, 2019. UC Berkeley held a public scoping meeting on December 2, 2019, to inform interested parties of the project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to give oral and written comments on the scope and content of the EIR. A total of 34 written comments and 9 oral comments were received during the scoping process.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR was issued on August 14, 2020, initiating a 52-day public review period that ended on October 5, 2020. Comments on the Draft EIR and Draft WVFMP were accepted during the public review period. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions placed on in-person gatherings throughout California, UC Berkeley hosted an online public session to receive public comments on the Draft EIR, rather than hold an in-person event. The online public session was held on the evening of September 14, 2020, and conducted via a live video feed. Participants were invited to have their public comments on the Draft EIR read aloud during the public session. A total of 40 written comments were received during the public review period from agencies, organizations, and private individuals. One additional written comment was received outside of the review period for a total of 41 comments received on the Draft EIR.

The Final EIR comprises two volumes: Volume I includes responses to comments; the appendices to this volume include comment letters received on the Draft EIR and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs. Volume II presents the Final Environmental Impact Report, as revised, and appendices include the WVFMP, public notices, and various technical studies.

Approval: On February 9, 2021, the Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley is scheduled to consider approval of the WVFMP and certification of the Final EIR.

Download: [Final Environmental Impact Report, Vol. 1 \(PDF\)](#)

Download: [Final Environmental Impact Report, Vol. 1 - Appendicies \(PDF\)](#)

Download: [Final Environmental Impact Report, Vol. 2 \(PDF\)](#)

Download: [Final Environmental Impact Report, Vol. 2 - Appendicies A \(PDF\)](#)

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Project Inquiries: (510) 495-5786 or planning@berkeley.edu

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Under the direction of the Vice Chancellor of Administration, Capital Strategies provides a full suite of planning, design, real estate, construction, and development services to UC Berkeley. Capital Strategies includes real estate professionals, architects, planners, engineers, construction managers, and administrative specialists, working together to serve the campus community.

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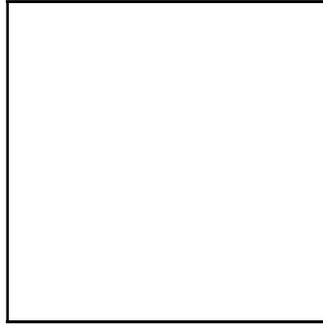
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