

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
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*Making Conservation
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5/5/2020 late

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 5, 2020

MAY 06 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: Shake Omo Vegetation
 Management Plan
 SCH # 2020049011

Mr. Patrick McDaniel
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 2840 Mt. Dansher Rd.
 Camino, CA 95709

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project/Plan Name: Shake Omo Vegetation Management Plan

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

Thank you for providing Caltrans the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Shake Omo Vegetation Management Plan proposed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Under the Plan, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection would be establishing and maintaining fuel break to create and maintain Defensible Fuel Zone Profiles (Shaded Fuel Breaks) as a part of the Community Fuel Break System which is designed to protect the community and the watershed values of the area from uncontrolled wildfire, provide a defensible location for firefighting operations and evacuations, and preserve the conifer overstory and enhance wildlife habitat.

General Comments

- There should be contingency plans for the worst-case scenario, the burn requiring closure of State Route (SR) 88 should it get out of control and jump the highway.
- Caltrans has traffic safety concerns related to smoke from prescribed burns limiting visibility on the State Highway System (SHS). Please consider sight distance and logistics staging of workers, equipment, and activities.
- At the point before work begins, please alert and coordinate with the local Caltrans Maintenance Region Manager and Superintendent to request assistance with public notification via portable changeable message signs and traffic management.

Specific Comments

If the Burn Plan scope for the Plan includes Caltrans-owned highway acreage along SR 88, please add a reference in three places in the document:

- I. List of Participating Property Owners (or controllers):

- Rx North 036-AEU.00
- Rx North-o36-AEU.01
- **Caltrans District 3, El Dorado County SR 88**

1.2 Burn Area Description:
A. Plan Locations

The plan area is located along two major county roads; Shake Ridge Road and Omo Ranch Road in the upper reaches of the Cosumnes River Watershed along the Northern edge of Amador County, and southern edge of El Dorado County, and **includes acreage along SR 88.**

Plan Objective:

5. **Reduce the likelihood of road ignitions by thinning dense fuels along county roads and state highway.**

Transportation Management Plan

A Transportation Management Plan (TMP) should be prepared with Caltrans input to outline the process of minimizing the Shake Omo Vegetation Management Plan related traffic impacts and delays associated with the prescribed burns and vegetation control adjacent to proposed SHS areas throughout the State. This plan would provide a framework for the implementation of traffic control strategies and timely distribution of traffic related information to emergency services and the local citizens and businesses throughout the life of the Shake Omo Vegetation Management Plan.

The TMP is an approach for alleviating or minimizing work-related traffic delays by the effective application of traditional traffic handling practices that may include innovative combination of various strategies. These strategies include public awareness campaigns, motorist information, incident management, construction methods, demand management, and alternate route planning. Depending on the complexity of the work or magnitude of anticipated traffic impacts, a TMP may provide lane requirement charts, Standard Special Provisions (SSPs) for maintaining traffic. The schedule and staging of logistics for workers, equipment, and activities are a requirement to properly communicate, plan, and execute coordination and implementation efforts for these activities in work zone areas.

Caltrans Transportation Management Plan Guidelines:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/tmp>

Encroachment Permit

- Any staging or work in Caltrans' right-of-way (R/W) will require an encroachment permit.
- Any work to occur in Caltrans' R/W, including temporary shoulder or lane closures, requires a Caltrans encroachment permit. Any temporary constructed access will be

required to be removed upon completion. Also, installation of permanent signs, as department policy, are not permitted within Caltrans' R/W.

- We request that California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection engage with Caltrans District Traffic Operations and Permits staff for interaction regarding any encroachment permit, impacts to the SHS and its travelers, traffic control measures or other mitigation measures, and other requirements such as tree trimming and removal procedures. [[Appendix K](#) (2018 update) of the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Manual has specific provisions for tree trimming and tree removal in Caltrans' R/W].
- To apply for an encroachment permit, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five sets of plans clearly indicating Caltrans R/W must be submitted to:

For El Dorado County:
Hikmat Bsaibess
California Department of Transportation
District 3, Office of Permits
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901
(530) 755-6357

For Amador County:
Rhodel De Claro
California Department of Transportation
District 10, Office of Permits
1976 East Charter Way
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 948-7891

Hydrology and Drainage

- The clearing of these areas may affect the watersheds, potentially creating an increase in peak surface water runoff. Peak runoff discharge for the 10 and 100-year storm events to the Caltrans' R/W and to highway drainage facilities must be reduced to at or below the pre-construction levels. This may be accomplished through the implementation of storm water management Best Management Practices (i.e., detention/retention ponds or basins, sub-surface galleries, on-site storage and/or infiltration ditches, etc.).

Biology

- There are large mature trees in the area, inside Caltrans' R/W, that are at risk and the potential impact due to this proposed Plan's activities. These trees may provide habitat for nesting birds. If the plan will occur during migratory bird season (February 15 – September 1), a pre-work bird survey will be required. If an active bird nest is observed, a protective buffer will be established to protect the nest until the young have fledged. The size of protective buffers will be determined in coordination with California

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Department of Fish and Wildlife and using applicable species-specific survey and monitoring protocol guidelines.

Please continue to keep us informed of this plan and any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Bo Wu at (916) 651-8197 or bo.wu@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



CHRISTIAN BUSHONG
Branch Chief, Local Development-Intergovernmental Review
Headquarters

c: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse