



GENERAL MANAGER
Ana M. Ruiz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jed Cyr
Larry Hassett
Karen Holman
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker
Yoriko Kishimoto
Curt Riffle
Pete Siemens

30 April 2021

RE: Notice of Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (SCH# 2020049059)

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (Program) Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). Adoption and implementation of the Program by Midpen is considered a discretionary action and is, therefore, subject to CEQA. Midpen has prepared the Final Program EIR for the Program to satisfy the requirements of the CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.).

The Final PEIR for the Program will be released for public review on Friday, April 30, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. and will be available on Midpen's website and at the following link:
<https://www.openspace.org/wfrp>.

As you will recall, the Program proposes to proactively expand Midpen's environmentally sensitive fuels management in a way that promotes healthy and resilient fire-adapted ecosystems, reduces wildland fire risk, and facilitates fire suppression. The Program consists of four main components:

- Vegetation Management Plan for ecologically-sensitive vegetation management for ecosystem resiliency and to facilitate public safety
- A high-level review of a Prescribed Fire Plan
- Pre-Fire Plans and Resource Advisor Maps
- Monitoring Plan

The Final EIR provides the public, responsible and trustee agencies, and other public agencies with responses to comments already received about the potential environmental effects of the Program. The Final EIR identifies methods to mitigate any adverse environmental impacts of the Program, and an evaluation of the feasible alternatives to the Program.

Midpen has scheduled a public hearing on May 12, 2021 to review the final EIR and receive oral public comments on the Program. At this meeting, the Midpen staff recommend that the Board adopt the resolution certifying the Final Program Environmental Impact Report, Findings of Fact, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and approving the actual Wildland Fire Resiliency Program itself. In addition, the Board will deliberate and vote on the associated Resource Management Policy updates for incorporation into the District's existing Resource Management Policies.

As a reminder, the Final EIR only includes a programmatic-level analysis of the prescribed fire plan. Given the complexity of this component, we will conduct additional environmental analysis of the prescribed fire plan that tiers off this Program EIR. That subsequent CEQA review is in the recommended FY2022 CIAP and Budget, anticipated to start in the summer of 2021.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Coty Sifuentes-Winter | Senior Resource Management Specialist

csifuentes@openspace.org

Pronouns: he, him, his

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022

(650) 691-1200 | Main Line

A greenbelt system in the San Francisco Bay Area comprised of over 60,000 acres in 26 preserves | www.openspace.org