

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Bluebird Canyon and Park Avenue Fuel Modification Projects

Lead Agency: City of Laguna Beach Fire Department

Contact Name: Mike Rohde

Email: mrohde@lagunabeachcity.net Phone Number: (949) 646-6683

Project Location: Laguna Beach Orange County
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The City of Laguna Beach Fire Department proposes to conduct fuel management practices in the Bluebird Canyon area and along Park Avenue primarily within the City of Laguna Beach, California, with a small portion of fuel modification (FMZ) 17 within unincorporated County of Orange. Fuel modification would provide defensible space adjacent to homes and a crucial evacuation route to enhance residents' ability to evacuate and allow for safer emergency access during a wildfire. All fuel modification activities would be conducted in accordance with the approved Treatment Protocols for Fuel Modification Zones Subject to Coastal Development Permitting prepared by the Laguna Beach Fire Department. Hand crews, with the option of goat-grazing, would reduce vegetation load in 100-foot-wide sections within FMZs 17 and 18 for a total of approximately 17.8 acres to reduce the risk of wildfire threat to residential structures. Hand crews would reduce vegetation within a 50-foot zone on either side of Park Avenue (FMZ 22), a local evacuation road, for a total of approximately 7.2 acres. The majority of roots of perennial plants would remain, and native vegetation waste would be mulched and left on site to minimize erosion. Non-native vegetation waste would be transported to a green waste recycling facility or landfill if not recyclable. Exclusion areas within all three FMZs would be established to avoid disturbance to High and Very High Value Habitat and sensitive biological resources, such as the California gnatcatcher, big-leaved crownbeard, and intermediate mariposa-lily.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The projects would have potentially significant effects on biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, wildfire, hazards and hazardous materials, and tribal cultural resources.

Biological resources mitigation measures (BIO-1 through BIO-10) include assigning a qualified biologist, conducting preconstruction surveys, implementing nesting bird avoidance, monitoring project activities, conducting worker training, conducting protocol-level surveys for special-status plants, preventing the spread of plant pathogens and invasive plants and wildlife, flagging drainages for avoidance, and creating 3.2 acres of native upland habitat.

Cultural resources mitigation measures (CUL-1 through CUL-4) include retaining a professional archaeologist to provide on-call monitoring services, training workers on recognizing cultural resources, excluding and avoiding known cultural resources, and providing protocols in the event of the discovery of human remains.

Geology and soils and wildfire mitigation measures (GEO-1 and GEO-2) includes adherence to fuel modification protocols in landslide-prone areas and providing protocols for paleontological discoveries.

Hazards and hazardous materials mitigation measure (HAZ-1) includes provisions for refueling of power tools in areas clear of fire hazards and prevention and clean-up of fuel spills.

Tribal cultural resources mitigation measure (TCR-1) includes project monitoring by a qualified tribal member of the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

There are no known areas of controversy.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Coastal Commission
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Coast Air Quality Management District
California Department of Natural Resources
San Diego RWQCB