

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A SUPPLEMENTAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

September 1, 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Monterey has prepared a Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration, pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, for the Greenbelt Fuel Reduction Project – Old Capitol Site.



The proposed Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration, as well as referenced documents, are available for review on the City website at: www.monterey.org/planning and by appointment at the City of Monterey, Planning Office, Colton Hall, 1st Floor, 570 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA 93940. To make an appointment, contact Christy Sabdo at the email address below.

In accordance with time limits mandated by State law, written comments on this Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study will be accepted from: September 1, 2022 through October 3, 2022. A public hearing for this project will be held on: October 25, 2022

Project Title: Greenbelt Fuel Reduction Project – Old Capitol Site

Lead agency name and address: City of Monterey, 570 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA 93940

Project Description: The proposed project would result in the managed reduction of fire fuel hazards within eight treatment areas within the City's greenbelt system—the Skyline Forest, Veterans Park, Monte Vista, Carmelo Street, Don Dahvee, Josselyn Canyon, Fisherman Flats, and Old Capitol Site greenbelts, collectively the "Plan Area", where the fire hazard is high due to high fuel loads. Wildfire in these greenbelts could result in substantial impacts to natural resources and substantial health, safety, and welfare impacts to the built/human environment adjacent to these areas. To reduce the risk of wildfire, the City prepared a Greenbelt Fuel Reduction Plan (Plan) for the Plan Area, and the Planning Commission approved an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Plan on December 8, 2020; however, at the time these documents were prepared, the Old Capitol Site greenbelt was not part of the Plan Area. The City recently acquired the Old Capitol Site greenbelt from the Pebble Beach Company as part of a deed agreement and, due to high fuel loads within this greenbelt, added it to the Plan Area. The addition of the Old Capitol Site greenbelt to the Plan Area resulted in revisions to the adopted Greenbelt Fuel Reduction Plan. Therefore, the City prepared a Draft Supplemental IS/MND to analyze and disclose the potentially significant environmental effects associated with the expansion of the Plan Area to include the Old Capitol Site greenbelt. Managed reduction of fire fuel hazards would include, but is not limited to the following actions: thinning of vegetation; removal of trees, focusing primarily on dead and dying trees; trees or large tree-form shrubs (reaching 4 feet or taller at maturity) that are to be retained in defensible spaces would be trimmed or pruned to reduce both vertical and horizontal fuel continuity; removal of exotic/invasive plants; and prescribed grazing, utilizing goats and sheep, to thin and remove vegetation in areas where high fire hazard conditions exist due to dry conditions.

For reviewing agencies:

The City of Monterey requests that you review the Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting materials and provide any appropriate comments related to your agency's area of responsibility. The space below may be used to indicate that your agency has no comments or to state brief comments.

The project site is not located on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code including, but not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste disposal sites, and the information in the Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement required under subdivision f) of that section.

For Additional Information / Return Comments to:

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Transportation Agency for Monterey County

Note: A copy of this document, as well as informational sources referenced herein, can be reviewed at the City's website: www.monterey.org/planning