

Highway 101 Roadside Fuel Reduction Project

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This notice is to inform the public and interested agencies that in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) is circulating an Initial Study for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Highway 101 Roadside Fuel Reduction Project for public comment.

Project/Location: The project covers a 24.1-mile stretch of the Highway 101 corridor, beginning at postmile 17.2 near Nelson Ranch Road south of Ukiah, and extending north to postmile 41.3 at the top of Ridgewood Grade south of Willits.

Project Description: The proposed project will consist of a series of prescribed burns aimed at reducing flammable vegetative biomass along 24.1 miles of the Highway 101 transportation corridor between postmile 17.2 (just south of the City of Ukiah near Nelson Ranch Road), and postmile 41.3 at the top of Ridgewood Grade (just south of the City of Willits), in Mendocino County. The project goal is to reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions within the CALTRANS Highway 101 right of way (ROW). Work will occur along the Highway 101 shoulder, along the median, in areas adjacent to on and off ramps (including cloverleaves) and turnouts, and in other areas within the CALTRANS ROW. The project will be implemented by CalFire. Fire containment will utilize the existing interstate, on and off ramps, adjacent roadways and previously created containment lines, although previous containment lines may need to be reestablished or maintained in some places using hand crews. Burning will be performed at night and during early mornings when traffic is light. Work is anticipated to begin in early June of 2024 and go through the fall of 2024; however, the exact timing will depend on vegetation curing (dryness) levels and environmental conditions (temperatures, winds, etc.). CALTRANS and CalFire plan to conduct annual follow-up treatments as needed to maintain these fuel breaks.

Document Availability: The Initial Study/MND will be available for review at the following locations beginning on Wednesday, May 8, 2024:

- MCRCD Office: 410 Jones St. Suite C-3, Ukiah, CA 95482
- MCRCD website: <https://mcrcd.org/mcrcd-news/initial-ceqa-study-for-the-highway-101-fuel-reduction-project>

Public Review Period: The 30-day public review period for the Initial Study/MND is from May 8, 2024, to June 7, 2024.

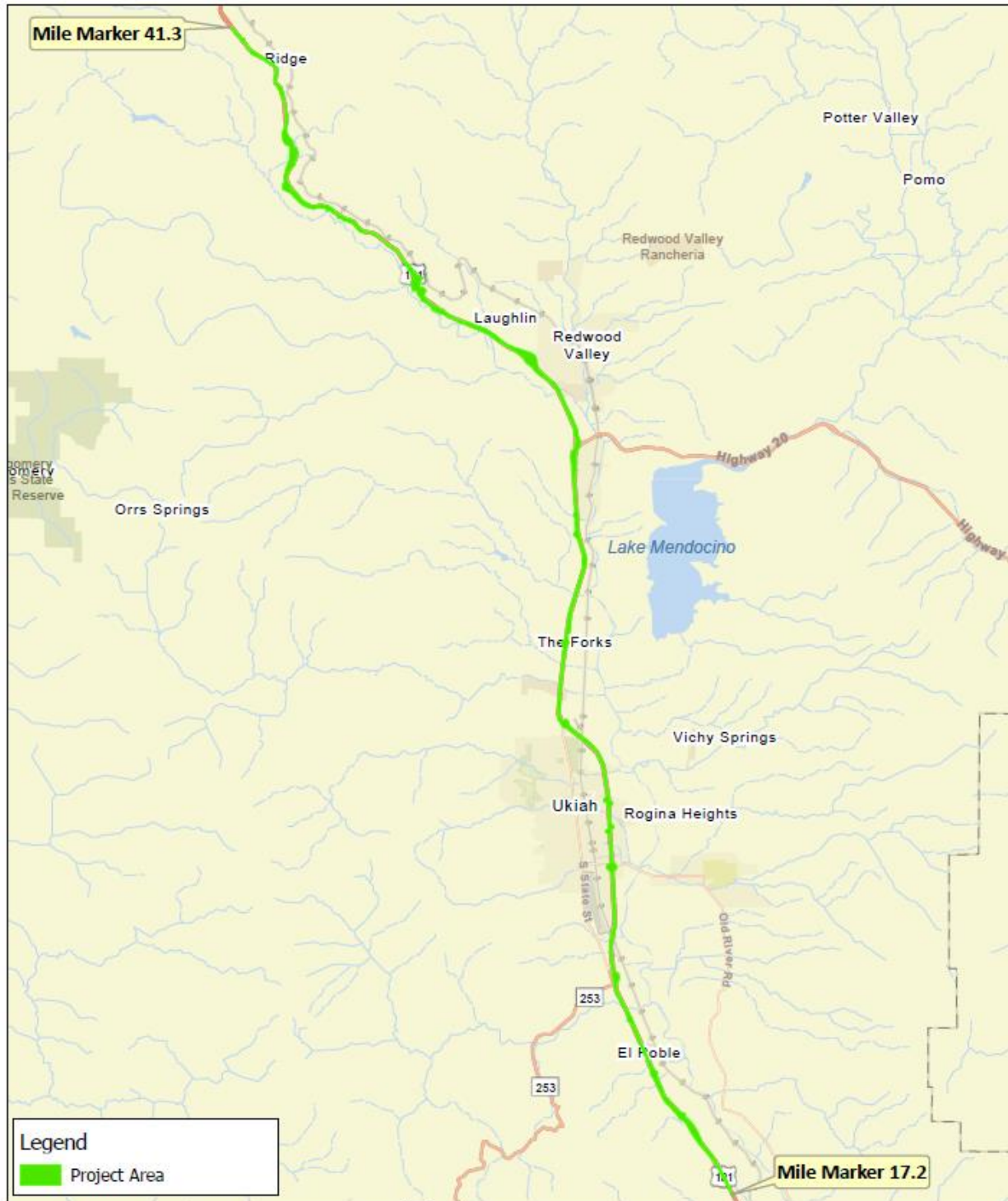
Comments: Any person who wishes to comment on the MCRCD's intent to adopt a Negative Declaration must submit written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024. Written comments may be sent to: Doug Turk, MCRCD Forestry Program Manager, 410 Jones St. Suite C-3, Ukiah, CA 95482. Comments may also be sent by e-mail to doug@mcrcd.org

Project Impacts: Based on the findings of the Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect upon the environment with mitigations included given the entirety of the information before the agency. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared outlining the project's scope and any potential impacts to the environment, which have been determined to be less than significant with mitigations included. Additionally, the project site is not known to contain any significant hazardous waste contamination under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

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Highway 101 Fuel Reduction Project Area



Disclaimer Language:
Maps prepared for informational purposes only. Image depicts a combination of publicly available data and observations made on-the-ground conditions at the time of the site visit. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the information or data displayed. All lines are approximate.

0 2.5 5
Miles
Scale: 1:137,000 1 inch = 2.2 miles March 6, 2024

