

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Lower Hobo and Diamond Crestview Fuel Modification Project

Lead Agency: City of Laguna Beach Fire Department Contact Person: Robert Montaghami
 Mailing Address: 505 Forest Avenue Phone: (949) 497-0352
 City: Laguna Beach Zip: 92651 County: Orange County

Project Location: County: Orange County City/Nearest Community: Laguna Beach
 Cross Streets: Multiple Zip Code: 92651

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W Total Acres: 39.1

Assessor's Parcel No.: Multiple Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 1, 133 Waterways: Pacific Ocean

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: Laguna Beach H.S., Top of the World Elementary, Thurst

Document Type:

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR | NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR | <input type="checkbox"/> EA | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec | (Prior SCH No.) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI | _____ |

Local Action Type:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Development Type:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Fuel Modification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ | |

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minerals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Open Space (OS)/Conservation, OS/Passive Zone, Residential/Hillside Protection (RHP) Zone, Residential Low Density (LD), and Mobile Home Zone; OS/Conservation and Recreation, RHP, Village LD, Village Medium LD, Public/Institutional, and Permanent OS

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The City of Laguna Beach Fire Department (LBFD) proposes to apply fuel management practices within the City of Laguna Beach, California. Fuel modification zone (FMZ) 16 (Lower Hobo) and FMZ 19 (Diamond Crestview) would consist of approximately 100-foot-wide zones of reduced vegetation. Removal and/or thinning of heavy vegetation would reduce potential wildfire ignition of primarily residential properties, increase the evacuation time for residents, and provide better access for firefighters to protect structures. The proposed project would reduce fire line intensity, reduce wildfire rates of spread, and improve occupant safety. It would protect High and Very High Value Habitat containing special-status plant species. All fuel modification activities would be conducted in accordance with the City's Treatment Protocols for Fuel Modification Zones Subject to Coastal Development Permitting prepared by LBFD. Fuel management methods would rely exclusively on hand crews due to the presence of special-status species and the steep topography. Fuel loads would be reduced or completely removed depending on species composition. Non-native vegetation would be completely removed first; if 50 percent reduction in wildfire fuel is achieved by removing non-native vegetation, vegetation clearing would stop. If further thinning or removal needs to occur, crews would follow the hierarchical list in the City's fuel modification treatment protocols to remove the least sensitive plants first. The project biologist may choose to adjust the order of species removal in order to preserve local diversity including, to the extent practicable, maintaining a plant community that supports sensitive and listed species likely to use the treatment area. To reduce the risk of erosion, the majority of perennial plant roots of native and non-native species would remain in erosion-prone areas. Non-native vegetation waste would be transported to a green waste recycling facility or landfill if not recyclable. Exclusion areas have been established to avoid disturbance to High and Very High Value Habitat and sensitive biological resources as well as drainage courses.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>9</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>5</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Southern California Association of Governments</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Hazard Mitigation Grants Division California Office of Emergency Services</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>South Coast Air Quality Management District</u>

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date September 24, 2024 Ending Date October 24, 2024

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Aspen Environmental Group</u>	Applicant: <u>Robert Montaghmi</u>
Address: <u>5020 Chesebro Road</u>	Address: <u>505 Forest Avenue</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Agoura Hills, CA 91301</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Laguna Beach, CA 92651</u>
Contact: <u>Lisa Blewitt, CEQA Project Manager</u>	Phone: <u>(949) 497-0352</u>
Phone: <u>818-338-6759</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: *Robert Montaghmi* Date: 09/24/24

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.