

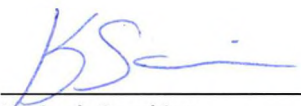
CITY OF EL CERRITO
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
THE HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA FIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT PLAN

The City of El Cerrito (City) has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan. In compliance with State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15072, the City has prepared this Notice of Intent (NOI) to inform responsible agencies and other interested parties about the City's intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan.

1. Project Applicant: City of El Cerrito
2. Project Description: The City proposes to establish and adopt a comprehensive fire hazard reduction and forest conservation plan that will guide maintenance activities and improve eligibility for grant funding for the City's Hillside Natural Area. A more detailed description of the proposed project, including goals and management actions is provided in Section 3.0, Project Description, of the Initial Study.
3. Project Location: The project site consists of the Hillside Natural Area (HNA), located within the City of El Cerrito, California, near the Northern Berkeley and Oakland Hills.
4. Findings: The City of El Cerrito has determined that the project described above will not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of prescribed mitigation measures, as discussed below.
5. Statement of Reasons to Support the Finding: Although the Initial Study determined that potential impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and tribal cultural resources could occur with implementation of the project, all impacts could be reduced to less than significant with implementation of prescribed mitigation measures. Mitigation measures related to the protection or special-status species, riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities, wetlands, and migratory corridors have been prescribed to address potential impacts to biological resources. Mitigation measures related to unstable soils and paleontological resources have been prescribed to address potential impacts to geology and soils, and mitigation measures have been prescribed to address potential impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources in the event that unanticipated archaeological resources, including human remains, are identified in the project area.
6. Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration: The Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan and the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed online at el-cerrito.org/hillside, or in person during normal business hours at the City of El Cerrito Community Development Department, located at 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

7. Public Review: The public comment period for this environmental determination will begin on **March 13, 2025** and will end on **April 14, 2025**. The City of El Cerrito welcomes agency and public comments on the document during this period. Anyone who wishes to comment on the findings of this environmental analysis must submit these comments in writing to Karineh Samkian, Senior Program Manager, at the address noted above, or by email at KSamkian@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on **April 14, 2025**.

8. Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration: The dates of public hearing to consider adoption of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are not known at this time. This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration does not signify approval or disapproval of this project by City decision-making bodies. The final decision-making body will consider the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration together with any comments received during the public review process to determine whether the project will have a significant impact on the environment.



Karineh Samkian
Senior Program Manager
Public Works Department
City of El Cerrito