

Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder
Office
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

From: Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
9481 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422
Spencer Gordon, Project Manager
805.460.7272 ex 2

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: Cambria Reserves Restoration and Vegetation Treatment Project

Project Location: Rancho Marino Reserve and Cambria Pines Ecological Reserve, San Luis Obispo County


Project Description: The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LTRCD), in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), is proposing vegetation treatments on up to 291 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. The treatment area is comprised of up to 187 acres of land within the University of California Natural Reserve System's Kenneth S. Norris Rancho Marino Reserve (RMR) and 104 acres of land within the Cambria Pines Ecological Reserve (CPER). The project would involve vegetation treatments consistent with Coastal Vegetation Treatment Standards and the objectives of the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP). US-LTRCD, in partnership with CDFW, has prepared a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) for the project as a later activity covered by the CalVTP Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

Proposed treatments at RMR and CPER are considered a single project under CEQA. US-LTRCD is implementing treatments on RMR and CDFW is implementing treatments on CPER. Proposed treatment types within RMR are ecological restoration (up to 170 acres) and shaded fuel break (up to 17 acres) treatments. Proposed treatment activities are prescribed burning, manual treatments, mechanical treatments, and herbicide application. Biomass disposal would occur through lop and scatter and pile burning or specialized biomass processing technologies (e.g., air curtain burner, carbonator) where appropriate. Treatment maintenance could be ongoing and continuous within RMR, as needed, using the same treatment types and activities as the initial treatment. Treatment crews on-site would range in size depending on the treatment activity, from one- to five-person crews for herbicide treatments to up to 45 workers for prescribed burns. Although there is the potential for prescribed burning to occur during nighttime and weekend hours, all manual, mechanical, and herbicide treatment activities and associated equipment use would be limited to daytime hours. Treatments would begin in 2023 or as soon as possible thereafter, as resources are available to implement the initial treatment and ongoing maintenance.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that US-LTRCD (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency) approved the above-described project on April 27, 2023, and has made the following determinations related to the PSA:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. The Cambria Reserves Restoration and Vegetation Treatment Project PSA (SCH# 2019012052) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. The CalVTP PEIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project, and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant environmental impacts identified in the CalVTP PEIR. The proposed project is within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2), as documented in the PSA.
4. Mitigation measures and standard project requirements from the CalVTP PEIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project-specific mitigation measures are required.
5. A mitigation monitoring and reporting program was adopted by US-LTRCD for this project.
6. A statement of overriding considerations was adopted by US-LTRCD for this project, which reaffirmed the previous statement of overriding considerations in the CalVTP PEIR.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the Cambria Reserves Restoration and Vegetation Treatment Project PSA and record of project approval is available to the general public on the US-LTRCD website: <https://www.us-ltrcd.org/>.

Signature: 

Title: Executive Director

Date: 5/3/23

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.