

Memorandum

To: CEQA Administrative Record

Date: December 8, 2011

Telephone: (916) 653-9446

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

From: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Subject: Bridge Street Fuel Reduction Project
San Luis Obispo County, California
State Clearinghouse Number: 2011081093
Adoption of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
Project Approval

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is proposing to approve a project in San Luis Obispo County which is subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project, Bridge Street Fuel Reduction Project, includes hand treatment and mastication of approximately 50 acres of Monterey pine forest to create a 100 foot wide shaded fuel break. Trees greater than 10 inches DBH will be retained unless they are a safety hazard. CAL FIRE is the Lead Agency for CEQA compliance.

An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was completed for the project by CAL FIRE staff. The IS/MND describes the environmental impact analysis conducted for the proposed project utilizing information gathered from research and field review of the proposed project area and consultation with environmental planners and other experts on staff at other public agencies.

The IS/MND was circulated to responsible agencies and trustee agencies for a 30-day public review period through its distribution by the State Clearinghouse within the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. A copy of the document was also sent to Trinity County Planning Department. Opportunity for public review of the IS/MND was provided utilizing one of the three notification procedures specified in CEQA Guidelines § 15072(b). The Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) was posted on and off site in the area where the project is located as specified in CEQA Guidelines § 15072(b)(2). The NOI was also posted at the San Luis Obispo County Clerk/Recorder's Office as specified in CEQA Guidelines § 15072(a). A complete copy of the CEQA document was posted on the Department's Internet Web Site during the entire 30-day public review period.

A total of 210 letters containing 170 written comments were received and considered. These comments, CAL FIRE's response to them, and minor changes made to the original CEQA document as a result of consideration of the comments, have become part of the CEQA Administrative Record.

A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) has been developed in accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15097(a) and (c). CAL FIRE has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the whole record before it, including the Initial Study for the project prior to approving the project. The Initial Study, prepared in compliance with CEQA, assessed the project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Pursuant to CEQA § 21082.1, CAL FIRE has independently reviewed and analyzed the Final IS/MND and

finds it to be a complete and accurate document which reflects CAL FIRE's independent judgment. The lead agency further finds that the proposed project, which includes mitigation measures and project revisions designed to minimize environmental impacts, would not result in significant adverse effects on the environment.

Based on the whole record before it, CAL FIRE has determined that:

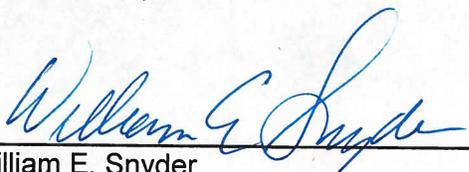
- The proposed project will have no effect related to Agricultural and Forest Resources, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities and Service Systems.
- The proposed project will have a less than significant impact on Aesthetics, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning, Noise, and Transportation and Traffic.
- Mitigation is required to reduce potentially significant impacts related to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, and Hydrology, Water Quality, and Mandatory Findings of Significance.

In accordance with CEQA § 21080(c) and CEQA Guidelines § 15074, I hereby adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

In accordance with CEQA § 21081.6(a)(1) and CEQA Guidelines § 15074(d), I hereby adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the project.

As Deputy Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection with delegated authority for project approval, and, upon consideration of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, Initial Study, Mitigation, and the Notice of Determination, I hereby approve the Bridge Street Fuel Reduction Project.

CAL FIRE hereby directs the filing of the Notice of Determination, which as been prepared in accordance with CEQA § 21108 and CEQA Guidelines § 15075, with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse. I hereby authorize the payment of the required fee in the amount of \$2044.00 to the Department of Fish and Game in compliance with Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code for the Environmental Filing Fee associated with Mitigated Negative Declarations.



William E. Snyder
Deputy Director for Resource Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date Signed: 12/8/11