

Memorandum

To: CEQA Administrative Record

Date: January 18, 2012

Telephone: (916) 653-0839

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

From: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Subject: Coon Creek Vegetation Management Project
San Luis Obispo County, California
State Clearinghouse Number: 2011121043
Adoption of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
Project Approval

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is proposing to conduct a vegetation management project in San Luis Obispo County which is subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project, Coon Creek Vegetation Management Project (VMP), includes up to 430 acres of prescribed burning on lands owned by PG&E and State Parks. This project is intended to improve certain biological values and reduce the fire 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 and State Parks 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 delivered to San Luis Obispo County Planning & Building 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. No comments from the general public were received during the 30-day comment period. The only agency that commented was San Luis Obispo County Planning. That agency requested an extension of the review period. CAL FIRE's response denied that request.

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 fully considered the comments received, 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:

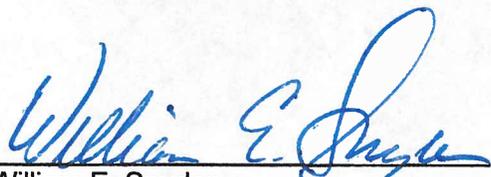
- The proposed project would have no effect related to Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing, Transportation and Traffic, Agriculture and Forestry, Hazards and Hazardous materials, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Utilities and Service Systems or Noise.
- The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on Aesthetics, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Recreation.
- The proposed project, as mitigated, would not have significant impacts related to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Hydrology, and Water Quality.
- There are no 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 Coon Creek Vegetation Management 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 \$2101.50 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: 1/18/12