

Memorandum

To: CEQA Administrative Record

Date: March 17, 2011

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From: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Environmental Protection Program

Subject: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
Cuyamaca Forest Fire Station Replacement Project
Addendum to Mitigated Negative Declaration
State Clearinghouse (SCH) Number 2004071130

In 2004, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), as Lead Agency for CEQA, prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Cuyamaca Forest Fire Station Replacement Project, SCH #2004071130. The document was filed on 7/23/04, and the public comment period closed on 8/22/04. CAL FIRE considered all public and agency comments as well as supporting environmental studies and found that the proposed project would not result in a significant effect on the environment. CAL FIRE approved the project on 9/2/04, and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on that date.

Subsequent to filing the NOD, the project was revised to lessen landslide susceptibility via grading. The project will now include the removal of three ornamental and six hardwood trees due to site leveling activities and the possibility of up to 2,500 cubic yards of excavated soil hauled offsite. These activities were not disclosed in the original CEQA document as they were not anticipated at the time that document was prepared.

These changes are relatively minor in scope, can reasonably be presumed not to result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, and do not change our finding nor call for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

This addendum meets the specifications in 14 CCR Section 15164(b). CAL FIRE also finds this addendum need not be circulated for public review but chooses to attach it to the approved mitigated negative declaration in accordance with 14 CCR Section 15164(c). This change has been considered; hence, this Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration is being prepared.

The 2004 MND (pages 15-16) discussed removal of trees in regard to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and nesting native birds. In compliance with the MND's mitigations, a nesting bird survey of the site and construction zone conducted within two weeks of breaking ground found no nesting birds. The MND further noted that there are no local ordinances protecting biological resources in the project area.

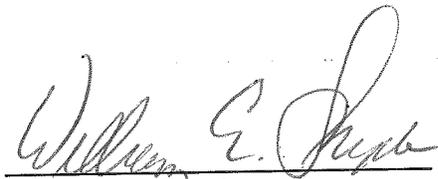
In compliance with the joint policy established by CAL FIRE and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) in 1994, that California's hardwood resources be

managed for the long-term perpetuation of their local and broader geographic representation, the six hardwood trees removed during project construction shall be replaced by planting seedlings. Replacement ratios and success criteria are determined to achieve a success rate of 80% five years after planting.

The 2004 MND (Air Quality Appendix A page 5) assumed that excavated soil would be balanced on site; therefore, there would be no truck traffic and associated tailpipe emissions from soil transport offsite. The truck activity associated with the maximum amount of soil hauled offsite could include about 30 trucks per day for a few days. This potential activity will have a negligible effect to transportation and air quality resources. There is sufficient capacity of the transportation infrastructure to accommodate this temporary increased truck traffic, and the traffic will not disrupt emergency services. While the construction contractor will haul the excavated soil to another construction site located near the project site, the estimated truck tailpipe emissions would add less than a pound and half of pollutant of concern to the maximum daily construction emissions.

Since the 2004 MND was filed, changes were made to the CEQA Guidelines requiring Lead Agencies to include an analysis of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions as part of the environmental review. It is CAL FIRE's determination that the construction of this fire station, including the recent changes involving increased truck traffic to haul excavated soil offsite, would not result in significant volumes of GHG emissions. This assessment is based on calculations of GHG emissions at similar construction projects across the state (Urban Emissions Model (URBEMIS, version 9.2.4)—computer program used to estimate emissions associated with land development projects in California.)

CAL FIRE finds that the changes discussed in this addendum are minor in scope and do not change our finding that this project will not result in a significant impact to the environment. CAL FIRE further finds, based on substantial evidence in the record, that changes to the project are minor and do not result in new potential impacts or the need for new mitigation measures and has therefore prepared this addendum to the original mitigated negative declaration in accordance with 14CCR Section 15164.



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

3/17/11

Date