

ADDENDUM

to the

**INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION**

for the

**FAWN LODGE FOREST FIRE STATION REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**



Prepared by the

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

in accordance with the

California Environmental Quality Act

January 2015

ADDENDUM

FAWN LODGE FOREST FIRE STATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Lead Agency: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Type of CEQA Document: Addendum to Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study previously approved by the Lead Agency (State Clearinghouse Number 2009092043). The Addendum has been prepared pursuant to State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, CAC 15000 *et seq.*, Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 11, Section 15164. A Notice of Determination was filed on January 13, 2010 with the State Clearinghouse to document the approval of the project.

Background: In January 2010, CAL FIRE finalized an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration that was prepared for the proposed Fawn Lodge Forest Fire Station Replacement Project. The 2010 IS/MND had assumed that construction would commence within a couple of years.

The proposed project was not completed within the anticipated time frame identified in the 2010 IS/MND due to a lack of funding. Following approval of the project CAL FIRE had to postpone the replacement of several fire station projects due to the inability to secure funding during the economic downturn in the state of California.

During the interim period minor revisions were made to update project details. These revisions are considered in this Addendum. In addition, it is prudent to confirm that the site conditions and applicable regulations have not changed significantly during the passage of time that could render the previously approved IS/MND deficient.

The approved 2010 IS/MND determined that the proposed project would have no significant adverse effects on the environment. Findings from this CEQA document include:

1. The proposed project would have no effect related to, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, and recreation.
2. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on aesthetics, agricultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems.
3. The proposed project, as mitigated, would not have significant impacts related to air quality, biological resources, and cultural resources.

Scope of the Original Project: The 2010 IS/MND evaluated the environmental impacts of the demolition and replacement of an existing two-engine fire station. The existing fire station on the project site consists of five buildings (apparatus building with office, barracks, mess hall, a California Conservation Corps paymaster building and gas house).

The new buildings, structures and improvements proposed in the 2010 IS/MND consisted of:

- Barracks/Messhall – 12 beds, 3,753 square feet
- Apparatus Building – Three-bay, 1,999 square feet
- Generator/Pump/Storage building – 565 square feet
- Above ground fuel vault
- A new pump and rehabilitation of the existing well
- New septic and leach field system
- Grading, paving and sidewalks
- Underground routed utilities
- New water storage tank or tanks with total capacity at or exceeding 20,000 gallons
- New hose wash rack
- Site lighting
- New footing for a new 40-foot radio tower
- Landscaping, irrigation and drainage
- Water system

In addition, there is a bridge located on the project site that spans the Grass Valley Creek and provides access to the fire station. This bridge was potentially going to be replaced depending upon the determination as to its useful life during project construction. In the event that the bridge was to be replaced, CAL FIRE was to work with the California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to obtain a 1602 permit and implement required protocols. The bridge has been delayed and may be replaced in the future by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in coordination with CAL FIRE. Should this occur, a separate environmental document will be prepared in accordance with CEQA/NEPA.

Most of the project elements remain unchanged. Only minor revisions in square footage have occurred as a result of the engineering updates to the buildings. Those changes are listed as follows:

- Barracks/Messhall – 3,876 square feet. An increase of 123 square feet.
- Apparatus building – Three-bay 1,984 square feet. A decrease of 15 square feet.
- Generator/Pump/Storage Building – An increase of 83 feet.

Reason for CEQA Addendum: As noted, subsequent to certification of the 2010 IS/MND the proposed project changed slightly and was suspended due to lack of funding. It has been five years since the environmental analysis was conducted. A reevaluation of the site conditions and applicable laws and regulations is necessary to ensure that no substantial changes have occurred that would change the determinations made in the original 2010 IS/MND.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Aesthetics

The previous IS/MND prepared in 2010 determined that no significant impacts would occur as a result of the project. The current five buildings onsite are located within a mixed-conifer setting that is set back from the main roadway (Highway 299) and screened by several trees and a riparian area that runs alongside Grass Valley Creek. The replacement project will place a new three-bay apparatus building closer to the roadway by approximately 10 feet, but the existing riparian and forested area adjacent to the roadway will remain in place and provide the same screening that exists today (see Figures 2 and 3 at the end of the addendum). The new structures will still be located west of the highway and creek allowing the same visual character to remain. The visual character of the proposed project site has not changed since that time. In addition, the design and square footage of the buildings and accessory structures have not substantially changed since the original determination. No significant impacts would occur to aesthetic and visual resources.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

The 2010 IS/MND analysis determined that no impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project. There have been no changes that have occurred which would result in a different determination. No significant impacts would occur to agricultural resources.

Air Quality

The minor revisions in square feet would not result in new construction impacts on air quality. The project is a replacement project and does not expand capacity of the existing use. No other changes have occurred that would result in new or increased significant impacts with regard to air quality for construction or operation. Jason Davis from the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District was contacted on Monday, January 12, 2015 to confirm the original requirements based upon the proposed project. The original mitigation measure was confirmed and no additional requirements are necessary.

The 2010 IS/MND identified one mitigation measure that shall be implemented during construction to ensure that construction related activities do not have a significant impact on air quality. This mitigation measure is still applicable and will be implemented accordingly and is as follows:

Mitigation Measure #1: Measures to Reduce Short-Term Construction-Generated Emissions

Reasonable precautions shall be taken to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne, including, but not limited to the following:

- Covering open bodied trucks when used for transporting materials likely to give rise to airborne dust. The vehicles transporting soil to the site would be covered with tarps or other means to avoid generating significant quantities of dust on local roadways. A minimum of six (6) inches of freeboard would be maintained to minimize fugitive dust emissions.
- Installing and using hoods, fans, and fabric filters to enclose and vent dusty materials.
- Screening of all open-outdoor sandblasting and similar operations.

- Using water or chemicals to control dust during the demolition of existing buildings or structures.
- Areas of exposed bare mineral soil within the project area will be treated with water as needed to prevent excessive loss of native material and minimize fugitive dust emissions.
- Efforts would be taken to avoid tracking mud or soil onto the public roadways. If this occurs, the mud or soil would be promptly removed.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained in proper tune according to manufacturers' specifications to ensure minimum emissions under normal operations.

No other mitigation measures are required and impacts to air quality will remain less than significant.

Biological Resources

The 2010 IS/MND identifies species that have the possibility to occur within a radius of approximately three miles of the fire station (California Natural Diversity Database). During that time an informal consultation was initiated with a representative from the (CDFW Redding office). The representative visited the project site and indicated that there were no concerns with regard to the proposed project and confirmed the possibility of the following species associated with the riparian area adjacent to Grass Valley Creek: *Actinemys marmorata* (western pond turtle), *Rana boylei* (foothill yellow-legged frog), *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* (spring-run chinook salmon), and *Carex vulpinoidea* (brown fox sedge). In addition, several raptors and nesting birds could be impacted with the removal of trees onsite. This information was re-confirmed through a CNDDDB search conducted in January 2015.

The original IS/MND indicated that the bridge onsite may be replaced. This bridge provides the main access to the fire station and extends over Grass Valley Creek. At this time the bridge is not being replaced as a part of this project. CAL FIRE has initiated contact with the California Department of Transportation to determine whether the bridge qualifies for replacement under their bridge replacement program. If it is determined that the bridge will be replaced at a later date through the Caltrans bridge replacement program a separate CEQA/NEPA analysis will be prepared. Should the bridge not qualify under this program, all appropriate mitigation measures identified in the prior CAL FIRE 2010 IS/MND will be implemented, including obtaining a Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 permit) from CDFW.

On November 7, 2014 CAL FIRE's biologist Anastasia Stanish visited the site to confirm site conditions and determine the appropriate course of action with regard to tree removal. The original IS/MND identified removal of approximately 25-30 conifers. However, project design updates necessitates further tree removal. A total of 42 trees will be removed as a result of the updated project.

The additional tree removal will not increase impacts to a significant level. All mitigation measures in the previous IS/MND will be implemented and will ensure impacts remain less than significant. The following mitigation measures are still applicable:

Mitigation Measure #2: Measures to Protect Northwestern pond turtle

Prior to tree or brush removal, or other ground disturbance such as that associated with removal and reconstruction of the retaining wall, a CAL FIRE Wildlife Biologist or Registered Professional Forester shall conduct a visual survey of the area to be disturbed to search for turtle nesting site scrapes or overwintering sites. If any such evidence is located, the nest or overwintering sites shall be avoided until hatching or consultation with CDFW shall take place to consider the possibility to relocate the turtle to similar habitat within the state's parcel. Holland (1994) will be reviewed for examples of these features.

Mitigation Measure #3: Measures to Ensure Protection of Raptors and Migratory Nesting Birds

- (a) Tree-felling to take place within the project area will occur during the non-nesting season for migratory birds. This period will be from September 1 through January 30.

OR

- (b) Tree-felling to take place within the project area during the potential nesting period for migratory birds (February 1 through August 31) shall be preceded by a nesting bird survey no later than two weeks prior to vegetation removal and completed within the area of potential (APE) effect by a qualified biologist, forester, or ornithologist. If any nesting activity within the project area is identified, CAL FIRE shall consult with CDFW to develop protection measures.

Although raptors and other migratory nesting birds are known to utilize adjacent undeveloped habitat, and a mitigation measure has been developed to protect such birds, the proposed project is unlikely to disturb any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, migratory corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

Cultural Resources

During the preparation of the 2010 IS/MND for this proposed project, the entire project area was subjected to intensive cultural resource investigations by professional archaeologists working for CAL FIRE through an archaeological services contract with California State University Stanislaus (Napton and Greathouse 2008a, 2008b) (Napton 2008). These studies were conducted in accordance with *Archaeological Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects* (Foster 2003). The work included a current archaeological records check at the California Historical Resource Information System Northeast Information Center, other pre-field research, consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and local Native American tribal groups listed on CAL FIRE's Native American Contact List for Trinity County, and an intensive on-the-ground field survey.

The cultural resource investigations by Napton and Greathouse produced the following results and work products:

- No prehistoric archaeological sites, features, or artifacts were identified in the APE of the project.

- A comprehensive, 11-page site record was prepared for the Fawn Lodge Forest Fire Station and CCC Camp. This record includes detailed recording and significance evaluation of the (1953) Barracks, the (1954) Gas and Oil House (and above-ground fuel storage tank), and the (1964) Apparatus Building/Office. This record make an excellent supplement to Thornton's 1994 record by including and evaluation of these three structures Thornton did not evaluate (because Thornton was focusing on pre-1946 construction).
- Detailed documentation and historical significance evaluation of the (1957 or 1960) Bailey Bridge crossing Grass Valley Creek. Rehabilitation of this historic bridge is part of the proposed project. Following his review of the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, Napton concluded (2008:4) that the historic bridge is not eligible for listing. A formal concurrence of this finding was provided by the California State Office of Historic Preservation. Napton concluded that recordation and comprehensive documentation, including archival photographic documentation, has fulfilled the research potential of this structure and has mitigated the impact if the bridge cannot be rehabilitated and must be replaced with a new bridge.

Management recommendations were included in three archaeological reports, which were prepared during the original Initial Study (Napton and Greathouse 2008a:26, 2008b:3-4), (Napton 2008:5). All of these recommendations were incorporated into the 2010 IS/MND document and are still applicable to the current project. The previously identified cultural resource mitigation measure will be carried-out to ensure less than significant impact to cultural resources. No changes have occurred since the approval of the 2010 IS/MND that would change these determinations, and the project will still have a less than significant impact with implementation of the following mitigation measure:

Mitigation Measure #4: Archaeologist to Monitor Subsurface Excavation.

CAL FIRE shall ensure that a professional archaeologist is present to monitor subsurface excavations during the demolition and removal of the buildings (especially the two historic buildings, the bridge, and the gas house) and any excavations for undergrounding utilities and foundations to search for any possible cultural resources, which could be unearthed. Should any significant resources be encountered the archaeologist shall have authority to halt excavations pending an evaluation and development of appropriate recommendations for their conservation and management, and CAL FIRE shall carry out those recommendations.

Geology and Soils

The construction of the Fawn Lodge replacement project would not result in significant new impacts during construction or operations related to seismicity, geology, or soils. The 2010 IS/MND did not identify any potential significant impacts that required mitigation. This determination remains unchanged, and there will be no significant impacts as a result of the proposed project.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Since the 2010 IS/MND was prepared, new regulations for greenhouse gas emissions have come into effect. The fire station will be replaced onsite and although short-term construction

emissions may have an impact on air quality it is not anticipated to contribute to significant impacts with regard to greenhouse gas emissions and will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation for purposes of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Short-term construction impacts are addressed and mitigated accordingly (see *Air Quality* section).

The proposed project will not increase operational capacity, but would improve the current capacity. The operational emissions will be improved as the facilities will be replaced with modern, energy-efficient buildings that would be built to current standards and codes for heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning equipment. No significant impacts to greenhouse gas emissions would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Construction Impacts

There will be no changes with regard to hazards or hazardous materials impacts for construction or operational activities. Therefore, no new or greater significant hazardous materials impacts would occur. All impacts remain less than significant.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The 2010 IS/MND determined that the project would not create any significant impacts. No mitigation measures were required as the project will install a storm water drainage system, a sand/oil separator, and construction would follow all established best management practices, in compliance with all National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements, to reduce erosion of exposed soils. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan is currently being prepared in consultation with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board that will be implemented prior to the initiation of any ground disturbance.

The circumstances and determination of the prior IS/MND has not changed and no new or additional significant impacts will occur.

Land Use and Planning

The proposed project would not result in incompatible land uses. The existing land uses in the vicinity of the proposed site have not changed since 2010. In addition, the project is an allowed use on the project site. The proposed replacement project would remain compatible with the existing and new surrounding uses.

Mineral Resources

The prior determination that no mineral resources will be impacted as a result of the proposed project is still valid. No additional or new significant impacts will occur.

Noise

The project will not create new or additional significant impacts with regard to noise generated during construction or operations. Although construction of the project will increase noise levels, there are no nearby sensitive receptors. Construction will occur during daytime hours of operation and will be for a short period of time. The project is replacing an existing fire station and will not change the operational noise levels. No mitigation measures were identified in the 2010 IS/MND as no potentially significant impacts will occur.

Population and Housing

The project circumstances have not changed, and the slight revisions to the square feet of the buildings will not change the no impact determination made in the 2010 IS/MND. The fire station will be replaced and will retain the same capacity (12 beds). No impacts will occur to population and housing, and no mitigation measures are required.

Public Services

No new significant impacts or changes to the prior impact determinations will occur. No impact will occur to police protection, schools, parks or other facilities that would necessitate new or physically altered government facilities. Impacts to fire protection will remain less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

Recreation

The no impact determination in the 2010 IS/MND remains unchanged for impacts to recreation. No new or additional significant impacts will occur, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Transportation and Traffic

The 2010 IS/MND concluded that no significant impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project. The site conditions and determination have not changed with regard to transportation and traffic impacts during construction or operation of the proposed project. No new impacts will occur, and no mitigation measures are required.

Utilities and Service Systems

There are no changes to construction or operational impacts with regard to utilities and service systems. The 2010 IS/MND determinations are valid, and all impacts will remain less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

The prior determinations with regard to Mandatory Findings of Significance remain valid. All impacts remain less than significant, and no new impacts or changes in impacts will occur.

DETERMINATION

CAL FIRE has prepared this addendum to the IS/MND per 14 CCR § 15164(b). It documents that none of the conditions described in PRC § 21166 or 14 CCR § 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent IS/MND have occurred. CAL FIRE has chosen not to prepare a subsequent IS/MND for the following reasons:

1. It will not result in substantial changes to the project that will require major revisions of the IS/MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
2. It will not result in substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that will require major revisions of the IS/MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
3. It does not constitute new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the IS/MND was certified as complete, and none of the following is applicable:
 - A. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the IS/MND.
 - B. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the IS/MND.
 - C. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.
 - D. Mitigation measures which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous IS/MND would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.
 - E. It does not constitute new information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the environmental impact report was certified as complete.

Based on the information contained in this addendum, the square foot revisions and current site conditions would not result in an increase in environmental impacts over what was previously analyzed. The current site conditions, or modified project, would not result in a substantial change in the conclusions and analysis included in the IS/MND. In addition, all mitigation measures identified in the prior IS/MND are still applicable and will be implemented accordingly.

Figure 1. Project Location

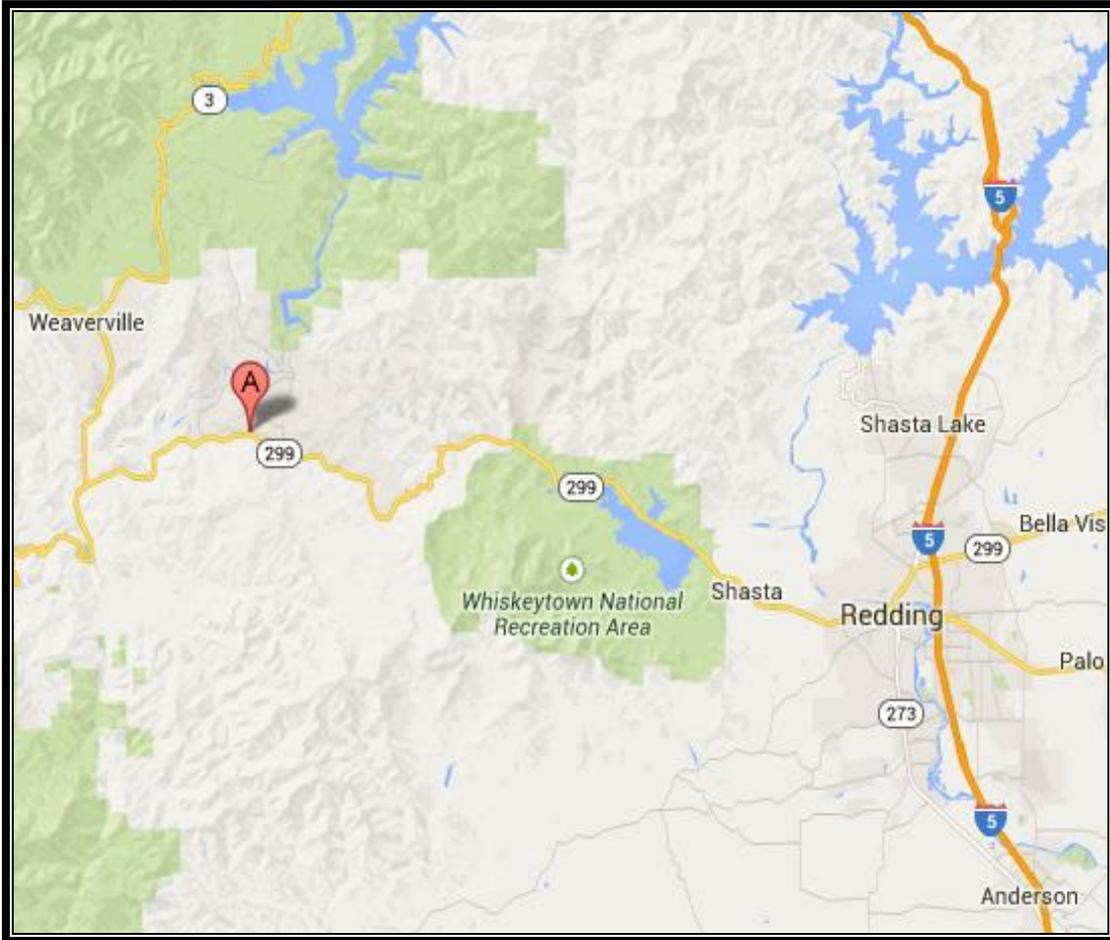


Figure 2. South of Fawn Lodge FFS looking north towards station. Vegetation along the road before the Bailey bridge.



Figure 3. South of the station. Looking south towards Highway 299.

