FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Lake City - Humbug Roadside Fuelbreak Project
PDMC-PJ-09-CA-2003-018

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program grant to implement a vegetation management project. The PDM Program assists states/territories and communities to implement sustained, pre-disaster, natural-hazard mitigation programs to reduce overall risk to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. CDPR seeks FEMA funding to reduce future wildfire risks to Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park (Park) and surrounding communities. The project area is located in Nevada County, California, along the North Bloomfield - Graniteville Road (also known as Lake City - Humbug Road) between the Lake City historic site and the town of North Bloomfield.

CDPR would create a shaded wildland fire fuelbreak in the Park to maintain a fire-safety zone that would not readily carry crown fire and would represent native forest conditions. The total width of the fuelbreak would be 600 feet, 300 feet north and 300 feet south of the North Bloomfield - Graniteville Road; its length would be approximately 2.6 miles. The project area would encompass approximately 160 acres. CDPR would remove approximately 90 percent of the undergrowth including brush and small diameter trees. Hand crews using chain saws would remove trees. The primary method of brush removal would be mastication using an excavator with a cutting head attached to an arm. Hand crews would also be used to remove undergrowth with chainsaws in areas where the masticator could not access (such as slopes greater than 35 percent). The shredded material would be left on-site for erosion control.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Lake City - Humbug Roadside Fuelbreak Project (February 2005) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action on the human environment. The SEA tiers from the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Typical Recurring Actions Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Rain, and Wind Disasters in California (December 2003) as Proposed by FEMA. The PEA and SEA are available online at http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the PEA and SEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the Proposed Action. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027. No action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.

02/11/05

Alessandro Amaglio — Date
Region IX Environmental Officer