

Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Assessment
NTFPD North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Project
PDMC-PJ-09-CA-2010-019

The North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) has applied to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program funds to implement a fuels reduction project on the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe in Placer County, California.

NTFPD proposes to conduct fuels reduction on up to 1,013 "urban lot" parcels owned by the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), totaling up to 238 acres, within and adjacent to subdivisions within NTFPD boundaries. The proposed project would be accomplished using a "thin from below" method where smaller trees and brush are targeted for thinning and removal and larger trees are generally retained. Fuels reduction activities include tree salvage and thinning, brush treatment and removal, and removal of downed logs and other woody materials where the quantity creates a hazard. These activities would remove dead and dying trees, as well as smaller live trees which grow in the understory and sometimes larger trees as necessary to achieve tree spacing goals. Fuels reduction treatments would be implemented by hand crews supervised by NTFPD and ongoing maintenance would be performed by CTC.

FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, and applicable implementing regulations. The Draft EA evaluates the environmental impacts of NTFPD's proposed project and alternatives. FEMA has made the Draft EA available for public review and comment at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/117686>. Hard copies of the Draft EA are available at the following locations: Tahoe City Branch Library, 740 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City (530-583-3382) and Kings Beach Branch Library, 301 Secline St., Kings Beach (530-546-2021).

FEMA, OES, and NTFPD will consider written comments on the Draft EA before making decisions regarding NTFPD's proposed project. Comments relevant to the Draft EA must be provided in writing to FEMA Region IX EHP, NTFPD Draft EA, 1111 Broadway, Ste. 1200, Oakland, CA 94607-4052 or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. Questions regarding the Draft EA or its availability may also be asked by telephone at (510) 627-7027 (messages only). To be considered in the decision-making process, comments on the Draft EA must be received by August 21, 2016