

## **Notice of Availability**

### **Draft Environmental Assessment Strawberry Canyon Fire Mitigation Project Federal Emergency Management Agency**

The Regents of the University of California (UC) have applied for funds from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, to implement a fire mitigation project at the University of California, Berkeley, in the City of Oakland, County of Alameda, California. FEMA proposes to fund a fire mitigation project for UC through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. The proposed grant has been designated PDMC-PJ-09-CA-2005-011. UC has identified a 58-acre parcel of its property in Strawberry Canyon that is at high risk to produce or conduct a devastating wildfire. UC believes that action is needed to reduce the risk of fire to the University of California, Berkeley, campus and nearby residents in the City of Berkeley.

UC proposes to selectively remove all exotic vegetation such as eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and acacia from the project area (Proposed Action). Trees would be cut by handheld chain saws or a tracked vehicle utilizing a chain saw. An herbicide would be applied to tree stumps. Most fallen trees would be hauled or skidded to designated landing areas where they would be chipped. Wood chips would be scattered on site. Larger trees would be cut into 20- to 30-foot-long sections and left on site. UC is considering two alternatives to the Proposed Action. The first alternative consists of the selective removal of 70 percent of exotic species. This alternative would involve less hauling/skidding and chipping of trees than the Proposed Action; larger trees would be targeted and cut into sections as described for the Proposed Action. The second alternative is to take no action.

FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for this project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Council on Environmental Quality and FEMA's implementing regulations. The DEA, which evaluates the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and both alternatives, is available for public review and comment. The DEA is available online at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm>.

To request a copy of the DEA or to provide comments regarding the DEA, please direct correspondence to Environmental Officer, FEMA Region IX, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607. For more information, please leave a message for FEMA's Region IX Environmental Officer at (510) 627-7027.

Comments on the DEA must be received by January 26, 2008. Until that date, FEMA will take no further action regarding the proposed grant.