

Notice of Availability

Supplemental Environmental Assessment Vegetation Management Risk Reduction Project City of Chula Vista

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency

The City of Chula Vista (City), California, has applied, through the California Emergency Management Agency, to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Federal financial assistance to reduce the wildfire hazard in the City (Proposed Project). The assistance would be provided through the Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (LPDM-PJ-09-CA-2009-004).

The City's proposal consists of clearing vegetation (treatment) on approximately 25 acres along the rim of Rice Canyon, a City-owned open space area. Rice Canyon has a high or very high fire hazard, and adjacent residential properties and other nearby areas in the City are vulnerable to wildfires in Rice Canyon. The Proposed Project would mitigate the wildfire hazard in the City by reducing wildfire fuel density in the project area.

The existing 10-foot-wide defensible space between the boundaries of developed private properties and the canyon would be increased to a width of up to 80 feet. Treatment would focus on reducing the density of non-native plants and removing dead wood. Herbicides would be used to prevent resprouting of cut vegetation.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Project on the quality of the human environment. The SEA tiers from FEMA's Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Typical Recurring Actions Resulting from Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Rain, and Wind Disasters in California (December 2003).

The PEA and the SEA are available at <http://home.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm>.

To request a copy of the SEA or provide comments regarding the SEA, please send correspondence to the Environmental and Historic Preservation Office, FEMA Region IX, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607 or donna.meyer@fema.dhs.gov. For more information, contact FEMA's Region IX Environmental and Historic Preservation Office at (510) 627-7728.

Comments on the SEA must be received by March 22, 2013. FEMA will take no further action on the Proposed Project until that date.