

Notice of Availability

Supplemental Environmental Assessment Fire Hazard Mitigation and Fuel Reduction Program Town of Hillsborough

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

The Town of Hillsborough (Town), 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 wildfire fuel loads in Town-owned open space lands (Proposed Project). The assistance would be provided through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDMC-PJ-09-CA-2008-057).

The Town's proposal consists of clearing vegetation (treatment) within eight Town-owned open space areas. The open space areas have a high or very high fire hazard, and adjacent residential properties and other nearby areas in the Town are vulnerable to wildfires in these open space areas. The Proposed Project would mitigate the wildfire hazard in the Town by reducing vegetation density in the project area.

The Proposed Project would focus on reducing the biomass of vegetation, particularly non-native vegetation, through mowing, trimming, and pruning. Most of the treatment (80 to 90 percent) would concentrate on clearing shrubs and understory vegetation using hand tools and mechanical equipment. Herbicide would be painted onto stumps to prevent resprouting of freshly 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 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 April 2. FEMA will take no further action on the Proposed Project until that date.