From: Billy Prendergast
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: fire hazard at UCB
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 1:15:59 PM

Under no conceivable stewardship of the public land could the strip cutting of 80000 trees be a positive thing. Fire prevention is an admirable idea, necessary and rewarding. The removal of the ecosystem is an abomination which will be a ruinous event in the life of the East Bay.

There must be an alternative!

billy prendergast
SFIA Electronic Tech Shop
650-821-6357
650-255-9424 (c)

From:	Annette Nibley
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	East Bay Hills EIS
Date:	Friday, May 24, 2013 1:15:53 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my **strong disapproval** of the plan to clear cut and poison a massive area in the Berkeley-Oakland hills.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation.

Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them.

The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

Habitat, soil stability, air quality, and water quality are at stake. You are charged with protecting these resources for the public. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Annette Nibley
Mill Valley, CA

From: Barbara Steuart
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Please reconsider felling of trees, use of herbicides!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 12:01:50 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I live near Claremont Canyon and the Harwood Creek that drains out of the canyon flows through our property on 35 Oakvale Ave. in Berkeley. I cannot imagine the erosion problem we'd face if FEMA makes good in its plans to fell close to 100,000 trees out of the Berkeley and Oakland hills. This creek turns into a raging river in the winter months following 3, 4 days of rain. Without the trees absorbing some of the downpours, I fear the creek will erode the bed and we will face flooding along the creek.

Did you guys ever consider the erosion problem on the steep hills if all or most of the trees are removed?

Similarly, I implore you to stop even thinking about dumping tons of herbicides onto the hills. I DO NOT want the herbicides to get washed out of the hills and poison the creek in my front yard.

Lastly, I hike up Claremont Canyon about three times a week, passing groves of eucalyptus that are much appreciated for the shade they provide. Also: did anyone think about the impact of felling the tall eucalyptus and robbing owls of their favorite nesting tree on the Stonewall trail up Claremont Canyon?

Cutting down close to 100,000 trees is a terribly misguided policy in times where the rest of the world is busy planting and conserving trees

Respectfully,

Barbara Steuart

--
Barbara Steuart • 35 Oakvale Ave. • Berkeley • 510-843-8262 • cell: 510-704-3733

From: Suellen Ehnebuske
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Claremont Canyon
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 11:31:53 AM

I absolutely oppose the clear cutting of Claremont Canyon and use of herbicides on acacia and eucalyptus trees in the area. It is the single most valuable resource in our neighborhood and difficult though it may be, a selective felling of trees and removing of trunks is the only safe and ethical way to go. We must preserve this extraordinary area that offers respite from crowded urban living for so many in our community.

No herbicides, thinning for fire safety not clear cutting in a responsible way. That's my vote.

Suellen Ehnebuske
2730 Garber Street
Berk 94705

From: Hills Conservation Network
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: 4,251 signers: Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills petition
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 11:12:11 AM

Dear FEMA,

I started a petition to you titled *Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills*. So far, the petition has 4,251 total signers.

You can email all petition signers by clicking here: http://petitions.moveon.org/target_talkback.html?tt=tt-42455-custom-21317-20130607-h9AFL1

The petition states:

> "The current Draft EIS is unacceptable as it will inflict enormous environmental damage, expose the public to thousands of gallons of toxic herbicide, destroy raptor habitats, destabilize steep slopes, and actually increase the risk of hazardous wildfires. FEMA should retract this EIS and remove those portions of the EIS that call for clear-cutting tall trees. The EIS should instead support a far less destructive methodology that would focus on a "species-neutral" approach, focusing on eliminating ground fuels and the fire ladder, thinning where appropriate, and limbing up as needed to ensure minimal risk of crown fires. Killing more than 50,000 trees and poisoning them for up to 10 years will have disastrous effects on this beautiful and healthy ecosystem, and cannot be allowed to happen."

To download a PDF file of all your constituents who have signed the petition, including their addresses, click this link: http://petitions.moveon.org/deliver_pdf.html?job_id=872144&target_type=custom&target_id=21317

Thank you.

--Hills Conservation Network

If you have any other questions, please email petitions@moveon.org.

The links to download the petition as a PDF and to respond to all of your constituents will remain available for the next 14 days.

This email was sent through MoveOn's petition website, a free service that allows anyone to set up their own online petition and share it with friends. MoveOn does not endorse the contents of petitions posted on our public petition website. If you don't want to receive further emails updating you on how many people have signed this petition, click here: http://petitions.moveon.org/delivery_unsub.html?e=xH6bm7btHgt1XQnAc8fwEiBFQkgtRUlTLUZFTUEtUklYQGZlbWEuZGhzLmdvdg--&petition_id=42455.

From: Tk N
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Please don"t cut down the trees
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:59:55 AM

To whom it may concern at FEMA,

Cutting down close to 100,000 trees is a terribly misguided policy in times where the rest of the world is busy planting and conserving trees. I hike on those trails because of the trees. Here are what I believe are some strong arguments against accepting the EIS as currently written:

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because is does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to develop a proposal that actually fixes the problem.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

>The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects

in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that will exist the day after 100,000+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison, as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this condition. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed the fire danger will begin to increase. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to include a fire model that analyses the expected end result vegetation rather than an essentially irrelevant state.

From: Martha Fateman
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Removal of Hazardous Vegetation in the East Bay Hills
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:48:23 AM

To Whom it may concern:

I strongly support removal of Eucalyptus and other hazardous vegetation in the East Bay Hills. I live just below the Claremont Canyon and lived through the our last major wildfire. I am amazed that the Eucalyptus are still there. I believe they present a danger to our area and since they are not native plants, I strongly support their removal so that native, less-fuel intensive plants can once again grace our hills.

In general, I am reluctant to use herbicides, but I think treating Eucalyptus to prevent regrowth is the only sensible strategy in this type of situation.

I urge approval of the EIS and the rapid removal of the dangerous plants.

Sincerely,

Martha N. Fateman
2965 Magnolia St.
Berkeley, CA 94705
510-848-0409

From: Torunn Sivesind
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD is Unacceptable
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:44:56 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because is does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to develop a proposal that actually fixes the problem. In addition, the draft EIS is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

Finally, I'd like to point out that the FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

--

Sincerely,

Torunn E. Sivesind
P.O. Box 536
Lafayette, CA 94549-0536

From: Shelley Sella
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Deforestation of the Berkeley and Oakland Hills
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:26:21 AM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my opposition to FEMA's plan to deforest the Berkeley and Oakland Hills. The plan is flawed and dangerous for many reasons.

It does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to develop a proposal that actually fixes the problem.

It does not fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use which will not only kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy?

It does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

It does not adequately analyze the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

It relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that will exist the day after 100,000+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison, as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this condition. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed the fire danger will begin to increase. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to include a fire model that analyses the expected end result vegetation rather than an essentially irrelevant state.

Sincerely,

Shelley Sella, M.D.

a long time resident of Oakland, California

From: Rex Lu
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Stop the clearcutting of trees in Berkeley and Oakland, CA
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:49:02 AM

Hello,
I understand the need for fire prevention measures to be taken in densely populated areas such as Berkeley and Oakland, however this is an unnecessarily in discriminatory and lazy approach to addressing that problem. Clearcutting vast areas and applying herbicde will surely prevent fires, but at what cost to the surrounding neighborhoods? Many people live in those areas *because* of the beauty that is provided by those very trees. Clearcutting those trees will not affect the aesthetic value of the area, but consequently the property value as well. Please reconsider this plan in favor of one that targets only specific types of trees (dead, dried ones, eucalyptus, etc.) rather than entire swathes of land. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Kindly,
Rex Lu, UC Berkeley graduate, 2006
619-756-2909

From: Douglas Thielscher
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills EIS
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:30:59 AM

Dear FEMA,

I have been Berkeley resident for 30 years and frequent the East Bay hills for many activities including walking, running, etc. The scope and scale of the proposed fire risk reduction is simply too extreme. Removing fully mature trees has never been the solution to fire hazard control. It is the undergrowth that needs to be controlled. In addition, I strongly object to the use of any kind of an herbicide to control the undergrowth. While it may be more expensive, FEMA needs to find a more appropriate and less destructive way to control the fire risk in the East Bay hills.

Please consider this email a "loud and clear" vote against any kind of cutting down of trees or use of herbicides in the East Bay hills!!

Best regards, Douglas Thielscher

Douglas Thielscher
(510)499-9780
3Dzola.com

From:	David Kessler
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	Comment on East Bay Hills Environmental Impact Study
Date:	Friday, May 24, 2013 9:20:28 AM
Attachments:	David Kessler FEMA EIS comments May 2013.doc

Dear FEMA staff:
Attached please find my thoughts about what should happen in regard to the EIS and the proposed work.
In peace,
David Kessler

--
"Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est."

116 Vicente Road
Berkeley, CA 94705
24 May 2013

Dear FEMA staff and others:

I would like to express my support for the conclusions of the East Bay Hills FEMA EIS. My wife and I lost our home, as did almost all our neighbors, in the 1991 Tunnel Fire. We mourn to this day every one of the 25 people who lost their lives. We do not want another such a tragedy to occur anywhere in the East Bay Hills.

Remembering that day, I am well aware that when wind, humidity, fuel load and lack of moisture combine to produce an indescribably powerful inferno, Nature can overwhelm even the most carefully protected community. Each such event will have its unique characteristics, making it hard to prepare for every possible scenario. How does one know what strategy will be most effective? Having seen ideas about containing wildfire evolve in the 22 years since the fire, I am aware that the science of fire prevention will probably always be imperfect and subject to disagreements and change. By dialogue and scientific observation, we continue to learn.

Given current modeling, keeping in mind the limited resources available and acknowledging the indisputable need to DO SOMETHING *NOW*, I believe FEMA should accept the EIS and fully fund the work. It is by far the best hope we have of protecting our lives, homes, and precious environment. I was very impressed with the EIS, which seems to have considered impacts in areas that I would never have dreamed of, and then scrutinized these in careful, painstaking detail.

In my reading of the EIS, especially section 3, it seems to me that alternative courses of action were properly dismissed as impractical. I think this is a very wise judgment. If we lived in a world where there was guaranteed long-term funding for vast maintenance crews, a sort of Works Progress Administration for wildlands management, the approach of selective tree-thinning combined with under-story maintenance might be worth consideration. The economic resources and political commitment to such an ongoing dedication are clearly not available now and are extremely unlikely to be in the future. Simply

put, the prerequisites to make such an approach viable exist only in *fantasy*. In following the recommendations of the EIS and making a vast initial effort to remove the most dangerous trees in the forest combined with a commitment to the comparatively modest and achievable maintenance effort required to avoid their reforestation we have the only practical real-life path to a safer environment.

Our community has been waiting a long time, indeed, far too long, for this work to begin. There are areas in our hills that are right now dangerously vulnerable to wildfire. I truly hope that a firm decision to proceed is made quickly. I also hope that those who have offered objections will accept this decision and let this work go forward without delay and further litigation. Yes, the removal of the eucalyptus and Monterey pines will result in some brutally disfigured landscapes that will lack aesthetic charm for some time to come. But we must keep in mind the goal, the big picture, the decades and centuries ahead. In the end, our hills will look more beautiful than ever, and will be safer for generations to come. Those who inherit our neighborhoods may not know that they owe their relative security from disastrous fire to decisions we make now; but in proceeding we make a life-saving investment in the future of the East Bay. We should feel deep satisfaction in making peace of mind our gift to our descendants. We also give thanks to FEMA for helping us. Your assistance gives us all a timely reminder of the key role our government can and should play in helping the people of this country in their pursuit of happiness.

In peace

David Kessler
North Hills Community Association Board member
Vicente Canyon Neighborhood Association member

From: Raminder Sidhu
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: In opposition to tree cutting
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:11:05 AM

Hello,

I would like to speak out against the cutting of trees in the hills of Berkeley and Oakland. As residents of Oakland, we enjoy the wooded areas for recreational reasons and appreciate the diversity of wildlife found there. The trees also provide oxygen and help cleanse the air we breathe, which is so critical in the congested bay area.

I hope you will consider NOT cutting the trees.

Thanks,
Raminder Sidhu
627 Alma Ave
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Agnes Riedmann
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Oakland trees
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 3:43:14 AM

Please leave things alone.

Agnes

From:	Richard A Muller
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	Elizabeth Muller; Rosemary Muller; Rahal Waladi; Melinda Muller; Rachel Findley
Subject:	Historic Oakland hills were not forested
Date:	Monday, May 27, 2013 4:17:59 PM
Attachments:	Historic forestation of Oakland.pdf

Dear FEMA,

The pre-urbanized state of the Oakland hills was grassland, as the attached article by David Nowak in the Journal of Arboriculture explains. Oakland had only 2% tree coverage. Only 0.7% was redwood; only 0.5% was coast live oak.

Currently the tree coverage is about 19%. Returning to the historical origins can only be done by destroying virtually all of the trees and replacing them with grassland. Nobody wants that.

According to the attached article, the primary reason for planting the trees was "as a measure against the recurring fires that almost every year swept over the hills..." (page 314). Of course, other trees could do that too -- but don't misleadingly claim that if you destroy the eucalyptus you are doing so to return the vegetation of the hills to anything resembling their natural state.

Richard Muller
Professor of Physics, U.C. Berkeley
2831 Garber St.
Berkeley CA 94705
(2 blocks away from the beautiful historic Eucalyptus trees on the hill)

From: Kathy Kramer
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Support of EIS for East Bay Hills
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 4:14:10 PM

FEMA
P.O. Box 72379
Oakland, CA 94612-8579

Dear FEMA,

I strongly support the wildfire hazard mitigation projects for the East Bay Hills and feel that they have been studied long enough. I believe the EIS findings of improved fire safety and likely long-term improvements to the native landscape should move forward without delay. It would be fabulous to have the risk of fire reduced; I also support the project because it has the potential for establishment of native plants. I hope this project goes forward, and is spread to other areas.

With removal of invasive trees and yearly follow-up to discourage re-growth and weeds, native vegetation will thrive. Thank you for supporting this important work. Please approve the EIS as soon as possible.

Warmly,

Kathy Kramer
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Coordinator
(510) 236-9558
kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net
www.bringingbackthenatives.net

From: Renee Benmeleh
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Clear-Cutting of 85,000 Berkeley and Oakland Trees
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 3:57:32 PM

To whom it ay concern:

I would like to take a brief moment to take a stand against the **Clear-Cutting of 85,000 Berkeley and Oakland Trees** in Berkeley's historic Strawberry and Claremont Canyons.

how the feds have money for this destructive project while Head Start and public housing programs are being cut due to the sequester, is beyond me-but furthermore

Amber Renee Bee
www.reneebenmeleh.com
www.eastbaymusictogether.com

"A sound economy is dependent on a sound environment"
-Dr. Sylvia Earle, Ph.D

From: Paul McGee
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Support for the EIS for the East Bay Hills
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 3:34:40 PM

To FEMA:

As a survivor of the 1991 firestorm I strongly support the FEMA EIS for the East Bay Hills and each and every constituent project therein. These projects have been studied long enough and should move forward without delay. I know from personal experience that eucalypts are unusually dangerous under Diablo wind conditions because of their high oil content, outgassing, shreddy bark, low hanging limbs, excessive dropping of debris, height, fuel load, and throwing of embers due to their falcate (sickle-shaped) leaves. The native vegetation is more biodiverse and less prone to conflagrations.

Please approve the EIS as soon as possible.

Truly yours,

Paul H. McGee

From: Patricia Sullivan
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: about the East Bay Hills
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 2:15:28 PM

Hello FEMA people:
My husband and I both strongly support the hazard mitigation project for the East Bay Hills. Cutting down the eucalyptus trees is important for our safety, and will encourage native growth. I hope you approve the EIS as soon as possible.
Thanks,
Patricia Sullivan
Resident near Claremont Canyon in Berkeley

From:	Jill Lessing
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	NO to deforestation of Berkeley/Oakland Hills
Date:	Monday, May 27, 2013 1:54:46 PM

To whom it may concern:

Please do not cut the trees in the Berkeley/Oakland Hills. I agree with my friend who wrote below:

It would have devastating long-lasting environmental consequences. It would greatly increase the risk of fire: by removing the shade
and fog drip of thousands of trees and thus increasing dry heat; by placing
tons of dead wood onto bare ground; by leaving space for non-native grasses and
brush to fill in and become a true fire hazard; by destroying wind breaks; and
by doing prescribed burns that could easily get out of control. Most fires
start in dry grass and brush, not under moist tree canopy where captured fog
often drips down even in summer.

Please re-consider a safer and healthier plan.

Thank you,
Jill Lessing

From: burleyc1@gmail.com on behalf of Chris Burley
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: I do not support the tree removal from Berkeley/Oakland Hills
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 12:28:18 PM

A few of the reasons why I do not support this initiative are listed below. Please understand that while I do not believe cutting trees down is a bad idea in the long run, the method and reasoning behind the current proposal is flawed.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because is does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to develop a proposal that actually fixes the problem.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

>The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that will exist the day after 100,000+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison, as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this condition. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed the fire danger will begin to increase. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to include a fire model that analyses the expected end result vegetation rather than an essentially irrelevant state.

Thank you,
Christopher Burley
Oakland, CA

From: Ginny Haddad
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Support for FEMA proposal,formClaremont Canyon
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 12:05:12 PM

Please accept the draft EIS and fund the proposed actions. There have been enough studies and analyses of these projects. The projects have been delayed too long. They need to be completed to make our communities safer from wildfire.

We support the draft EIS. It appears to balance hazardous fire risk reduction with concerns for the environment. It has addressed the concerns raised about the removal methods and impacts to plant and animal species. It has evaluated an additional 45 similar projects as connected actions. The proposed actions offer potential not only reduce risk of wildfire, but also to improve habitat, water quality and biodiversity. The "No Action Alternative" is not acceptable. FEMA should find in favor of the proposed actions and fund the applications.

Do not let the vocal minority stall these projects any further at the risk of another major wildfire. The proposed hazardous fire risk reduction projects need to be completed. The EIS shows they can be done while protecting environmental concerns. Finalize the EIS and allow the work to begin.

Ginny Haddad
42 Chancellor Pl
Berkeley, CA
Sent from Ginny's iPad.

From: Mary Breunig
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Fema"s Regional Parks Fire Protection plans for east bay
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 11:02:16 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I'd like to "weigh in" on this most difficult subject. My wish, hope, suggestion and/or opinion is:

a) Review thoroughly all of the information possible before doing anything drastic

b) There are many professionals participating; each is correct in one aspect or another

c) I would prefer a gradual clearing of non-native species with plenty of native ground cover replacements to prevent erosion, mud slides, or other disasters

d) Convince the public that what you intend to do is "the best possible" solution: publish updates with details of how and by whom specific decisions are being made

Because I am a third generation Californian and because I've observed and developed a love for native habitats of California, I hope for the best. Fires are a natural phenomena in much of California - they probably cannot or even should not be eliminated. Development must be stopped where it is inappropriate.
I am not a professional environmentalist or fire prevention expert - I must trust those persons who have studied this subject. thank you.

Mary Breunig
2709 McGee Ave
Berkeley CA 94703
510 549 0689

From: Nelson Max
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree removal in East San Francisco Bay Parks
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 10:30:12 AM

I got your e-mail address from a poster opposing the tree removal, but I am in fact in favor of it. I understand that what will be removed will be mainly non-native and fast burning trees, and that when the other trees fill in the cleared space, the parks will actually be improved. I live near the parks, in the special fire prevention district, and I am in favor of improving the fire safety in these parks.

From: Fred Strauss
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: don"t cut down those 82000 trees in Berkeley and Oakland hills
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 9:57:49 AM

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please don't cut down those 82000 trees in the Berkeley and Oakland Hills. and please do not use herbicides to prevent new growth. The world needs to plant trees, not destroy them. Lets have some thoughtful discussion about how we can prevent fires instead of wanton destruction of our trees.

From: Jann Littleton
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree removal in Berkely and Oakland, CA.
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 9:56:57 AM

Dear people in charge of our tax dollars,

When will you realize that the benefits of trees to the removal of CO2 in the environment is a valuable resource. Select cutting can deter forest fires, tree removal is important to the health of any forest. But mass removal of trees, the spraying of herbicides and the dis-regard to wild life habitat is un excusable. Please reconsider this proposal for the benefits of all of us. No one benefits when the air is un-breatheable, which will happen if we continue to de-forest California. I stand in opposition to your proposal.

Sincerely,

Janice F. Wood-Littleton

From: Annalee
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Do Not Deforest and Poison the Berkeley Hills
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 9:47:32 AM

Dear FEMA,

I am a resident of Oakland, CA and I oppose your plans to cut down trees and other measures, and use herbicides in the Berkeley Hills.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

A. Cobbett, JD
Oakland, CA
94610

From: Josh Molho
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Broken link on the East Bay Hills Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction Environmental Impact Statement download page
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 9:29:09 AM

I am trying to review the East Bay Hills Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction Environmental Impact Statement documents at http://ebheis.cdmims.com/Documents.aspx. The link for the table of contents section (see below) is broken and reports the error that I have copied below. The other sections I have accessed do not appear to have this problem. Please correct the issue as soon as possible. Thank you.

--Josh

http://ebheis.cdmims.com/Libraries/Site_Documents/Cover_Abstract_Table_of_Contents_and_List_of_Acronyms_and_Abbreviations.sflb.ashx

Duplicate headers received from server

The response from the server contained duplicate headers. This problem is generally the result of a misconfigured website or proxy. Only the website or proxy administrator can fix this issue.

Error 349 (net::ERR_RESPONSE_HEADERS_MULTIPLE_CONTENT_DISPOSITION): Multiple distinct Content-Disposition headers received. This is disallowed to protect against HTTP response splitting attacks.

From: Susan Scott
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills Fire Reduction Plan Comment
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 8:26:28 AM

We fully support this plan and hope that it goes through to help our neighborhood avoid a catastrophic fire.
Thank you,
Peter and Sue Scott
5610 Denton Pl
Oakland, CA 94619
(510) 482-0777

From: Laurel A. Shearer
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Approval urged!
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 7:25:44 AM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

The Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction program is essential for our safety. I urge approval as well as the continuation of the Skyline median improvement project.

Laurel Shearer and Allyn McAuley
13735 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94619

Laurel Shearer
Executive Vice President
LUMEDX Corporation
510-903-2098 Phone
510-206-4523 Cell



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From: Katy Carroll
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Save the trees!
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 12:22:19 AM

Please don't clear cut and use chemicals to keep fires out of California. Clear citing is not the answer

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kathy Kramer
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: subscribe
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 9:02:28 PM

Kathy Kramer
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Coordinator
(510) 236-9558
kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net
www.bringingbackthenatives.net

From: Gloria Van Lydegraf
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: no to killing trees in Strawberry and Claremont Canyon
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 8:25:59 PM

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spraying with poisons and cutting down the trees will lead to erosion, mudslides,and contamination of the watershed. It is a terrible plan and must be abandoned.

From: Maryly Snow
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Fire Risk
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 7:34:57 PM

Life entails risks. Do not use Garlon or other any other herbicide! Use only manual labor to prune. Revive or use the California Conservation Corps. Use goats.
Don't ruin the habitat and quality of life for humans and animals - risk is part of life.
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Maryly Snow
Oakland native, 3rd generation Oakland.
www.snowstudios.com

From: Bonnie Hughes
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: No to FEMA
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 6:42:20 PM

There alternatives that are gentler, smaller in scale, more respectful of the hills and its inhabitants, and more effective in mitigating the risk of fire. Thinning dense groves and pruning shrubs require manual labor, labor that could be provided by the currently unemployed who are eager to work to feed their families. They could be paid by the funds not being used on chainsaws and bulldozers or gallons of herbicide.

Bonnie Hughes
Berkeley CA

From: A. Franklin
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills hazardous fire risk reduction project
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 5:54:25 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

Clear cutting 85,000 trees and mass spraying of pesticides...isn't there another way? That land will become useless as a wildlife habitat and for human recreation. This is a case of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. You want to keep the area safe from fire, but the clear-cutting and deforestation by pesticide will make the land unsuitable for anything. As an area resident, I wholly disapprove of this plan to manage fire risk. Please think of some other way.

Alicia Franklin

From: ILUCY@aol.com
To: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Cc: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Get Rid of the Weeds in the Berkeley Hills
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 2:02:00 PM

I was Born in Berkeley, 1932. The Eucalyptus have been a major fire hazard all my life. It's time to get rid of them. The cost is less than a holocaust would be!

Lucy W. Sells. Formerly 1181 Euclid Ave, now 1501 Blake St. # 304. Go to it as soon as possible!

From: Susan Harman
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: NO to the deforestation in the Oakland/ Berkeley Hills
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 11:47:12 AM

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because is does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to develop a proposal that actually fixes the problem.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

>The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that will exist the day after 100,000+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison, as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this condition. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed the fire danger will begin to increase. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to include a fire model that analyses the expected end result vegetation rather than an essentially irrelevant state.

Susan Harman
Oakland, CA

From: Gail Cooper
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: public comment
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 11:31:24 AM

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re:East Bay Hills Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction Environmental Impact Statement

I urge FEMA to approve the draft EIS as soon as possible so that funds will be released and projects to mitigate fire danger in the East Bay Hills can begin.

Gail Cooper
4352 Montgomery St
Oakland, CA 94611

From: Barbara K
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay vegetation management
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 9:00:59 AM

I am writing because I am very concerned about the current plan regarding the deforestation of the CA East Bay Hills. Our hard earned tax dollars should be spent for better uses. Your current plan is unacceptable.

It is unacceptable because is does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently.

It is also unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects.

Please fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees. It does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed.
Please fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy. It does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis. It does not adequately analyze the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality. It relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that will exist the day after 100,000+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison, as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this condition. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed the fire danger will begin to increase. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to include a fire model that analyses the expected end result vegetation rather than an essentially irrelevant state.
Of additional concern is the release of extensive poisonous toxins for a period of 10 years.

Thank you,
Barbara Kaimowitz
Albany CA

From:	Richard Fairfield
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	hills network; rich f; richard fairfield
Subject:	draft EIS for Univ. of CA , Oakland, and EBRPD
Date:	Sunday, May 26, 2013 8:34:25 AM

5/26/13

Richard Fairfield
4451 Miles Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Dear Fema Administrators,

Please retract and revise the Fema Draft EIS for Oakland, University of CA, and the East Bay Regional Parks Department to:

*reduce conflagration flame lengths to 2 feet as per your standards

*stop the greenhouse effects of felling 100,000+ trees

*prevent loss of shade canopy which will result in a vast increase of highly flammable underbrush

*consider other far less costly, less catastophicly toxic, less enviornmentally destuctive means to mitigate fire

*compare risks of fire to the expected end result vegetation several years after the proposed deforrestation rather than compareing those risks to the envionment immedately after deforrestation.

Sincerely, Richard Fairfield

From: John Rice
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree cutting in Berkeley/Oakland
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 8:31:55 AM

I write to express my dismay and my strong opposition to this ill-conceived plan! The proposed measures are far too extreme -- massive destruction of our landscape and natural habitats, massive application of herbicides, no plan for reforestation. Far simpler and less expensive measures would suffice for reducing fire hazards. Let's consider some more careful and measured approaches.

Frankly, this devastating project seems utterly mad.

Sincerely yours,

John Rice
3084 Buena Vista Way
Berkeley, CA

From: juli moscovitz
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: tree reduction/Fire management
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 11:09:29 PM

Please send me more data on the decision to cut trees in Oakland and Berkeley.
I'd like to know how the determination has been reached in the cutting of these trees
and what is slated to be done with the spaces after the trees have been removed.
I'd also like to know the species of trees being removed, ie Eucaliptus, Oak, or Redwoods.

thanks
juli moscovitz

--
Julianne Moscovitz
Music Director
Castlemont Hight School
Oakland, California

From:	LJ Speakup
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	Cutting 100,000 trees in the east bay
Date:	Saturday, May 25, 2013 10:15:12 PM

Please stop this horrible destruction and waste of taxpayer money. It is completely unnecessary.
Joel Schipper.

Sent from my mobile device.

From: Love
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: No deforestation in Oakland/Berkeley hills
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 10:08:31 PM

One of the many reasons the EIS is flawed is because:

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

Respectfully,

Summer LeBlanc

From: Maria Monks
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Concerns regarding draft EIS
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 9:19:29 PM

Dear FEMA,

I have several concerns about the methodology and conclusions presented in the current draft EIS regarding the East Bay Hills Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction. I also would like to propose a third alternative to be considered and evaluated in the next draft.

My concerns are outlined in points 1-5 below, and my proposed alternative is described in point 6.

1. WILDFIRE RISK: In section 4 of the document, the draft EIS reports that FlamMap cannot account for changing weather patterns. And yet, as noted in section 5.6, one of the major changes that will occur as a result of the removal of all non-native trees, including the tall Eucalyptus trees, is a reduction of fog drip and therefore a drier ground in the summer season. The methodology to predict fire hazard did not take this into account, nor the natural wind break that is provided by the trees. The only statement I have found in the entire document discussing the precise difference in moisture due to the absence of fog drip is that the total amount of water received by the ground "may not be substantially different after treatment than before."

In light of the recent Angel Island fires, however, this statement and the claim that the current plan will reduce wildfire hazard does not seem to be valid. There were no major wildfires on Angel Island until after the removal of the Eucalyptus and other non-native trees from the island. Afterwards, there have been several destructive wildfires on the island, occurring every 3-5 years. (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel_Island_(California)#2008_fire for details about the Angel Island fires that have occured since the removal of the Eucalyptus trees on the island.)

It is well-documented that no more than 3% of California wildfires occur in forests; the vast majority are brush fires, occurring in grasslands. I do agree with FEMA's findings that the fuel resources are larger in the Eucalyptus groves than in grassland, and that longer flame lengths and crowning or torching are more likely to occur in the case of a wildfire. However, I am concerned that due to the lack of windbreak and summer fog drip, wildfires will be more common if the plan is executed, thereby contributing more to fire hazard, more carbon emissions in the long run, and harm to wildlife habitats and aquatic life due to increased dryness in the summer months. It does not appear that the draft EIS has taken these factors into account.

2. RESTORATION OF NATIVE PLANTS: It is not clearly explained how the native shrubs, trees, and grassland will be encouraged to grow on the cleared space, especially in light of the thousands of gallons of herbicide that are to be sprayed in the targeted areas over the course of several decades. There does not seem to be a clear plan to re-plant native plants and trees or otherwise encourage them, nor evidence that they would indeed naturally grow after the removal of the non-native trees.

Furthermore, it is clearly stated in the Executive Summary that herbicide is not to be

applied within 60 feet of any body of water. However, there are a significant number of Eucalyptus trees close to Lake Anza in Tilden Park, on the south side of the lake. Since the herbicides will not be applied near the lake, there is no guarantee that these "non-native" plants will not simply continue to grow and sprout in areas adjacent to the lakes and streams.

3. WILDLIFE: While the document does address native wildlife and ways of avoiding short-term damage to the wildlife during the project's execution, it is not clear what the long-term effects on the wildlife habitats will be. Since the proposed plan is to remove all Eucalypus trees and other non-native plants within the short timespan of 2-3 years, without first making sure that the wildlife are adapting adequately to "native" habitats, it is possible that the critical species such as the Alameda whipsnake and the California Red-legged Frog will not be able to reintegrate into the new environment.

The draft EIS also does not adequately address the more complicated and long-term effects of the proposed actions on the local ecosystem. The hawks and owls that currently nest in the tall trees feed on rodents, keeping the rodent population in check. If damage does occur to the bird and snake population, the rodent population will increase, leading to yet another imbalanced ecosystem.

4. CARBON SEQUESTRATION: The EIS does not adequately address the loss of carbon sequestration from the atmosphere due to the removal of a large carbon sink in the area.

5. RECREATION: The proposed actions include temporarily closing many popular nature trails, including the Upper Jordan Fire Trail, for the duration of the removal of trees in those areas. The draft EIS states in section 5.11.2.2.2 that "Bicycle and pedestrian use of trails and public roads in and adjacent
to the proposed and connected project areas during expected working hours is minimal. Thus,
adverse effects on recreational use of public roads would not be significant."

This is a completely false and unfounded premise. The Selby trail, the Vollmer Peak Trail, and the Upper Jordan Fire Trail are all used heavily during weekday working hours. I am a serious trail runner and have won several local races by making heavy use of the Tilden park trails to train on and race on, and I consistently see many other runners, hikers, and tourists on these trails during working hours. Many of the students and academics at UC Berkeley, MSRI, Lawrence Berkeley Labs, and the Space Sciences Laboratory have very flexible working hours, and commonly use the trails in Tilden park during the standard work day.

I can further attest to the heavy use of these trails by the local community, as I am a member of the Strawberry Canyon Track Club and the Berkeley Running Club, both of which use the stated trails on a regular basis. I also have participated in many local races that attract hundreds of runners and make use of the trails in the proposed project areas.

Finally, section 5.11.2 does not account for the effect of the increased potential for landslide on recreational use. The Selby Trail is already partially collapsed in areas, and has had to be re-routed and fenced off in several locations. The land depends on the surrounding trees to prevent erosion, and the long-term effects that this may have on the recreational use of the proposed project areas was not adequately

addressed in the draft EIS. I understand that the wood chips and logs are to be placed strategically to prevent this, but the extent to which this would be successful in the long term was not estimated in the draft.

6. PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE: In light of the above concerns, which are shared by a large portion of the local community (including organizations such as the Hills Conservation Network and the Strawberry Canyon Track Club) I wish to propose the following alternative plan.

Rather than removing all the non-native plant life within the next 2-3 years, spread the work out over several decades, and remove the plants gradually, one small region at a time. When one Eucalyptus grove or section of pine forest is cleared, plant native trees such as Redwood or Oak trees in the area, and spray herbicides only on a few adjacent areas that may threaten the young trees. Once the trees in this area are tall enough, and the local ecosystem adapts to the new types of plant life, an adjacent section can be targeted. This plan would have the following advantages:

a) The new tall trees that would be planted in place of the Eucalyptus trees are less flammable, but still have the ability to break wind and collect fog. Since they will be planted as the Eucalyptus trees are gradually removed, there will no longer be a dangerous post-removal time period in which there are not sufficient trees to reduce the risk of summer brush fires.

b) The new trees would provide potential nesting places for the hawks and owls. In general the wildlife will have the opportunity to adapt more gradually to the new habitat.

c) It is likely that the total herbicide use would be decreased if this proposal is followed, as the control of non-native species would be aided by the re-planting of native species.

d) Recreational use would only be disturbed in one small area at a time, rather than in many of the essential connecting trails in the parks all at once.

e) Since new trees would be planted at the same rate as the current trees are removed, the problem of loss of carbon sequestration would be significantly reduced, if not completely eliminated.

f) In the case that the wildlife does not seem to be adapting well to the new environment, or other unforseen negative consequences occur, the project can be halted before further damage is done.

Finally, since the current draft of the EIS did not consider any alternatives besides the No Action Alternative, I hope that the next draft will thoroughly consider the other three alternatives mentioned in the draft as well as the above proposal.

I look forward to seeing the conclusions of your revised work.

Best Regards,
Maria Monks
Department of Mathematics
UC Berkeley

From: Leslie Bonett
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: please consider counter-arguments and Keep our hills Green!
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 8:14:03 PM

Leslie T. Bonett
Speech-Language Pathologist
Speech Therapy Services
Oakland, CA
510-534-2750

From: Susan Kahn
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: typo in last sample comment on FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 6:29:46 PM

There is a typo in the last sample comment on your website; I have highlighted it in red below :

>The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies of a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that will exist the day after 100,000+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison, as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this condition. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed the fire danger will begin to increase. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to include a fire model that analyses the expect end result vegetation rather than an essentially irrelevant state.

It should be "on" instead of "of."

My apologies for making a critical comment in my first contact with your organization! The sample letters are very good, and I will be sending one.

Thank you for the work you are doing.

Susan Kahn
Oakland

From:	Laurie Gardner
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX; wdotson@ebparks.org; jsutter@ebparks.org; bdoyle@ebparks.org
Subject:	Please don"t fumigate our neighborhood with Mansanto poison!!
Date:	Saturday, May 25, 2013 6:13:49 PM

Dear Sirs and Madams who are making the decision about the FEMA/U Berkeley clear-cutting plan,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the current FEMA plan to clear cut our trees using Mansanto's highly toxic product, Roundup. I get you, on behalf of all of us who live nearby, to use the non-toxic cut and tarp method instead, which is non-toxic and won't pollute our health during the clear-cutting. I also urge high caution in burning Eucalyptus trees, which go up like oil-filled explosive poles.

Thank you for your attention to these requests.

Laurie Gardner, Berkely resident (within 0.25 miles of Claremont Canyon)

Laurie Gardner
www.lauriegardner.com

From: apook@hotmail.com
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: FEMA Fuel Reduction Project
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 1:34:39 PM

I am writing to support plans to remove vegetation that is likely to contribute to fire danger in the East Bay Hills.

Private property owners can only do so much to create and maintain less fire-prone landscapes. We welcome and appreciate work to make publicly held lands as safe as possible. I am not an arborist or botanist, and leave the specifics of how this is accomplished to the experts. Use of herbicides for some of this work must be done judiciously and with care.

My husband and I live adjacent to north end of Anthony Chabot Regional Park. While the park district routinely uses goats to manage some of the grasses, there is clearly more work to be done.

The effects of a major fire would be devastating to any of the areas studied and affected by this proposal.

Thank you,

Andrea Pook
5167 Saddle Brook Drive
Oakland, CA 94619
(510) 508-6782

From: Richard Marliave
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills hazardous fire risk reduction projects
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 1:08:46 PM

I just want to convey my support for the East Bay Hills hazardous fire risk reduction projects proposed for the San Francisco East Bay hills from Richmond in the north to San Leandro in the south. We live adjacent to the Chabot Canyon Regional Park in the Oakland hills, and I would be very pleased if the fire risk adjacent to our home were reduced.

Sincerely,
Richard Marliave
13323 Clairepointe Way
Oakland
CA 94619

From: Sam Greyson
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 12:16:52 PM

Our family hikes regularly in Claremont Canyon and we strongly support the wildfire mitigation projects for the East Bay hills. We were in the hills on the day of the wildfire in 1991 and are well aware of the fire hazard posed by the non-native trees scheduled for removal. Non native trees that crowd out native ones and create an extreme fire hazard need to be removed. Its been "studied" far too long. We should not wait for another deadly fire to occur before we begin removal. Samuel H. Greyson 2454 Prince St. Berkeley, CA 94705

Samuel H. Greyson, Attorney at Law
California State Bar #118214
(510)541-5920 FAX(510)280-6035

This e-mail is sent by a law firm and may contain information that is privileged

and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete the e-mail and any attachments and notify us immediately.

From: Hills Conservation Network
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: 4,501 signers: Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills petition
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 11:37:25 AM

Dear FEMA,

I started a petition to you titled *Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills*. So far, the petition has 4,501 total signers.

You can email all petition signers by clicking here: http://petitions.moveon.org/target_talkback.html?tt=tt-42455-custom-21317-20130611-l2XSjJ

The petition states:

> "The current Draft EIS is unacceptable as it will inflict enormous environmental damage, expose the public to thousands of gallons of toxic herbicide, destroy raptor habitats, destabilize steep slopes, and actually increase the risk of hazardous wildfires. FEMA should retract this EIS and remove those portions of the EIS that call for clear-cutting tall trees. The EIS should instead support a far less destructive methodology that would focus on a "species-neutral" approach, focusing on eliminating ground fuels and the fire ladder, thinning where appropriate, and limbing up as needed to ensure minimal risk of crown fires. Killing more than 50,000 trees and poisoning them for up to 10 years will have disastrous effects on this beautiful and healthy ecosystem, and cannot be allowed to happen."

To download a PDF file of all your constituents who have signed the petition, including their addresses, click this link: http://petitions.moveon.org/deliver_pdf.html?job_id=875974&target_type=custom&target_id=21317

Thank you.

--Hills Conservation Network

If you have any other questions, please email petitions@moveon.org.

The links to download the petition as a PDF and to respond to all of your constituents will remain available for the next 14 days.

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From: Thomas Bruce
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Eucalyptus removal
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:53:12 AM

I am a resident of Berkeley, Ca living adjacent to the Claremont Canyon area and strongly support the plan to remove the Eucalyptus trees in the area.
Thomas Bruce MD

Sent from my iPhone

From: Barry LeBeau
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comment EIS for Fire Hazard Reduction in East Bay Hills
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:42:14 AM

When I heard that you want to clear 85,000Berkeley & Oakland trees from historic Strawberry & Claremont Canyons, I was upset over your plans to use many gallons of herbicide "Roundup" to stop non-native vegetation. These Trees have been there for many years an hardly constitute a "Hazard" as you describe. I am vehemently against the use of excessive amounts of herbicides which are extremely toxic to all wildlife in those areas. This is as bad as "Clear-Cutting" Trees to prevent Fire Hazards which is a very poorly designed policy that does not solve this problem & if anything further complicates environmental issues surrounding the exorbitant use of a known toxic herbicide that will affect all wildlife for future generations. You need to Re-Evaluate this flawed policy & come up with a better plan that reduces the fire hazard Without harming the indigenous wildlife & without the use of Any Herbicides.

Respectfully,
Barry LeBeau

From: Marcel Voracka
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Please stop the EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:24:45 AM

Hi,

I am very opposed to the way the deforestation will occur. I am disgusted with how much chemicals will be sprayed, the way the project will dispose of the cut trees, and disappointed with the lack of plan to replant the clear cut areas.

The chemical sprays will get washed off the steep hills and end up in our water, possibly even in the bay. Not only will the chemicals wash down the hills, but so too will the soil that would be left exposed, without any tree roots to hold it to a steep hillside.

Next, our forest will be buried beneath 2 feet of wood chips, which will decompose and bury any habitat for new growth to even occur. Some trees will be burned in piles as well. Is there a better way to dispose of these trees? Instead of burning them in the hills, can you give them to the people who live in the area to heat their homes with it? I would be interested in at least using the cut trees for something useful.

Finally, the plan doesn't include a way to heal the forest. Some of the funds need to be allocated to replant the barren areas. Native trees need to grow under a forest and are moistened by fog drip and cooled by shade. They will not grow on a dry barren slope under two feet of mulch. This is an excellent opportunity to create jobs for caretakers who replant the forest to help it heal.

If the plan was done right, it would include a gradual cutting of non-native trees and a replanting of native ones. You can't just cut down so many trees in one season and expect it to work great. After all, the great wall of China wasn't build in one day, and you can't fix the East Bay fire hazard in one season either.

Thanks,
Marcel Voracka

From: Nicole Voracka
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: EIS bad plan
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:23:55 AM

Hi,

I am very opposed to the way the deforestation will occur. I am disgusted with how much chemicals will be sprayed, the way the project will dispose of the cut trees, and disappointed with the lack of plan to replant the clear cut areas.

The chemical sprays will get washed off the steep hills and end up in our water, possibly even in the bay. Not only will the chemicals wash down the hills, but so too will the soil that would be left exposed, without any tree roots to hold it to a steep hillside.

Next, our forest will be buried beneath 2 feet of wood chips, which will decompose and bury any habitat for new growth to even occur. Some trees will be burned in piles as well. Is there a better way to dispose of these trees? Instead of burning them in the hills, can you give them to the people who live in the area to heat their homes with it? I would be interested in at least using the cut trees for something useful.

Finally, the plan doesn't include a way to heal the forest. Some of the funds need to be allocated to replant the barren areas. Native trees need to grow under a forest and are moistened by fog drip and cooled by shade. They will not grow on a dry barren slope under two feet of mulch. This is an excellent opportunity to create jobs for caretakers who replant the forest to help it heal.

If the plan was done right, it would include a gradual cutting of non-native trees and a replanting of native ones. You can't just cut down so many trees in one season and expect it to work great. After all, the great wall of China wasn't built in one day, and you can't fix the East Bay fire hazard in one season either.

Thanks,
Nicole Voracka

From: Liz Garfinkle
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comments on Draft EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:18:22 AM

I am writing to express my concern about the current fire prevention plan. As a long-time Montclair resident, I understand and appreciate the need for fire prevention. However, I also am very concerned with the enormous scope of the plan and its potential for serious dangers for erosion, water-system health, animal health, and enjoyment of the natural beauty of the area. I live in the Oakland hills because I love being surrounded by big trees, and I accept the risks that involves and recognize the other risks caused by the proposals here.

With that in mind, I would support some relatively minor and gradual thinning of the large, non-native trees, such as the Eucalyptus. By thinning, I mean removal of up to one third of the trees in a given area, if the trees are touching each other or their branches are within 20 feet of each other, and removal of lower branches. I could envision more non-native trees being removed over a long time period, but the sudden removal of all or the majority of trees within a few years would cause serious risks to our delicate eco-system. I think the potential risks from wide-spread removal are outweighed by the value the trees bring to our environment, and I would object strongly to the expenditure of our resources on their removal.

While the EBRPD's plan removes more trees than I would prefer and uses herbicides, I find its "selective thinning" plan to be substantially preferable to UCB's clear-cutting approach. I would prefer that EBRPD not use herbicides and remove fewer trees than they are proposing. I hope that they would consider my comments and not remove as many trees as they are suggesting and would look for an alternative to herbicides, such as hand-pulling.

I've also noticed that the proposals do not indicate an interest in re-building redwood forests. I understand this is a complicated issue, but I would support trying to introduce more redwoods to the areas, and not just focus on oak and bays, which are experiencing a number of difficulties these days.

In sum, I strongly object to clear-cutting of all of any species of tree from any area and to the use of herbicides once they are removed. Some strategic thinning of trees in areas where they are particularly close together is acceptable and beneficial. I am especially concerned about the impact on wildlife and erosion that the current plans create. I appreciate this opportunity to comment and I would like to be more involved, as this area is incredibly important to me.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Garfinkle
5677 Florence Terrace
Oakland, CA 94611

From: Elise Peeples
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: The Trees
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 8:30:26 AM

I am writing to express my outrage at the proposed action of cutting down so many non-native trees, using herbicides that will leak into groundwater to thoroughly kill them and then not re-planting native trees. Ideally we would not be in this predicament, but humans brought these species here and they are now part of our ecosystems. To remove them now will cause great disruption to the natural and human worlds who are living in connection with them. Please look for less intrusive and violent ways to cut down on the fire hazards. Surely this kind of thing should be a last resort if a resort at all. At the very least it should be done very slowly, and not all at once with the threat of soil erosion and mudslides in our region. Thanks for re-thinking this action. I did not find out about this before the public hearings were over.
Sincerely,
Elise Peeples

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blog: Between Here and Hereafter
www.elisepeeples.com
www.ArtBetweenUs.org;
www.SoundRivers.net

From: Jeff Kane
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: FEMA East Bay Hills Fire Reduction Plan
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 8:17:46 AM

I oppose the Fire Reduction Plan as now proposed as being wasteful, short-sighted, and dangerous.

FEMA's funds should be going into relieving those already affected by disaster. Fire prevention should come from more appropriate agencies.

More seriously, the use of Roundup in any amounts should be resisted. A large body of research indicates that glyphosate's breakdown products are long-lived and carcinogenic. They'll flow into the area's watershed and then into SF Bay.

Respectfully,
Jeff Kane MD

From: Judy Raddue
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley/Oakland Ridge (California)
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 5:20:20 AM

Please reconsider - or at least modify - your reported plan to eliminate 80,000 trees, then douse them with toxic herbicide. I grew up playing amongst those same trees, and they're important to me. Having lived through the 1991 Oakland Hills fire, which came within a mile of my home, I understand the fire safety concern. What I do not understand is the need to douse precious land with toxic chemicals.

If the trees must go, cut them down, but stop there. Let Nature take its course...

Thank you.

--
Peace,

Judy

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." Desmond Tutu

From: showmeyourwits .
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: NO to Fema Chopping down the thousands of trees in Berkeley and Oakland
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 2:22:49 AM

The trees in Strawberry and Claremont Canyon have been there for decades and hardly constitute a “hazard.” But pouring 1400 gallons of herbicide on the currently pristine hills will create a real hazard.To use the highly toxic herbicide “Roundup” to squelch the vegetation is destructive and dangerous for the community and environment. I oppose FEMA's plans to clearcut and poison the land. -Judy (Part-time resident in SF's Pacific heights neighborhood)

From: James Orman
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction Proposal
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 1:19:51 AM

Hello, as a concerned citizen, I propose that pumping water from aquifers, and redirecting other water sources into areas that are fire prone is a much safer alternative to the methods proposed in the Executive Summary. Safe in terms of the biological health of citizens and environmental health. There are several additional benefits.

- Increased Income from Tourism
- Reduced Carbon Dioxide Due To New Vegetation
- Long Term Reduction In Fire Risks

Please consider saving our beautiful state in the long term. Americans are counting on your trust and integrity.

Best Regards,
James Orman

From: Jan Michaels
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Please don"t cut down trees
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 10:51:25 PM

I find it shocking that so many trees would be cut down. Please consider the Earth and the quality of the air and sublimate the fear of fire. Better to have vigilance than no trees. As a concerned citizen and a property tax payer in Berkeley please don't cut trees.

Thanks
Jan

Jan Michaels
590 York Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-621-0101
Fax 415-621-1017
jan@janmichaels.com
www.janmichaels.com

From: Mauricio Garzon
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills Environmental Impact Statement
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 8:55:02 PM

I would like to express my strong opposition to the FEMA proposal for EBH fire mitigation as currently outlined. The plan presents an excessive use of herbicides for this area. there is significant concern about the toxicity of glycophosphate not only for myself and my dog, but for the various creatures and kids that use the land as their sanctuary.

There has been insufficient notice to the public about this plan. I hike the hills several times a week and have just started hearing about it, and I can tell you there are many, many people who are outraged they have not been notified about this in time to attend the public hearings.

If you move ahead with this plan as is, you're going to have an outpouring of anger from the community as people become aware of the proposal.

Fire mitigation can be achieved with alternative methods, which have been posted online and will be much less destructive and poisonous to the parkland many of us consider our sanctuary and public treasure.

From: chris davis
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: cutting trees in alvarado park
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 8:51:23 PM

I would like to see some careful thinning of the trees. A clear cut of the ridge is a reckless move for many reasons not the least of which would be the total destruction of lofty environment which a multitude of birds enjoy.
Most sincerely, Chris Davis
5923 McBryde Ave.

From: Theodora Crawford
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley CA fire abatement proposal.
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 7:59:13 PM

To those who are involved,

I've attended your hearing, read many emails and find the proposal to cut down 85,000 trees in the East Bay hills behind Berkeley and Oakland absolutely appalling.

The First Red Flag was that UC Berkeley is behind this idiotic proposal. Berkeley has an increasing need for money...and anyway they can get it seems fine...If much of their currently wooded property is clear cut, they will have a lot of land that can be sold to the highest bidder for development we don't need in our protective hills. (I just hope they take precautions to control their hyenas!) Indeed, with the wind, the possibility of fire is increased by getting rid of the tall trees that don't burn readily as does brush and lower growth...

I gather the Native Plant advocates are also highly vocal in their demands to get rid of anything not put her centuries ago. What is? This is typical of a all or nothing mentality of our residents. The idea of compromise is indeed alive and well in liberal Berkeley as it is in Congress. Tragic for both. I'm all for native plants, and the beautiful additions that have joined them over the years.

We need Jobs. What a great employment vehicle to pay those desperate to work to clear low-lying, flamable growth...Or, if you don't want to spend money, how about getting good volunteer programs going as we do with our coastal clean-up program. A little imagination could inspire a wonderful, "everyone wins" tradition to preserve land we all love.

And don't even talk of Round-Up! For God's sake and I mean "God" who created all this beauty for us in the first place. Ingrates that we are, do we have to poison everything. Last I heard, liquids run down hill...Do we want Round Up heading down hill every time it rains? I for one don't want it in my water, or in my garden, or in my life...NADA!

I am 76, I want to leave the world as I found it as best I can. This destructive, insane proposal will only assure our increasing awareness that mankind has gone crazy, our hubris has led us, like lemmings, to our own destruction.

And, seems with the tornado victims. hurricane victims, oil spill victims et al... you have far better use for your money!

Sincerely,

Theodora Crawford
Berkeley, California

From: Claire Staples
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Don"t cut down ANY trees in Oakland and Berkeley, please!
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 5:27:56 PM

Someone once said to me, the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the second best time is now. The worst time to cut down a tree, the earth's lungs? Also now. You know there are other ways to prevent wildfires, that's your job! And obviously pouring Roundup on the hills is a terrible idea. Everyone knows that is poison. Do the right thing.

thanks,
Claire

From: Mary Lupien
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkley fire reduction project comments
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 10:38:13 AM

Are you kidding? Really FEMA? This is not a good idea. Please don't cut down the forest. There are better ways to prevent forest fires.

--
Mary Lupien
http://justography.org

From: Patricia Smith
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley Hills Fire Mitigation Proposal
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 10:31:31 AM

My biggest concerns about the above proposal is with the University of California's (UC) "scorched earth" method of dealing with fire mitigation, specifically their wide spread and heavy use of the toxic Garlon product and Roundup and it's impact on human and wildlife health. Related to this is my concern about run-off of these substances.

I also am greatly troubled by UC's plan to remove 100% of eucalyptus, pine and acacias in Strawberry Canyon, Claremont Canyon and adjoining areas. 100%?? Really?? This seems like a uge over-reach to me. I would like to know why UC can not follow the EBRPD's model for fire mitigation?

Patricia Smith
pasmith1021@gmail.com

From: Riley Williams
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley and Oakland trees
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 9:38:01 AM

It is absolutely asinine to chop down 82 thousand trees for a so called 'fire hazard' just to pour hundreds of gallons of chemical hazard over them and into out environment.
Stop destroying the world.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sue Bielstein
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Taking down trees in Berkeley
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 8:22:54 AM

I, for one, do not like your plan to take down thousands of trees and not replace them with any new ones. The way this government works is beyond healthy. This is just one more instance of a government gone mad comprised of unconscious, automatons just doing whatever it wants, however it wants to do it. Working for the people who pay you is truly a foreign concept these days. When will it stop?

Sue Bielstein

From:	Ann Marie Davis
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	Deforestation and Chemicals? Are you KIDDING ME?
Date:	Wednesday, May 29, 2013 8:18:22 AM

I am against your plan to remove the non-native trees even though I believe that they do not belong in the east bay. I was a firefighter many years ago for the California Department of Forestry, and I know that non-native trees do not belong here.

However, I am against your plans to use toxic herbicides to remove the trees. I think that the "cure" is worse than the "disease". This is ill planned. The environment does not need more toxic chemicals. I do not care what the chemical companies tell you. Chemicals are bad for the environment. They will kill wildlife on the site and end up running into our streams and ending up in our bay.

I believe that there will be a great deal of soil erosion with your draconian plan. Once soil is gone, it is gone. Soil erosion, lowering of the water table, and destroying the windbreaks, will all contribute to even drier and more desiccated local areas. Plus, the non-native habitat is now housing animal populations which will be decimated.

You could thin the trees at a reasonable pace that will eventually clear them out over time, while replanting native trees, giving the wildlife time to adapt. You can create local jobs with workers cutting back the resprouting trees, and replanting and caring for saplings.

I think that no plan is better than the plan you have now, because your plan is so much more damaging to the environment, with the net result of more fire hazards.

--
Ann Marie Davis
864 Walker Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Mitsi Hughes
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Oakland/Berkeley tree removing project
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 6:31:55 AM

This is outrageous and must be stopped. NO clear-cutting! No “Roundup”!

Mitsi Hughes

From: D
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Clear cutting trees on UC land
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 2:46:50 AM

The way UC is going about this clear cutting of trees on all their land in the East bay Hills is very unecological. It's not just the clear cutting of the trees which would entirely change the entire area, but the estimate that over 10 years they will pour approximately 65,000 pounds of glycophosphate pesticide (i.e. Roundup) all over the hills, ruining the water table probably for many years, and doing damage to all the animals living in the area including the humans. I am a property owner at 572 Dwight Place,Berkeley and I am definitely NOT in favor of this sort of action. Dora Chang

From: Chris Opela
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comment on EBH EIS
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 9:45:57 PM

As a resident of Oakland, I would like to give my support to the plan to reduce non-native vegetation, including the eucalyptus trees, and replacing them with native grasslands and oak forests.

I spend time in the hills and the area parks, and I have seen the large stands of eucalyptus trees. I believe the "wild" areas would be better with the native vegetation, from both a fire management standpoint, and for the benefit of the local ecosystem.

Thank you for considering my input.

Chris Opela
May 28th, 2013
1349 E 26th St
Oakland, CA 94606

From: Gordon Piper
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comments on Draft EIS for Oakland Hills
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 9:38:51 PM

I am writing as the Chair of the Oakland Landscape Committee to encourage FEMA to proceed with finalizing the Draft Environmental Impact Study for the proposed vegetation management work by the City of Oakland, East Bay Regional Park District, the University of California at Berkeley, and EBMUD. The Oakland Landscape Committee is the local affiliate of the California ReLeaf Tree Network. We have carefully read over the Draft EIS and agree with FEMA's conclusions, and believe that is important to allow this proposed vegetation management work to go forward to help in reducing fire risks. Our Landscape Committee helps to maintain the open space area at the North Oakland Sports Field where some removal of eucalyptus trees is proposed. The fire risks in this open space area are substantial, and the removal of the eucalyptus will substantially lower the fire risk and support native plant restoration efforts.

I lost my home in the 1991 Oakland hills Firestorm along with 3500 other property owners, and there is a tremendous need for more funding for helping to remove some of the aging and fire-prone trees in our aging urban forests. Developers planted 2 million trees in the Berkeley and Oakland hills in the early 1900's and many of these trees now such as the pines and cypress are beyond their normal life expectancy and need to be removed, and the eucalyptus trees are very messy and pose an ongoing fire risk. So many eucalyptus trees were planted by the developers, that the numbers proposed for removal are just a drop in the bucket.

I served on the City of Oakland's Wild Fire Prevention District Advisory Committee, which also strongly supports this proposed vegetation management project. I would also like to see consider providing funding for logging out more pine trees and eucalyptus trees on State of California hillside properties near the Caldecott Tunnel that are next to the proposed vegetation management project proposed at the City of Oakland's North Oakland Sports Field. Leaving tall eucalyptus trees in this area only continues the fire risk in the area which is substantial. We currently have an active homeless encampment in the eucalyptus grove and it's possible a fire could get started from a cigarette or the homeless person who eats at his camp site.

I agree with the assessment of the experts involved that concluded the project will help in reducing fire risks and flame lengths. I believe that representatives from the Hills Conservation Network have greatly exaggerated the problems that might result from the proposed vegetation management work, and feel their delaying tactics and their proposal to leave tall eucalyptus trees are not appropriate and only add to our fire risks. We need to provide almost 20 times the amount of funding efforts that have been proposed to work on reducing fire risks by removing more of the fire-prone and non-native trees that were planted in the Berkeley and Oakland hills. The staff members for the public agencies have done their homework and have carefully studied impacts and fire risks and developed a project which deserves FEMA's funding and prompt support in implementing.

The Oakland Landscape Committee works with crews of Probation Department Weekend Training Academy crew of high school youths at the North Oakland Sports Field on open space maintenance efforts to reduce fire risks and control invasives, and we will attempt to assist the City of Oakland in maintenance efforts after the

vegetation management project at the North Oakland Sports Field is completed. We wish to compliment FEMA on your work on the EIS and strongly support your conclusions in the Draft EIS. It's time to get on with this important work to reduce fire risks in our community.

Gordon Piper, Chair, Oakland Landscape Committee

From: Heather Kerrihard
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Strawberry Canyon
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 6:33:16 PM

Hi.

I run on the Strawberry Canyon Trail every day. It is my work out, my therapy, my way of relating to nature. My one hour to myself. It is so important for every aspect of health, my life, my happiness, who I am. It is one of the only reasons I am still in Berkeley.

I am strongly apposed to the idea of cutting down trees and using the chemical round up. It would effect all of us who actually use the trail. The environmental impacts and the effects on our health would be permanent.

I understand the need to prevent fires. This is not the way to do it. Please consider the other options before ruining one of the most amazing natural preserves we still have in this city. Please understand how important Strawberry Canyon is for so many of us.

Heather

From: Jett Psaris
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: No on the FEMA clear-cutting trees proposal for Oakland and Berkeley CA
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 5:51:24 PM

I am AGAINST in no uncertain terms the clear-cutting proposal.

Below is the letter I wrote to my neighbors outlining why I am again this project.

MY VOTE IS NO NO NO and NO!

Jett

Dear Neighbors,

First, thank you to Lee for alerting us to issue; I only just learned of this a few days ago.

I am issuing a plea to my neighbors to think about the following when deciding where you stand on the proposed FEMA project to clear-cut 85,000 Berkeley and Oakland trees.

#1 Eucalyptus trees have been here for over 100 years. They are, by now, as native as any of us who have come from elsewhere. The relevance of this fact is that **our native animals have learned to live with and in these trees, to rely on them in fact.** Many of you know that the honey bee is in big trouble: honey bees are relying on the eucalyptus in the hills. If we remove these trees we threaten the lives of all the pollinators and animals who make them their home and have created a new eco-system that includes these trees.

#2 The proposed removal of the eucalyptus includes drenching the stumps with **14,000 gallons of herbicide** that will run off the stumps and into the our soil and water table further polluting the land and the bay (these herbicides kill native insects including indispensable pollinators and animal and bird life). Besides that, herbicides are highly *flammable*. Drenching the land and our waterways with poison is not a sustainable answer.

#3 **Trees are our greatest carbon offset.** Remove these trees and the impact will be great.

As I am writing this email to you, I just noticed the comments section below the article link (http://baynature.org/articles/east-bay-hills-tree-removal/). Wonderful! Other voices are addressing some of these same issues – I am so grateful to see this. Please scroll down and read some of these posts which are, for the most part

informative and informed.

As you can tell, I am very against the mass removal of trees and plant life, a project that threatens an already teetering natural setting, its wildlife and our home. I urge you to vote against this plan and to do so right away.

Please take a moment now to participate in this important decision-making process by:

A. Signing the Hills Conservation Network petition to oppose these projects:
http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/stop-the-deforestation-3?source=s.fwd&r_by=2564200

B. **Comments must be submitted by June 17, 2013**. You may submit written comments in several ways:

1. Via the project website: **http://ebheis.cdmims.com**
2. By email: **EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX@fema.dhs.gov**
3. By mail: P.O. Box 72379, Oakland, CA 94612-8579
4. By fax: 510-627-7147

Thank you!

Jett

PS An article worth reading: *Death of a Million Trees* :
http://milliontrees.me/2013/05/09/nearly-a-half-million-trees-will-be-destroyed-if-these-east-bay-projects-are-approved-revised/
where the authors conclude that
* This project is more likely to **increase the risk of wildfires, not reduce that risk**
***** This project will **damage the environment**
* This project will **endanger the public**
* This project will **create erosion issues**
Etc

Jett Psaris, Ph.D.
The Conscious Living Center
13800 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94619
Ph: 510.777.9998
Fax: 510.777.9119
Website: http://www.undefendedlove.com/

From: Betsy Dee
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Fire Reduction Plan: UNACCEPTABLE
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 3:09:41 PM

To the good people of FEMA,

As a tax-paying citizen of the Oakland hills, I stand in firm OPPOSITION to your outrageous plans to gut, poison and blight the hills we live in. I urge to you stop this insanity—before we see generations of cancer, premature and still-births and the destruction of entire ecosystems. I encourage you to explore more resourceful options. You've heard from us at the Claremont Middle School on Saturday, and we've offered a number of far more reasonable and cost-effective approaches. Before you spend one more minute or tax-payer dollar on a disastrous scheme, please stop to imagine what you'd be thinking if YOU lived here.

Thank you,

Betsy Dee
7045 Chabot Road
Oakland, CA 94618

Betsy Dee
---
betsy dee & co.
Office: 510.647.8699
Cell: 415.265.3963

From: Jennifer Joy P
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Don"t Clear Cut Strawberry & Claremont Canyons!
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 7:51:13 AM

I just learned of the plan to clear-cut the beautiful trees of Strawberry and Claremont Canyons.

This is simply a ridiculous plan. It will be environmentally devastating, and turn a beautiful place ugly.

Many of us use these areas for hiking and other recreation, as well.

I stand firmly against any plan to destroy these beautiful areas.

Jennifer Pawlitschek
365 Panoramic Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

From: cindy haag
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: tree cutting
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 10:43:49 PM

Please do not cut down the trees to protect against fires in the East Bay in California! Please do not use herbicides here either!
Not only do we enjoy hiking and dog-walking in the area, but many species depend on the forests. Also the trees help protect against global warming.
Additionally I am a midwife and help new babies into the world. They are already exposed to far too many toxins. Please protect them and do not use herbicides.

Thank you, Cindy L. Haag

Cindy Haag, Midwife
Pacifica Family Maternity Center
pacificamaternity.com

From: John O"Brien
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comment
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:42:56 PM

Hello,
I have just become aware of this issue and feel somewhat connected to it as a former resident of Berkeley. Having read (among other articles) the story in the Berkeley Daily Planet, I want to weigh in with the author:

"What I suspect is that a much more gradual approach to replacing the eucs with natives should be employed, one which among other things closely monitors the potential devastation which sudden oak death might wreak on native oaks, California bays and other susceptible parts of the original hills ecosystem. Fears about using the Monsanto herbicide Roundup to prevent re-sprouting would be allayed if non-chemical mechanical means of dealing with unwanted sprouts could be employed.

"Of course, doing things slowly and carefully would be more expensive. In the end, decisions like this often come down to money, sadly."

My 2 cents is NO to herbicide use, an ABSOLUTE NO on that.

Thanks for your consideration

J

--

From:	Perry Coyle
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	I"m the 53rd signer: "FEMA: Stop the destruction of Berkeley"s Historical Strawberry and Claremont Canyons!"
Date:	Monday, June 03, 2013 10:57:19 PM

Dear Alessandro Amaglio,

I just signed a petition addressed to you titled *FEMA: Stop the destruction of Berkeley's Historical Strawberry and Claremont Canyons!*. So far, 53 people have signed the petition.

You can reach me directly by replying to this email. **Or, post a response for MoveOn.org to pass along to all petition signers by clicking here:** http://petitions.moveon.org/target_talkback.html?tt=tt-43334-custom-21799-20130617-8YBy4J

The petition states:

> "Stop the FEMA plan to clear-cut 85,000 historical Berkeley and Oakland trees! This destruction will be unrepairable for decades!"

To download a PDF file of all of your constituents who have signed the petition, including their addresses, click this link: http://petitions.moveon.org/deliver_pdf.html?job_id=883269&target_type=custom&target_id=21799

Perry Coyle
Canyon, CA

This email was sent through MoveOn's public petition website, a free service that allows anyone to set up their own online petition and share it with friends. MoveOn does not endorse the contents of petitions posted on our public petition website. If you have any questions, please email petitions@moveon.org. If you don't want to receive further emails updating you on how many people have signed this petition, click here: http://petitions.moveon.org/delivery_unsub.html?e=r9qg6n6KYrWzHTupglRoCkVCSC1FSVMtRkVNQS1SSVhAZmVtYS5kaHMuZ292&petition_id=43334 .

From: Andrea Tyrrell
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: I"m the 52nd signer: "FEMA: Stop the destruction of Berkeley"s Historical Strawberry and Claremont Canyons!"
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 10:57:15 PM

Dear Alessandro Amaglio,

I just signed a petition addressed to you titled *FEMA: Stop the destruction of Berkeley's Historical Strawberry and Claremont Canyons!*. So far, 53 people have signed the petition.

You can reach me directly by replying to this email. **Or, post a response for MoveOn.org to pass along to all petition signers by clicking here:**
http://petitions.moveon.org/target_talkback.html?tt=tt-43334-custom-21799-20130617-8YBy4J

The petition states:

> "Stop the FEMA plan to clear-cut 85,000 historical Berkeley and Oakland trees! This destruction will be unrepairable for decades!"

My additional comments are:

> this is my home. this is where i played as a child. these are where all my memories in life started. please do not take them away. i understand invasive species are harmful but consider all the trees that are native. they deserve to live. if we allow this to happen there will only be more and soon this beutiful place we live in will be forever changed. please do not cut down the trees. thanks for reading, andrea t.

To download a PDF file of all of your constituents who have signed the petition, including their addresses, click this link: http://petitions.moveon.org/deliver_pdf.html?job_id=883270&target_type=custom&target_id=21799

Andrea Tyrrell
Canyon, CA

This email was sent through MoveOn's public petition website, a free service that allows anyone to set up their own online petition and share it with friends. MoveOn does not endorse the contents of petitions posted on our public petition website. If you have any questions, please email petitions@moveon.org. If you don't want to receive further emails updating you on how many people have signed this petition, click here: http://petitions.moveon.org/delivery_unsub.html?e=r9qg6n6KYrWzHTupglRoCkVCSC1FSVMtRkVNQS1SSVhAZmVtYS5kaHMuZ292&petition_id=43334 .

From: Stephanie Schopf
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: The trees in Berkeley and Oakland
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 8:48:55 PM

Do not cut down the Berkeley /Oakland trees!

I am against the proposed cutting of trees!

Please use the money for something else!

From:	Sara
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	I"m the 49th signer: "FEMA: Stop the destruction of Berkeley"s Historical Strawberry and Claremont Canyons!"
Date:	Monday, June 03, 2013 8:20:11 PM

Dear Alessandro Amaglio,

I just signed a petition addressed to you titled *FEMA: Stop the destruction of Berkeley's Historical Strawberry and Claremont Canyons!*. So far, 49 people have signed the petition.

You can reach me directly by replying to this email. **Or, post a response for MoveOn.org to pass along to all petition signers by clicking here:** http://petitions.moveon.org/target_talkback.html?tt=tt-43334-custom-21799-20130617-8YBy4J

The petition states:

> "Stop the FEMA plan to clear-cut 85,000 historical Berkeley and Oakland trees! This destruction will be unrepairable for decades!"

My additional comments are:

> Please don't cut the trees down they are why we love this place our home. Please reconsider I know there has to be a better way.

To download a PDF file of all of your constituents who have signed the petition, including their addresses, click this link: http://petitions.moveon.org/deliver_pdf.html?job_id=883215&target_type=custom&target_id=21799

Sara
Canyon, CA

This email was sent through MoveOn's public petition website, a free service that allows anyone to set up their own online petition and share it with friends. MoveOn does not endorse the contents of petitions posted on our public petition website. If you have any questions, please email petitions@moveon.org. If you don't want to receive further emails updating you on how many people have signed this petition, click here: http://petitions.moveon.org/delivery_unsub.html?e=r9qg6n6KYrWzHTupglRoCkVCSC1FSVMtRkVNQS1SSVhAZmVtYS5kaHMuZ292&petition_id=43334 .

From: Anne Siems
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Trees
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 8:04:19 PM

Do not cut down the trees!!!!
Absolutely no round up !!! Terrible toxins in environment and down wash in ocean !!!!

Thank you for listening.
Anne siems

From: Thomas Michahelles
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills EIS for Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 7:36:23 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

We are residents of Panoramic Hill in Berkeley and are very aware of living in a critical fire area. However, to eradicate 70,000 trees from Strawberry and Claremont Canyons will totally change the aesthetic of our neighborhood and the hiking and jogging environment for the wider Berkeley/Oakland community

Why not eradicate only the eucalyptus and clear cut the underbrush to preserve what we know as wilderness and not pollute this beautiful part of Berkeley with large amounts of herbicides which people who love to be out in nature abhor for ourselves and the wildlife in the hills.

Sincerely yours,
Jane and Thomas Michahelles

From: Pamela Berkowitz
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: EIS Deforesting Project
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 10:12:07 PM

Dear FEMA representative,

I URGE you not to pass the the current draft of EIS. Please help save over a half a million of our tallest and oldest exotic trees that are planned for killing in the East Bay hills parks in the name of fire prevention. In reality, this planned environmental devastation will make the East Bay far more vulnerable to fires.

1. The proposed plan of eliminating exotic trees will cause more wildfire danger, not less, by leaving tons of dead wood on the ground, by causing more flammable grasslands, which is where fires start, by eliminating shade
and fog drip which moistens the forest floor, by destroying the windbreak barriers, and by killing the trees who help prevent fires. There are much cheaper ways of reducing fire danger.

2. Many native trees are extremely flammable, but eucalyptus are NOT a fire hazard, and have been demonstrated to help forests prevent and contain fires. (A member of the Hills Conservation Network testified at the first FEMA
public comment meeting that the 1991 fire came close to her house, but stopped at three tall eucalyptus trees up the street that did not ignite and may have blocked the fire and the wind. She also told of a neighbor's tall eucalyptus and redwood that grew beside each other. The redwood ignited and burned to the ground, but the eucalyptus did not ignite, even though it was cut down after the fire.)

3. The eco-system is already changed to where native animals rely on, need, and often prefer non-native trees for survival. Killing those trees as well as the horrific use of machinery will destroy the land and kill millions of native animals, including some endangered, who will die as a result of being deprived of their food and homes.

4. The clear-cutting will destroy the East Bay forests from Richmond and El Sobrante through Berkeley and Oakland to Castro Valley. Almost 600 acres are proposed, so that some parks will have almost no trees left.

5. Ten years of using thousands of gallons of toxic, dangerous herbicides in the parks are planned, which will cause cancer and other illnesses, as well as killing native animals and making the parks unsafe to use.

6. Without the tall trees gathering moisture from fog, there will be less water for all the plants and animals and increase fire danger.

7. The project involves massive burning, which will add to air pollution and global warming, and could spark wildfires.

8. The clear-cutting of hundreds of thousands of trees will eliminate the shade canopy which people need when going to parks, as well as destroying the beauty of the parks.

When our trees are gone, so will the animals and our parks be gone. WHY is desperately needed money being spend on such a disaster?

Sincerely,
Pamela Berkowitz
1534 Fairview Street, Apt. B
Berkeley, CA 94703

From: Michelle Doyka
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: The proposal
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 9:05:06 PM

To cut down the trees is madness. Poisoning the ground is madness. No matter how much money you might make, it will never buy back your humanness. I stand against this, for your sake and my own. M.Doyka

"it requires a very unusual mind to undertake the analysis of the obvious" A.N. Whitehead

From: Amida Cary
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Don"t Cut the Strawberry and Claremont Canyon Trees!
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 8:52:11 PM

Amida Cary
1188 Arch Street
Berkeley, CA

From: Carrie Jahde
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Urgent Appeal: Stop the Deforestation Plan for the East Bay Hills
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 8:49:55 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong disagreement over the current FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the east bay hills. The plan is unacceptable for several reasons:

1. It does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to develop a proposal that actually fixes the problem.

2. It it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

3. It does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. I ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

4. It does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

5. It does not adequately analyze the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. I ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

6. It relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that will exist the day after 100,000+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison, as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this condition. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed the fire danger will begin to increase. I ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to include a fire model

that analyses the expected end result vegetation rather than an essentially irrelevant state.

Thank you for your consideration--I urgently hope that the plan is retracted, for the safety and well-being of all east bay residents.

Sincerely,
Carrie Jahde
Berkeley, CA concerned resident

From:	Susan Strasburger
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-REMA@fema.dhs.gov
Cc:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	PLEASE! Is there another way?
Date:	Wednesday, May 29, 2013 3:19:44 PM

I understand I'm only one citizen - but I want to voice at least an email in the mix:
Isn't there another way to protect against fire threats than the current proposal to deforest, and add wood chips on ground, and use unnecessary herbicides, etc.???
thank you,
s

Susan Strasburger, PhD
82 Emery Bay Drive
Emeryville, CA 94608
510-655-4419 tel
510-334-0879 cell

From: Cheryl Rosenthal
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Strawbery and Claremont Canyons
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 2:58:16 PM

I beg you not to cut down 22,00 trees in Berkeley's historic Strawberry and Claremont Canyons as well as 60,000 more in Oakland. I understand that there is
no plan to replant the area and that the plan is to unload a thousand gallons of herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. This is outrageous to let happen.
We desperately need these trees for photosynthesis as well as several other
environmental reasons.

Please act in favor of the public opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Rosenthal

From: Faith Dubois
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills EIS for Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 2:47:31 PM
Importance: High

Thank you for allowing citizens to comment on this issue via email.

In the 1970's friends of ours who lived at Hiller Highlands lost everything in the hills fire of that decade. They and their infant and toddler children escaped with their lives and moved away from Oakland.

In the fire of the '90's my sister lost her home and everything she owned in that tragic hills fire. It was just a few months before one of her daughters was to graduate from college and the other was to marry. My sister was young, healthy, an avid runner, and a beloved and gifted teacher. The stress of reconstructing her life from ashes and still trying to be available to her two daughters on their special days was too much for her. She collapsed and died at the age of 49 four months later. The shock of her sudden and tragic death caused our parents to descend into depression, and they died just a few years later - one month apart from one another.

In that same fire I was evacuated and lived with friends until I was allowed back home. My two sons ran for their lives while visiting their father who lived in the apartment complex next to the Caldecott Tunnel. Their father lost everything. My sons and their father, thank God, escaped with their lives.

PLEASE proceed with clearing the hills of the any and all trees and undergrowth which will fuel another tragic disaster. So many of us have lost possessions, *but most importantly*, we have lost loved ones and friends. You mustn't let this happen again.

Thank you for carefully considering this dangerous situation and moving quickly to mitigate it.

Faith E. Du Bois

From: bill_loretta@comcast.net
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Trees in California"s East Bay . . . .SAVE the TREES
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:45:23 PM



FREE Animations for your email

From: bill_loretta@comcast.net
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Please save the trees in the East Bay for California!
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:45:18 PM



FREE Animations for your email **Click Here!**

From: Heather Kerrihard
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Strawberry Canyon
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:36:58 PM

Hi,

I am writing to ask you to please, please, please do not cut down the non-native trees in Strawberry Canyon! And, more importantly, DO NOT spray with Round up!

The effects would be devastating to all of us.

There are much healthier and better ways to deal with fire prevention. Please explore the other options.

Heather

From: George LEITMANN
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley Hills tree clearing
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:34:45 PM

---

jI am a UC Berkeley faculty member for the past 56 years, a Berkeley Hills resident for 53 years and a concerned citizen. I am appalled by te UC proposal which would have not only irreversible negative environmental consequences but also create a major fire hazard which is opposed, for that reason, by both the EBRPD and Oakland whose proposals I support as reasonable fire hazard mitigators.
Sincerely,
Dr. George Leitmann
Professor in the Graduate School
Special Adviser to the Dean
College of Engineering
University of California at Berkeley

www.me.berkeley.edu/faculty/leitmann

From: Bryan Hilts
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: isk Reduction
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:18:16 PM

Destroying these old growth trees would be a travesty. They are not creating a Fire Hazard. This is unethical and driven by greed. Why in the world would anyone allow such space to be drenched in toxic chemicals? I will spread word of this terrible sneaky attack on old growth beautiful trees. Nobody likes Monsanto and we know that Monsanto is behind this. This and greed. Please stop this destruction!
Mary Louise Johnston

From: Peter Schorer
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: An alternative to cutting trees in Berkeley Hills
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:22:16 PM

Instead of cutting all those beautiful trees, you should at least make the experiment of hiring college students and others to patrol the most fire-prone areas, seven days a week. during fire season. Each patrol-person would have a cell phone and a number to call if he or she spotted a fire or a possible fire. You could offer a bonus for each day no serious fire occurred in the patrol-person's area. You should in particular ask residents of these fire-prone areas to set aside a few hours a week for these patrols. You should also try this in Southern California as well.

I am one of an ever-growing number of residents of the East Bay who are outraged at your plan to cut all those trees. At the very least you owe it to the public to try the above patrol idea FIRST.

-- Peter Schorer
2538 Milvia St.
Berkeley, CA 94704
510-548-3827

From: Seth Kauppinen
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Rescinding my previous comment.
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 11:18:23 AM

Hi there,

I submitted an incredulous, irate comment about the Easy Bay Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction plan a few days ago, after reading some very misleading descriptions of the project. My comment was premature; as the facts of the plan have become know to me, I've found myself in substantial agreement with its goals and methods. If the comment are a matter of record, please remove mine, and replace it with this one:

I'm a biologist, and resident of the East Bay hills. After reading the proposed Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction plan for the region, I believe the measure offers a valuable opportunity to simultaneously reduce fire risk and promote native vegetation, in a way that minimizes risk of herbicide contamination and other project-related landscape impacts. If the project requires volunteer labor, I'd be happy to help.

Thanks,
Seth

Seth Kauppinen
Department of Integrative Biology
1005 VLSB, MC 3140
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720

Cell: 508.274.1974
skauppinen@berkeley.edu

"It is remarkable how long men will believe
in the bottomlessness of a pond without
taking the trouble to sound it."
-Henry Thoreau

From: Helen Nicholas
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Cutting of trees in Oakland
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 4:39:38 AM

Don't cut trees!
Don't use roundup!!
Helen Nicholas
3221 Robinson Dr.
Oakland CA 94602

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christopher Nelson
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills EIS -- Berkeley,CA
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 11:00:37 PM

RE: East Bay Hills EIS (Claremont Canyon, Berkeley, CA)

Dear FEMA,

With regards to the UC Berkeley and FEMA decision to reduce the risk of fire hazard in the East Bay Hills, where I have lived for over forty years, I was wondering why, if the "non-native" eucalyptus trees are the sole problem then where is the proposal to *replace* them with "native" redwoods, live oak, madrone and willow, all indigenous to the East Bay hills? It sounds like there's only a plan to remove the current forests without replenishing the native trees, leaving only grass and wildflowers to grow.

Thank you,

Chris Nelson
cnelson2121@gmail.com

From: Ardys De Lu
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: There are many less destructive ways to control the growth in the East Bay hills
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:36:20 AM

If the FED uses destructive ways to 'control' growth in the East Bay Hills, this will hurt all agencies involved.

EUCALYPTUS STUMP SPROUT CONTROL
by W. Douglas Hamilton[1] and W.B. McHenry[2]

100% control. No sprouting had occurred two years after 12
blue gums were felled and stumps cut to 6 inches below the soil line. A survey of where blue gum sprouts occur indicated that most sprouts originate at the ground surface and none are attached deeper than 4 inches below the ground line.

http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=stop+felled+eucalyptus+trees+from+resprouting&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8

From: Heather Kerrihard
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Strawberry Canyon
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 4:37:32 PM

Hi,

I went running on Strawberry Canyon this morning. If you go through the with the plan to cut down the non-native trees and spray with Round Up, the effects on our health and the environment will be permanent. Please consider healthier options for fire management. Like slowly replacing the non-native trees with native ones over time. And, finding non-chemical solutions to maintaining the trail.

If you damage my trail, I will be so lost and devastated.

Heather

From: Hills Conservation Network
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: 4,598 signers: Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills petition
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 12:00:05 PM

Dear FEMA,

I started a petition to you titled *Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills*. So far, the petition has 4,598 total signers.

You can email all petition signers by clicking here: http://petitions.moveon.org/target_talkback.html?tt=tt-42455-custom-21317-20130613-fKIIKW

The petition states:

> "The current Draft EIS is unacceptable as it will inflict enormous environmental damage, expose the public to thousands of gallons of toxic herbicide, destroy raptor habitats, destabilize steep slopes, and actually increase the risk of hazardous wildfires. FEMA should retract this EIS and remove those portions of the EIS that call for clear-cutting tall trees. The EIS should instead support a far less destructive methodology that would focus on a "species-neutral" approach, focusing on eliminating ground fuels and the fire ladder, thinning where appropriate, and limbing up as needed to ensure minimal risk of crown fires. Killing more than 50,000 trees and poisoning them for up to 10 years will have disastrous effects on this beautiful and healthy ecosystem, and cannot be allowed to happen."

To download a PDF file of all your constituents who have signed the petition, including their addresses, click this link: http://petitions.moveon.org/deliver_pdf.html?job_id=878819&target_type=custom&target_id=21317

Thank you.

--Hills Conservation Network

If you have any other questions, please email petitions@moveon.org.

The links to download the petition as a PDF and to respond to all of your constituents will remain available for the next 14 days.

This email was sent through MoveOn's petition website, a free service that allows anyone to set up their own online petition and share it with friends. MoveOn does not endorse the contents of petitions posted on our public petition website. If you don't want to receive further emails updating you on how many people have signed this petition, click here: http://petitions.moveon.org/delivery_unsub.html?e=xH6bm7btHgt1XQnAc8fwEiBFQkgtRUlTLUZFTUEtUklYQGZlbWEuZGhzLmdvdg--&petition_id=42455.

From: Jill Van Dalen
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: kmccusker1@yahoo.com; jvandalen@yahoo.com
Subject: Support of EIS for East Bay Hills
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 8:50:57 AM

Dear FEMA,

We strongly support the wildfire hazard mitigation projects for the East Bay Hills and feel that they have been studied long enough. We believe the EIS findings of improved fire safety and likely long-term enhancement to the land should move forward without delay. As Claremont Canyon residients, we know only too well that, when ignited, the eucalyptus canopy will spread wildfire dramatically during the windy fire season. With removal of invasive trees and yearly follow-up to discourage re-growth and weeds, native vegetation will thrive.

Thank you for supporting this important work. Please approve the EIS as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin McCusker
Jill Van Dalen, Esq.
47 Canyon Road
Berkeley, California 94704

From: Kay Allen
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: clear cutting in the east bay
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:05:07 AM

Your plan is too draconian. Find a less extreme and toxic way of reducing the fire risk. This proposal is the lazy way out.

Patricia Allen

From: Kenneth Poe
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Destroying Trees in Berkeley
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 6:02:46 PM

This is an absolute outrage. I demand that you make a more vigorous attempt to include public discourse. Clear cutting and dumping Round up in our back yard is unacceptable!

Ken Poe

Kenneth Poe Consulting Services LLC
1024 Pomona Ave
Albany, CA 94706

voice: 510-524-7646
cell: 510-367-5166
email: kpoe@pacbell.net

From: Laurie Hall
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: FEMA planned destruction in Oakland/Berkley
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 6:56:52 PM
Importance: High

Stop this! I am a native Californian and cherish the area I lived in for 10 years before moving East. How dare you destroy natural beauty that belongs to *everyone*? You'd think GW Bush was still in charge. Please send my comments to every representative and the President (who I voted for), and anyone else who thinks this rotten, unnecessary scheme is a good idea. It's not! California is susceptible to wild fires north and south. Nature causes enough of its own destruction without adding human stupidity to the mix. If you cut down every single tree in the world, there would still be grass fires that would burn homes and people. It's called Life. You just can't control the whole damned world, so sit back (or let us, if you *won't*) and enjoy what you can . . . while you *and we* can.

Shame on you! You're an agency that's supposed to help people. Destroying what is beautiful, protects our planet, mitigates Greenhouse effects and global warming is nothing short of criminal and hardly hellpful. What absolute ignorance and pathetic stupidty. Someone's getting a nice little federal subsidy out of this, apparently. Well, that's not what my vote went for and not what my and your tax dollars should go for, even if it's keeping Bobby and Mikey and Chuck and Frank in jobs.

SUPER pissed off!

Laurie Hall
99 Rocky Hill Rd.
Plymouth, MA 02360
508 746-5725
lah02360@verizon.net

From: Laurie Umeh
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: "Schaaf, Libby"
Subject: Tree removal Oakland & Berkeley Hills
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 8:55:17 PM

I do not have a problem with the non native tree removal although wish it could be done gradually to decrease effect on wildlife.

But I am strongly opposed to the gallons of herbicide that will apparently be applied to the trunks to prevent sprouting. There are other ways to counteract sprouting albeit labor intensive. But, hey, I am in favor of the labor intensive method in a world where we have an explosion of autistic kids & no one knows why.

*Of course the dwindling numbers of California quail that might be affected by this herbicide are insignificant in this equation. Collateral damage.

From: Lorenzo Avila
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree Removal in East Bay
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 10:49:54 AM

Thank you for holding the recent meeting at Claremont Middle School, College Ave., Oakland.

A lean, gray commenter made some crucial points (seconded by others):

Rather than throwing $5 million at this scheme, we need a much better analysis of costs and
benefits. Especially, homeowners should be assisted to defend the space near their homes
against fire.

Recall that the disastrous 1991 fire resulted from Fire Department negligence, the failure to thoroughly douse a manageable little blaze. The wind came up and blew sparks from unquenched embers sparked on nearby dry vegetation.

With that in mind, we should be critical of fire officials who call for this gross overkill of trees in the name of "defensible space." (See story by Matthew Artz and Doug Oakley in Oakland press on May 31.)

If the University and Parks District really felt the eucalyptus are causing an emergency, they would now be using the taxes we've already given them to cut some trees.

If FEMA can spend so lavishly on conjectures, the Government must already have figured out how to prevent tornadoes in Oklahoma.

From: Mali McGee
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Oakland Hills Fire Prevention Plan
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:21:28 PM

As a local goat and sheep rancher I urge you to consider alternative methods of land management other than spraying herbicides. Grazing livestock has proven to be very successful in brush reduction and habitat restoration.

Also please consider reseeding the area and provide ongoing management to prevent invasive brush from colonizing the area.

I would be happy to organize a volunteer group to raise funds for grazing the land with livestock and reseeding and replanting with natives.

Warmly,
Mali McGee

--
milkmamagoatfarm.com
http://alamedacommunityfarm.wordpress.com/
510-749-8234

From: Maryly Snow
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay plan
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 7:53:53 AM

Some years ago after a fire near Palo Alto burned across the hills and through a neighborhood it was decided to mitigate future fire damage by removing the Eucalyptus groves. After study it became clear that these invaders are not only a fire hazard but change their environment in undesirable ways for the local fauna and flora. An environmental group now called Acterra was granted stewardship of what is now known as Arastradero Preserve in the hills behind Stanford to keep cutting the stumps and replacing black plastic hoods over them that actually work better than herbicide. Plastic sheeting also turned out to work well for weed mitigation, as it will cook the ground and prevent the seeds from resprouting each year. It is inexpensive to do this; it just requires lots of volunteer labor. We called it Weed Warriors and got groups of high schoolers to do much of the work. It's amazing how much energy can be sublimated with the right stimulus-- The boys enjoyed showed off for the girls how strongly they were whacking thistle.
See <http://www.acterra.org/programs/stewardship/pearson_arastradero.html>

It seems like this approach would work in the East Bay Hills. We really cannot expect cash-strapped public agencies to do the labor intensive long-term stewardship that is needed here. Hopefully a partnership with an environmental non-profit group could come up with a new plan with reduced herbicides. Cut logs could be left on the ground to prevent erosion. Wood chips degrade rapidly and are not much fire hazard. It's the replanting that takes time and effort.
This issue could be viewed as a great opportunity to restore the East bay Hills to native flora; the fauna will come back.
Don B
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Maryly Snow
www.snowstudios.com

From: Nancy Carleton
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comments on Draft EIS re East Bay Hills Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 12:54:22 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern about the various projects outlined under the Draft EIS regarding East Bay Hills Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction.

As someone who has actively organized disaster preparedness in my flatland Berkeley neighborhood (which is just down the hill from the catastrophic fire in the hills some years back), I too share a concern about fire danger and about preventing hazards where we can do so without harming open-space amenities that our citizens enjoy and the wildlife that shares this land. The current plans strike me as extreme, involving a drastic pace of removing trees that, whether native or not, provide shelter and shade that is enjoyed by humans, used by wildlife, and to which animals and birds have adapted.

In addition to my concern over the scope and pace of tree removal proposed, I would like to see a deeper analysis of alternatives to suppress regrowth that would not entail use of herbicides, which will endanger many of us with compromised immune system, in favor of plans which would truly restore areas where non-native trees are removed without resorting to herbicides or deep wood-chip mulching.

I would consider supporting a much more phased-in-plan, with areas that pose immediate hazard removed early in the cycle, and the rest stepped in over decades, not years, and leaving some non-native species where they don't pose an immediate danger and where they are beloved by many for their beauty and shade. And while I love oaks and grasslands, I believe our urban interface with open space must also take into account how humans are currently using the land, and the time it takes for wildlife to adapt if we feel we must once again make changes (as we humans did when we originally introduced nonnative species).

I ask for more analysis and serious consideration of a scaled-back approach at a slower pace with no use of herbicides.

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks.

Nancy Carleton
Former Chair, Zoning Adjustments Board, Berkeley
Former Vice Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission, Berkeley
Past President and Founding Board Member, Berkeley Partners for Parks

From: Sally Simonds
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Oakland fire hazard reduction
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:55:47 AM

Please do not destroy the trees and replace with wood chips and pesticide. Sometimes I feel that out government is actually trying to kill us and make us sick. You destroy a beautiful place and replace it with poison.

We are disgusted with companies like Monsanto that care only about profits.

From: Jayah@AdventureBuddies.net
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: FEMA in Berkeley
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 7:00:03 AM
Importance: High

Please do NOT chop down Berkeley trees.

Jayah Faye Paley

These projects are more likely to **increase the risk of wildfires** than to reduce that risk:

* By distributing tons of dead wood onto bare ground

* By **eliminating shade and fog drip** which moistens the forest floor, making ignition more likely

* By **destroying the windbreak** that is a barrier to wind driven fires typical of wildfires in California

* By expanding the oak-bay woodland being killed by Sudden Oak Death, thereby adding more dead wood.

Additionally:

* These projects will **damage the environment** by releasing hundreds of thousands of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from the destroyed trees, potentially contributing to climate change.

* These projects will **endanger the public** by dousing our public lands with thousands of gallons of toxic herbicides.

* **Erosion** is likely on steep slopes when the trees are destroyed and their roots are killed with herbicides.

* **Non-native vegetation** such as broom, thistle, and hemlock are more likely occupants of the unshaded, bared ground than native vegetation which will not be planted by these projects.

* **Prescribed burns** will pollute the air and contribute to the risk of wildfire, endangering lives and property.

* These projects are an **inappropriate use of the limited resources** of the Federal Emergency Management Agency which are for the expressed purpose of restoring

communities destroyed by disasters such as floods and other catastrophic events and preparing communities for anticipated catastrophic events. Most of the proposed projects in the East Bay are miles away from any residences.

* The projects will likely **negatively affect the UC BOTANICAL GARDEN, CALIFORNIA NEWT HABITAT, STRAWBERRY CREEK AND WATERSHED HABITATS, BIRD LIFE, HIKING JOGGING, BIKING ACTVITIES IN THESE TWO LARGE CANYONS.**

From: Tilt, Campbell
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: EIS for Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 9:16:21 AM

To whom it may (or may not) concern,

It is a terrible idea to chop down all these trees, mulch the area, and then destroy it completely with Roundup. Not only does the area pose no greater risk of fire than any other area, but bending to Monsanto and political money is a shameless and cowardly act. Stand up straight and mitigate the fire danger in a responsible way. Fires happen everywhere, in Colorado, we spend all year clearing brush and debris, thinning trees, etc, but I have never heard of clear cutting and dumping toxic crap everywhere. You know what else poses a fire risk, the red wood forest, maybe you should also clear cut these national treasures and dump Monsanto all over it, but this time, use the bodies of the Monsanto board of directors and lobbyist instead of Roundup, that way, we can fertilize the soil instead of destroy it for decades.

Make responsible decisions for the people, not the politics.

Campbell "Mac" Tilt ■ **EIT, CEM** ■ **Project Engineer**
Nexant, Inc. ■ **Demand Management**
1401 Walnut Street ■ Boulder, CO ■ 303.998.2461 (direct)

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Alain Henon
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Public Participation
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 7:34:30 AM

I am fully supportive of the plan to eliminate eucalypts from the east bay hills.

Alain Henon
El Cerrito

Sent from San Francisco Chronicle for iPad Download the App here

From: Allen Kanner
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Do not cleat the hills and use toxic herbicides
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 8:27:21 AM

Dear UCB,

I'm a double graduate (BA '74 and Ph.D. '81), long-time Berkeley resident and someone who cares deeply about our environment. Your plan to cut down eucalyptus and Monterey Pines in the Berkeley hills despite the disruption of habitat for many wild creatures and of mudslides is a huge mistake. Even worse is the planned use of herbicides, such as Roundup, which are toxic.

Typically there is an opportunity to make money behind such endeavors, although I don't know the specifics here. I can only suspect such motives. Greed is fueling the institutional destruction of the global environment by corporations and governments, often hand-in-hand. UCB is already contributing to this lethal pattern at the Gill Tract Farm.

At this point in history all of us are going to have to choose nature over short-term gain at a million different junctures. This is one of them.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Kanner, Ph.D.

From: Ama Torrance
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley Hills Tree Cutting
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 8:44:13 AM

To Whom it May Concern:
We are firmly against the cutting of so many trees in Claremont and Strawberry Canyons.
This plan is absolute folly.
Our reasons have been stated by many others and are well documented:

Eucalyptus have been here for a very long time & may as well be native

They provide essential wildlife habitat

Their combustibility is very much exaggerated. Clearing dead undergrowth would go as far and be 10 times more productive towards both fire prevention and a healthy ecosystem.

The plan is "trendy" and hyperbolic in its use of "native" and "non-native." "Native species" is the new Race Card in a cult of environmental localism. It does not represent rational consideration of the long term habitat and all its inhabitants.

C. J. David Davies
100 Pershing Drive
Oakland, CA 94611

From: Angela Rowen
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Hell No to destruction of half a million trees
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 1:53:11 AM

Hi,
I am an Oakland resident who greatly values the beautiful forested areas that you plan to wreak havoc on in the name of fire prevention. Besides the obvious iniquity of destroying half a million trees, you also plan to use ROUNDUP in an era of increasing public awareness and outrage about the evils of Mansanto?? PLEASE do not do this. PLEASE listen to the people who use the parks the most, not some outside federal influence whose motives are probably tainted by some political/money-interested shenanigans.

Respectfully,

Angela

From: Bruce Joffe
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: EIS on proposed hazardous fire risk reduction activities in the East Bay Hills
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 4:42:09 PM

I oppose the project because the impact of herbicides and other dangerous chemicals has not been fully recognized, nor mitigated. The poisons to be spread on the tree stumps could severely sicken or kill many kinds of animals, including dogs accompanying people who walk through the hills for exercise and recreation. Also, many kinds of insects that are part of the entire ecosystem will be impacted.

What would be the level of fire hazard if the eucalyptus trees are cut down? Treeless areas dry out faster than tree-shaded areas, so the fire hazard may actually increase as a result of the tree cutting. If this project goes forward as planned, the operators should be required to plant new trees one-for-one.

Thank you for registering my comment.

Bruce Joffe
902 Rose Ave.
Piedmont, CA 94611
510-508-0213
GIS.Consultants@joffes.com

From: C E Mone
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Goodbye Eucalyptus!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 1:48:57 PM

Good riddance to these trees which in no way are California, and may space be made for Quercus agrifolia and her cousins, which are natives. Eucalypts provide nothing except excellent firewood. This is my comment. Oh, and skip the herbicides. Native trees will not sprout as if by magic; they will need to be planted.
Carol Moné
Box 223
Trinidad, Ca 95570

Enviado desde mi iPad :)

From: Claire Broome
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comment on draft impact statement
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 11:44:28 AM

As a resident, homeowner, and taxpayer in the Berkeley hills, and a scientist, I would like to commend the effort to remove as many eucalyptus from Strawberry Canyon as possible. I fully support the project. The decrease in fire dangers and the ability of native plants to repopulate the area are beneficial to all.

I looked into the hazards of eucalyptus trees when I organized my neighbors to cut down six large eucalyptus in our neighborhood, I was particularly struck by the adverse impact of the trees on birds, as described in the following Audubon magazine article http://archive.audubonmagazine.org/incite/incite0201.html.

Finally, I found the petition being circulated against the project to be misleading and inaccurate in how it portrays the proposal. Unfortunately many people may have been fooled by this misleading portrayal of the project. I would strongly urge FEMA and colleagues to discount signatures on the petitions and just pay attention to official comments.

Claire Broome, MD

--
cvbroome@gmail.com

510 248 4095

26 Northgate Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94708

From: Dani
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: I oppose clear cutting trees in berkeley and Oakland hills
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 8:27:30 PM

I live only a few miles from berkeley and Oakland hills and hike those areas often. I oppose the destruction of these beautiful areas with this plan to remove thousands of trees. I also oppose the plan to use huge amounts of herbicides in the hills after the tree cutting. Please stop this plan and preserve our beautiful hills.

Dani Marchman
North Oaklan Homeowner

Sent from my iPhone

From: David
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Eucalyptus Trees
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:38:32 AM

I used to own two lots in the Oakland hills. When the eucalyptus trees grew too tall and obscured my view, I cut them down. In two years they had grown back! You cannot defeat eucalyptus trees by cutting them.

What a waste of money!

David Nugent
415-777-5636

From: David Nehrkorn
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Cutting Trees in East Bay Hills
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 2:04:53 PM

I'm very much against this project. Clearing underbrush would mitigate this problem. I'm a member of Save the Bay. And this is just like it. Save the Bay Surroundings.

Dave

Sent from my iPhone

David W. Nehrkorn, Ph.D.
3015 E. Bayshore Rd.
Spc 447
Redwood City, CA 94063

Home: (650) 365-1217
Cell: (650 305-9670

From: Diane Rice
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree cutting in Berkeley/Oakland
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:09:02 PM

Please do not fund this ill-conceived, irrational plan to clear cut the Berkeley and Oakland hills. The proposed measures will denude the hillsides, rendering them no longer hospitable to the natural habitats of untold numbers of animals. They will be ripe for erosion. It is far too extreme. There is no plan for reforestation, letting the so-called natives replant themselves. Eucalyptus will be replaced with French Broom, which is even more of a fire hazard. Massive application of herbicides will be hazardous for all of us and will possibly keep the hills bare for a long time. This project has not been thought through carefully and with the careful consideration of consequences. It is hysterical and will result in a devastation that will be impossible to undo.

Please hope that these zealots will come to their senses and suggest a more reasonable, rational, and far lest costly approach to the forest husbandry such as keeping the underbrush controlled and thinning the trees on an individual basis.

Sincerely,

Diane Rice

3084 Buena Vista Way
Berkeley, CA 94708

From: ed manegold
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree removal
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 1:07:12 PM

Don't do it!

From: Frederick Remer
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Trees
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 12:20:11 PM

Cut the underbrush and re-pave the roads on the hill. Just for once do something smart with our tax dollars

Sent from San Francisco Chronicle for iPad Download the App here

Sent from my iPad

From: George Brewster
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Leave the Claremont Canyon trees alone
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:41:49 AM

You people are like Nazis, trying to wipe out anything that does not meet your standards.

This is an established ecosystem with birds, insects and other animals that depend on this habitat for food and shelter. Yes, the trees are not native to California, but then neither are most of its residents. They been here a lot longer than any of us, however, so show them the respect they deserve and leave this beautiful grove alone.

From: greg case
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: cutting trees in the EBay hills
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 5:10:39 PM

I strongly OBJECT to cutting trees in the East Bay hills. I live on Colton in Montclair, and I choose to live in this urban forest, regardless of fire danger. If the right conditions happen (a crown fire and high winds), a similar result will occur again, and the only way to actually do anything to prevent fire would be to denude the entire hills of trees, and I did not spend big bucks for my house to live in a de-forested area. I love trees and have several Monterey pines on my property. The two oaks I have are showing signs and straining against sudden oak death syndrome, so they most likely will not last very much longer. I also love Oakland, living here, and am delighted with the recent evolution of this town, but I will not live without trees. I'll say goodbye to Oakland, sell my expensive house, and buy 40 treed acres in the foothills with the proceeds.

***Be light of spirit and strong of heart*.**

From: Hills Conservation Network
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: 4,640 signers: Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills petition
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 2:04:00 PM

Dear FEMA,

I started a petition to you titled *Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills*. So far, the petition has 4,640 total signers.

You can post a response for us to pass along to all petition signers by clicking here: http://petitions.moveon.org/target_talkback.html?tt=tt-42455-custom-21317-20130615-LvQwgA

The petition states:

> "The current Draft EIS is unacceptable as it will inflict enormous environmental damage, expose the public to thousands of gallons of toxic herbicide, destroy raptor habitats, destabilize steep slopes, and actually increase the risk of hazardous wildfires. FEMA should retract this EIS and remove those portions of the EIS that call for clear-cutting tall trees. The EIS should instead support a far less destructive methodology that would focus on a "species-neutral" approach, focusing on eliminating ground fuels and the fire ladder, thinning where appropriate, and limbing up as needed to ensure minimal risk of crown fires. Killing more than 50,000 trees and poisoning them for up to 10 years will have disastrous effects on this beautiful and healthy ecosystem, and cannot be allowed to happen."

To download a PDF file of all your constituents who have signed the petition, including their addresses, click this link: http://petitions.moveon.org/deliver_pdf.html?job_id=881387&target_type=custom&target_id=21317

Thank you.

--Hills Conservation Network

If you have any other questions, please email petitions@moveon.org.

The links to download the petition as a PDF and to respond to all of your constituents will remain available for the next 14 days.

This email was sent through MoveOn's petition website, a free service that allows anyone to set up their own online petition and share it with friends. MoveOn does not endorse the contents of petitions posted on our public petition website. If you don't want to receive further emails updating you on how many people have signed this petition, click here: http://petitions.moveon.org/delivery_unsub.html?e=xH6bm7btHgt1XQnAc8fwEiBFQkgtRUlTLUZFTUEtUklYQGZlbWEuZGhzLmdvdg--&petition_id=42455.

From: Jack Dodson
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: TREE REMOVAL PLANS
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 10:37:45 PM

I applaud the efforts of U.C. Berkeley, the city of Oakland and the East Bay Regional Park District to get grants from FEMA in order to remove eucalyptus and Monterey pines in the east bay. Here in Pacifica we face similar problems and I'm familiar with these two invasive trees and their effects. Monterey pines come from Southern California and are now a Bay Area tree. But they aren't healthy and require expensive maintenance or they become sick, dying trees that threaten property in many ways, not least of all for their combustibility. Eucalyptus trees pose similar problems and are difficult to control. In San Mateo county they multiply and replace native chaparral ecosystems and they give little to local wildlife. Nothing thrives in or under them except, perhaps, some perching birds. They become ecological deserts and displace manzanita, toyon, oaks, and the far more abundant ecosystems of wildlife that thrive in the chaparral community of plants and animals. Both species of trees are a greater fire hazard than grass or chaparral. Both rob people of vistas of the hills that comprise the California coast. People who've developed sentimental attachments to these trees will learn to appreciate, as have I, the virtues of our own native landscape.

Having lived in Pacifica in a residential area abutting chaparral I know that people can enjoy the many species of shrubs and annuals that comprise chaparral. Up close chaparral is alive with wildlife and interest, and from a distance they enhance the views of our landscape.

Jack Dodson
156 Essex Way
Pacifica, CA. 94044
phone: 650-355-1452
email: jackalo@sbcglobal.net

From: James Burtt
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: EIS for Hazardous Fire Reduction in East Bay Hills
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 9:04:12 AM

Since when did FEMA's charter expand to address fire prevention? I thought FEMA only dealt with major disaster relief, i.e. – after a disaster occurred. Why does everybody look to the federal government to solve their local issues? Why don't the people of Berkeley vote on whether they want to tax themselves for fire suppression efforts? Entitlement is creeping into our daily lives in myriad ways as it is so easy to ask the federal government for a handout. Don't they realize that we are simply borrowing from the Chinese and hollowing out our country by funding every local and regional need? We are avoiding hard decisions revolving around limited local resources. This is what gives Republicans and Tea Partiers a solid platform from which to castigate tax, borrow, and spend liberals. When is the federal government going to stop spending money it doesn't have on eminently local issues? How can we prevent scope creep with agencies like FEMA?

From:	James Ely
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	carolynjones@sfchronicle.com
Subject:	In Support of Eucalyptus Tree Removal
Date:	Saturday, June 01, 2013 12:45:24 PM

I support the removal of the eucalyptus trees from the East Bay hills. As a property/casualty actuary I am concerned about the very real fire danger. As a former 20 year resident of the Berkeley hills it has always been obvious that the eucalyptus is an invasive non-native species. This is one of the most sensible land management/restoration plans that I have ever heard of. Kudos to the University, the city of Oakland, and the East Bay Park District. Go Bears!

James Ely, FCAS

From: jceagain4@comcast.net
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Eucalyptus removal
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 10:43:08 AM

Cut down every eucalyptus tree in the Bay Area. Allow Oaks, Redwoods,and Manzanitas to return. Great idea.
John Elliott

From: Joe Cristofalo
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Public comment
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 11:19:32 AM

I am an Oakland Hills resident. During the 1991 Oakland fire I witnessed a huge eucalyptus at the bottom of my street go up like a torch. Embers from this tree likely were responsible for setting my house on fire and destroying it. PLEASE REMOVE ALL EUCALYPTUS AND MONTEREY PINE. Peter Scott and people like him are misguided and deluded. They focused on the immediate present rather than the beauty and integrity of native forests into the future. Cut the stumps to the ground. Plant redwood and allow oak forests to come back. Please.
Joe Cristofalo
27 Chico Ct.
Oakland CA 94611

From: Joseph Whitehouse
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Cut The Trees,
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:11:45 AM

Having fought the '91 fire, I know that cutting the remaining eucalyptus trees in Clairmont Canyon will be great.

Please count me as a supporter of Tom Klatt and his plan.

Thank you,

Dr Joseph Whitehouse
6075 Grizzly Peak

Sent from my iPad

From: Joseph Whitehouse
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Contact Us
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:08:31 AM

Please add me to the list AND CUT THE TREES!!!!!

Thank you,

Dr Joseph Whitehouse

Sent from San Francisco Chronicle for iPad Download the App here

Sent from my iPad

From: kay licina
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree removal
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 11:59:54 AM

Dear Agency,

I am opposed to the removal of trees and poisoning of watershed in the Berkeley and Oakland Hills. This seems like a very misguided attempt to assure fire protection, for the following reasons:

l. The native trees that grow up in their place are also a fire hazard.

2. The Poison, Garlon 4 is very toxic and will go into the ground and spread. I use the park every week for walks to keep up my health and will be exposed to these poisons, as will plants and animals.

3. Earthquakes are also a threat and the money would be better spent on backup help during one.

4. You can't protect yourself against every possiblity in life. Get adequate fire insurance and know how to evacuate in case of fire.

In addition, I have lived in the Berkeley Hills for 40 years and enjoy the fact that there are so many trees. And let's not be purists, we are going to have non-native species. If this goes through it will greatly reduce the value of my property and all my neighbors properties. I am 72, and have a modest cottage and am fixed income, so that is all I have: my cottage in this neighborhood. I will lose value just when I need it, and I can not live in such a polluted environment. I will have to leave.

There are many people opposed to this misguided and expensive plan with tax-payers money, This poison is not something that consumers can buy, so it must be very lethal.

Sincerely,

Kay Licina
1155 Cragmont Ave.
Berkeley, Ca

From: Ken Lem
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: EIS for Hazardous Risk Reduction in East Bay Hills
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:36:26 PM

My opinion:

Replace the eucalyptus & Monterey pines with oaks and redwoods.
Thanks,
--Ken Lem

---------- :> --- <: ----------
Kenneth W. Lem
6520 Swainland Rd
Oakland CA 94611

From: Kevin Jackson
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills EIS for Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 8:40:43 AM

Dear FEMA:

I have hiked the East Bay Hills for twenty years and fully support the plan to remove eucalyptus trees. I can attest that they pose a fire hazard and their forest canopies are the least diverse in the hills. The only request that I would make is to modify the plan to include the planting of oak and redwood tree seedlings after the eucalyptus have been cut. This will expedite the growth of oak and redwood forests and help to restore rich and native habitats for plants and animals.

Sincerely,
Kevin Jackson
3268 Florida Street
Oakland, CA 94602

From: Lauren McIntosh
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: The trees in Berkeley and Oakland
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 5:02:17 PM

Do not cut down the trees!

I am against the proposed cutting of trees!

Please use the money for something else! (Oklahoma?)

THANK YOU! Lauren Walrod

From: Lawrence Szabolaw
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree removal
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 7:38:40 AM

As a resident of the Oakland hills I support the tree removal program
These are dangerous, ugly, messy trees that have no place in our hills.

Lawrence Szabo
Oakland Ca

From: LRDragas@aol.com
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Stop the Deforestation in California
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 11:01:58 AM

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please consider refraining from your proposed project to deforest the Oakland, CA area. My family lives near there and I do not want their health or air quality further compromised.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

Additionally, The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because is does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to develop a proposal that actually fixes the problem.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,
Linda Dragas
Michael Armstrong
1009 Windsor Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

From:	Lucinda Olney
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX; Lucinda Olney
Subject:	Proposed Clear-Cutting of Berkeley and Oakland Trees
Date:	Saturday, June 01, 2013 3:55:34 PM

From: Lucinda Olney, BSN, PHN
Berkeley, California

To: FEMA
Re: Disposal of trees, comment on risk other than fire

In reading the May 31 Berkeley Voice article "FEMA considers fate of hills trees" there is no mention of how the larger cut trees would be disposed of, though an article entitled "Death of a Million Trees" includes the paragraph "EBRPD plans to cut the trees into wood chips which will be scattered to cover 20% of the project to a maximum depth of 4-6 inches. The remainder of the wood will be burned in piles."

As a Registered Nurse working for a Home Health agency, I make home visits over the hills of Oakland, Berkeley, as well as homes in the adjacent areas. In the past few years I have noticed increased severity of asthma attacks, and a greater number of respiratory problems including more Pneumonia and COPD. If any trees are burned after being cut, the massive amounts of soot and smoke released could only worsen the respiratory problems we see.

Please consider leaving the trees in place after cutting, to return the nutrients to the soil over time, or hauled away and used for fill somewhere else. Thank you

Lucinda Olney, RN

From: Mary Selkirk
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Support for the proposed removal of hazardous trees and vegetation in the East Bay hill
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 6:06:40 PM

Dear sir or madam,

I have reviewed the EIS for the proposed hazardous vegetation reduction program in the Berkeley and Oakland HIlls and parts of MiIler Knox Regional Shoreline. I fully support the proposed project and hope it will be approved for funding.

As a resident of Berkeley, I watched the 1991 fire erupt and spread across and down the Berkeley and Oakland Hills. As an avid hiker and runner, I have spent many hours over the years on the fire trails above Berkeley and Oakland and on the trails of the EBRPD. I am well aware of the altered vegetation patterns in the hills, and of the current severely high fire risk in the areas proposed for treatment in this proposal. I support removal of the eucalyptus trees, both for for hazard management, as well as to allow return of more native and fire resistant vegetation in the hills.

Sincerely,

Mary Selkirk
Berkeley, CA

From: meagan donegan
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley Hills
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 5:38:00 PM

As a resident of what I thought was the progressive bay area I am horrified for numerous reasons at the proposal to not only cut down the trees in the Berkeley Hills but to then cover the ground with poisonous chemicals that will affect the health of every animal and human in this area. I AM VERY STRONGLY AGAINST THIS. Thank you for your time, Meagan Donegan

From: Oppositeoffaith
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: DO NOT DESTROY OAKLAND"S ENVIROMENT.
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:50:39 AM

I live in the Oakland Hills! I remember the Oakland fires cutting down the trees is NOT the answer , managing the dry brush is...this is the wrong thing to do!

Sent from my iPad

From: Pamela Turner
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Proposal to remove eucalyptus in the East Bay hills
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 8:22:13 AM

Dear Sir or Madam:
As a resident of the East Bay, I strongly support the proposal to remove invasive eucalyptus trees from the hills. The home I live in was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1991. Aside from the fire suppression benefits of removing these trees, which are significant, I believe strongly in restoring native ecosystems whenever possible. Replanting native trees would not only keep people safer but would also improve local biodiversity.
Sincerely,

Pamela S. Turner
6042 Manchester Drive
Oakland, CA 94618

www.pamelasturner.com

From: Pat Rougeau
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Support of EIS for East Bay Hills
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:16:20 PM

I am a resident, homeowner, and taxpayer in the East Bay hills. I would like to commend the effort to remove as many eucalyptus from the East Bay hills as possible. I fully support the project and the EIS findings. The decrease in fire dangers and the ability of native plants to repopulate the area are beneficial to all.

I looked into the hazards of eucalyptus trees. I was particularly struck by the adverse impact of the trees on birds, as described in the following Audubon magazine article http://archive.audubonmagazine.org/incite/incite0201.html.

The petition being circulated against the project is misleading. Unfortunately many people may have been fooled by this misleading portrayal of the project. I would strongly urge FEMA and colleagues to discount signatures on the petitions and just pay attention to official comments.

Thank you for this important work. Please approve the EIS!

Pat Rougeau

--

510 845-6735

1844 Grand View Drive
Oakland, CA 94618

From: Pete Ehrlich
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Mailing List
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 7:14:55 AM

Please Put Me On Your Mailing List

Thanks,
Peter Ehrlich

From: random
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: trees
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 6:21:21 PM

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no

just say no to decimating trees

people should stop building near the forest instead of killing trees to protect themselves from the possibility of nature doing it's thing

From: rfarm6080@comcast.net
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Ridiculous idea to clearcut trees in Claremont Canyon
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 11:38:30 AM

Both myself and my husband are vehemently opposed to cutting down so many trees in those East Bay hills. We totally agree with taking out the underbrush or removing a few trees here and there, but it's absurd to remove that many eucalyptus trees just because they're not considered native. For as long as these trees have lived in California, they might was well be native. Besides, why does it matter if they're native or not? They're alive, growing, helping the environment and are a habitat for many birds. If everyone is always so worried about money, this is a needless expense, too.

Please don't allow this tree cutting to happen. It's wrong and we don't agree with it.

Thank you for consideration.

Bob and Linda Farmer

From: Richard Baker
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Public Participation
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 7:42:36 AM

Upon reading the planned elimination of thousands of eucalyptus trees, I envisioned the now long gone redwood forest that once blanketed the east bay hills and canyons. Could it be possible that one day a truly diverse and natural order be restored? Gentlemen start your saws!

Sent from San Francisco Chronicle for iPad Download the App here

Sent from my iPad

From: Robert Goings
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay clearcutting
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 10:05:20 PM

Dear friends,

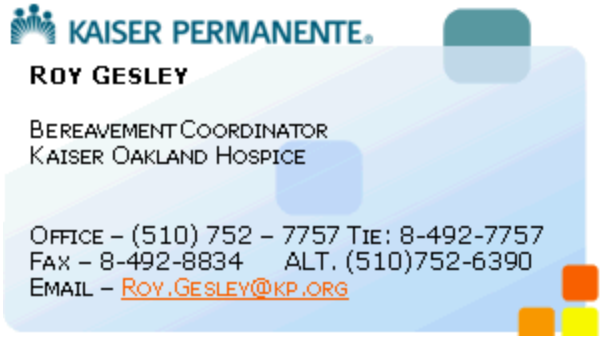
The proposed clearing of east bay locations, including Strawberry and Claremont Canyons, should be put on hold until the collaborating agencies, including UC Berkeley, can propose less destructive alternatives to meet the necessary fire reduction goals. FEMA should NOT make such a grant to these agencies until they have demonstrated that they have thoroughly studied the alternatives and posted them for public comment.

Thank you.

Robert Goings
UC Berkeley Alumnus

From: Roy.Gesley@kp.org
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: FEMA"s plan for Strawberry and Claremont Canyons, Berkeley
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 12:33:36 PM

I strongly oppose FEMA's plan to clear cut Strawberry and Claremont Canyons in the Berkeley Hills, as there no plans to replant native trees, leaving a barren landscape populated by thistles instead of native grasses and annuals.



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From: Scott Hove
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Thank you for the plan to remove the eucalyptus!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 11:58:29 AM

As a naturalist, and as witness to the great firestorm, I support removing the non-native trees. I'm so glad this proposal is being considered and I look forward to implementation!

Scott Hove
510-495-4185

From:	Spreck Rosekrans
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	Support of tree removal plan with caveats and suggestions
Date:	Saturday, June 01, 2013 10:35:05 AM

Dear FEMA, UC, EBRPD:

I generally support the tree removal plan. Eucalyptus are a fire hazard and weeds, and do not even support any cute koalas.

I live in the flat part of north Oakland but have hiked these hills extensively for 50 years and hope to do so for another few decades.

Please use only minimal amounts of herbicides.

Please work carefully to avoid erosion.

In concert with this work and also beyond the scope of this project, please improve the trail system. A few new trails may be warranted but the greatest need is to improve and enhance safety where trails are steep. Places where improvements are warranted include:

- The Woodbridge-Metcalf Grove
- The "connector" between the upper and lower fire trails in Strawberry Canyon (along Panoramic)
- Parts of the ridge between Claremont and Strawberry Canyons, especially below the brick house
- the north side of the hill above the track at the Clark Kerr Campus

Also, please construct a trail from the top of the upper fire trail (near the Space Sciences building) to the lower fire trail at the base of the Woodbridge Metacalf Grove. It would complete a great loop.

Thanks very much,

Adolph S. "Spreck" Rosekrans Jr.
6420 Regent Street
Oakland, CA 94618
spreckrosekrans@gmail.com

From: Stanley Stevens
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: Stanbun7573@gmail.com
Subject: Berkeley Trees in the Hills - Non native
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 7:07:25 PM

My husband and I live in the Berkeley Hills. We were on our way home from Bodega when we noticed all the blackness in the distance. We were not harmed by the fire; however, many of students at Head-Royce School in Oakland lost their homes. My job was to keep those students singing as the music helped them. Please return to native trees. Louise Chamberlain Stevens

From: Susan Abramson
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Eucalyptus Removal
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 2:54:41 PM

I want to add my vote of support to the removal of any and all Eucalyptus trees not only in Berkeley, Californnia, but anywhere that they are not native. These trees are extremely flammable, grow very tall and are hazardous in high winds because they break and drop huge limbs, they are harmful to certain birds because they coat their beaks with an oil, they change the natural floor of the forests by creating so much debris from their dropping of bark effectively making "fences" that native wildlife cannot move through the floor, and they are taking over our native trees, such as oak, redwood, bays and manzanitas. They are a species exclusive tree, not allowing growth of any other species around them, in a sense a "bully" tree. We have traveled to South and Central America where these trees are taking over entire areas. It is very disturbing to imagine whole states where these would be the only trees.

The protesters of this project should read up on these destructive non-native trees, and be in support of the removal. We have property in Carmel Valley and we have to pay for their removal and would be very happy if the forestry department paid for it instead. In our area, as we remove the invasive eucalyptus trees, gradually the native oaks and manzanitas and native brush that are all fire resistant are coming back.

Thank you,
Susan Swanson

From: Tara Grove
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: proposed hazardous fire risk reduction activities in the East Bay Hills
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 12:57:06 PM

I am writing to you in response to the plan to eradicate 10s of thousands of trees in the Berkeley hills. I understand that too much growth can cause fire danger but are we going to go around the whole state and cut down ALL the trees because they may pose a fire danger? Isn't it possible to clear out excess growth and detritus without have to cut down all the trees? The world is losing too many trees as it is. Cutting these trees would be a travesty and it must NOT be done. Trees cool the air and provide habitat for a plethora of animals. Has anyone checked to see if there are any endangered species living in that area? Where are all the animals that currently live there going to go?
I am horrified at the possibility that clear cutting these trees may happen and I wonder what the ulterior motives are. To clear way for more houses? To provide Monsanto a chance to pollute our environment even more? To line someone's pockets with more money? At a time when public budgets are stretched so thin isn't there something else that the money could be spent on? Something to directly assist the public?

Please take into consideration my comments as well as those from other concerned citizens and DO NOT clear cut these areas. Please consider a more conservative approach.

Sincerely,

Tara D. Burkhart-Grove

From: Tom Swift
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: I write in support of this project
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:52:20 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to stipulate my support of the East Bay Hills EIS Project for Hazardous Fire and Risk Reduction.

I am a resident of the Hills and support the project wholeheartedly.

Thank you very much for your fine work.

Please - please - proceed!!!

Tom Swift
2 Cathy Lane
Oakland, CA 94619

From: Vladimir Rosenhaus
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley Tree removal
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 3:49:17 PM

Dear FEMA

I have learned that there are plans to remove a large number of trees from the Berkeley CA cannon areas.

While I understand the need for preventing fires, I would hope that alternative ways can be found. The east bay parks in the cannon (such as Strawberry Cannon) are beautiful places which I visit every day and it would be sad to see them go. I understand another motivation for removing the trees is to restore native trees. However, it is not clear to me that at this point it is worth the cost and destruction necessary to achieve this.

Thank you and
Sincerely,

Vladimir Rosenhaus
Phd candidate, physics

From: Regul, Lisa
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: tree destruction
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 9:39:56 AM

As a long time East Bay resident I am strongly opposed to the removal of trees in the East Bay Hills for alleged "fire hazard mitigation," and doubly opposed to the application of herbicide to public lands. I do not believe these actions will reduce the risk of wildfire and will instead do terrible damage to the environment. I do not want my tax dollars used for this purpose.

Sincerely,
Lisa Regul

From: Kathy Robles
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Stop the plan to kill the Bay Area trees
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 9:29:21 AM

Please do not clear cut the beautiful hills of the Bay Area, my home for 30 years. The trees are not a fire danger - they do not need to be cut or poisoned. What about the ecosystem that has been created by them - the animals, insects, plants.

This is a horrible proposition and I hope you will come to your senses and leave the Bay Area alone.

~Kathy Robles

From: vickie brown
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Clearcutting in the East Bay
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 8:33:45 AM

Dear Sirs/Madame

Not to point out something very basic here. But you (FEMA) have to realize that almost everything in the Bay Area is NOT native to the area any longer. Are you going to clearcut the humans? No. Are you going to clearcut the humans homes? No. How about all the freeways and autos too? No. How about the landscaping that the humans have brought in? No. I'm sure the animals in the area are not all native either. Are you going to clearcut them too?

When does this nonnative excuse get stopped. Someone must have one grain of common sense there. There is no such thing as native and nonnative vegetation in a densely populated area. Stop before this destroys more than it will save, including wild animals habitats. Or don't they matter either, in case they aren't native to the area too.

Vickie Brown
vickie@nokillsonomacounty.org
www.nokillsonomacounty.org

From: Shari Godinez
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Death of a million trees
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 11:19:24 PM

You are burning the skin off of the earth STOP!
David Godinez

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

From: Dylan Tiss
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: "Fire Hazard"
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 9:54:42 PM

I have reviewed the documents of this project and I am appalled. As a bay area resident I can not think of a more destructive event than this. The risk of a potential fire sometime in the future is miniscule compared to the massive environmental damage to be done by this project. Clear cutting thousands upon thousands of trees is a horror within itself, but then it gets worse. Dumping thousands of gallons of harmful herbicide chemicals onto the hills to prevent weeds is an unthinkable, unnecessary atrocity that can not be undone. These chemicals will seep deep into the soil and ground water and eventually into the bay.

Where will the next "Fire Hazard" appear? Marin County? Mendocino County? Yosemite? Using the logic of this project we might as well cut down all the trees in the state. Trees are wood, they have the potential to burn, cutting down thousands of them and soaking the land with toxic chemicals is NOT THE ANSWER!

I can't think of a time when I have been more outraged by a proposed project, or by anything for that matter, and I know I am not alone. This an extremely drastic short sighted "solution" that will cause ten times the destruction it is aiming to avoid.

People will avoid this area instead of being attracted to it. Tourism will go down, housing markets will go down, this is a lose lose lose situation. I'm sure there are many very intelligent people working on this project, there has to be a better way.

This project will be met with STOUT opposition every step of the way and I urge you to stop!

From: Cambel Nancy Campbell
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comments on proposed tree removal in Claremont Canyon, East Bay hills, CA
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 9:03:33 PM

I urge you to put an end to any consideration of clear-cutting in Claremont and Strawberry Canyons in the hills of Berkeley and Oakland. I am a local resident who frequently hikes in these canyons. These areas are of irreplaceable value to the citizens of Berkeley and Oakland, not to mention countless visitors who are drawn to the beauty of this area. The University of California proposes to clear cut tens of thousands of trees, for the sake of protecting its property. Why do the desires of a single elite group override the greater good? Why would this even be considered seriously? In a state that prides itself on environmental protection we should be setting the highest example of natural resource preservation. Instead, we want to engage in backwards behavior that I suspect isn't actually motivated by a desire to reduce the risk of wildfires, (using this rationale is likely a tactic to arouse the public's fear in the hope of building support for an ignoble cause). We need these trees for the sake of public health and happiness. Wildfires are a wholly natural event that don't necessitate the clear-cutting of our trees. That's like cutting off your feet to ensure you never get a broken foot. Needless to say, the proposed spreading of pesticides on these precious lands is horrific beyond measure. How can this even be considered in this day and age when we have so much evidence of the wide-ranging ill effects of these chemicals?
Thank you for your work. I understand you have a tremendous responsibility to protect our public resources and I trust that the folks at FEMA have the integrity to make decisions that benefit the greater good--both the Earth's and her inhabitants.
Sincerely,
Nancy Campbell
377 63rd Street
Oakland, CA

From: April McDonald
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Public Comment- East Bay FEMA tree cutting
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 8:25:25 PM

Yes, cut the trees. Especially the acacia, scotch broom, Monterey pine and eucalyptus. Prevent another big fire while you can! A lot of people, like ourselves, are seriously allergic to the acacia pollen that comes in the Spring. Acacia are also very flammable and fall easily when they're tall and unbalanced.

We're glad you're chemically treating the stumps so it won't have to be done again. Hopefully, the new growth of brush will also be well maintained in the future.

The wildlife has plenty of places to go. We just hope those Berkeley turkeys don't come to our house.

April and Ian McDonald

From: susan.frankel@comcast.net
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Please cut the trees and reduce the fire danger
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 6:53:16 PM

Hello FEMA - My short note is sent with much fervor - please cut the eucalyptus and reduce fire danger!

I live just above wildcat canyon and think the current conditions is very scary.

I support any means necessary and urge you to cut as many eucalyptus as you can afford. I appreciate that these funds are available to our neighborhood.

I am a forest pathologist and love trees and nature. The eucalyptus are not native and I would love to see them cut! I agree to the use of herbicides they are needed in this situation.

Thank you, Susan Frankel, 35 the Crescent, Berkeley, CA 94708

From: Kevin
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: In support of non-native tree removal in East Bay hills
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 5:22:15 PM

An article was recently circulated on Facebook, along with a “Move-on” petition and a bunch of posts on list serves about the “Clear-cutting of 85,000 Berkeley & Oakland trees, and plans to “destroy the bucolic Strawberry and Claremont Canyon areas.” The article makes it sound like the project is secret, and anti-environmental, and it encourages people to send comments against the project. I am an environmental educator at Lawrence Hall of Science. I’ve hiked in these hills, often on a daily basis extensively for 30+ years. A long-time hobby of mine has been habitat restoration, mainly involving removing invasive plant species, and allowing the natives to flourish. I want to discourage you from writing against this project and encourage you to do some research into studies on flammable trees and bushes and specifically about eucalyptus and their detrimental impact on native organisms. If you look into this issue deeply, through reliable scientific sources, I think you’ll find, like I have, that you’ll instead want to write in to *support* this project (and perhaps roll up your sleeves and go pull out some non-native vegetation too)!

Taking a quick walk up the hill behind my home, there’s a dense grove, almost purely made up of eucalyptus trees. The ground is littered with bark and branches that have fallen off. The resin-filled trees are considered extremely flammable, and as they grow, they surround themselves with their own flammable “kindling.” Eucalyptus trees are also allelopathic. That means that they constantly drop chemicals onto the area around them, preventing the growth of other plant species. It’s a sort of natural “herbicide” that keeps native species from being able to grow anywhere near these trees. Under the eucalyptus grove near my house, you can see a little bit of poison oak and scotch broom growing, but nothing else survives there.

A short distance away is an area where the eucalyptus trees were removed several years back. This area now has live oak trees, toyon and coffee berry bushes, miner’s lettuce, bay trees, wildflowers and a wide variety of other native species. Along with the native plants come native insects, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds. You can visually see how the oak woodlands provide a rich and diverse habitat for hundreds of species. And these are the diverse species of the once thriving ecosystem that was originally found in the Berkeley and Oakland hills.

Those opposing the eucalyptus removal project (including monterey pine & acacia, both non-native and extremely flammable) like to talk about it as “habitat destruction.” But it is actually habitat restoration. It is true that some species nest in these non-native trees, but they are merely making-do with what is available, and their populations will not be destroyed by tree removal - the plan clearly states they will remove trees during times when native species are not nesting. There will of course be temporary disturbances to the habitat, but the resulting oak woodlands ecosystem that will be restored by this project will support a much greater diversity

and abundance of organisms.

After working so hard for many years to carve out a pocket of native habitat, I was thrilled to learn years back that funds were being provided to do this on a large scale. UC Berkeley, EBRP & Oakland have been slowly and thoughtfully removing these fire hazard non-natives for years, and if you've been paying attention, you see how they do it and the results. It's not clear-cutting. It's selective cutting, in which the non-natives are removed, and the natives are left to flourish. In the area just below Lawrence Hall of Science, they have planted hundreds of native species, but in most areas they allow the natives to return on their own, which they readily do. In some areas, like another area behind my house where they cut a couple of months ago, they haven't even removed all the eucalyptus, but only about 1/3 of them (unfortunately). If it sounds like a lot of trees are planned for the axe, it's because there are hundreds of thousands of non-native fire hazard trees growing in the area. The problem is extensive, which makes their removal extensive. But in personally removing 40 eucalyptus trees around my home, I barely made a dent in the area. We are surrounded by these highly flammable non-natives, and they've got to go to make our area less dangerous and more habitat-rich.

In 1991 I watched the east bay hills fire burn homes. When a eucalyptus went up in flames it was an impressive and frightening site. 25 people died in that fire, and ~3400 homes were destroyed. To me, it's crazy to have experienced a disaster like that, and not remove these trees. If people had immediately mobilized after the fire to remove these trees, we would now be surrounded by 20+ years growth of rich oak woodland. Even crazier is to fight to prevent their removal.

In the 70's during the drought, the eucalyptus dried and "died," and to prevent fire folks were encouraged to cut them down and use the wood (though we now know that the wood is pretty useless). But the stumps weren't treated with herbicides, so they quickly grew back. Blanket use of herbicides, as in agricultural situations, is clearly detrimental to habitats and organisms. However, in this case of invasive species removal, it is only the stumps of trees that are treated. I've read two scientific articles on studies of roundup (studies *not* sponsored by Monsanto), and consulted with two highly respected ecologists, and they have explained to me that, as long as reasonable precautions are taken, such as those described in the environmental impact report, these chemicals break down very quickly and as a result they don't accumulate in waterways or pose a hazard to humans or other organisms. When used in such targeted, highly controlled applications, Roundup does not pose an environmental hazard.

There have always been small landslides in the Oakland hills, due to the steep slopes and roads cut into them. Some people have raised the issue of erosion, and how the removal of eucalyptus will cause landslides. Much eucalyptus has already been removed, but where are the landslides caused by eucalyptus removal they're talking about? If that were true, you'd expect to see landslides below these areas, but the landslides I've seen have been unrelated to eucalyptus removal. When the

eucalyptus are cut down, their stumps and roots remain, continuing to hold soil in place. As the natives grow back and sink down their roots, they take on the job.

Yes, let's mobilize to save the East Bay hills – but let's do it by removing the invasive species, nurturing native ecosystems and reducing fire hazards. These so-called "environmentalists" are not fighting to save the environment. They are simply resisting change, and calling it environmentalism. They're fighting to preserve what they're accustomed to. But in this case it's the change that is pro-environment.

"The best *time to plant* a *tree* was 20 years ago. The next best *time* is now." *~Chinese Proverb*. The same goes for removing these trees that prevent the growth of our natives.

Kevin Beals, Montclair resident

6416 Heather Ridge Way, Oakland, CA

From: Norman La Force
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: SPRAWLDEF Comments on FEMA DEIS for Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction work in the East Bay Hills
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 4:19:00 PM

To FEMA:

The Sustainability, Parks, Recycling and Wildlife Legal Defense Fund (SPRAWLDEF) joins in the Sierra Club's comments on the DEIS. It incorporates those comments as though fully set forth here.

Sincerely yours,

Norman La Force, President

From: Norman La Force
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comments on FEMA DEIS for Hazardous Fire Reduction, East Bay Hills
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 4:14:59 PM

To FEMA:

The Sierra Club makes the following comments on the DEIS for FEMA's proposed hazardous fire risk reduction activities in the East Bay Hills. The DEIS identifies the need to reduce non-native vegetation especially eucalyptus trees from a large area and states that the goal should be that native habitat replaces those non-native species in those areas where the non-native vegetation is removed. The Sierra Club supports that goal and the FEMA effort to meet that goal. We applaud the fact that FEMA has clearly identified native habitat restoration as a key component of the projected work in the East Bay hills.

The Sierra Club has long maintained that the East Bay Hills should be made as fire safe as is feasible so long as doing so has the following results. First, the risk of fire, especially conflagrations such as the 1991 fire should be reduced. The Sierra Club has always supported efforts to make sure we have a fire safe environment without compromising habitat and wildlife protection.

Second, the most cost effective methods for reducing the fire risk is to remove exotic and very fire prone non-native vegetation and to engage in a long term process of transforming those areas into native habitat through the implementation of plans over the long term that result in the restoration of native habitat. Native vegetation is less fire dangerous overall and also is easier to maintain. Hence, a program of transformation will result over time in an environment with less fire risk which is less costly to maintain.

Third, any program must provide for long term maintenance that is cost effective. Too often in the past, vegetation removal to reduce fire risk simply called for whole sale removal of vegetation and then leaving the

area without any actual plan implemented for native habitat restoration. As a result the denuded areas were simply reclaimed by exotic species that created a greater fire risk and also cost far more to remove than if native habitat had been restored. This did not serve the public or the ecology of the area at all.

The Sierra Club, therefore, believes that the FEMA DEIS must set forth clear objectives and goals that can be quantified through scientific means to ensure that the removal of exotics is carried in through a program that results in their replacement with native habitat. The DEIS cannot and should not rely on vague terms or language that cannot be evaluated objectively for determining if a removal action has resulted in native habitat restoration.

The DEIS must also identify how FEMA and the agencies involved will carry out a long term program to evaluate the success of restoration programs in removal areas. Long term here means over 20 to 30 years. The DEIS should require that funds will be spent over a long period of time and after the initial disbursement is made, FEMA evaluates the success of that work through objective criteria over the long term with the requirement that the agencies show success in their restoration work before FEMA releases additional funds. The DEIS does not establish these objective criteria or set forth how FEMA will evaluate the agencies' success with objective criteria for success that are evaluated by the appropriate set of evaluators who have the credentials to make those evaluations and provide feedback to the agencies on how well they are meeting the criteria and what they may need to do to make their work program successful.

The DEIS must also require that the agencies provide FEMA with proof that they have long term maintenance plans that are fully funded before any funds are to be released. Too often public agencies carry out an initial work program and then fail to provide adequate funding for the long term maintenance that is required. The DEIS does not provide for how the agency will ensure that the applicants will carry out a long term

maintenance program that is adequately funded with real money and not just statements that funding will be provided.

The DEIS also needs to have clear work plans for the application of herbicides. Again, the DEIS must include clear work plans for how FEMA will evaluate the actual application of herbicides to ensure their use is limited to the least amount needed, that the herbicides are applied in very targeted methods that limit their application over the area in specific targeted methods, and then include a methodology for evaluating how well the herbicides were applied and how well they have worked. These kinds of plans with clear objective criteria are not evident in the DEIS.

The DEIS should also provide methods for the use of controlled burns in place of the use of herbicides. This method of vegetation management while posing certain risks in this urban environment is, nevertheless, preferred over other methods such as the use of herbicides.

Finally, the DEIS should identify plans by which the East Bay Regional Park District and the City of Oakland implement removal actions that are the same or similar to the University of California's. The Sierra Club is very concerned that the Park District and Oakland propose plans for funding that are not for the removal of the Eucalyptus but instead would maintain the larger trees. Such maintenance programs are more costly and leave very fire dangerous trees in place, and also will require the removal of native vegetation. Moreover, given the higher costs for the maintenance of large Eucalyptus plantations, it is doubtful that the agencies will fund the long term maintenance that will be needed to make these plantations less prone to fire. The reality is that over time the agencies will defer the maintenance and thus will create a greater fire risk.

Sincerely,

Norman La Force, Chair Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter East Bay Public Lands Committee and Chapter Legal Chair.

From:	Ann Slaby
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	East Bay Hills EIS
Date:	Sunday, June 02, 2013 4:09:57 PM
Attachments:	PHA Study 1974-1.pdf pha study 1974 part 2.pdf jacoba mcKay contract.pdf

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Dear Sir/Madam:

I have already written one response to your East Bay Hills EIS Hazardous Fire Reduction.
This is a second comment with further documents that support strong vegetation management in the areas indicated by the EIS.

These documents are specific for the Panoramic Hill Area. This Berkeley/Oakland neighborhood is situated the south side of Strawberry Canyon. To the east is UC land and to the south, East Bay Regional Park land. The neighborhood has one access road for the approximately 500 people who reside in the area.

On June 5, 1973, the Berkeley City Council imposed a one year development moratorium on the Berkeley portion of the Panoramic Hill area. The Berkeley Planning Department directed a review of existing development policies and analyze the problems.
A study of the fire hazards, traffic circulation, parking and other problems in the Berkeley and Oakland portions of the hill was accomplished. The 1974 report is attached.

The Berkeley Planning department reviewed then changed the zoning in the area to a new Environmental Safety (ES), later known as Environmental Safey - Residential (ESR). Unfortunately, the zoning office found the zoning difficult to administer, and the zoning was made less stringent over the years.

However, the planning included contacting all the residents of the neighborhood, so they had input to enumerating the problems and helping find solutions.

On June 10, 2008, the Berkeley City Council again adopted a building moratorium for the Berkeley section of Panoramic hill. The city then adopted new ESR zoning regulations a few years later.http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Planning_and_Development/Home/Panoramic_Hill_Project.aspx
However, Berkeley has a very long history of not enforcing its zoning.

Oakland has revised its zoning for the area. But development on a very large portion of the Oakland part of Panoramic hill has never gone forward because of the requirements for septic tanks. New septic tank technology may make development easier. Oakland has not approved new development and there is an understanding between Oakland and Berkeley that Oakland will not allow new development until there is a second access road and a new sewer for Oakland. (see contract between Oakland and Berkeley about private sewer extension for Jacoba McKay, attached.)

My dissertation for my PhD degree in Epidemiology from UC Berkeley, is entitled "Toward an Ecological Epidemiolgy," It uses an ecological analysis of the neighborhood on Panoramic hill then applies it to health problems.

I strongly support this fire hazard reduction program. An ounce of prevention, that is, removal of vegetation that spreads wildfire, is far better than a pound of cure, that is, rebuilding destroyed homes and other property as well as the impossibility of bringing back to life animals and humans killed in a wildfire.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Reid Slaby, Ph.D.,J.D., MSc., MSc., MS
Attorney at Law CA #188148
Patent Attorney USPTO #54880

HILL AREA Study

Resources Development and PANORAMIC Environmental



Berkeley Planning Department · June 1974

Pan Hill Home Owners Ass

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Panoramic Hill Study would not have been possible without the assistance of Panoramic Hill residents, representatives of various public agencies and the City of Berkeley staff.

The Planning Department acknowledges the major assistance provided by Fire Chief Elmer Silva of the University of California Lawrence Laboratory and Professor Emeritus Harold Biswell of the University of California School of Forestry.

Also providing considerable assistance were Owen Eide of the East Bay Municipal Utility District; Roy Oakes and William Dabel of the Berkeley Public Works Department; Victor Porter and Milton Steele of the Berkeley Fire Department; and Fire Marshal Russell Norman of the University of California. Ken Moye, a city planning student at the University of California, donated many hours of volunteer work and was later added to the study staff.

The Panoramic Hill Association provided major assistance to the study, primarily through its Planning and Zoning Committee. The Committee which consists of Patrick Devaney, chairman, Della Reid, Dan Keig, and Judd Boynton met regularly with the study staff.

Dean Armstrong, Project Director
Thomas F. Peak, Director of Planning

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A. Residents' Perception of the Neighborhood Environment

B. Residents' Opinions of Study Recommendations

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Origin of the Study

Panoramic Hill has long been recognized as a portion of the Berkeley planning area that needed special study. The area consists of two steep ridges upon which the cities of Oakland and Berkeley have allowed the construction of 200 dwelling units over the last 50 years. Severe fire hazards, a single twisting narrow access road barely adequate for residential access, and severe traffic congestion plague the neighborhood.

Because it was felt that existing regulations and programs were not solving the neighborhood problems, on June 5, 1973, the Berkeley City Council imposed a one year development moratorium on the Berkeley portion of the Panoramic Hill area. At that time, the Berkeley Planning Department was directed to review existing development policies and analyze Panoramic Hill problems. Consequently, a study was begun of fire hazards, traffic circulation, parking and other problems in both the Berkeley and Oakland portions of the Panoramic Hill area. The Oakland portion of the Hill was included because it is impossible to separate the problems and environmental characteristics of the Oakland area from the Berkeley area.

Components of the Study

Supporting the Study Conclusions and Recommendations are two major studies: 1) the Fire Vulnerability Study; and 2) the Environmental Assessment Study.

The Fire Vulnerability Study analyzes the factors that determined fire vulnerability: 1) factors promoting fire ignition; 2) fire hazards, especially fuel characteristics; 3) the capability of fire forces to respond to a fire emergency; 4) the degree to which people, property and other things of value are exposed or would be exposed in the future to fire danger.

The Environmental Assessment Study surveys the existing and potential environment of Panoramic Hill. Factors studied were: 1) the natural environment; 2) the social and cultural environment; and 3) threats to the environment.

Citizen Participation

Throughout the study, a major effort was made to achieve resident participation and to keep the residents informed. All of the residents were sent information on the study and their views were solicited through two separate questionnaires. Because it represents approximately one-half of the residents, the Panoramic Hill Association

PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA

BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74

SCALE IN FEET

0 500 1000 2000

LOCATION MAP #1

was given the opportunity to provide significant input to the study including bi-weekly meetings between Planning Department Staff and a subcommittee of the Association. Staff presentations were also made at regular Association meetings.

The members of the Planning and Zoning Committee of the Association included Patrick DeVaney, Chairman; Della Reid, Dan Keig and Judd Boynton. Association members who also provided significant assistance were Bill Freedenberg and Doris Maslach.

SUMMARY OF STUDY FINDINGS

General Description of the Neighborhood

Panoramic Hill is a neighborhood that straddles the Berkeley-Oakland border. It consists of approximately 200 dwelling units, 3/4 of which are located in the Berkeley portion of the Hill. Although the environment is very woodsy and rural, nearly half of the dwelling units are in buildings having two or more dwelling units.

The neighborhood rests on two ridges that jut out from the Berkeley Hills just south of Strawberry Canyon. Most of the development is on the north ridge (See attached map) that is bounded on the north by Strawberry Canyon and on the south by the middle fork of Derby Creek. The south ridge, which has only ten percent of the Hill's homes, is a far less prominent physical feature. It is bounded to the north by Derby Creek and to the south by the wildlands leased by the East Bay Regional Park District from the California School for the Blind and Deaf.

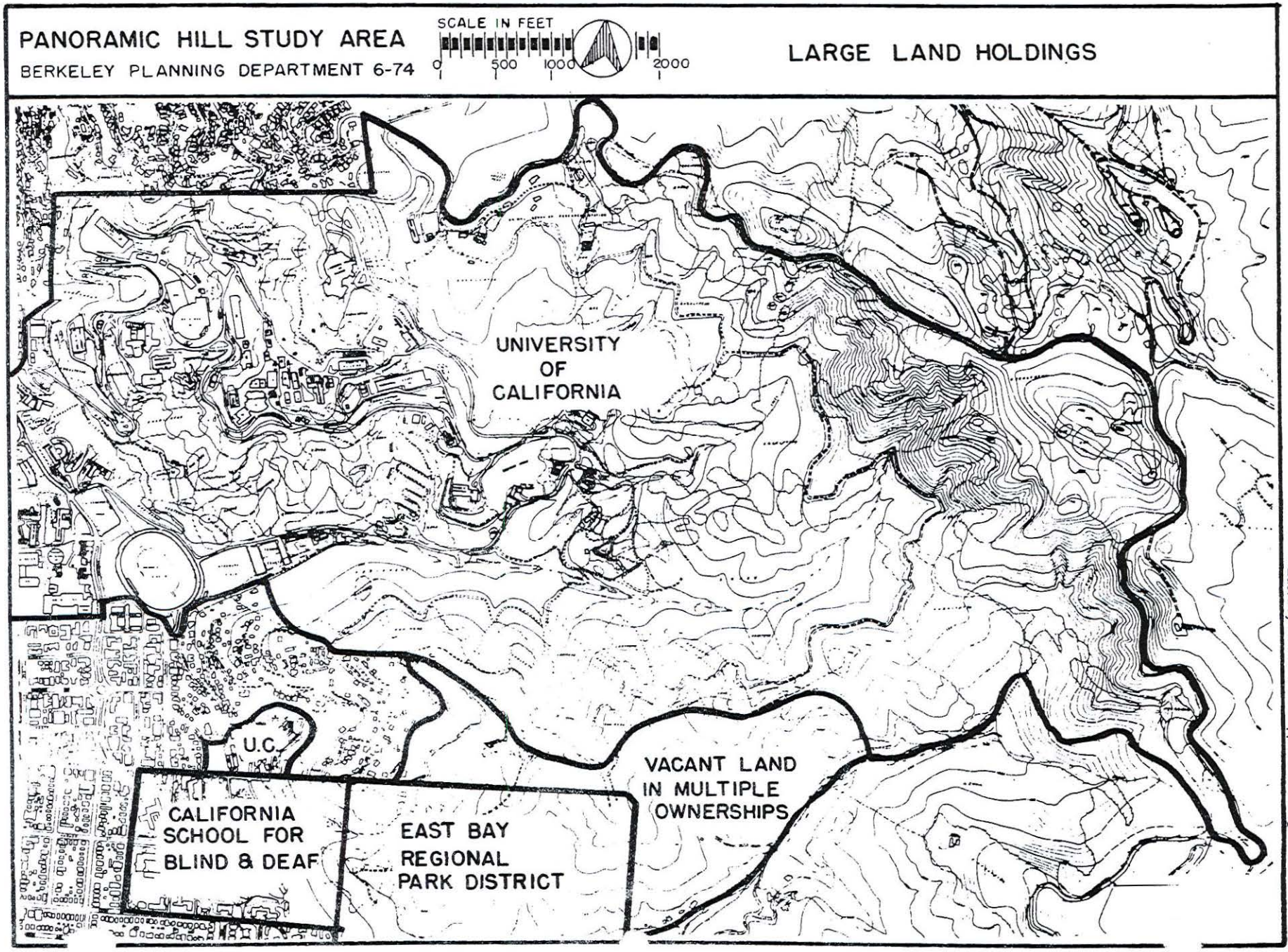
The neighborhood has "wildland" properties to the north (UC-Strawberry Canyon), the east (steep ridgelines owned by the University of California), and to the south (steep hillsides once a part of the California School for the Blind and Deaf). On the west, the neighborhood borders on a highly urbanized portion of the City of Berkeley which lies adjacent to the University of California Stadium. This adjacent neighborhood has many student-oriented apartments, fraternity and sorority houses.

Physical Character of the Hill

The lower part of Panoramic Hill was first settled in the early years of the twentieth century. The homes become much newer at the higher elevations. At the top of the Hill (in Oakland) most of the houses were built since World War II. Most of the houses are made of wood. This, combined with the large yards and dense vegetation and the very narrow, twisting streets, gives much of the Hill the feeling of a National Geographic Magazine picture spread of a mountain village.

The main road of the Hill is Panoramic Way, a street varying in width from 12 to 18 feet. Panoramic Way provides the only access to the Hill. All traffic that enters or leaves the Hill must therefore, funnel through this narrow road. The road is extremely twisty--three major turns have corners with angles of far less than 90°.

LOCATION MAP # 2
PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 500
NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY AREA
MIDDLE FORK OF DERBY CREEK
BERKELEY
OAKLAND
PROSPECT
ST
HILLSIDE
AVE
WAY
MEMORIAL STADIUM
INTRAMURAL FIELD


PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0
500
1000
2000
LARGE LAND HOLDINGS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
U.C.
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL FOR BLIND & DEAF
EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
VACANT LAND IN MULTIPLE OWNERSHIPS

Fire Vulnerability

The most important environmental characteristic of the Panoramic Hill area is the presence of a very dangerous fire situation. The proximity to the densely wooded University of California Strawberry Canyon watershed is the main reason for concern. However, heavy amounts of fuel (wood houses, debris, thick vegetation)within the neighborhood itself constitute a dangerous situation. These problems combined with the effects of high wind conditions during dry parts of the year (September primarily), very steep topography and extremely poor access, make the Panoramic Hill neighborhood among the most fire-dangerous neighborhoods in the Bay Area. (For details see Fire Vulnerability Study.) (The attached map explains the fire situation.)

Geologic Hazards

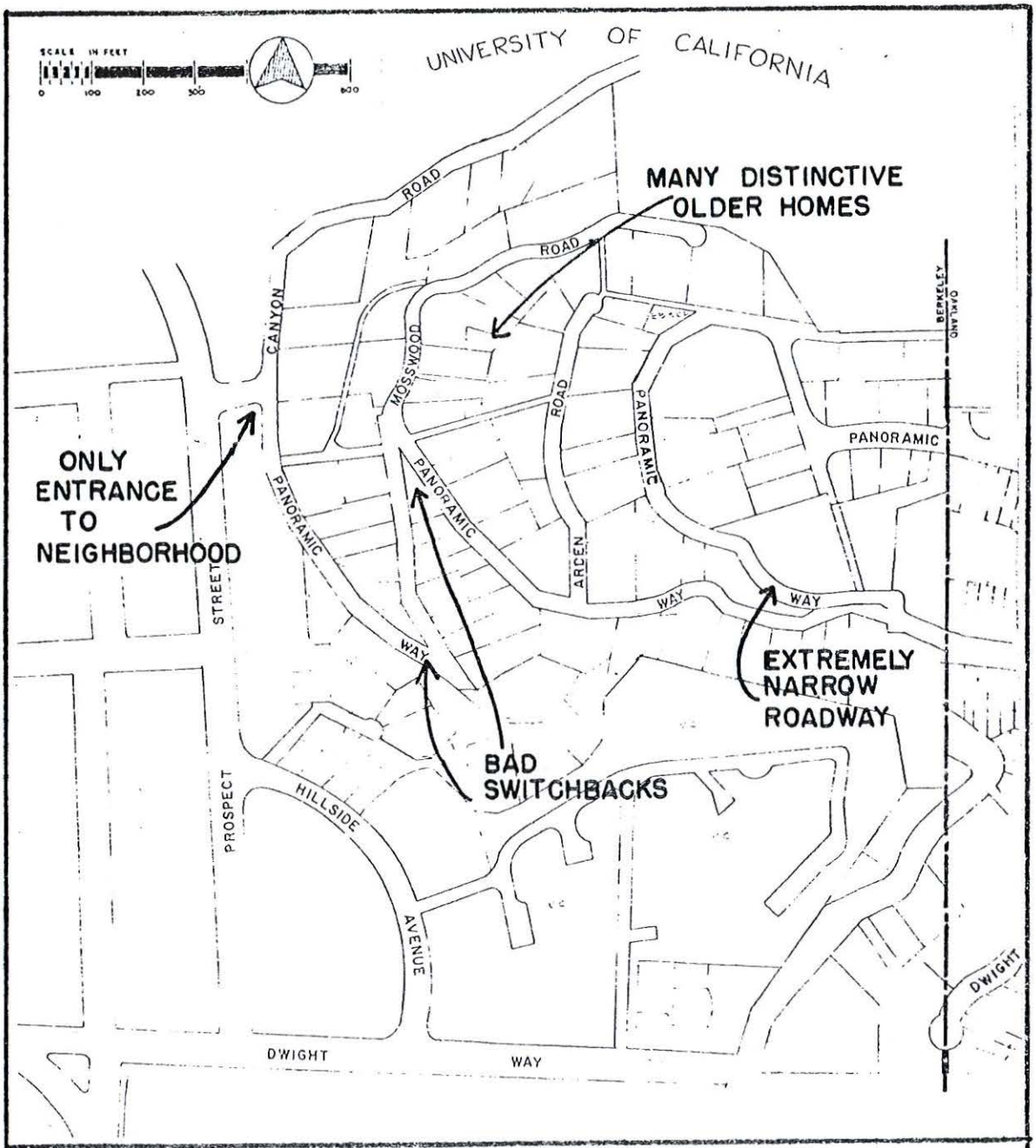
If the fire hazard did not overshadow all other concerns, geologic hazards would have to be considered of greatest significance for Panoramic Hill; in fact, the two are related, with the potential for earthquake activity exacerbating the fire hazard. Geologic problems include the potential for: ground rupture from earthquake fault movement; intense ground shaking; landsliding; mudsliding; erosion and flooding. While all are important considerations, ground rupturing from earthquake activity is a very significant potential hazard.

No!

Panoramic Hill is transected by the Hayward Fault, a major fault in the San Andreas Fault system. This fault experienced earthquakes in the 19th century which were nearly as severe as the San Francisco Quake of 1906. Seismic experts predict that there will be a major earthquake centered on this fault in the near future. When such a quake occurs there is a likelihood that the ground will be ripped open for much of the length of the fault. If this happens, the ground on one side of the fault would move as much as seven to ten feet relative to the other side. Given such fault movement, many homes, sewers, water lines, and gas lines would be severely damaged in a band that would transect the whole width of the Hill neighborhood. Gas lines breaking and starting fires combined with damage to water lines, the existing difficult access situation and the presence of severe fire hazards, could result in devastation.

The Natural Environment

Panoramic Hill consists of a major ridge and a minor ridge. The major ridge which is on the north side of the Hill area is a part of the Strawberry Canyon Watershed. The two ridges together form the watershed for the middle fork of Derby Creek. The south ridge also is in the watershed of the south fork of Derby Creek.



PANORAMIC HILL AREA STUDY

BERKELEY PORTION OF PANORAMIC

BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74

CHARACTERISTICS OF BERKELEY NEIGHBORHOOD

The ridges were formed by erosion and mass wasting (mudslides, landslides) of less resistant rock. This erosion and mass wasting is a continuing process in the Hill's environment. Most problems with drainage, landsliding and mudslides have occurred in the area near the middle fork of Derby Creek. Caused by Judd Boynton.

Panoramic Hill originally was composed of grasslands and brush on the ridges with dense tree and other growth along the creeks. However, man has altered the environment greatly. Between 1914 and 1924, the University of California planted dense mixed conifer stands in the watershed land on both sides of Strawberry Canyon. These trees have now matured into a forest. Within the neighborhood, residents have planted dense stands of trees and other vegetation, such that the homes look as though they had been built within the forest.

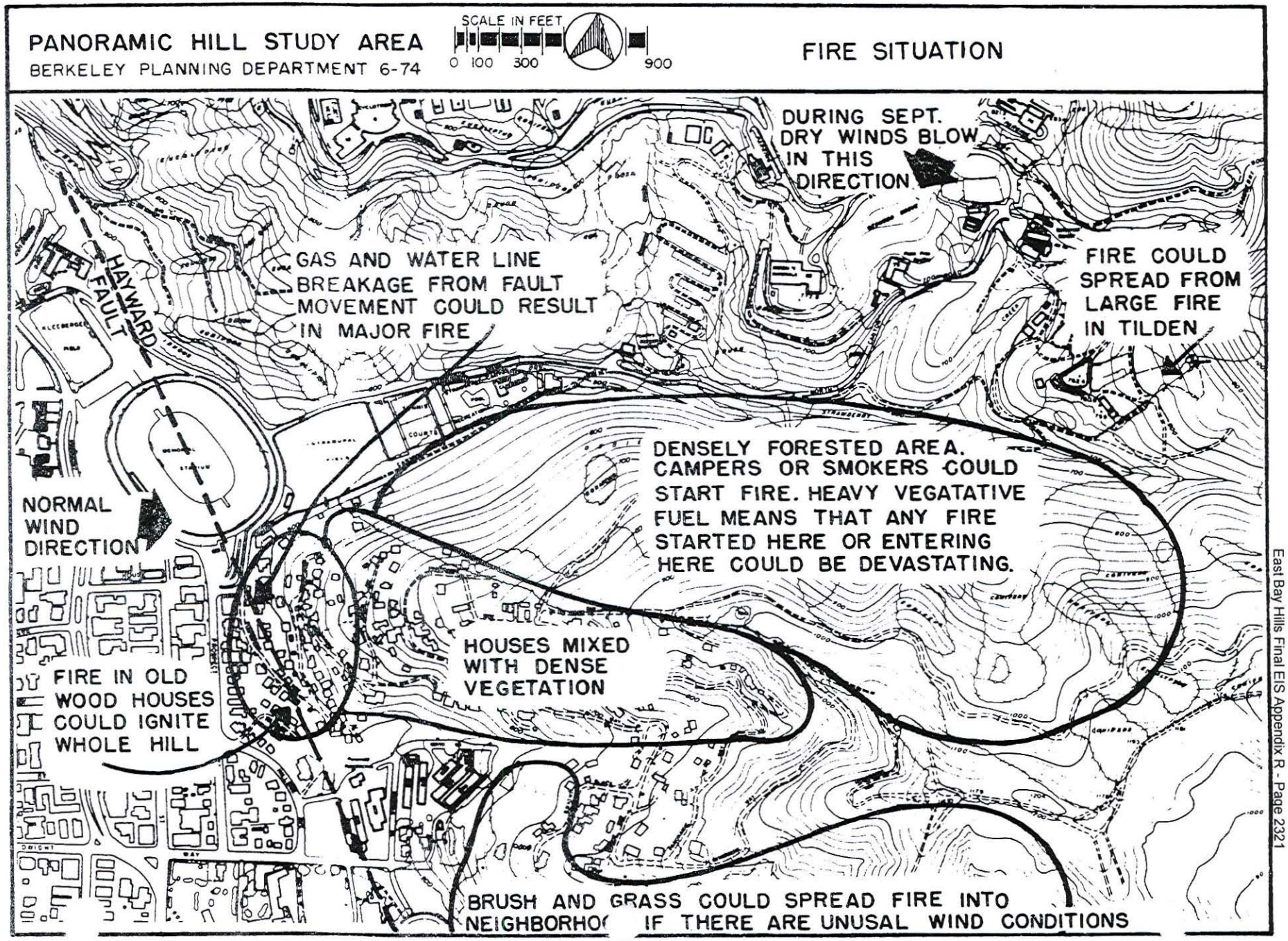
Since the vegetation that has been planted is for the most part natural to the area and because of the man's presence, wildlife in the area is not especially unusual. Deer, raccoons, deer mice and jays are the predominant form of wildlife.

While the area cannot be called "natural", it is extremely beautiful. The beauty of the forest, however, has strong competition from the breathtaking views of the entire Bay Area. In addition, the Hill itself is a scenic asset of the Berkeley community. The forested, house-dotted north ridge of Panoramic Hill is the most prominent natural landmark in the Berkeley hills above the University Campus. The importance of how the Hill looks is made obvious by looking at one of the emblems of the City of Berkeley which features the north ridge of Panoramic Hill as a backdrop to the Campanile. (For more details see the " Environmental Assessment Report")

Threats to the Hill Area Environment

The Panoramic Hill area is a resource that benefits the entire City of Berkeley and not just the residents. Many hikers and joggers share in its beauty and rural qualities. However, this tranquil neighborhood has many problems that presently detract from its quality or could potentially destroy the quality altogether. These threats include: 1) fire; 2) land development; 3) geologic hazards; 4) conditions of sewers; and 5) street conditions. In addition, public actions aimed at these problems can themselves become threats to the environment.

Two threats completely overshadow the others. These are the threat of fire and the threat of major new development. The fire danger could not only kill people and destroy property but could destroy the natural qualities and man-created qualities of the Hill that make it a community asset. In 1923, Berkeley lost a whole neighborhood of Maybeck homes to a fire disaster. One can only imagine what that area of redwood homes and woodsiness would be like today. Similarly, the potential loss of Panoramic Hill and the Strawberry Canyon watershed must be viewed as a severe threat to the quality of the Berkeley environment. Major new


PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0 100 300 900
FIRE SITUATION
DURING SEPT. DRY WINDS BLOW IN THIS DIRECTION
HAYWARD FAULT
GAS AND WATER LINE BREAKAGE FROM FAULT MOVEMENT COULD RESULT IN MAJOR FIRE
FIRE COULD SPREAD FROM LARGE FIRE IN TILDEN
DENSELY FORESTED AREA. CAMPERS OR SMOKERS COULD START FIRE. HEAVY VEGATATIVE FUEL MEANS THAT ANY FIRE STARTED HERE OR ENTERING HERE COULD BE DEVASTATING.
NORMAL WIND DIRECTION
HOUSES MIXED WITH DENSE VEGETATION
FIRE IN OLD WOOD HOUSES COULD IGNITE WHOLE HILL
BRUSH AND GRASS COULD SPREAD FIRE INTO NEIGHBORHO IF THERE ARE UNUSAL WIND CONDITIONS

development on Panoramic Hill would further clog existing congested streets, destroy its woodsy rural atmosphere, expose many more people to fire danger and imperil the quality of the view of the Hill from the rest of Berkeley. Any programs aimed at reducing fire threat must therefore be evaluated in terms of their propensity to promote additional residential construction.

The sewers on Panoramic Hill are over 50 years old ~~in the Berkeley portion~~. They are in very bad condition. Problems include massive root intrusions at several locations, moderate root intrusion throughout the length of the sewer, numerous cracks and breaks, crushed pipes, displacement between pipes at the joints. Separation of pipes at the joints at several locations and settlement of pipes are problems. In several locations there are dips in the line.

Panoramic Hill is served by a 1900's style street system. The streets are very narrow (12 to 18 feet) and extremely twisty with two almost unmaneuverable switchbacks. There is only one road into the Hill. The streets have a very poor surface made up primarily of patched potholes. Major improvement to the street or sewer system however, are not now feasible because such improvements would require closing Panoramic Way and in effect closing the Hill for long periods of time.

Panoramic Hill has two personalities. During week days it is quiet, tranquil and quite empty of cars and people. However, in the evening and on weekends, it becomes noisy and congested. The reason apparently is that this steep hillside neighborhood with narrow twisting roads has a very low capacity to absorb people, automobiles and their problems. When too many cows graze land (that is exceed its carrying capacity), they destroy it; similarly, too many people and their automobiles may destroy Panoramic Hill.

The number one problem of this nature is the automobile. Parking is difficult on Panoramic Hill. Many dwelling units have inadequate off-street parking. Much of the area has parking limited to one side only. There are many apartments which do not provide adequate parking area. Many of the houses are rented to groups of adults thus generating extra automobiles. Because of the parking shortage, there are many cases of automobile parking in "No Parking" zones in front of driveways and the like. The result is unpleasant to residents and dangerously impairs traffic flow. Residents have complained often of inadequate enforcement of parking regulations. On Saturdays and Sundays, cars visiting the area roar up and down the narrow streets. (For descriptions of the situation see "Residents' Perception of the Neighborhood Environment in the Appendix.)

The crowding of more people and automobiles onto Panoramic Hill results in increased social tension, noise, dog activities and unpleasantness. (~~Older~~ residents expressed the greatest concern about this unpleasant situation) (For more details see "Residents' Perception of Neighborhood Environment")

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

C O N C L U S I O N S

1. Present and future fire problems of Panoramic Hill are caused by many natural and man-made factors. The major factors over which man has control are:

   a. The heavy amount of vegetative fuel present in the University of California land immediately to the north and east of the Panoramic Hill residential area;

   b. The heavy amount of fuel in the form of thick vegetation, wooden houses and trash found in the residential area of Panoramic Hill;

   c. The extremely poor emergency traffic circulation pattern on the Hill for resident evacuation and emergency vehicle access;

   d. The exposure of nearly 400 residents to extreme fire safety problems and the presence of zoning regulations that encourage creation of additional dwelling units and additional exposure of people;

   e. The presence of several sources of fire ignition in the area including residence fires, recreationist fires and fires resulting from ground rupturing along the Hayward Fault which slices through the lower part of the Hill;

   f. The congestion of the neighborhood, primarily caused by the inability of the neighborhood to absorb increased amounts of traffic and parked automobiles;

   g. The lack of knowledge of residents relative to their possible actions in coping with a fire situation;

   h. The large number of fire and other agencies that have jurisdiction over fire safety in the area.

2. Environmental problems of Panoramic Hill are:

   a. Automobile congestion, destruction of vegetation, noise, traffic congestion, parking problems caused by increased new residential construction and intensification of the use of existing residences;

b. The poor condition of the pavement of the streets, the poor condition of the sewers of the area, and the general aged condition of neighborhood utilities;

c. Potential for ground rupturing, shaking and landsliding resulting from activity of Hayward Fault which transects the neighborhood;

d. Creek erosion and minor flooding caused by destruction of Derby Creek, inadequate construction practices and construction on slopes of over 40%.

e. The possible ground water pollution caused by the extensive use of Septic tanks in the Oakland portion of the Hill;

f. The threat of substantial new development if the Hill were provided with improved traffic circulation or sewers were extended to the Oakland portion of the Hill.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

For each of the study recommendations, the study staff has determined which City Council actions are necessary to insure that a desired recommendation is carried out. Once the City Council has determined which recommendations it supports, the appropriate action for that recommendation can be taken.

Recommendation #1: Develop Fire Emergency Response Plan for Panoramic Hill

The Berkeley Civil Defense Director (Fire Chief) should be directed to oversee the production of a Fire Emergency Response Plan for Panoramic Hill. In addition, Council correspondence requesting participation in this effort should be directed to the Oakland City Council and the UC, Berkeley Chancellor. The Plan should provide pre-disaster agreed upon procedures for public and private agencies and Hill area residents. The Civil Defense Director should assemble a committee consisting of representatives of the Berkeley Fire Department, the Oakland Fire Department, the UC Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Fire Department, the UC Fire Marshal, the PG&E, EBMUD, the Alameda County Civil Defense Chief, the Oakland Civil Defense Chief, the California Office of Emergency Services and area police departments and neighborhood residents. This committee should produce a plan of action for residents and the agencies. The Plan should be in the form of a written document with maps and illustrations. The OES San Francisco Bay Area Earthquake Response Plan should be consulted as a reference. The written Fire Emergency Response Plan should be submitted to the City Council for review. Once completed, the Plan should form the basis for periodic disaster simulation exercises. The Plan should be explained and distributed to the residents.

Recommendation #2: Regulate New Development to Promote Fire Safety

The Planning Director and Planning Commission in cooperation with neighborhood residents, should be directed to prepare new zoning regulations for Panoramic Hill. These new zoning regulations should limit new construction to very low density single-family uses; limit floor area, height and bulk of new buildings; increase minimum yard areas; and require Board of Adjustments approval of the design of all new units. This design review should consider building layout, construction materials, landscaping, building size, fire fighting characteristics and other factors deemed necessary to promote fire safety. It should also consider such environmental considerations as site preparation and grading, drainage, alternatives to existing vegetation, open space and view protection. The City of Oakland should be requested to adopt similar regulations.

Recommendation #3: Develop a Fire Safety Public Information Program

The Fire Chief in cooperation with neighborhood residents should develop and/or collect already available information on measures Panoramic Hill residents can take to reduce fire hazards, prevent fire ignitions, suppress small fires, and handle home fire situations. The chief should forward this information to the City Council along with an outline of the program he intends to follow in getting this information across to the residents of the Hill. The Council should request the City of Oakland to undertake a similar effort.

Recommendation #4: Vigorously Enforce Existing City Regulations Which Affect the Level of Fire Safety.

The Director of Inspection Services, Planning Director, Police Chief and Fire Chief should be requested to identify which regulations under their responsibility relate to fire safety or factors related to fire safety such as overcrowding of units, illegal units, or traffic congestion. Each of these directors should be directed to identify specific regulations that would pertain to the fire safety of Panoramic Hill. Each director should forward to the Council information on these regulations, a history of enforcement efforts and specific plans for more vigorous enforcement of regulations. A possible new tool would be to develop a required residential record report for when residential units are sold. Such a report would indicate to prospective buyers the existing zoning conditions. The report also becomes the basis for promoting compliance with existing regulations at the time of sale of property.

Recommendation #5: Insure that the University of California Officially Adopts and Implements a Fire Safety Vegetative Management Plan for Strawberry Canyon.

The City Council should request the University of California-Berkeley Chancellor to forward a report to them on the status of the vegetative management programs that would affect the level of fire safety for Panoramic Hill. The report should point out hazard areas, specify what steps the University presently is taking to lower hazard levels and what steps it plans to take in the future. The Council should suggest to the City of Oakland that they make a similar request. Once the report has been submitted, it should be reviewed by the Berkeley Fire Department for its adequacy in reducing hazards to Panoramic Hill residents.

Recommendation #6: Develop Improved Fire Road Access and Resident Emergency Escape Routes.

The Berkeley Fire Chief should assemble a committee consisting of himself, the Oakland Fire Chief, the U.C. Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Fire Chief, the U.C. Fire Marshal, and appointed representatives from the Berkeley and Oakland Public Works and Planning Departments in order to study fire road needs in the Panoramic Hill area. Preliminary Study indicates one such road should connect the Hill with Tanglewood Road going through the School for the Deaf/Blind properties behind the buildings.

The fire road project should develop specific right-of-way locations and specific costs for new quick access fire roads and escape routes. The project should also recommend methods of improving existing fire roads so that they will be functional for all types of fire apparatus.

Residents of the Hill should be consulted as part of the fire road planning project. The committee should make proposals as to how the roads should be financed and who should pay what portions of the costs. Once completed, the Fire Road Plan should form the basis for capital improvements budgeting, University fire road maintenance programs and financial participation by property owners.

Recommendation #7: Limit the Quantity of New Construction on Panoramic Hill.

This can best be achieved as part of the implementation of Recommendation #2. The Council should request that the Planning Director and Planning Commission draft regulations that would require a minimum lot size of 12,000 square feet with only one unit allowed per lot. This new zoning should be applied to the entire Berkeley portion of Panoramic Hill. The City of Oakland should be requested to rezone the Oakland portion of the Hill from R-30 (5000 square feet per single family unit) to R-20 (12,000 square feet per single family unit).

Recommendation #8: Adopt and Implement a Mandatory Fire Prevention and Fire Hazard Reduction Program for the Private Homes and Vacant Lands on Panoramic Hill.

The Fire Chief should be directed to prepare a program designed to identify and abate fire hazards and prevent fire ignition. This program should require individual inspections of all Panoramic Hill residences and enforcement tools to insure that fire problems are eliminated.

The Fire Chief should be requested to declare Panoramic Hill a High Fire Hazard Area. This action will automatically put into effect Fire Code provisions which require regulation of vegetative fuels for hazard reduction. The Fire chief should, through reconnaissance, determine the approximate amount of private effort needed to abate serious fire hazards. Based on this reconnaissance and in consultation with the Public Works Department, the Fire Chief should recommend public efforts that would assist the residents. Such efforts might include city assistance in vegetation and rubbish removal. The Oakland City Council should be contacted relative to developing a joint program aimed specifically at the fire hazards of the Panoramic Hill neighborhood. In addition to the vegetative management program, consideration should be given to amending the Fire Code to compel installation of fire-smoke (ionization type) detectors, and outside warning devices in all new and existing dwelling units on Panoramic Hill.

Recommendation for Later Action:

If the recommendations noted above relating to controlling new development in Oakland are adopted by the Oakland City Council, then the utilities and sewers in the Berkeley area should be immediately improved. However, the sewers should not be improved or extended to the Oakland portion of the Hill until new development density restrictions are adopted which are at least as restrictive as existing septic tank use restrictions.

FIRE VULNERABILITY

A prime example of a subdivision that has been allowed to develop and expand into a high fire hazard area, is the Panoramic Hill Area of Berkeley and Oakland. Unfortunately, it is too late to prevent improper development of this area. However, even after development is well underway, we can take steps to improve the situation. The Fire Vulnerability Study of the Panoramic Hill Area Study is therefore intended to provide guidance in reducing the fire problems of the area.

Characteristics of Wildland Fires

Approximately 90% of all wildland fires are caused by man. The intrusion of urban development into wildland areas greatly increases the likelihood of fire ignition. Similarly, heavy use of wildland areas by hikers and others increases fire risk. The California Division of Forestry recently published, "A Fire Hazard Severity Classification System for California's Wildlands". The report states that those factors most important to fire behavior are fuel (in the form of wildland vegetation, plus man's structural improvements), topography and weather.

The Division of Forestry report continues:

> "Fuel characteristics help determine how a wildfire burns: fuel loading (quantity of flammable vegetation and other fuel per unit of land area), moisture content, distribution of size classes, arrangement, ratio of dead vegetation to living vegetation, and chemical content. Those factors which contribute most to a high intensity fire (high rate of heat energy output) include high fuel loading, low moisture content, a high proportion of large sized fuels, and a high ratio of dead vegetation to living vegetation. A high proportion of small sized fuels, on the other hand, contributes to a high rate of fire spread.
>
> Weather elements have many complex and important effects on fire intensity and behavior. Wind is of prime importance: as wind increases in velocity, the rate of fire spread also increases. Relative humidity (i.e., relative dryness of the air) also has a direct effect: the drier the air, the drier the vegetation and hence the more likely the vegetation will ignite and burn. Precipitation (its annual total, seasonal distribution, and storm intensity) has further effects on the moisture content of dead and living vegetation and hence important effects on fire ignition and behavior.... The most critical weather factor in the system is wind, because of its important effect on fire behavior.

Characteristics of Wildland Fires, Continued

Topography plays several important roles in determining how fires normally spread and behave. Without going into an extended technical discussion, it can be said, generally speaking, that topography causes fires to burn more rapidly upslope than downslope; the steeper the slope, the greater will be the rate of fire spread. Also, topography, in combination with solar heating, is responsible for small scale, local wind blowing upslope or downslope, causing fire to spread accordingly. In relation to its effects on large scale wind blowing inland from the Pacific Ocean, "the shape of the land" produces channelling of those winds and hence affects direction of fire spread. Topography's normal effects on wind and fire behavior diminish in importance, however, when even larger scale air masses produce high velocity north or east winds, prime factors in the spread of the most damaging conflagrations.

Slope aspect influences fire behavior in that burning conditions are in general much worse on south and west facing slopes than on north or east facing slopes. However, for purposes of rating fire hazard, it is felt that aspect is so greatly overshadowed by the importance of vegetation, fire weather, and steepness of slope that it need not be considered."[1]

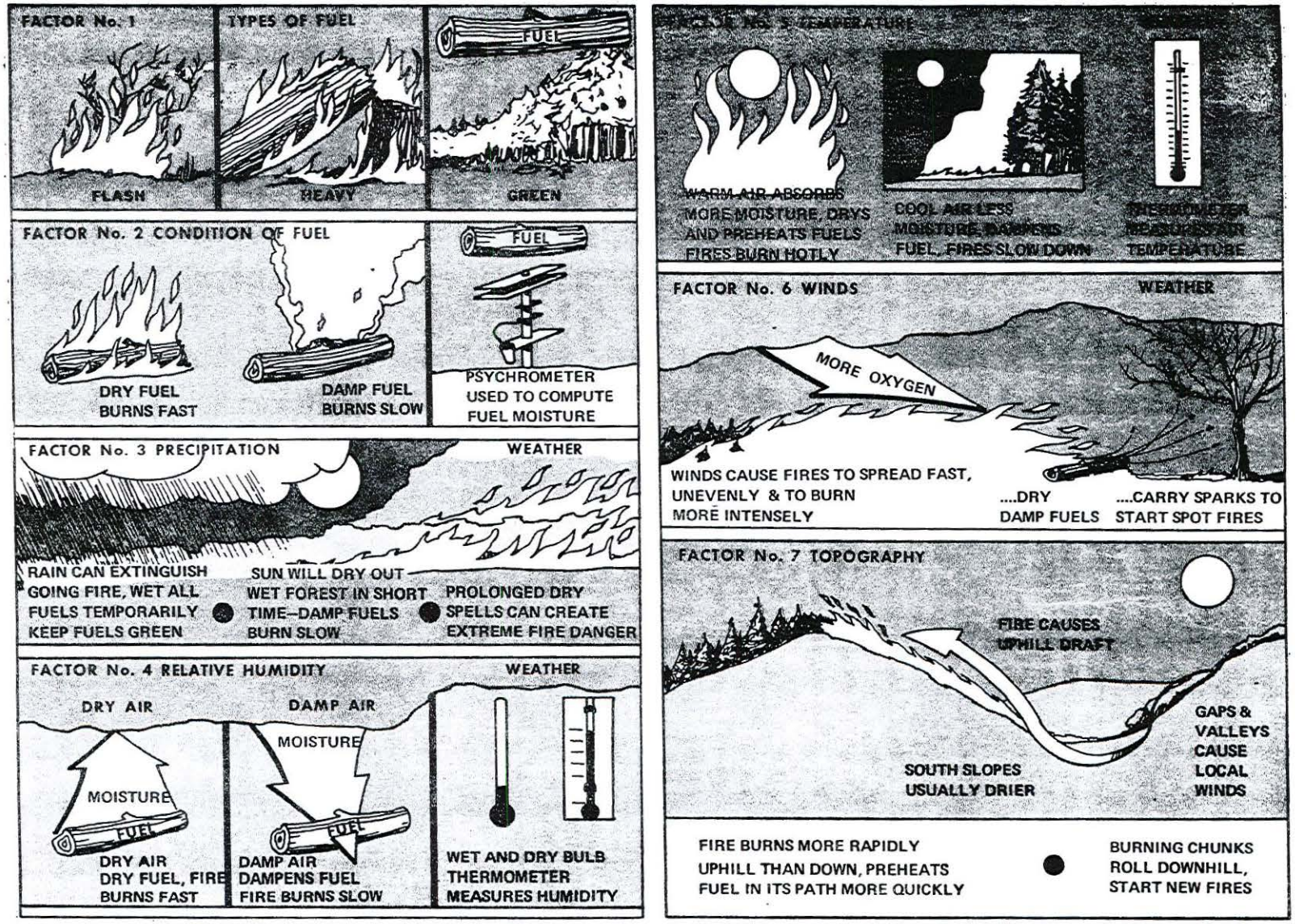
Fire Vulnerability of Panoramic Hill

Panoramic Hill, a neighborhood of approximately 200 dwelling units, strattles the Berkeley-Oakland border. The homes have been built on two steep ridges that jut out from the Berkeley Hills. The homes represent the extension of the Berkeley urban area into wildland hillsides owned primarily by the University of California and the East Bay Regional Park District.

The Hill is a textbook example of everything that produces unsafe fire conditions. Homes continue to be built in a high fire hazard wildland area. The homes are built on steep slopes. The homes are intermixed with and adjacent to a heavily forested area. The Hill area climate is subject to heavy winds with very dry north and east winds prevalent in the late summer. The homes themselves are wood and add to fuel load as well as increase the likelihood of fire ignition. Another major potential cause of fire ignition is the heavy use of the adjacent forest for recreation purposes. Although somewhat less likely as a cause of a major fire, but having the potential for creating a devasting fire, is the Hayward Fault which crosses the Hill area. Movement on the fault could simultaneously disrupt gas lines and water supplies for fire fighting.

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[1] Resources Agency, Department of Conservation, Division of Forestry, A Fire Hazard Severity Classification System for California's Wildlands: Sacramento, 1973, pp. 5-6.



MAJOR FACTORS INFLUENCING FIRES - FROM MANUAL FOR FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS, U.S. FOREST SERVICE. (REPRINTED IN DISASTER PREPARED, A REPORT TO CONGRESS BY THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS, WASHINGTON, 1972)

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Fire Vulnerability of Panoramic Hill, Continued

The above conditions have set the stage for a disaster. However, the situation is actually much worse. Only one regular road serves the Hill and this road is extremely narrow (12'-18') and has two hairpin curves. In addition, there are three fire roads which do not provide adequate access except to four-wheel drive vehicles.

The problems noted above, combined with the exposure of approximately 400 people to fire danger, makes the current Panoramic Hill fire situation intolerable.

Methodology for Assessing Fire Vulnerability

Fire vulnerability is a complex subject to study--especially in a wildland/urban area. The layman generally thinks of fires as being dealt with by men shooting water at flames. Actually in an area like Panoramic Hill, the actual fire fighting stage may be the least important in terms of reducing total fire vulnerability.

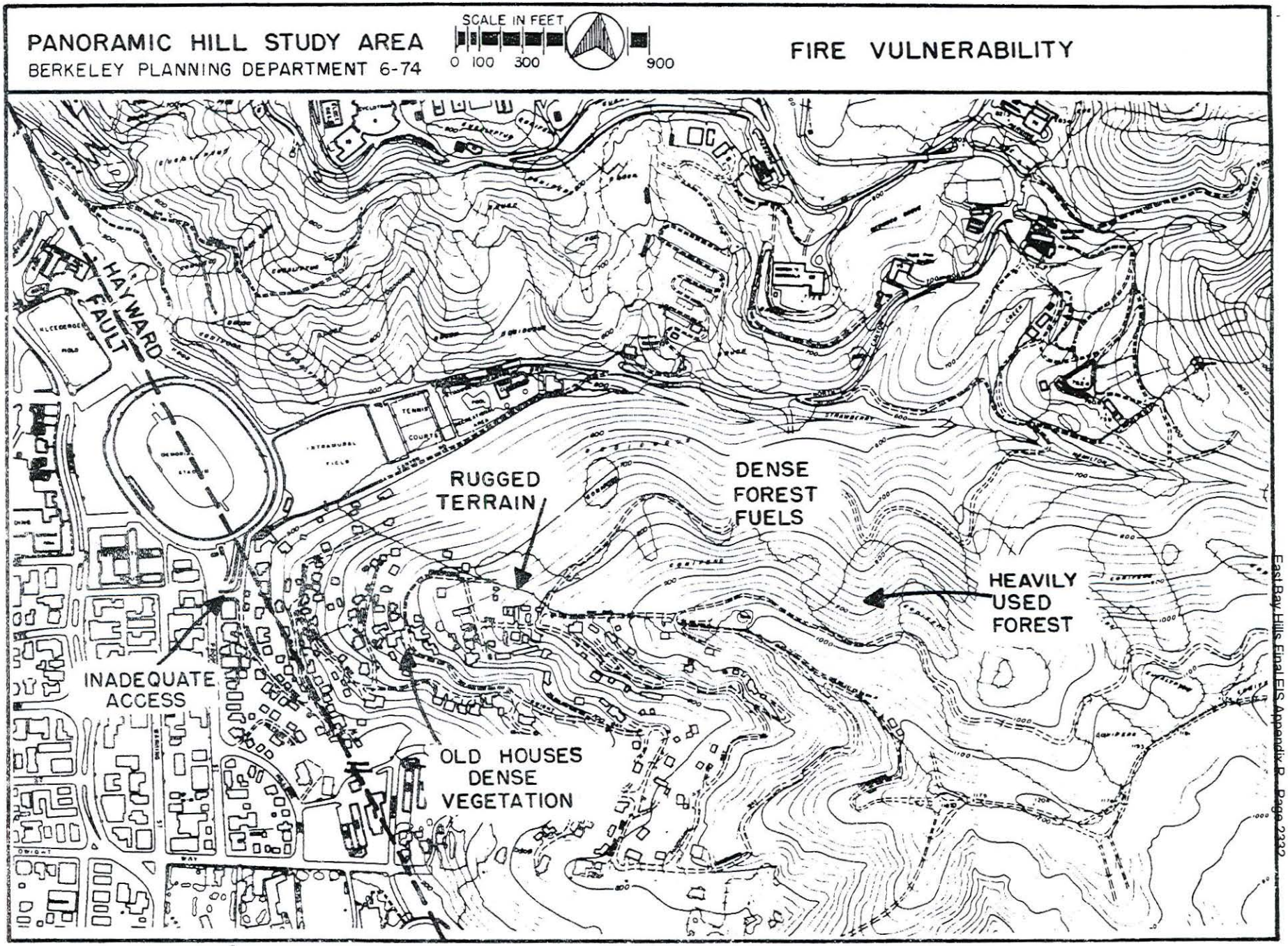
Total fire vulnerability is the result of the interaction of four factors: 1) Fire risk; 2) Fire hazards; 3) Emergency response capability; and 4) Exposure of people, property and other things of value to the threat of fire.

Fire risk is the chance of fire starting due to the presence and activity of causative agents. The causative agents are almost always man, his equipment and facilities. Forest Fire Control and Use, a standard forestry text has stated that fires occur when flammable fuels are exposed to firebrands. "Fire prevention can be accomplished either by removing the source of the firebrand or be removing the fuel it may ignite. The alternative chosen is influenced by the values threatened by fire. The need for controlling or eliminating fire risk increases as fuel hazards and values increase. So it becomes a truism to the fire control planner that high fire risk must not be permitted in any area which has both high fuel hazards and high destructible values. To bring this about it is often more feasible to reduce fuel hazards than positively to reduce or eliminate the sources of risk."[2]

Fire hazard is determined by the quantity, arrangement, continuity, ignitability or burning rate of fuels. These fuels may be vegetation or man's structures.

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[2]Arthur A. Brown and Kenneth P. Davis, Forest Fire Control and Use, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1973, pp. 263-264.


PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0 100 300 900
FIRE VULNERABILITY
HAYWARD FAULT
RUGGED TERRAIN
DENSE FOREST FUELS
HEAVILY USED FOREST
INADEQUATE ACCESS
OLD HOUSES DENSE VEGETATION

Methodology for Assessing Fire Vulnerability, Continued

Emergency Response Capability is the ability of fire fighting personnel, other emergency personnel and the residents themselves, to limit the effects of the fire once it has occurred. If immediate action is taken, a fire can be controlled and suppressed before it has done extensive damage or gotton out of control. Factors to be considered are: response time of firefighters; availability of water; fire fighting equipment; and emergency personnel training. A carefully coordinated pre-disaster Fire Response Plan can significantly improve emergency response capability.

Minimization of the Exposure of People, Property and Other Things of Value to Fire Damage is the most important factor in a fire safety program. If there is no one to be hurt or nothing valuable to lose, the importance of fire as an enemy disappears. In fact, fire is a natural phenomenon that occurred long before man. Although man has increased its incidence, fire has always been a part of many environments. It is only when man places himself in a fire danger area or places a value on land that is prone to fire that fire becomes a negative feature of the environment.

Total fire vulnerability is a result of the four factors noted above. Substantial alteration of any of these factors has a multiplicative effect on the total fire vulnerability. For instance, doubling the number of people exposed to fire danger would in general double the total vulnerability. Similarly, reducing fire hazards significantly would significantly reduce total fire vulnerability. By examining the components of total fire vulnerability separately in the Panoramic Hill Area, we can discover various strategies for reducing the total problem.

FIRE RISK AND POTENTIAL FOR A MAJOR FIRE IN THE PANORAMIC HILL AREA

Definition of Fire Risk

Fire risk is the chance of a fire starting due to presence and activity of causative agents. The causative agents are almost always man, his equipment and facilities. In the Panoramic Hill Area we will expand the definition of Fire Risk to include the potential for a fire to spread into the residential area of Panoramic Hill. To set the stage for a discussion of fire risk, we will first discuss past fires in the area that have spread into residential neighborhoods.

Fish Ranch Road Fire of September 22, 1970.

The Oakland fire of 1970 burned much land and many homes in an area not far from Panoramic Hill Area. The area affected by the fire was bounded by Devon Way, Amito Drive, Strathmoor Drive, Norfolk Road and Westmoorland Drive. The fire never actually invaded the city limits of Berkeley but did engulf areas along the city boundaries

The fire began in dry brush and grass and spread to the residential area. The fire was fought from 11 AM to 6:30 PM and was out of control from 10:15 AM to 1:55 PM. It is generally believed that the fire was deliberately set, but the accused arsonist was acquitted in court. Flames broke out in mid morning in dry brush and grasslands that surrounded the residential neighborhoods. 80 degree temperature and dry, but not especially strong winds, propelled the fire into the tree tops and the fire spread by leaping from place to place.

85 pieces of fire equipment responded from Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco, Alameda County, the State Division of Forestry and various East Bay cities. Water limitation problems arose when a wooden water tank was destroyed in the blaze. At one time in the afternoon, the flames ~~began~~ headed toward the University of California, but winds died down and the fire was contained below Claremont Avenue.

The fire totally destroyed 37 homes and damaged six others. A total of 204 acres was burned. (190 acres in Oakland and 14 acres in the Orinda fire district.) Where homes had cleared the surrounding vegetation, they were generally saved, whereas homes surrounded by dense vegetation were generally lost. Homes ~~that were~~ most likely to burn were those modern wooden homes that were cantilevered out over the hill on tall supports. Despite the extensive destruction, there were no fatalities and only eight minor injuries.

The Fish Ranch neighborhood is located immediately to the south of the Panoramic Hill area. Fire conditions in the two areas are remarkably similar.

Berkeley Fire of September 17, 1923

The Berkeley fire of September 17, 1923, was one of the worst fires in California history and the worst fire in California during the twenty years following the San Francisco Fire of 1906. The fire broke out in the hills at around noon on a hot and windy day. In a relatively few minutes, burning leaves, grass and shingles whipped down from the hills setting new fires wherever they landed.

The fire started as a terrific grass fire that forced its way through the eucalyptus trees down to the more populated areas just north of the campus. Once in this residential area, the houses themselves became the fuel that propelled the fire. The fire was finally stopped and the University of California Campus and downtown Berkeley were saved by the dynamiting of large apartments at the corner of Ridge Road and Euclid and by a change in wind direction.

The fire was not confined to the north campus area. At the time, there was a fear of major fires getting out of control in the Strawberry Canyon area and the south campus area. These fires were caused by wind driven firebrands. The Berkeley Daily Gazette on the day after the fire described the danger to the Panoramic Hill Area:

> September 18, 1923:
>
> "Fear for the safety of the easterly end of the city became great at nine o'clock last night when flames from gigantic grass fires in the hill were found to be sweeping down Strawberry Canyon and a mile behind Hotel Claremont. A fire fighting force of 1000 students were rushed to the hills where under the direction of U.S. Forestry men, they checked the menace by a series of back fires".[3]

584 structures in the area immediately north of the University of California campus in the Euclid Avenue area were destroyed. After the fire was over, North Berkeley looked like a graveyard filled with brick chimney monuments. The dollar losses were calculated at 10 million dollars. Incredibly, no one was killed. Thirty-four city blocks were totally destroyed. Numerous other structures, not connected directly with the chief fire zone, were destroyed in the hills.

Failure to control the fire was largely blamed on the water supply at the time. An interesting quote from the Daily Gazette at the time stated: "General Manager George Wilhelm of the East Bay Water Company said that ever since in 1917 when four houses were burned on Panoramic Way, his company has been endeavoring to arrange better fire protection but has received practically no cooperation from city officials."[4]

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[3]Berkeley Daily Gazette: September 18, 1923, p. 1.

[4]Berkeley Daily Gazette: September 24, 1923, p. 1.


CHARLES LEE TILDEN PARK
GOLF LINKS
STUDY AREA
OAKLAND-1970 FIRE
1923 FIRE
FIRES
BERKELEY
ALAMEDA COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

Fire Risk in the Panoramic Hill Area.[5]

Grass and forest fires are not uncommon in Berkeley and they have had destructive effect. Examples are the Fish Ranch Road fire and the 1923 Berkeley fire. House fires are also potentially dangerous especially in homes that are old and made of wood. In 1917, four homes on Panoramic Way burned to the ground.

There are five potential situations which could easily lead to very destructive fire on Panoramic Hill. These situations, listed in the order of degree of danger, are : 1) a fire spreading rapidly from the Grizzley Peak area through Strawberry Canyon to Panoramic Hill; 2) a major house fire at the bottom of the Hill causing a fire to spread rapidly up the Hill; 3) a fire breaking out in the heavily wooded Strawberry Creek watershed area just to the north and northeast of the residential area and spreading to the residential area; 4) a major house fire at the top of the Hill during late summer when a fire might be spread by strong easterly winds down the Hill; 5) a fire breaking out in the brush and grass lands to the south of the Hill residential area and spreading into the residential area by unusual wind conditions (i.e., a south wind during late summer fire conditions).

The major risk of fire comes from outside the area to the north and east on University of California land. The problem would be a fire spreading in from the University forested lands or even from the Tilden Park area. Such a fire would be most likely during September when the fuel is dry, there appears a north and northeast wind and the humidity is very low. A fire might be started in the Tilden Park area for any number of reasons. In the immediate forest area, many young people camp during the warm weather. Breakfast fires represent a definite cause of potentially disastrous fires in the wooded area just to the north of the residential area of Panoramic Hill.

A house fire at the bottom of Panoramic Hill would present serious problems because fire spreads naturally uphill and the prevailing winds blow from the west, fanning the flames uphill. However, the incidence of fires breaking out within the single-family homes is lower than average for the city. This is presumable because of the fire consciousness of the residents and their high average education. Earthquake movement on the Hayward fault that cuts across the lower portion of the Hill, could start such a fire.

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[5]Information for this section is based largely on interviews held by Dean Armstrong during February-April, 1974, with the following: a) Professor Emeritus Harold Biswell, School of Forestry, University of California, Berkeley; b) Russell Norman, Campus Fire Marshall, U.C.-Berkeley; c) Elmer Silva, Fire Chief, Lawrence-Berkeley Laboratory, U.C.-Berkeley; d) Milt Steele & Vic Porter, Deputy Fire Chiefs, Berkeley Fire Department.

Fire Risk in the Panoramic Hill Area, Continued

A house fire at the top of the residential portion of the Hill would most likely spread further up the Hill away from the residences. However, during late summer, generally in September, strong dry, easterly winds could easily spread the fire toward the other homes. In such an event, the whole Hill could burn in a matter of a few minutes. Much less of a threat would be a fire breaking out in the brush and grasslands immediately to the east of the California School for the Blind. While this area is certainly fire prone, a fire would under the great majority of cases, not spread to the Panoramic residential areas. A fire in this area could, however, present problems to the neighborhoods lying directly to the southwest and to the main part of the Blind School.

Fire Following An Earthquake

The lower part of Panoramic Hill is crossed by the Hayward Fault (See Attached Map). Movement on the Fault will break gas lines crossing it. Since the area in which the Fault is located is an area of many old wooden houses, the chance for a fire breaking out are significant. A fire in this location at the bottom of the Hill has a great potential for burning down the whole Hill.[6]

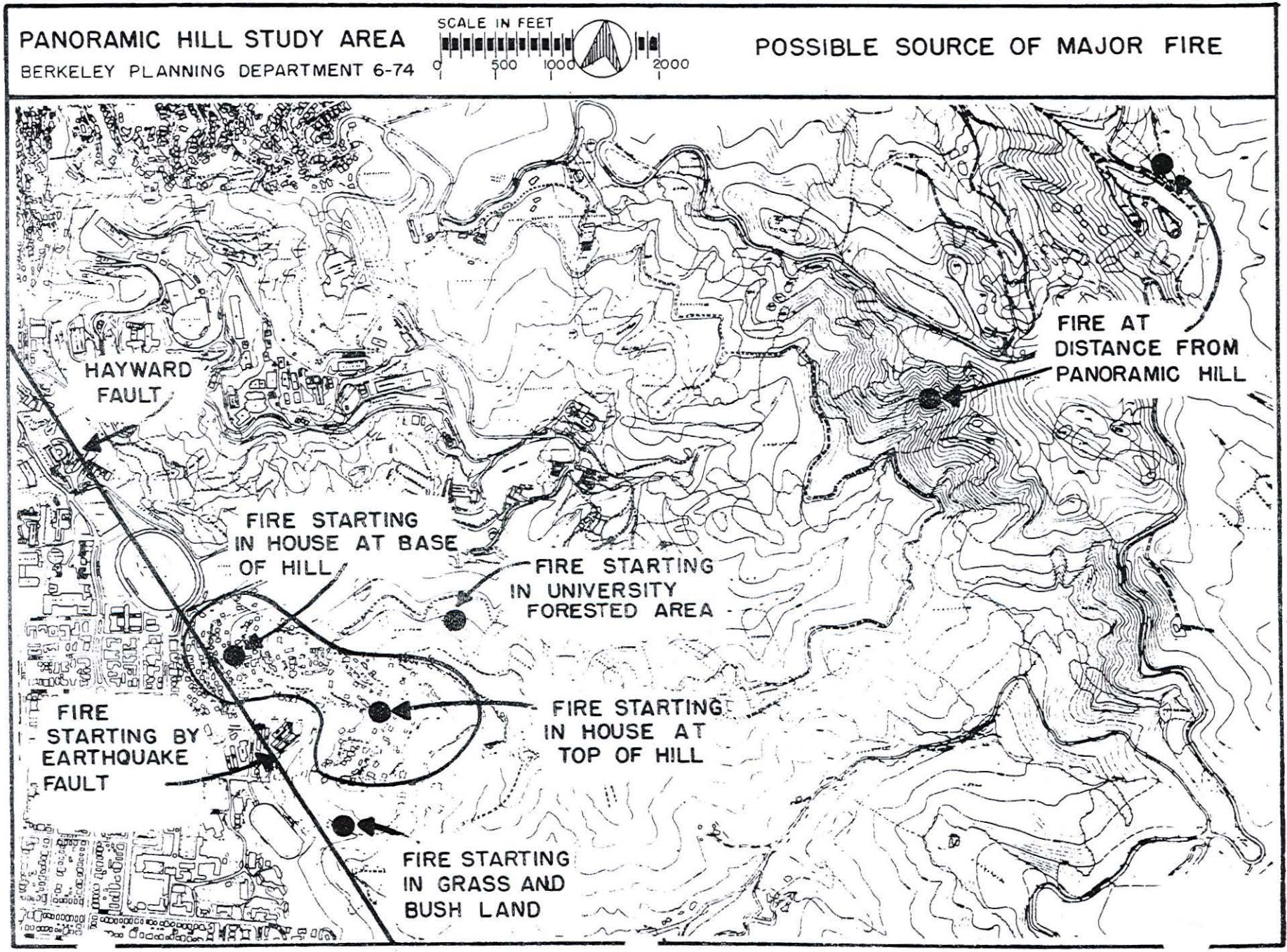
A major study has been produced by the U. S. Office of Emergency Preparedness entitled: A Study of Earthquake Losses in the San Francisco Bay Area. This study, completed in 1972, was produced in order to provide the Office and the State of California with a rational basis for planning earthquake disaster relief and recovery operations in the San Francisco Bay Area in anticipation of a major earthquake.[7] One chapter of the report deals with fire following earthquakes and many of its conclusions have special applicability to the Panoramic Hill area. Significant portions of the chapter on fire problems are reproduced below:

> "One of the greatest potential dangers to be faced during the period immediately following a major earthquake is the threat of fire which, if unchecked, could lead to a major conflagration under certain situations...."

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[6] Conclusions on fire danger relating to earthquakes were drawn by Dean Armstrong based on experience gained as Director of the Tri-Cities Seismic Safety Study for the Cities of El Cerrito, Richmond and San Pablo during 1972-73, & as a special consultant on Seismic Safety Planning to the California Office of Emergency Services, 1973-74.

[7] National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, A Study of Earthquake Losses in the San Francisco Bay Area, a report prepared for the Office of Emergency Preparedness, Washington, 1972, pp. 208-214.


PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0
500
1000
2000
POSSIBLE SOURCE OF MAJOR FIRE
HAYWARD FAULT
FIRE AT DISTANCE FROM PANORAMIC HILL
FIRE STARTING IN HOUSE AT BASE OF HILL
FIRE STARTING IN UNIVERSITY FORESTED AREA
FIRE STARTING IN HOUSE AT TOP OF HILL
FIRE STARTING BY EARTHQUAKE FAULT
FIRE STARTING IN GRASS AND BUSH LAND

"The memory of the three day fire which followed the 1906 shock in San Francisco and accounted for 80% of the property loss in that city, has dominated much of the thinking on the probable effects of the next great San Andreas earthquake. This thinking is also colored by the fact that over 100,000 persons were killed, injured, or missing in the 1923 Tokyo earthquake and fire.

"Fires almost invariably occur after destructive earthquakes in the United States, but these have not been true conflagrations. (Fires which spread in an uncontrolled manner for long periods of time are defined as conflagrations for the purposes of this report.)

"Conflagrations which follow earthquakes appear to require all of several unfavorable conditions before they can be considered as a reasonably possible occurrence. First, there must be a high density of combustible material. Obviously, wooden structures in close proximity to each other or facing each other across narrow streets provide one such possibility. Second, weather plays an important role. The hot dry winds in southern California have led to conflagrations in the brush areas, and large dollar losses have occurred to the dwellings and other properties in these brush areas. Life losses have been low. Tinder dry situations also occur in parts of the San Francisco Bay Area during prolonged periods of dry weather and during other than dry seasons, portions of the area are frequently subjected to periods of high winds with 40 mph. gusts not uncommon. Thirdly, the fire departments' operations at the fires might be crippled or otherwise restricted through the lack of water or other impairments...".

"It should be noted that (in California earthquake history), conflagration occurred only in the case of the 1906 shock. Uncontrolled fires occurred at the Paloma Refinery in the 1952 earthquake and from oil storage in the 1964 Alaskan earthquake in cities other than Anchorage. Conflagration has been rare. It appears that the 1971 San Fernando earthquake caused many more fires than did the 1906 San Francisco shock despite the loss of water in large areas, possibly due to the fact that the combustible material was thinly spread compared to that at the time of the 1906 San Francisco shock. Weather conditions were also favorable and helped check any spread of fire.

"There are types and degrees of emergency fire services currently available which were not available in 1906.... Fire departments in the area are equipped with more hose, both in total lengths and in larger sizes. A certain amount of quick-coupling large diameter pipe is maintained in the area through the California State Office of Emergency Services....

"There is, however, a possible deterrent to effective cooperation of fire departments whenever either San Francisco or Oakland is involved. Although hose-coupling adapters have been provided within the fire services, dissimilar sizes of hose and related couplings could create a problem if adapter demand exceeded supply.

"The section of this report which discusses water systems has pointed out that the water supply to the East Bay Cities of Oakland, Berkeley, etc must cross the Hayward Fault in order to reach these cities. The water must then cross the Fault again to reach the residential areas in the hills immediately east of the Fault. While storage reservoirs exist east of the Fault in these residential hill areas, the possibilities of reservoir failure and the certainty of water line ruptures leave a significant element of comparative unreliability to the water supply in these hill areas...

"Fire department response will be delayed in the congested areas due to blocked streets, collapsed or otherwise impaired fire stations, and breakdown or overloading of equipment. Mobile fire fighting apparatus may be damaged by displacement within fire station apparatus rooms. These problems will allow fires to enlarge. The capability of the various fire departments to respond under these handicaps have not been fully evaluated.

"In general, the fire service finds itself at time of area-wide disaster in an almost impossible situation. Because it is on a ready standby basis during normal day-by-day operations, all too many variations of related activity and emergency service planning by others are in the category of 'the fire department can or will do that.' Rescue may be cited as an example of life safety taking precedent over fire fighting; fires may go unattended while the fire forces effect rescue and search.

"In the event of an 8.3 magnitude shock, no general conflagration is expected in San Francisco, or elsewhere, similar to that which occurred in 1906. It is reasonable to plan for very large fires, some of which may be uncontrolled for hours. The largest of these are most likely to occur in the poor ground areas of San Francisco where damage to the water systems is expected....

"Lesser magnitude shocks are not expected to cause major uncontrolled fires....

"In the event of an 8.3 magnitude shock on the Hayward Fault, it will be assumed for planning purposes that the water system will be immediately unavailable for 15% of the residents living in hillside areas of the East Bay cities, particularly for those east of the Fault. It will also be

"assumed that no additional water will flow across the fault due to pipe breakage, and that 30% will be out of water within 12 hours. Two major uncontrolled fires may occur in these water short areas--one in Oakland and one in Berkeley. In addition for planning purposes, Berkeley will have one uncontrolled fire, Oakland three uncontrolled fires (one in the army/navy supply area), and Hayward two uncontrolled fires.

"Life loss is expected to be minimal and persons requiring attention from serious burns are not expected to exceed 100....

"A 7.0 magnitude shock on the Hayward fault is expected to cause similar fire problems to those of an 8.3 magnitude shock on the Hayward fault due to the disruption of the water system in a 7.0 magnitude shock.

"It should be reemphasized that uncontrolled fires are probable in the event of an 8.3 magnitude shock on either fault, or in a 7 magnitude shock on the Hayward fault. However, it is not reasonable to expect a conflagration in terms of 1906. The closest approximation of this would be a fire in the Oakland-Berkeley hills."

FIRE HAZARDS

Definition of Fire Hazards

In determining the degree of fire hazard in the Panoramic Hill area, the study generally followed the methodology developed by the California Division of Forestry. The Division of Forestry classifies the varying degree of fire hazard based upon those conditions which contribute most significantly to the potential of the largest, most damaging fires, i.e. high intensity fires.

The California Division of Forestry states that high fire intensity depends on three major factors: "(1) heat yield of fuel, (2) fuel loading, and (3) rate of fire spread. These factors, and consequently high fire intensity, are influenced most importantly by heavy vegetation, critical fire weather, and steep slopes. Heavy vegetation provides a high fuel loading and also a high yield of heat energy. Critical fire weather, including the presence of high velocity wind, has the greatest effect on rate of spread; it also dries out the vegetation, thereby increasing the expected yield of heat energy from the fuel. Steep slopes also have important effects on the rate of fire spread; they increase the effects of convective and radiant heat in drying out and heating fuels lying ahead of the fire front, increase flame length, and decrease flame angle to fuels lying ahead." [8]

"These three criteria, then--vegetation, fire weather and slope--were selected as the criteria for classifying varying degrees of fire hazard. Wildland areas which measured low on a combined scale of these three criteria--e.g., having mostly grass, gentle slope, and few or no days of critical fire weather--would be hazardous from the standpoint of life and property exposure to the threat of wildfire. However, a much more hazardous area would be one having timber or tall, dense chaparral, mostly steep slopes, and a high frequency of days of critical fire weather."[8]

Using the system developed by the Division of Forestry, all of the Panoramic Hill area must be considered Extreme Fire Hazard or High Fire Hazard. During September there are north and northeast winds in the East Bay. The fuel to the north and east of Panoramic Hill are very dry and more importantly the winds are very dry with low humidity. Often at this time there are very strong winds of over 60 miles per hour. When these conditions combine there is a terrible threat of a fire sweeping into Berkeley and the Panoramic Hill area from the University lands or as far away as Tilden Park. Such a fire could easily jump Centennial Road and go into the forest above the UC Botanical Gardens. Such a fire would be almost impossible to stop under present fuel conditions on the University property and in and around the homes of Panoramic Hill.

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[8]Resources Agency, Department of Conservation, Division of Forestry, op cit, p. 7.

Definition of Fire Hazards, Continued

The neighborhood on Hillside Avenue does not have the same fire threat as that of the Panoramic Avenue served areas. Similarly the Fernwald Housing does not have the problem. The areas are much further from the major source of hazard (the University wooded area), they have much flatter terrain and have relatively good access for fire fighting. While they are near the wildland that is managed by the East Bay Regional Park District, the prevailing winds at fire weather times of year would not be expected to spread fire toward these homes.

Topography and Weather[9]

Topography is especially important as a fire hazard. Disastrous fires generally are located in steep hill areas. This is not just because access to fight the fires is poor. The hills themselves promote fire spread. Fire travels much faster uphill than down. The fire generates winds of its own that propel it in its course. Panoramic Hill is a ridge that is surrounded on almost all sides by steep hillsides rising up from canyons or the Bay Plain. A fire starting in Strawberry Canyon or sweeping in from further to the east would be especially dangerous.

Because of the situation described above, ridges are considered by fire fighters to be the worst possible location for the development of homes. The Panoramic Ridge is typical of the conditions that existed prior to the disastrous Bel Air fire of the Los Angeles area.

The Bay Area has less of a fire weather problem than does southern California. However, in late summer and early fall of each year the weather gets hot, fuel dries out and hot dry winds blow. In particular, in September there are always a number of fires. The chief cause is the hot dry winds that blow in from the north and east during this time of year. The East Bay is the most vulnerable in the Bay area because of its location away from the ocean and next to the dry interior areas over which the winds blow. Occasionally, strong winds blow in late September when the fuels are driest. For example, in 1965 a strong northeast wind blew all day and all night at 65 miles per hour, gusting up to 90 at the peaks. The humidity was extremely low.

The wind normally blows from the northwest from the Ocean toward Panoramic Hill. Any fire that breaks out at that time on the adjacent University land would spread away from the hill. However, in September the winds change direction and blow in from the dry east and north and the East Bay gets conditions similar to the famous Santa Ana winds of Southern California. Furthermore, every day between 4 and 5 PM the wind reverses direction for a short period of time blowing toward the hills from inland. The hill is always much more windy than the flat areas of the City. The

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[9]Information for this section is based largely on interviews held by Dean Armstrong during February-April 1974 with the individuals named in Footnote #5.

Topography and Weather, Continued

wind velocity when the Fish Ranch Road fire started in 1970 was only about 15 miles per hour. By lunch time, two hours after the start, the wind was measured at four miles per hour. Even under those relatively low wind velocities, the fire chiefs said that they would have had a terrible time stopping the fire if the wind had not died.

Combining a Fish Ranch Road fire situation with very heavy winds could result in a devastating fire situation. Given such conditions a major fire could spread toward Panoramic Hill going up, over and down hills. Fire normally spreads up hill rather than down hill. However, when the dry north and east winds blow, fire will spread almost as fast downhill as up hill. Propelling fires sweeping in from the East could be Eucalyptus bark shreds that collect each year. When they catch fire the wind blows them in advance of the fire. In Australia it is not unusual for the shredded bark to start fires 10-12 miles ahead of the main fire.

Little can be done about the location of Panoramic Hill, its topography or the weather. However, we need not consider natural and man-made fuels to be given. By good fuel management we can keep future fires as relatively controllable surface fires rather than uncontrollable crown fires. (See attached diagram.)

Wildland Fuel Hazards [10]

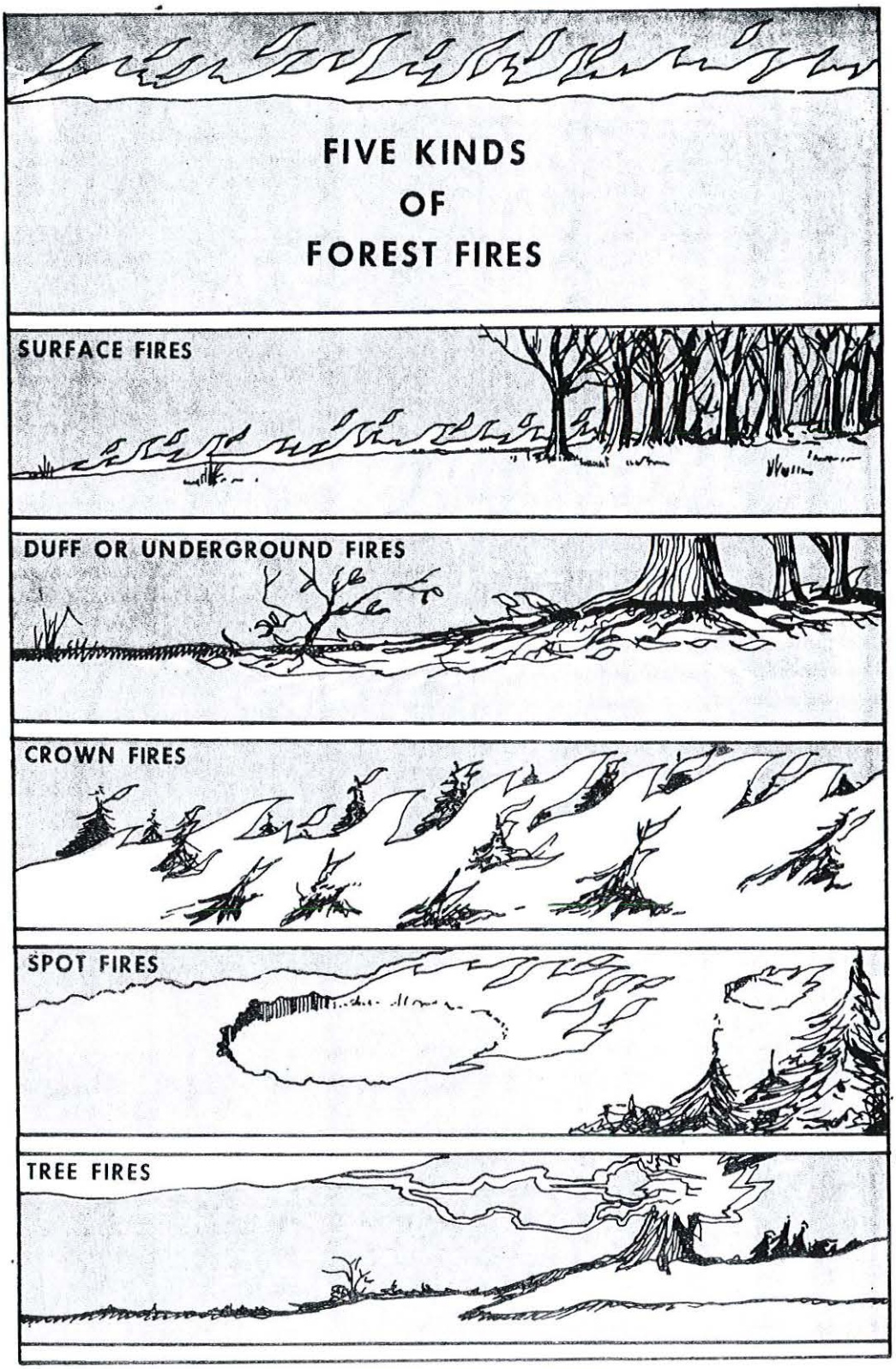
The fire danger in the Panoramic hill area is related to the following problems: a) the presence of dense wildland fuels on adjacent university properties, b) the heavy fuel loading of the residential areas themselves, c) the degree of slope of the hillsides, d) the presence of wood shingle and old wood houses, e) the presence of only one access road to the area.

Fuel is the major hazard to the Panoramic Hill area for three reasons: a) the large forested University of California area; b) the dense trees and vegetation that are intermingled with homes on the hill, and c) man made fuel problems such as wood homes and collections of debris and trash. The houses of the Panoramic Hill are totally intermixed with the adjacent wildland vegetation and the density of vegetation around the homes is almost as high as in the wildland area. The problem affects the 49 homes in the Oakland portion of the hill and most of the 150 dwelling units in the Berkeley portion of the Hill.

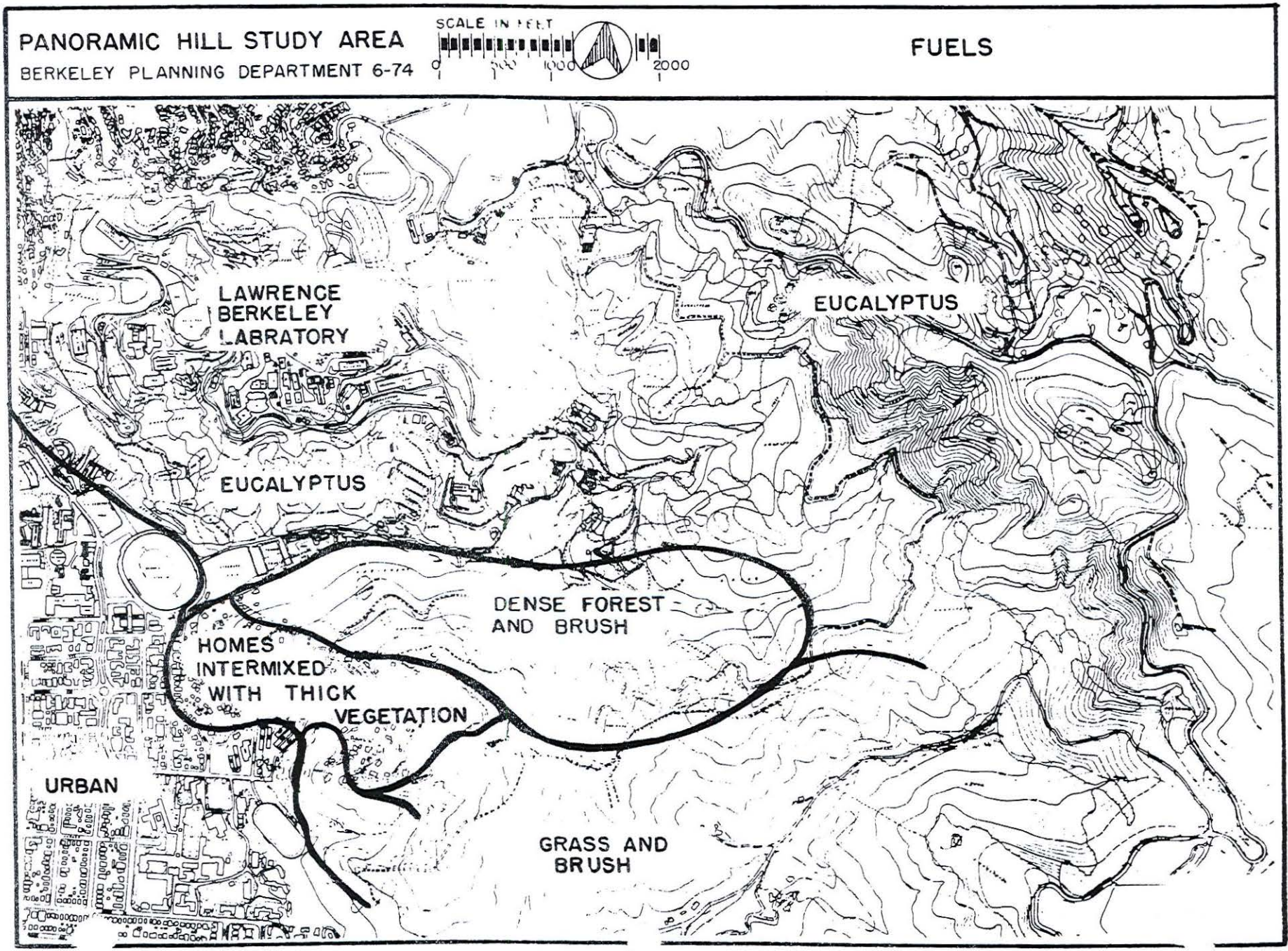
The major fuel problem in the area is the University of California forested lands just to the north of the Panoramic residential area. This area consists of many kinds of vegetation with thick stands of conifers, eucalyptus, and broadleaved evergreens. The conifers include Monterey

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[10] Information for this section is based on interviews held by Dean Armstrong during February-April 1974 with Professor Emeritus Harold Biswell, School of Forestry, University of California-Berkeley.



KINDS OF FOREST FIRES- FROM MANUAL FOR FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS, U.S. FOREST SERVICE. (REPRINTED IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, A REPORT TO CONGRESS BY THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, WASHINGTON, 1972)


PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0
1000
2000
FUELS
LAWRENCE BERKELEY LABRATORY
EUCALYPTUS
EUCALYPTUS
DENSE FOREST AND BRUSH
HOMES INTERMIXED WITH THICK VEGETATION
URBAN
GRASS AND BRUSH

Wildland Fuel Hazards, Continued

pine, deodora cedar, redwood, cypress, and many other trees. There are few Eucalyptus left. Among the conifer groves are areas of oak and bay. Interspersed are areas of "light chaparral" including coyote brush. Most of this area is thick with underbrush and has much dead vegetation. Almost all of it is ready to burn during the summer if a fire touches it. Because of the thick underbrush we can expect the spread of fire to the crowns of the trees that would cause an inferno that could easily spread or leap to the residential portion of Panoramic Hill. Panoramic Hill is in a direct path from the Eucalyptus hills of the University and Park District. The grasses on these slopes are dry all summer. The potential for a major fire starting in such areas and spreading to the Panoramic Hill area are obvious.

Professor Harold Biswell recently retired from the University of California Forestry Department is presently developing a Fire Safety Management Program for the forested University of California land in the Berkeley-Oakland area. This plan will explain the conditions which exist in the forests, brush, and grass areas relative to fuel content and methods for handling the fuel. The major tool planned for the program is prescribed burning which will include both broadcast burning of large areas and clear and pile burning. The main intent is to get the wildland areas into fuel safe conditions within five years and to continue the program to maintain low levels of fuel loading.

Once a wildland area has been cleaned up and control burned the forest is much more open and fire entering the crowns of trees is much less likely. A fire entering the area will then burn on the ground and can easily be extinguished. The Fuel Management Plan includes provisions for methods of burning that will minimize the generation of smoke during controlled burning.

Prescribed burning has definite environmental effects on the forest ecology. Depending upon a person's orientation the result is good or bad. The result of prescribed burning is the creation of a more open forest with much of the thickets and understory removed. This lost vegetation is quickly replaced by other vegetation including a greater quantity of wildflowers. If performed correctly as is done by the University, prescribed burning does not lead to increased soil erosion. (It should be noted that fuel management of this sort is quite a different operation from the emergency Eucalyptus clearance effort of this last year which many environmentalists feel has resulted in considerable damage to the ecology.)

Neighborhood Fuel Hazards[11]

Located in the Panoramic Hill neighborhood are a number of old dry wood shingle homes. There are also many newer plywood houses with cedar shake roofs. The houses will burn easily and the shingles will catch fire easily, burning the house down but also flying through the air igniting other houses as well. All around the houses in the Panoramic area there is much debris including heavy plantings, plant debris, trash in garages and next to houses. All of these fuels will ignite readily, and could lead to an intense, quick spreading fire. Because of the quantity of fuel in the residential portion of the hill we should consider the fuel to be as much as in an unmanaged forest.

In the 1970 Fish Ranch Road fire in Oakland, where people had cleared around their homes, the house was generally saved. Where brush and debris was thick around homes, the homes were invariably lost. Firemen understandably do not like to get in close to a home that is densely surrounded by heavy flammable vegetation. Once a house has ignited surrounding vegetation, standard fire fighting policy calls for almost all efforts to be put into fighting the vegetation fire while the building may be left to burn.

There are two main ways to get rid of these fuel hazards. These are: a) removing dry fuels from around homes; and b) clear and use controlled burning on the extensive wildland areas. In addition, measures can be adopted that prevent the creation of additional man-caused fuel hazards.

By clearing debris, dead vegetation, overhanging limbs of trees and removing high hazard fuel plants such as Bay Trees and acacia, a homeowner can significantly reduce fuel hazards on his property. Such fuel management involves the extensive trimming and clearing of vegetation. It need not result in any damage to the flora amenities of his property. In addition, old newspapers, junky garages and the like, result in high hazard. It should be remembered that such conditions not only endanger individual properties, but result in bursts of fire energy that greatly endanger other properties.

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[11] Information for this section is based largely on interviews held by Dean Armstrong during February-April 1974 with the individuals named in Footnote #5. The portion of this section dealing with information on available measures for homeowners and the list of fire resistant plants previously appeared in: Dean Armstrong & Barbara Kautz Environmental Analysis of Western Contra Costa County, Tri-Cities Environmental Resources Study, San Pablo, Ca. 1972.

Neighborhood Fuel Hazards, Continued

Communities may institute quite strong fire protection requirements as part of their local ordinances. Authority for local fire safety ordinances is found in Public Resources Code 4117, which states: "Counties, cities and counties, cities, and districts may adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations to provide fire prevention restrictions or regulations that are necessary to meet local conditions of weather, vegetation, or other fire hazards. Such ordinances, rules or regulations may be more restrictive than State statutes in order to meet local fire hazard conditions".

Much literature is available on measures that individual homeowners can take to reduce the fire hazard around their homes.

One of the most important measures is clearing all flammable brush around a home. The California Public Resources Code provides that any person owning or maintaining any building adjoining brush, forest, or grass-covered land must clear away all brush and grass within 30 feet of the building. (This does not include ornamental shrubs, lawns and the like.) As well, all tree branches must be farther than 10 feet from a chimney; all leaves must be removed from the roof; and a screen must be placed over a chimney.

In general, watered landscapes - lawns, flowers, and shrubs-withstand fire much better than do unwatered landscapes. Preferring watered landscapes, of course, conflicts with the goal of conserving water, and excessive use of water on hillsides may cause sliding and erosion. However, yuccas, cacti, and other succulent natives, such as toyon, are also both fire--and drought--resistant.

A wide variety of fire-resistant plants are available for use in fire hazard areas. Many are listed in the attached Table. Some are drought-resistant; some also have deep root structures, which will help prevent soil erosion. It should be emphasized that there are no fireproof plants. Any plant will burn if conditions are right. However, the fire-resistant plants withstand high temperatures for prolonged periods without igniting and do not readily support open flames when ignited.

No

Finally, proper plant placement, trimming, and grooming will reduce risks. Dense, continuous cover can carry fire from one place to another; a continuous canopy of trees can also spread fire to buildings. Pines are especially likely to blaze up in flames. Trees should be kept somewhat separated from each other, and their lower branches kept high enough to be safe from grass fires. For reference, the University of California Agricultural Extension Service has published a booklet, Landscape for Fire Protection, (#AXT-254), which is free to the public.

FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DROUGHT RESISTANT?	ROOT STRUCTURE
Arabian Scurf Pea	Has appearance of large mounded clover bush when well grown. Small purple flowers in late spring. Under adverse conditions becomes dormant through drought period, rebound well when weather improves.	Yes	Deep
Coast Salt Bush	Grows in low mats along coast. Fine textured gray green foliage becoming sufficiently compact to restrain weeds. Responds well to minimum care.	Less	Deep
Creeping Rosemary	Dark green sea of corded foliage with gray highlights. Low creeper, aromatic, apparently has no pests among insects or animals here.	Yes	Shallow
Dwarf Coyotebush	Forms smooth mats about 1 foot high on steep slopes. Small green leaves cover maze of horizontal stems spreading 4-6 feet. Maintained with minimum care. Best used in coastal areas or where watering is possible.	Less	Deep
Green Lavender-Cotton	Stays emerald green under hottest sun and dry weather. Low growing creeper, has tendency to mound after number of years with no pruning. Good ground cover on slopes.	Yes	Shallow
Gum Rockrose	Narrow, glossy leaves stay green even during hot, dry weather. Under extreme drought, leaves reverse to show white underside.	Yes	Deep
Ivy	While Algerian Ivy is more tolerant to sun and drought, under irrigation the deeper green and finer texture of various forms of English Ivy may be preferred. Both form dense ground covers, spread rapidly, produce surface roots. Requires water and proper maintenance.	Less	Shallow

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FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DROUGHT RESISTANT?	ROOT STRUCTURE
Parrott Beak	Feathery, gray foliage with interesting flowers through summer. Grows rapidly, makes good ground cover.	Less	Shallow
Purple Rockrose	Becomes rounded mound clothed to the ground. Large, flat flowers unfold over long period in late spring. In the open, it stays attractive with little care.	Yes	Deep
Salt Bush	Silver-gray foliage tinged with rose during rapid early growth. Plant has a medium-fine texture - lends a feeling of distance at the back of a planting, or in peripheral groupings.	Yes	Deep
Small-leafed Ice Plant	The more commonly planted low; creeping, fleshy-leaved ice plants are generally shallow rooted, spring flowering and ever-green matformers. Do well with occasional deep summer irrigation on gentle slopes and light soils. Avoid large-leaf varieties for slope planting.	Less	Shallow
Sunrose	Usually becomes a low, neat, fine-textured cushion of foliage in the open. Small, color-ful flowers in spring--prefers sun and well drained soil.	Yes	Shallow
Woolly Yarrow	Hugs the ground with soft, silvery-green carpet. Abundance of flowers in early summer. Seed heads are easily removed with rotary mower for neat appearance.	Yes	Shallow
Yerba Santa	Glossy leaved, inhabits well-drained slopes, road banks and rocky outcroppings forming open drifts about two feet high. Extreme care needed in transplanting but once established, persists and increases for years.	Yes	Shallow

Source: Brush Fire Safety Committee, Los Angeles, California

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITY [12]

Characteristics of Emergency Response

When a fire occurs, firefighters and other emergency personnel must quickly respond. The first priority is to protect and save lives. The second priority is to contain a fire or stop its spread. The third priority is to extinguish the fire. The key to effective fire fighting is quick response, good training, plenty of water and proper equipment. Difficulties with any of these necessities will greatly erode the effectiveness of the fire fighting program.

Access for Emergency Vehicles

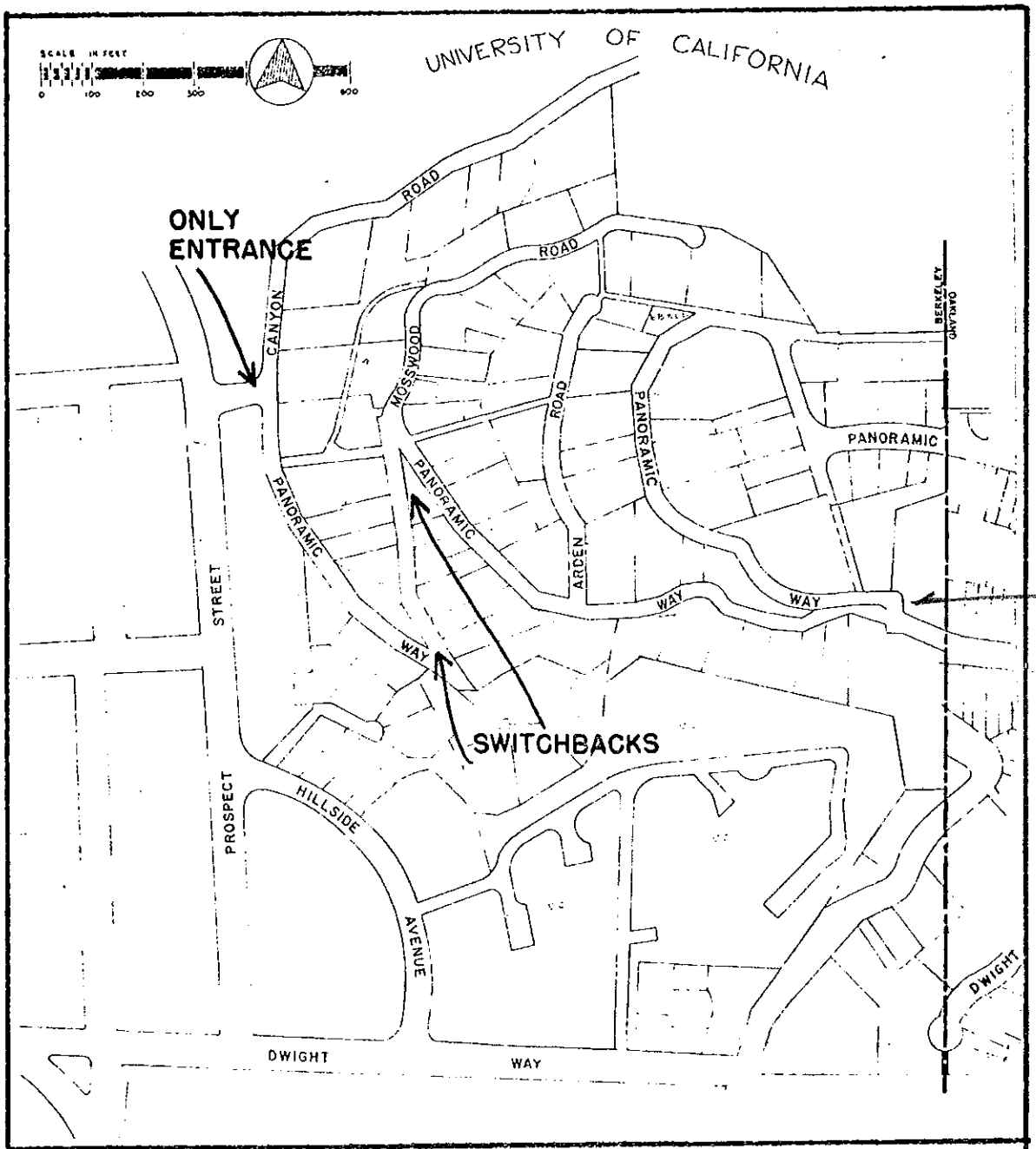
3 Panoramic Hill is served by only one road in or out: Panoramic Way. Furthermore, Panoramic Way has two hairpin curves at the bottom of the Hill which make its use by fire vehicles extremely difficult. (See Map) When a house fire breaks out on the Hill, the Berkeley Fire Department sends a pumper and a ladder truck to the bottom of the Hill. However, because of the hairpin curves, the ladder truck stays at the bottom of the Hill unless absolutely needed. In order to get up the Hill, both pumpers and ladder trucks must execute difficult maneuvers. The easiest way for the trucks to get up is to drive to the first hairpin curve, go past it and then back up the next Hill going past it and then head up the Hill.

Standard fire practice calls for putting immediate life saving and evacuation ahead of firefighting. Therefore, if there was a major fire on the Hill in which people had to evacuate, the Berkeley Fire Department has publicly stated that they would not send equipment up the Hill for fear of blocking the escape route until all the residents had escaped. Of course, if they tried to get up while people were trying to get out on the same route, there would be chaos. Because of this situation, it is quite possible for a major fire to burn down the whole hillside. Provision of a second access route would allow the fire equipment to go up the Hill easily while residents escaped on the existing road.

Once on the Hill, maneuverability for fire equipment is difficult because of the steep topography, narrow streets and absence of clear flat areas from which to stage equipment.

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[12] Information for this section is based largely on interviews held by Dean Armstrong during February-April 1974 with the following: a) Assistant Chief Adcock, Berkeley Fire Department; b) Elmer Silva, Fire Chief, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California; c) Owen Eide, Engineer, East Bay Municipal Utility District.



PANORAMIC HILL AREA STUDY

BERKELEY PORTION OF PANORAMIC

BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74

ACCESS LIMITATIONS

Access for Emergency Vehicles, Continued

There are a number of fire trails that serve the Panoramic Hill area. The main two are the Botanical Garden Trail and the Jordan Trail. (See Attached Map) These are unsurfaced bulldozer carved, unengineered trails. They have not had proper drainage facilities installed and each year sees many major slip-outs that must be prepared.

Water Situation

A thorough investigation of the water supply system on Panoramic Hill has not been made by this study. The water system was designed to meet the requirements of an urban neighborhood. Forest fires use very large quantities of water and can quickly exceed the capability of urban water system design.

The water supply for Panoramic Hill is provided by two separate water systems. The lower part of the Hill (See Attached Map) is served by the Summit system which means it is fed directly by the Summit Reservoir located in North Berkeley adjacent to Kensington and the Summit South Reservoir in the Hiller Highlands section of Oakland. The upper part of the Panoramic Hill is served by the University Water Tank which rests at the top of the Hill. Both systems are operated by the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD).

The University Tank, so named because it rests on lands that once belonged to the University and is surrounded by University of California land, has a capacity of 1/2 million gallons and is fed from the Summit system by a pumping station located half way up the Hill at the intersection of Panoramic Way and Arden Path. (See Attached Map)

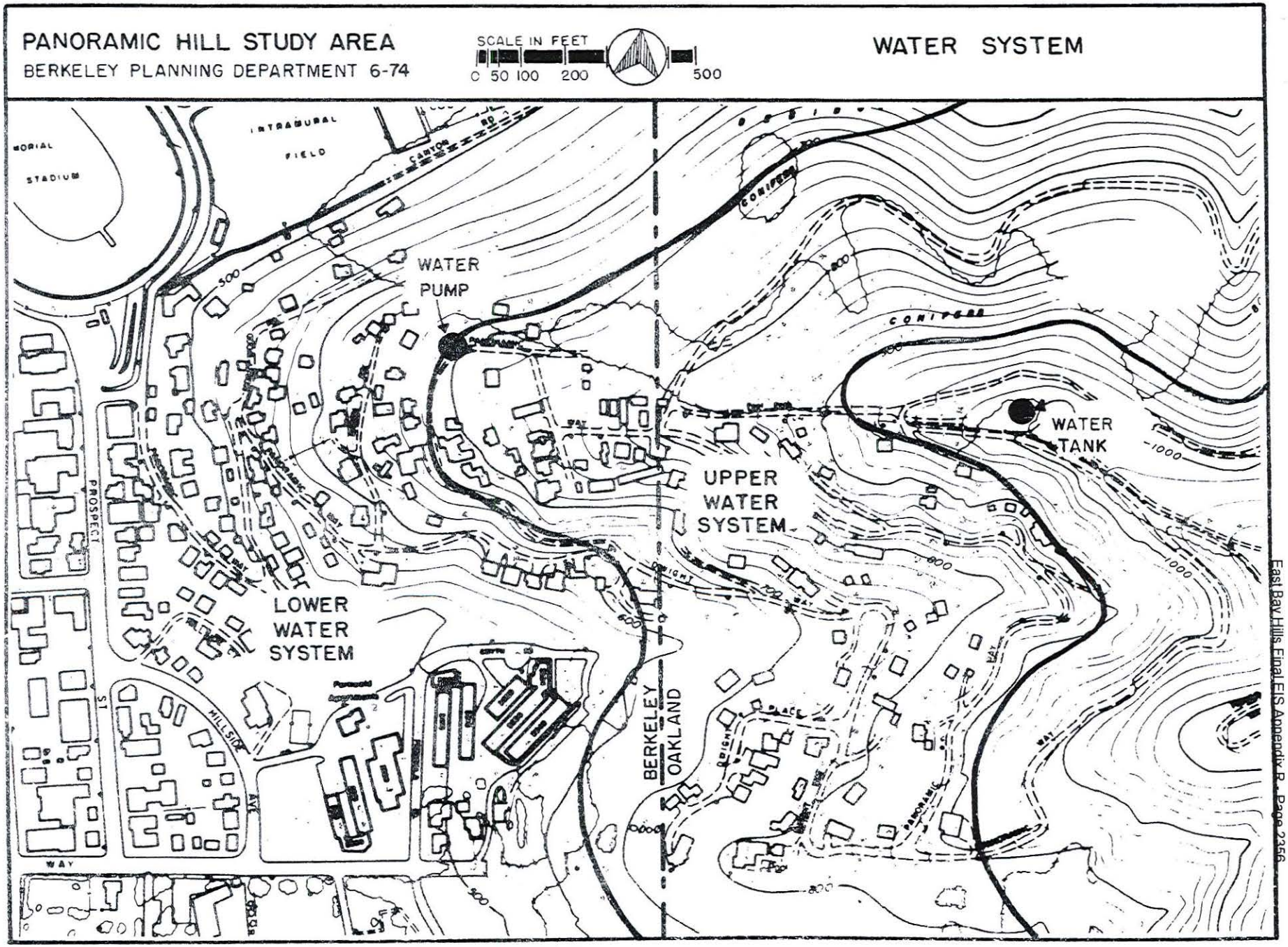
On the lower system there are six water hydrants and on the upper system there are five hydrants.

The limit of service for the University Tank is the 900' elevation. Above 900 feet for all intents and purposes, there can be no water service with this tank except in emergencies through the use of a fire department pumper.

The upper water system is dependent on the lower system. If it runs out of water, a fire department pumper can pump water up to the tank or to the hydrants in the upper system. At the pumphouse, there are two hydrants--one for each system. The pumper can draw water out of the lower system and pump it into the upper system at about 500 gallons per minute.

Organizational and Equipment Characteristics

Fires in the Panoramic Hill area may be fought by the Berkeley Fire Department, the Oakland Fire Department, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Fire Department and the East Bay Regional Park District Fire Department. Each is responsible for different land areas within the overall area. All are tied together by mutual aid agreements. There is no overall disaster response plan for the Panoramic Hill area that would coordinate pre-fire planning for this specific area.


PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 500
WATER SYSTEM
INTRAMURAL
FIELD
STADIUM
WATER
PUMP
WATER
TANK
UPPER
WATER
SYSTEM
LOWER
WATER
SYSTEM
BERKELEY
OAKLAND
PROSPECT
MILLSIDE
CONIFERS
PANORAMIC
WAY

Organizational and Equipment Characteristics, Continued

A major fire on the Hill would not be a typical urban house fire. Any fire has the potential of becoming large and engaging the entire neighborhood and surrounding wooded area. Furthermore, a major fire might spread into the neighborhood. Firefighting on Panoramic Hill, therefore, is more akin to forest fire fighting in many respects than to urban fire fighting. Because of this, special equipment for easy maneuverability in hillsides, special long hoses, special mobile back-pack equipment for individual fire fighters, and special tools for brush and forest fire fighting would be beneficial.

The University of California Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Fire Department is located just across Strawberry Canyon from Panoramic Hill. This fire department is available to come to the aid of the Oakland and Berkeley Fire Departments when there is a need. The Lawrence Lab Fire Department has a four-wheel drive forestry type truck which they can use on the Botanical Garden trail to get to the Panoramic Hill area. (See Map)

The nearest Oakland Fire Department station is located in the vicinity of the intersection of College and Claremont Avenues. The major equipment must use the twisting congested Panoramic Way, but Oakland Fire Department four-wheel drive vehicles can get to the Hill by way of a fire road that is located on the south side of the Blind School and connects via a dirt, very steep road to the upper part of the Hill. (See Map)

PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0 500 1000 2000
FIRE TRAILS
JORDAN TRAIL
U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN TRAIL
BERKELEY
OAKLAND


CHARLES LEE TILDEN PARK
#7- 2931 SHASTA
STUDY AREA
#19- 5776 ...ES ST. (OAKLAND)
3- RUSSELL & COLLEGE
#28- SHATTUCK & HEARST
#5- SHATTUCK & DERBY
FIRE STATIONS
BERKELEY
ALAMEDA COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

EXPOSURE OF PEOPLE, PROPERTY AND OTHER THINGS OF VALUE TO FIRE DANGER [13]

General Comments

Minimization of the exposure of people, property and other things of value to fire danger is the most important factor in a fire safety program. In order to understand the total fire danger on the Hill, we must know the size of the affected population, their characteristics and their housing conditions. We should have information on development trend and the future development outlook so that we can project the fire safety situation for the future.

Population Characteristics

There are approximately 343 people living on Panoramic Hill with 238 of them living in the Berkeley portion of the Hill. The population includes approximately 48 children. The small number of children results in a very low population per household ratio.

Approximately 2/3 of the residents live in single-family homes. Many residents in the homes are quite old and there appears to be a typical Berkeley situation of very old residents being slowly replaced by young new residents. 19 of 50 occupants of single family homes in the Berkeley portion of the Hill that responded to a study questionnaire, had lived on Panoramic Hill for 20 years or more. Over half of the Oakland respondents had lived in their homes for eleven years or more.

In regard to fire safety, it can be seen that a large population (343 persons) live in a very high fire hazard area. Few children are exposed to the hazard but many older, less mobile persons are. (See attached chart for more details)

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[13] Information for this section came from four sources: a) a detailed land use survey of the Hill conducted by Dean Armstrong with the assistance of Ken Moye, City Planning student, University of California (This survey is presented in the Study Appendix); b) a questionnaire sent to the Panoramic Hill residents. Results of the questionnaire are presented in the Study Appendix; c) interviews with Oen Eide, Engineer East Bay Municipal Utilities District, March-April, 1974; d) interviews with Mark Ng, Engineer, Oakland Public Works Department, March 1974; e) interview with Thomas Doctor, Senior Planner (Zoning), Oakland Planning Department, April 1974.

PANORAMIC HILL POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

(All estimates based on information from Panoramic Hill Study Survey)

	BERKELEY	OAKLAND	ENTIRE HILL
1. Estimated number of people per apartment unit	1.30	----	1.30
2. Estimated number of people per single family unit	2.00	2.16	2.08
3. Estimated number of apartment dwellers	104	-0- (there are probably some illegal apartments)	104
4. Estimated number of single family dwellers	132	107	239
5. Estimated number of children	31	17	48
6. Estimated total population	238	105	343
7. Length of residence: Berkeley---------- 19 of the 50 occupants of single family units that responded to the questionnaire had lived in their homes for 20 years or more. Over half of the single family respondents had lived in their homes for 10 years or more. However, 7 of the 50 had lived on the Hill for less than one year. One-half of the 36 apartment dwellers who responded had lived on the Hill for three years or more. 90% had lived on the Hill for one year or more.		Oakland: over half of the responding dwelling units were inhabited by people who had lived on Panoramic Hill for 11 years or more. Of the remaining 13 respondents, all but two had lived on the Hill for three or more years.	

Housing Characteristics

There are 95 structures on Panoramic Hill. 67 of these structures are single-family homes. There is a total of 196 dwelling units, 3/4 of which are located in the Berkeley portion of Panoramic Hill.

The great majority of the population lives in single-family or duplex units. However, there are seven multiple-family structures having a total of 38 units. Two-thirds of the structure on the Hill were built before the end of World War II. Twenty structures were built before 1917. Almost all of the buildings are of wood exterior, non-fire-resistant construction.

In the Berkeley portion of the Hill toward the bottom of the Hill, many units are jammed onto small lots. This same area has the highest concentration of very old shingle houses. All of the homes on the Hill because of their construction characteristics and age, must be considered highly vulnerable to fire. (See attached chart for more details)

Characteristics of Other Things of Value

The lower portion of Panoramic Hill has many examples of the East Bay style of architecture. Included in this area are examples of Maybeck and his contemporaries and disciples. The old wood shingle homes are fine examples of the Berkeley Brown Shingle homes that have gained fame throughout the Bay Area. Numerous paths, retaining walls, narrow streets and the like, that were built in the early part of this century, give the lower Panoramic Hill a charm that is noteworthy even for a town with as much charm as Berkeley.

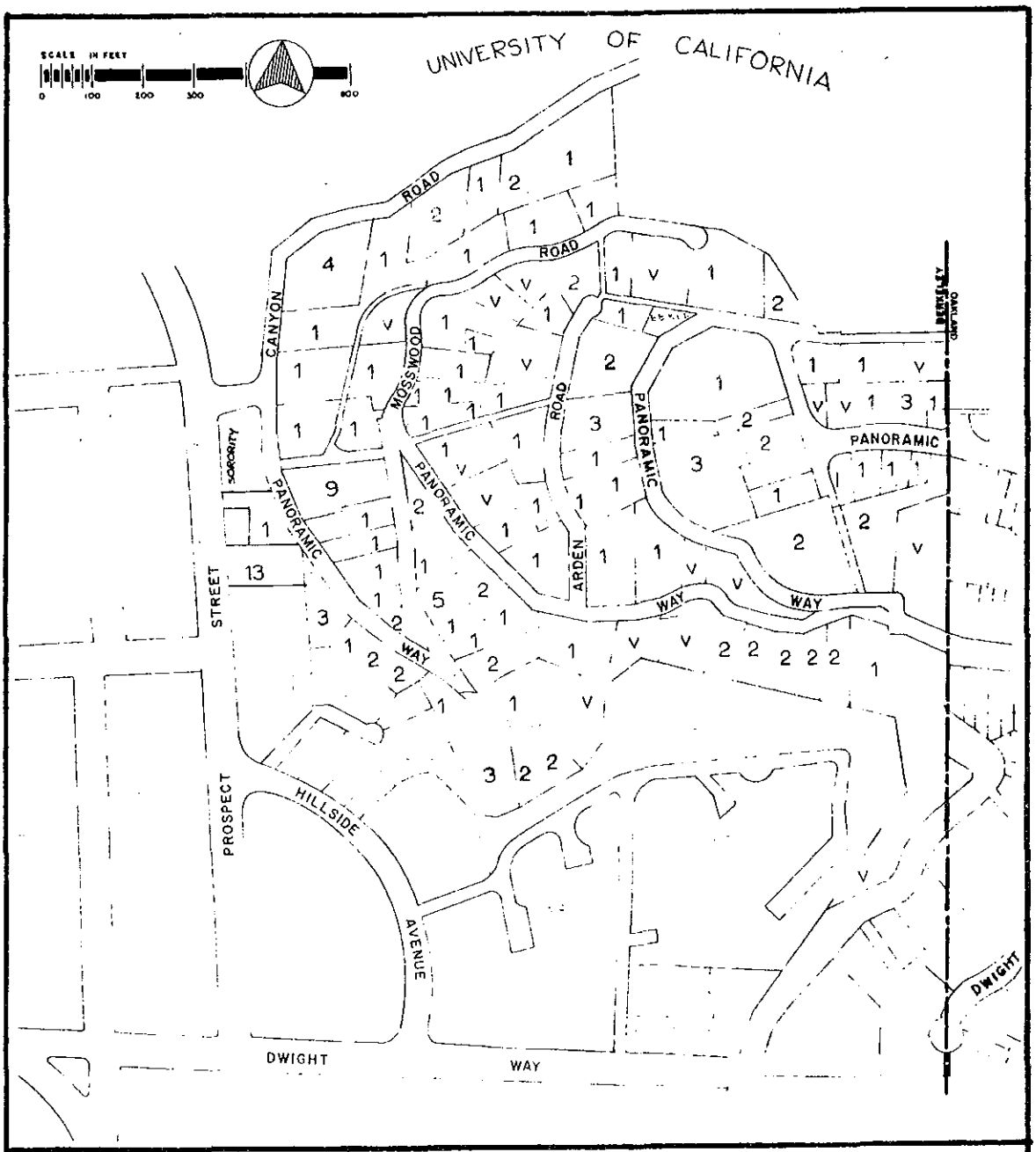
Panoramic Hill and the adjacent University property is a beautiful watershed area for two streams. The land is forested in a variety of mature and beautiful trees. The forest is interlaced with fire trails used by joggers and hikers. Destruction of the hillside would be a loss in terms of destruction to the creeks, destruction of wildlife, destruction of a beautiful forest used by many Berkeley residents and destruction of the views of the Hill from the Berkeley flatlands.

Potential Development

Panoramic Hill already has a very large number of people exposed to fire hazard. There are already 343 people living on the Hill. This number could easily grow by 100 or 200 more in the next 40 years.

Several factors influence the potential for further development on Panoramic Hill: 1) the supply of developable land; 2) the demand for development; and 3) community development regulations.

Panoramic Hill is not densely populated considering that there is abundant open space intertwined with the houses. In the Oakland portion of the Hill, two-thirds of the land is vacant. Most of the vacant land has development limitations, however, including sewer service problems, water supply problems, steep hillsides or mudslide potential. There are



PANORAMIC HILL AREA STUDY

BERKELEY PORTION OF PANORAMIC

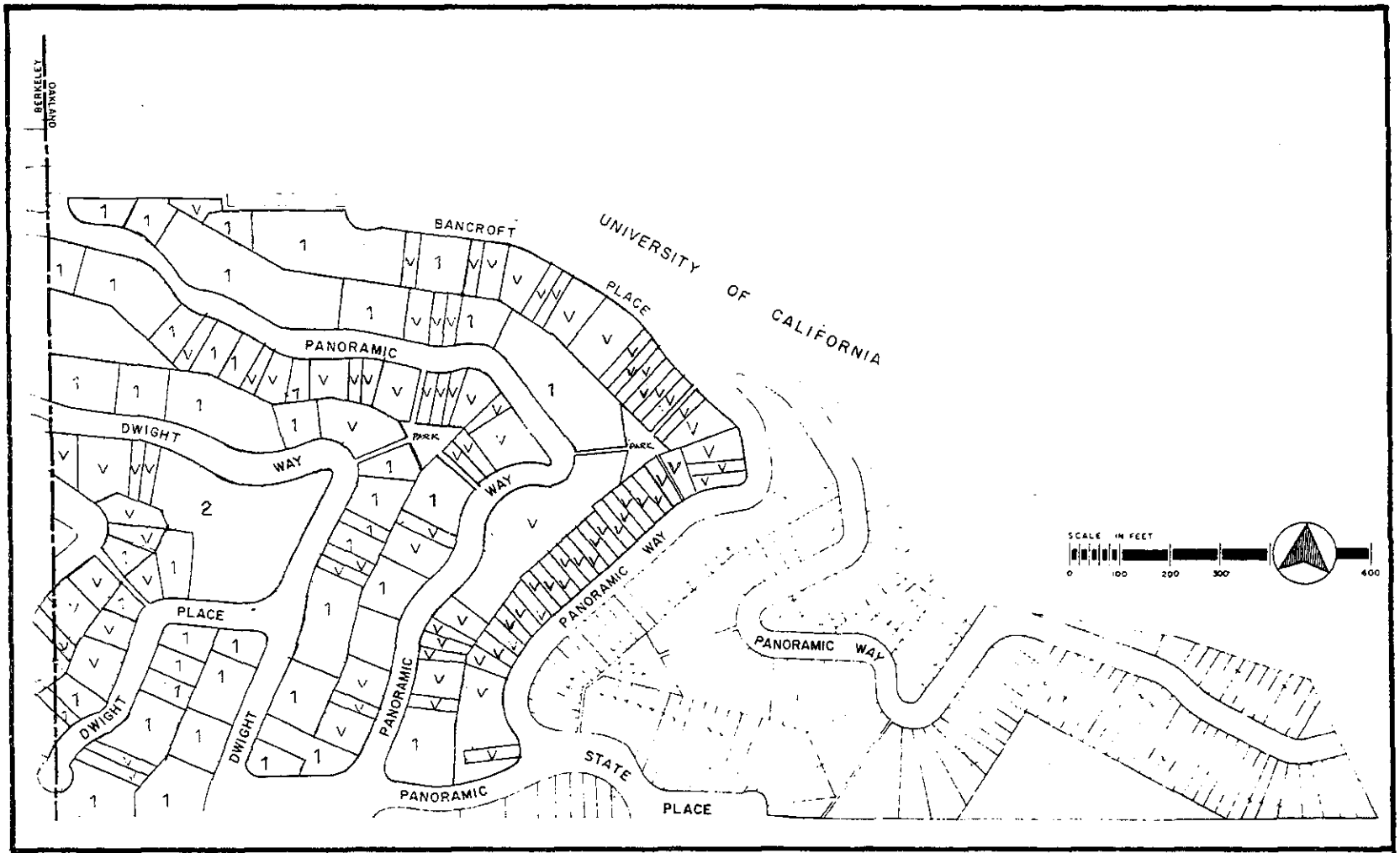
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74

LAND USE MAP

1 = ONE FAMILY UNIT

2 = TWO FAMILY UNITS

V = VACANT LOT



PANORAMIC HILL AREA STUDY
OAKLAND PORTION OF PANORAMIC
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74

LAND USE MAP

1 = ONE FAMILY UNIT, 2 = TWO FAMILY UNITS, ET CETERA,
V = VACANT LOT

CONSTRUCTION TRENDS ON PANORAMIC HILL

STRUCTURES BUILT:	BERKELEY	OAKLAND	ENTIRE HILL
1900 - 1917	20	0	20
1918 - 1930	22	0	22
1931 - 1944	23	6	29
1945 - 1959	13	32	45
1960 - 1972	17	8	25
Unknown	0	3	3
TOTAL	95	49	144

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TYPES OF STRUCTURES ON PANORAMIC HILL

TYPE	BERKELEY	OAKLAND	ENTIRE HILL
Single Family	67	49	116
Duplex (or two houses on one lot)	21 (42 Units)	0	21 (42 Units)
Multiple Family	7 (38 Units)	0	7 (38 Units)
TOTAL	95 (147 Dwelling Units)	49 (49 Dwelling Units)	144 (196 Dwelling Units)

120 Houses

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two major limitations at present: (a) sewer access; and (b) water access.

(a) Sewer Access: Because of the poor condition of the Panoramic Sewer that serves the Hill, Berkeley has requested the City of Oakland not to extend any more main lines on Panoramic Hill. The result is that new development in Oakland must have septic tanks on 10,000 sq. ft. This has a significant effect on the desirability of land for development.

(b) Water Supply: Construction of homes in the Oakland portion of the Hill cannot take place above 900 foot land elevation. This is because the water tank, called University Reservoir, situated at 1025 feet does not produce sufficient water pressure above that elevation. The policy of EBMUD is to build reservoirs every two hundred feet as they progress up the Hill. Above the University Reservoir they are prepared to build another tank if needed. This second tank, if constructed, would be built to 1/4 or 1/2 million gallon capacity. It would serve the area between the elevation of 900 and 1100 feet and would be located to the southeast of the University Tank. If built, this reservoir would be named the Hamilton Reservoir. There are no design plans or property acquired for the Hamilton Reservoir. If built there would be a need for another pumping plant at the site of the University Reservoir, an interconnecting line and the new reservoir itself. The total cost for project would be about $500,000. A developer requesting the installation of the water system would be required to advance EBMUD 60% of the cost of the project as a deposit. In addition, EBMUD would have to be convinced that there was adequate demand for the new water supply system. Generally they require that the facility be in connection with the construction of 100 or more homes.

Demand for development in the Oakland portion of Panoramic Hill has fallen off considerably in the last few years. During the last 12 years development has averaged only 2/3 of a unit per year, down very sharply from the previous 14 years. However, in the Berkeley portion of the Hill, development pressure seems to be accelerating with an average of 1½ structure built per year over the last 12 years, which is a significant increase over the 1950's "boom" construction period for the rest of the area. (See attached table for more details)

Current community development regulations in Berkeley and Oakland do not play an important role in determining the amount of new construction. This is because the regulations allow far more construction than there is a market demand for. Furthermore, the lots and ownership throughout

the Hill have already been established. Therefore, even significantly increasing lot size requirements would not greatly reduce potential development since a property owner with a substandard lot is always allowed to put at least one unit on it. (See attached charts for further information on development potential)

Unless major changes are made ~~to~~ existing development regulations, the Panoramic Hill will significantly increase its population. In this event, the total fire danger for the Hill will increase correspondingly.

FACTS ON DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IN BERKELEY PORTION OF PANORAMIC HILL

Number of structures at present:	95
Number of dwelling units at present:	147
Zoning: (5000 sq. ft. minimum lot size. Duplexes allowed)	R-1-H
Maximum possible units under existing zoning:	307 (160 new units)
Maximum possible units if area rezoned to R-1:	208 (61 new units)
Maximum possible units if area rezoned to equivalent of Oakland R-20 (12,000 sq. ft. per unit):	185 (38 new units)
Maximum probable units under existing zoning:	227 (80 new units)
Maximum probable units if area rezoned to R-1:	177 (30 new units)
Maximum probable units if area rezoned to equivalent of Oakland R-20 (12,000 sq. ft. per unit):	185 (19 new units)
Special Development Limitations:	None

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FACTS ON DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IN OAKLAND PORTION OF PANORAMIC HILL

Number of structures at present:	49
Number of dwelling units at present:	49
Zoning: (5000 sq. ft. per single-family unit)	R-30
Maximum possible units under existing zoning (if Berkeley allows sewers to be extended):	153 (104 new units)
Maximum possible units if area rezoned to R-20 (12,000 sq. ft. per unit):	105 (61 new units)
Maximum possible units if area rezoned to R-10 (25,000 sq. ft. per unit):	95 (51 new units)
Maximum possible units if Berkeley does not allow sewers to be extended:	91 (47 new units)
Maximum probable units under existing zoning (if Berkeley allows sewers to be extended):	102 (53 new units)
Maximum probable units if area rezoned to R-20 (12,000 sq. ft. per unit):	79 (30 new units)
Maximum probable units if area rezoned to R-10 (25,000 sq. ft. per units):	73 (24 new units)
Maximum probable units if Berkeley does not allow sewers to be extended:	71 (22 new units)

Special Development Limitations:

1. Berkeley has a moratorium on allowing Oakland to extend additional main sewer lines. The result is that new development must have septic tanks on large lots. This has a tendency to reduce allowable development.

2. Construction of homes could only take place below the 900" foot contour which is below the last stretch of road leading to the top of the Hill. (See map) This was because the water tank which was replaced by a new modern tank in the last decade, cannot serve areas with water pressure at elevations less than 100 feet below itself. The tank at its top is 1025 feet in elevation. This has put a limit on development in the area above that elevation.

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DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL ON PANORAMIC HILL

	Number of Dwelling Units at Time of Study.		Potential Growth if Moderately Restrictive Regulations Governed New Development.[2]		Potential Growth if Least Restrictive Regulations Governed New Development.[1]	
	UNITS	(POPULATION)	MAXIMUM PROBABLE UNITS (POPULATION)	MAXIMUM POSSIBLE UNITS (POPULATION)	MAXIMUM PROBABLE UNITS POPULATION)	MAXIMUM POSSIBLE UNITS (POPULATION)
Berkeley	147	(238)	177 (301)	208 (354)	227 (386)	307 (522)
Oakland	49	(105)	73 (158)	105 (227)	102 (220)	153 (320)
TOTAL	196	(343)	250 (459)	313 (581)	329 (606)	460 (842)

[1]Continue existing zoning in Berkeley. Continue existing zoning in Oakland, but also lift ban on sewer extensions.

[2]Limit new development to single-family homes with 12,000 square feet per unit.

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FIRE SAFETY GUIDES FOR CALIFORNIA WATERSHEDS

Recognizing the severe fire hazards plaguing California wildland and watershed area, the California Supervisor's Association in 1965 adopted a series of recommendations designed to reduce fire danger in these areas. The guidelines were prepared with assistance from various local, state and federal fire and forestry agencies.

The following guidelines are reprinted from Be Fire Safe!, a publication of the County Supervisor's Association which is distributed by the California Division of Forestry. Virtually all of the guidelines have applicability to the Panoramic Hill area. However, imposition of some of the recommendations at this state in the development history of Panoramic Hill may not be desirable.

Minimum Safety Requirements for Watershed Areas Recommended by the California County Supervisor's Association.[14]

Structural Fire Protection Standards

It is recommended that structural fire protection practices as recognized by fire protection agencies be planned and provided for subdivisions as a contingency for the approval of proposed new developments in wildland areas.

Safe Ingress and Egress

Area development should provide for safe and ready access for fire and other emergency equipment and for routes of escape which will safely handle evacuations. Therefore, road and street system designs should provide maximum circulation consistent with topography to meet fire safety needs--

1. Require at least two different ingress-egress routes.
2. Require a 60-foot right of way for the construction of two 12-foot traffic lanes, two 8 -foot parking lanes, and two 10-foot roadside strips upon which the fire hazard should be abated. Maintenance to keep roadside strips free of fire hazard should be required.
3. Limit cul-de-sacs to 600 feet terminated by a turnaround right of way not less than 90 feet in diameter.
4. Street grades should be limited to 12% except for short distances when topographic conditions make lesser grades impractical.
5. No street or road should have a centerline radius of curvature of less than 50 feet.

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[14] The County Supervisor's Assn., 1965 Report, pp. 15-24.

Safe Ingress and Egress, Continued

6. The responsible fire agency may remove and clear within 200 feet on each side of every roadway all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth and may enter upon private property to do so. This should not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground cover such as green grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants used as ground covers, provided such plants do not form a means of readily transmitting fire. As used in this section "roadway" means that portion of a highway or private street improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Fire Protection Water Facilities

Water is the most important single factor in fighting structural fires and is vital in suppressing watershed fires. Therefore, to assure adequate and reliable water supplies for community fire protection in hazardous areas, the following minimum requirements are recommended--

1. The minimum size of water distribution mains on which fire hydrants are located should be a minimum 6 inches in a system designed to permit circulating water flow as may be practical. Hydrant spacing should not exceed 660 feet with minimum fire flow of 500 g.p.m. required for population densities of two or less single family residences per acre; for population densities of more than two dwellings per acre, hydrant spacing should not exceed 330 feet with a minimum fire flow of 750 g.p.m., and more where structural conditions require. Water source facilities should have the capacity to support the required fire flow for a minimum duration of two hours in addition to the maximum daily flow requirements for other consumptive uses.

   Water storage may be required to assure the required minimum duration fire flow of two hours with the single most serious interruption to power lines, water mains, and to pump units. The local fire authority should adjust the water quantities and duration set forth on the basis of local conditions, exposure, congestion and construction of buildings.

2. The size, type and location of fire hydrants should meet the approval of the responsible fire authority and of applicable state and county regulations, with a minimum size of waterway not smaller than the size of the street main up to a nominal 6-inch size. A gate valve should be placed on the connection between main and hydrants.

Fire Protection Water Facilities, Continued

3. Those separately developed dwellings with an individual private water supply should provide an acceptable guaranteed minimum supply of water, above the amount required for domestic needs, that will be adequate in the judgment of the fire quthority for fire protection for the structures.

Clearance Between Brush or Vegetative Growth and Structures

Brush exposure is a primary hazard to structures. Brush ignites readily, burns with intense heat, and fire in it moves rapidly. To reduce structural exposure to flames and radiant heat, and to give firemen a reasonable chance of saving structures, and to prevent structural fires from becoming forest fires, minimum clearance requirements are necessary. In 1963, the State of California enacted the below quoted Public Resources Code clearance law. This is a minimum statewide clearance law. The enactment of local ordinances is recommended where more restrictive fire safety clearance measures may more closely fit local conditions. The recommended clearance requirements may be included in local ordinances as more restrictive measures.

1. State Forest and Fire Law Clearance Requirements. Public Resources Code 4291: Any person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains any building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area or forest-, brush-, or grass-covered lands or land covered with flammable material shall at all times do all of the following:

   (a). Maintain around and adjacent to such building or structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This subdivision does not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants which are used as ground cover, provided that they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any building or structure.

   (b). Maintain around and adjacent to any such building or structure additional fire protection or firebreak made by removing all brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth which is located from 30 feet to 100 feet from such building or structure or to the property line, whichever is nearer, as may be required by the State Forester when he finds that because of extra hazardous conditions a firebreak of only 30 feet around such building or structure is not sufficient to provide reasonable fire

Clearance Between Brush or Vegetative Growth and Structures, Continued

safety. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from such building or structure and less than 18 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.

(c). Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.

(d). Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood.

(e). Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

(f). Every chimney or stovepipe that is attached to any fireplace, stove, or other device that burns any solid or liquid fuel shall be provided and maintained at all times with a screen over the outlet. Such screen shall be constructed of nonflammable material with openings of not more than one-half inch in size.

2. Recommended Clearance Requirements:

(a). Lot size and placement of buildings thereon should be such that adequate clearance of hazardous flammable vegetative cover may be performed within the limits of the owner's lot.

(b). The above requirements to maintain an effective firebreak around structures in the hazardous fire area shall apply to both persons owning or controlling such structures and to persons owning or controlling any land adjacent to such structures.

(c). Should these owners fail to effect the required firebreak clearance following proper notice, the governing authority may cause the clearing to be done and make the expense of such clearing a lien against the property upon which the work was accomplished.

Building Spacing

Slope has an important bearing on fire behavior through its effect on wind conditions and heat radiation. Consequently, and irrespective of brush clearance requirements, more space between structures is required in mountainous areas than is the case on valley floors and coastal plains.

Building Spacing, Continued

1. Buildings should be spaced at least 30 feet apart (minimum 15-foot setback) to minimize the exposure risk from an adjacent structural fire and the conflagration potential of the spread of fire from structure to structure. This spacing may be altered to a minimum of 5 feet from the building to the property line where buildings have features compensating for exposure to radiated heat and the induction of sparks such as fire-resistive materials, smooth exterior wall surfaces and overhangs.

   Local fire authority shall be guided by but may adjust spacing requirements as set forth above on the basis of local conditions of slope, exposure and the construction of buildings.

2. Building densities, as determined by minimum buildable lot area and spacing between structures, would be approximately four dwellings per acre for slopes up to 15 percent and two dwellings per acre for slopes from 15 to 30 percent. For slopes steeper than 30 percent, densities would be limited to one unit for every three to five acres, or structural development prohibited.

Building Construction and Occupancy

Construction should be to the standards prescribed by comprehensive Buildings Codes and Fire Prevention Codes which give special consideration as needed to mountain hazard areas. Important considerations are:

1. Roofs and exteriors of buildings should be of fire-resistant materials.

2. Screening of roof, attic and underfloor openings should be required.

3. Suitable fire-resistant construction should be required for all building projections (canopies and eaves) and balconies, decks and unenclosed underfloor areas of stilt-type or cantilevered homes.

4. Consideration should be given to the problems of large window surfaces facing exposure hazards.

Mutual understanding of the fire and construction problems in the hazardous mountain areas can lead to a strenghtening of standards and to a degree of standardization which would be advantageous to both the construction industry and to the regulatory agencies.

Community Firebreaks

Firebreaks separating communities or clusters of structures from the native vegetation are recommended. Such firebreaks would be more properly termed "fuel-breaks" or "greenbelts" because all vegetation need not be removed, but thinned out or landscaped so as to reduce the volume of fuel.

1. All easements for firebreaks for fire safety of built-up-areas should encompass access for firefighting personnel and equipment, which may mean motorized travel in some cases; such easements should be dedicated to this specific purpose by being recorded.

2. Community firebreaks should be coordinated with over-all-fire-break/fuelbreak plans of the mountain area.

Division of Land

In order to secure the same standards of fire safety in areas developed outside of regular subdivisions as obtained within regular subdivisions, any division of land into two or more parcels for the purpose of lease, sale, conveyance, or transfer, whether immediate or future, and which is not defined as a subdivision, should be subject to review and prior approval by the appropriate county authority.

Street Names and Numbers

To facilitate fire location and to avoid delays in response, all roads, streets, and buildings should be designated by name or number clearly visible from the main traveled roadway.

Refuse Disposal

All areas planned for intensive development should include a suitable plan for the disposal of flammable refuse. Refuse disposal shall be in accord with county or local plans or ordinances, and shall not be less than State requirements (See Public Resources Code 4371-75, Health and Safety Code 4476). Where practical, disposal should be by methods other than open burning.

General

It is imperative that fire safety standards be included within subdivision and zoning ordinances with the same emphasis that is now given to the threatof flood hazard and that all requests to build within the hazardous fire area be routed by local planning commissions to the responsible fire authority for applicable fire regulations and for recommendations and approval.

Authority for local fire safety ordinances is found in Public Resources Code 4117.

General, Continued

> "Counties, cities and counties, cities, and districts may adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations to provide fire prevention restrictions or regulations that are necessary to meet local conditions of weather, vegetation or other fire hazards. Such ordinances, rules, or regulations may be more restrictive than State statutes in order to meet local fire hazard conditions."

It must be recognized that, because of the complex fire protection problem and because of high watershed values, there are some areas that cannot be safely developed at the present level of knowledge and should not be approved for development.

Landowners of existing developments in fire hazardous areas should strive to meet as many of the recommended fire safety requirements as they can and in the best manner possible notwithstanding, of course, the need to first comply with all requirements of state, county, city and district laws and ordinances.

Other Recommendations of the County Supervisor's Association

There are many aspects of over-all fire protection in the mountain areas not covered in the recommended minimum fire safety requirements for subdivided lands, but which have a direct bearing on the protection of these developed areas. Local planning authorities should be aware of and give specific consideration to the following:

Public Works and Developments

1. Roads and Highways. Road networks should provide for alternate escape routes in the event evacuation becomes necessary. Roadways, as such, should not constitute a hazard--vegetation should be removed for a distance of not less than 10 feet on each side of the traveled section. As may be needed, and for additional distances on each side of roads and highways, the native vegetation should be thinned to reduce fuel hazard. Such "landscaping" with native vegetation to reduce hazard along rights of way should be a part of all public road programs.

2. Recreational areas, campgrounds, picnic areas and other recreational developments concentrate people during dangerous fire weather and increase risk by additional use. All recreational developments should have planned access and escape routes, hazard reduction and extra water for fire emergency use. Hazard reduction should include establishment of greenbelts around recreational developments. Reservoirs and other water sources which are open to the public are especially attractive to recreationists. Planning should take into account increased fire prevention and protection measures, and the

Public Works and Development, Continued

handling of large numbers of people during emergencies. The facilities of such water developments, which should be accessible by road to mobile pumpers, should be utilized fully for fire protection.

3. Public utilities such as electric transmission lines, and other installations such as missile or communication facilities should be maintained sufficiently free of vegetation in the mountain hazardous areas so as not to constitute a risk.

Land Treatment of Wildland Areas

The possibility of wildland conflagrations beyond the control of regular firefighting forces requires that regular fire organizations be supported by land treatment measures or fire defense systems designed to reduce hazard and facilitate fire control. These systems consist of fire access roads, firebreaks and fuelbreaks, water storage cisterns, heliports, safety areas and fire reporting sources.

Wildland fire protection agencies should be encouraged to develop such land treatment systems and to tie in these systems with community firebreaks and facilities for the mutual fire protection benefit of the community and the wildland resources.

Fire Agencies Needs

Because of ever-increasing use and development, fire problems in the mountainous hazard areas are increasing and changing. Fire problems in these developing areas should be periodically evaluated and fire agency needs reviewed. Needs to be considered as areas are developed are: basic manpower and equipment, fire station and response coverage, fire prevention programs, fire detection and dispatching systems, and inmate camp and work programs. Basic standards as used by the American Insurance Association could be used by any agency and added to if needed for their own use.

Coordination

Coordination among all organized fire agencies is necessary for effective fire prevention and suppression in the mountain hazardous areas. Public safety has benefited by agency cooperation in the following fields:

1. Fire Prevention through co-op programs, mass education media, inspection of hazards.

2. Pre-Suppression by means of mutual aid agreements, equipment and labor policies, qualification requirements of regular personnel.

3. Emergency Action through evacuation plans, handling of traffic.

Coordination, Continued

4. Law Enforcement through uniform application of laws, coordination in fire code standards, new legislation, zoning and closures.

Many departments and agencies of all levels of government are engaged in various programs involving short- or long-term planning affecting land use of the mountains. Because these plans and projects require consideration of basic fire protection needs or affect existing fire protection systems, it is imperative that local planning departments and fire agencies maintain close liaison with these departments and agencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Panoramic Hill Area of Berkeley and Oakland is a gracious, rustic neighborhood, perched on steep hillsides adjacent to wildland areas. Natural conditions and the effort of man have created an intimate neighborhood of narrow twisting streets, thick vegetation and charming wood homes. However, man's actions in creating the neighborhood have also created potential harm to the environment and exposed man to potential harm from the environment.

Fire and the geologic hazards of earthquakes, landslides, flooding and soil erosion, endanger the safety of man and the well-being of his possessions. Man, himself, poses a threat to the natural environment in the form of building construction, water pollution from sanitary facilities, noise and air pollution.

Possibly of more importance in an urban area, is the total environment rather than the man-made environment and the natural environment. In this regard, the character of the neighborhood is presently vulnerable to threats from increased population, congestion, disruption of utilities and traffic congestion. In addition, future public actions, such as fire roads, street construction and fuel management programs could pose a threat to the existing environment. They may also be agents to protect the environment from other threats.

The environmental assessment report therefore, seeks to determine 1) the characteristics of the natural environment, 2) the characteristics of the man-made environment, and 3) threats to the total environment. Methods of protecting the environment from these threats, presented in the main body of the report, are based on this analysis.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Geology and Geomorphology [15]

The surface geology of the Panoramic Hill area can be categorized into four units. These are: 1) Quaternary deposits, 2) Upper Cretaceous sandstones, shales, 3) Leona Rhyolite, and 4) a small outcropping of serpentine.

Along Strawberry Creek, and at the base of Panoramic Hill, is alluvium deposited in Quanternary time (in the last two to three million years). This quite young material consists primarily of gravel, sand, clay, and recent alluvium. This material is similar to that found throughout the flatter portion of Berkeley. It was deposited through the action of streams draining the Berkeley Hill This type of deposit is characterized by soil being as much as 3 feet thick. In places where the soil is clayey, shrinks and swells may cause damage to buildings. Because it is not well consolidated, it can easily be moved with hand or power tools. Slope stability and foundation conditions are generally good.

Most of the Hill is composed of sandstones, shales and conglomerates deposited in Upper Cretaceous time, about 100 million years ago. This geologic unit consists of fine to course grained sandstone and shale. The rock in its natural state would be light gray, but almost all of the rock has been weathered if at the surface and when weathered has a yellowish brown color. Generally the beds are made up of alternating bands of sandstone and shale. The rock has been subjected to many forces of the earth and consequently is sheared, fractured and contorted. This unit forms the moderately steep sided ridges and canyon of Panoramic Hill. The rock has been weathered to depths of 60 feet or more. Some of the weathered rock is firm but most is soft and crumbly. The rock can be moved with power equipment. Slope stability and foundation conditions may vary from good to poor. It is subject however, to minor sloughing and major sliding.

The Dwight Place portion of the Hill is composed of Leona Rhyolite. Rhyolite is a rock formed from magma that has pushed up to the surface. Indian Rock and similar large rock outcroppings in the Berkeley Hills are composed of Leona Rhyolite. Leona Rhyolite when weathered at the surface is white or dark-yellowish-orange and may be iron-stained reddish-orange. Leona Rhyolite characteristically forms steep knobby, dissected hills such as the hill of Dwight Place. The rock, when highly weathered, consists of loose fragments in a clay matrix. Soil is generally lacking or less than 18 inches thick. The rock can generally be moved with power equipment. Slope stability and foundation conditions are good. However, runoff from rhyolite hills is very acid and corrodes concrete sewer pipe.

At the end of Dwight Place is an outcropping of Serpentine. Serpentine is generally greenish, and is generally soft and intensely sheared. Unlike Leona Rhyolite with which it is often found, Serpentine slope stability and

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[15] Information for this section is based primarily on material contained in: Areal and Engineering Geology of the Oakland East Quadrangle. Dorothy Radbrush, USGS, 1969.

foundation conditions range from fair to poor. Intensely sheared Serpentine may slide in slopes as low as 2:1.

The lower portion of the Hill is transected by the Hayward Fault. Severe earthquakes were caused by movement along this fault in 1836 and 1868. The fault is still considered active. (See geologic hazards section) Fractured rock along this fault may form passages for ground water, and cuts made across the fault may require draining.

Panoramic Hill consists of two ridges separated by a canyon. The shape of the hills was formed by the action of the middle fork of Derby Creek, the Strawberry Creek and the South Fork of the Derby Creek. The two ridges are bounded on the north and south sides by these creeks. In addition to the eroding of the land by the creeks, the ridges were formed by landsliding, soil creep, and mudsliding. These processes affect the less stable land leaving the more resistant ridges. These processes are still continuing.

Landsliding [16]

Landsliding is a natural process of relatively rapid downslope movement of soil, rock, and rock debris as a mass. The rate of downslope movement of landslide material ranges from tens of miles per hour in the case of mudflows to about one inch per year or less in less fluid materials. The rate of landsliding is affected by the following: the degree of water sauturation, the strength of the rocks, the slope angle, the mass and thickness of the deposit, and the type and extent of vegetative cover.

The two Panoramic Hill ridges are separated by Derby Creek. In general, the ridges themselves are fairly stable. However, the closer one gets to the creek the less stable become the slopes, and numerous mudslides have occurred. One major slide area is at the top of the creek just as Panoramic Way gets to the top level. Each year the Oakland public works department has to clear the road of much landslide debris. (See attached map)

Most of Panoramic Hill consists of fine to course grained sandstone and shale. Much is sheared, fractured and contorted. The rock is weathered to a depth of 60 feet or more and although much of the rock is firm, most is soft and crumbly. In the ravine area around Derby creek, there is soil and colluvium (soil mixed with rock) to depths of as much as 25 feet. Landsliding can and has occurred in the rock areas and mudsliding has been frequent in the soil, and colluvium areas of the hill adjacent to the creek or on hillsides sloping down to the creek.

In short, landsliding is not as severe a problem for Panoramic Hill as is the case in many areas such as in the Mormon temple area of Oakland. However, there is much evidence of landsliding and in particular there have been cases of severe mudslide problems. No homes, as yet, are known to have been lost to landslides in the area.

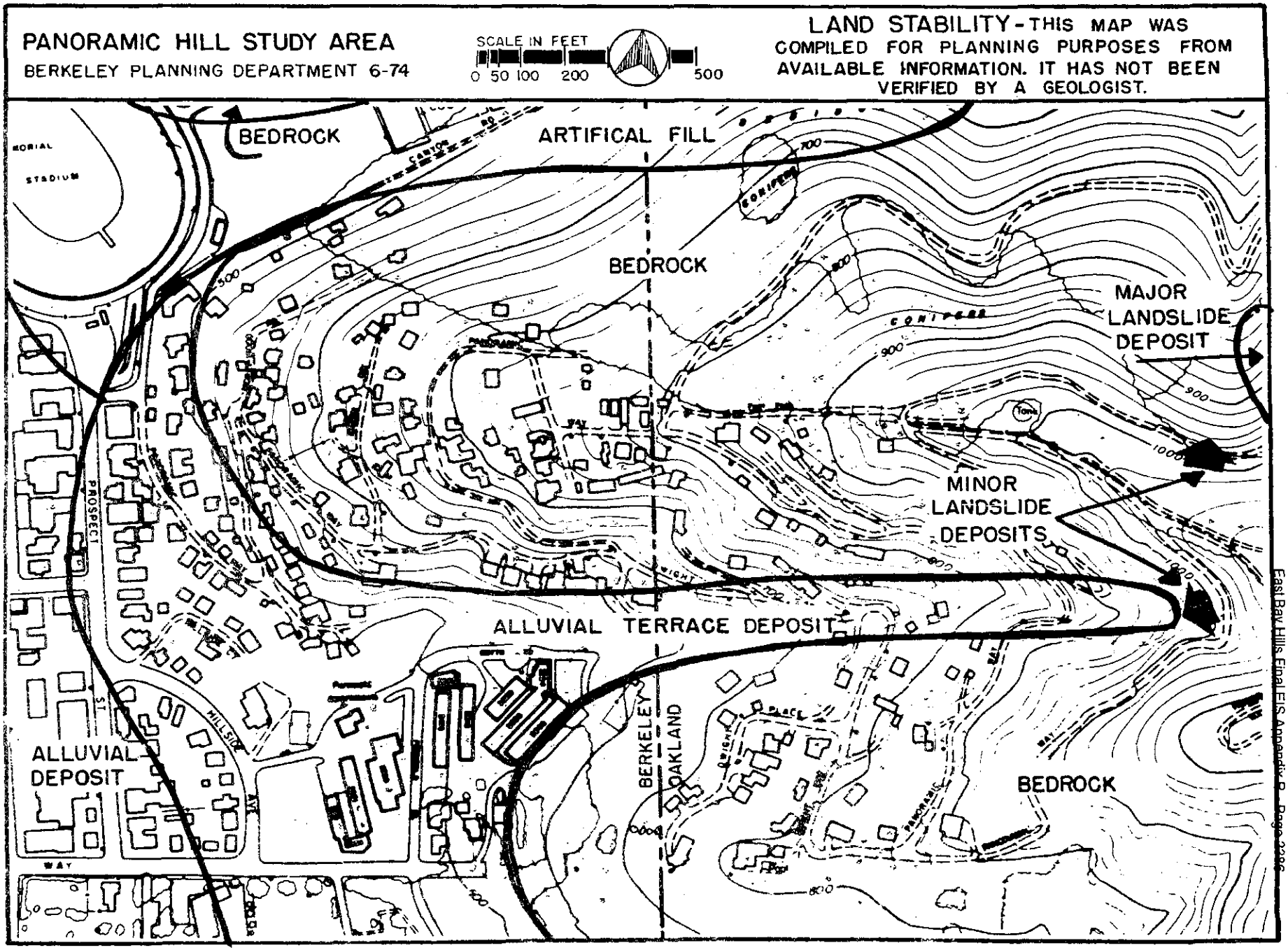
The slope stability discussed above does not apply to the Dwight Place section of the Hill. In this area, the bedrock is Leona Rhyolite, a volcanic rock known for its good stability. It generally is located in areas such as Dwight Way with very steep hillsides but quite stable land.

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[16] Information for this section is based on on-site inspection, supplemented by material note in #1 above.

PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
TOPOGRAPHY
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 500
1100' TO 1300'
900' TO 1100'
700' TO 900'
500' TO 700'
500' OR LESS
BERKELEY
OAKLAND
PROSPECT
MILLSIDE
AVE
ST
WAY
MEMORIAL STADIUM
INTERNATIONAL FIELD

PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 500
STEEP (APPROX. 30% OR MORE)
MODERATE (15% TO 30% ±)
LOW (5% TO 15% ±)
SLOPE
INTRAMURAL FIELD
MEMORIAL STADIUM


PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 500
LAND STABILITY - THIS MAP WAS COMPILED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES FROM AVAILABLE INFORMATION. IT HAS NOT BEEN VERIFIED BY A GEOLOGIST.
BEDROCK
ARTIFICAL FILL
BEDROCK
MAJOR LANDSLIDE DEPOSIT
MINOR LANDSLIDE DEPOSITS
ALLUVIAL TERRACE DEPOSIT
ALLUVIAL DEPOSIT
BEDROCK
BERKELEY
OAKLAND
PROSPECT ST
HILLSIDE AV
WAY
PLACE
CANYON
CONIFERS
PANORAMIC
700
800
900
1000

Surface Waterways

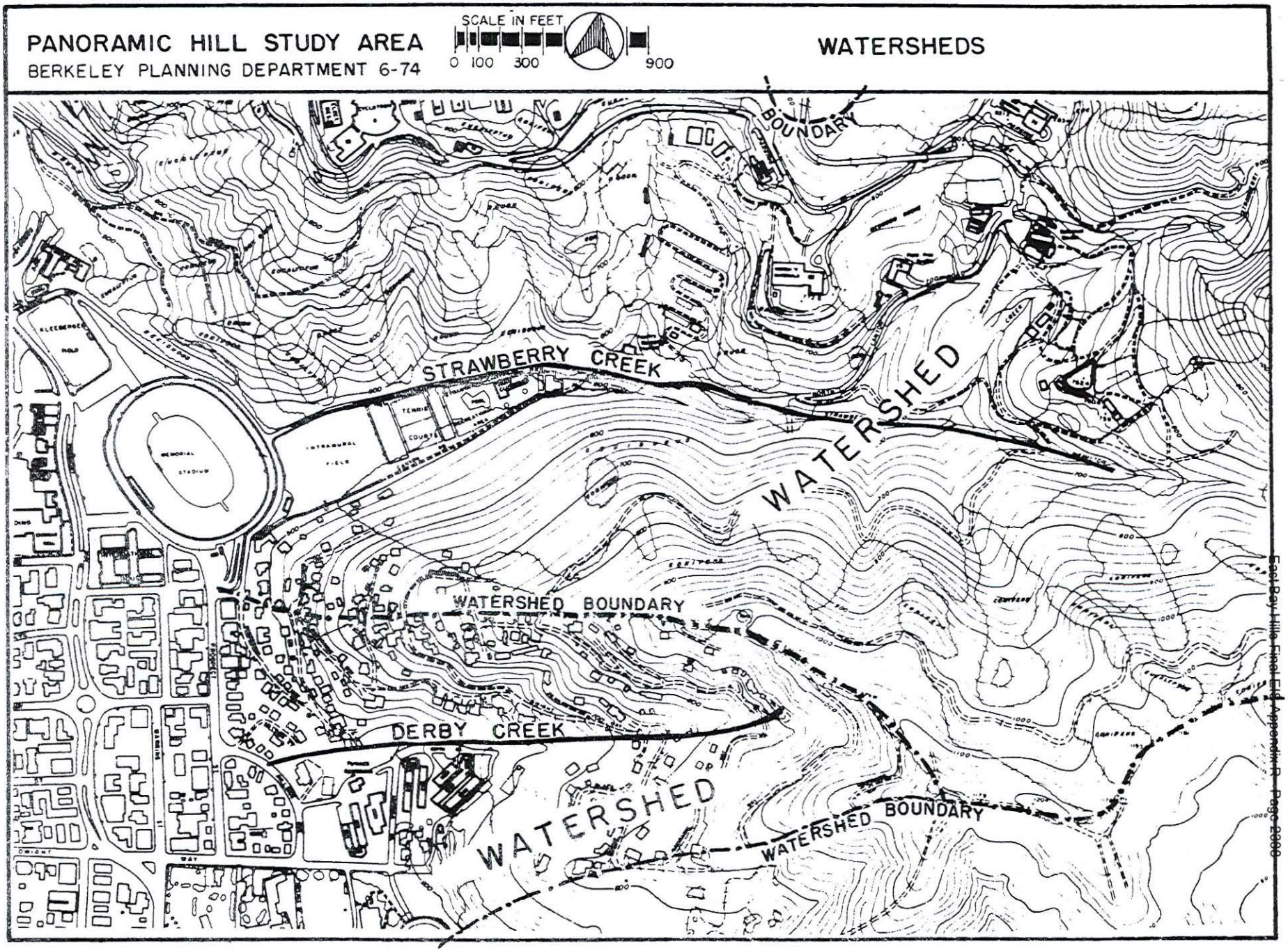
The middle fork of Derby Creek flows through the Panoramic Hill area. It has cut a deep ravine and is bordered by dense riparian vegetation. The creek performs a wide variety of functions besides its important role of draining most of the Panoramic Hill area. It supports wildlife, provides habitat for native vegetation and promotes percolation of water into the ground.

Development in the Derby Creek watershed (See attached map) has major effects upon it. Development increases the volume of water in the stream, resulting in bank erosion and loss of vegetation. It promotes siltation of the stream downstream. In this case the stream becomes an underground pipe at Prospect Street. The result of development is thus increased siltation of this underground sewer which results in increased maintenance and can contribute flooding in the West Berkeley area, prior to the underground "creek" entering the bay. Damage to creeks is especially pronounced in areas such as Panoramic Hill where homes are built on steep slopes among native woodland.

A visual inspection of the creek indicates extensive erosion. In one case a property owner has completely filled the creek and replaced it with a pipe. Erosion is very pronounced on the University property downstream from this pipe and a large tree has been lost, whether directly from this latest destruction of the creek or to general development problems is unknown.

The creek and the canyon adjacent to it are underlain by alluvium deposited over the years by the creek. The banks and the steep canyons for a distance of several hundred feet from the creek are especially susceptible to landsliding. Several examples of such sliding are apparent.

General accepted practice is to require one acre or larger lots for septic tanks because septic tanks do not actually do much except strain the sewage before letting it continue on its way. This is especially true in hillside areas such as Panoramic Way, which have steep slopes and impermeable soils. Oakland requires only 10,000 square feet for septic tanks and experience has shown that this does not usually do the job. Furthermore, many of the septic tanks serving homes on Panoramic Hill are on less than 10,000 square feet. We can therefore, assume pollution of groundwaters and of Derby Creek from this practice.



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Flooding and Soil Erosion

Flooding on Panoramic Hill is caused by man's alteration of the natural drainage of the Hill. Most of the Hill is within the watershed of the middle fork of Derby Creek. Several roads cross the creek and damage it through filling and insertion of a pipe. When the pipe becomes clogged with debris, water by-passes the pipe, flows down the road instead of the creek and floods homes on the lower part of the Hill.

Erosion is very serious on Panoramic Hill. There is so much soil moved by water during the winter that it is difficult to distinguish mudsliding from massive soil erosion. In either event, the effect is very destrutive in terms of eventual public and private costs and damage to the environment. Soil erosion is a natural process that helps to shape the form of the earth. However, in the Panoramic Hill area, man has greatly accelerated this process through creating unprotected slopes on construction sites, by causing increased runoff from increased urbanization, through spraying weeds and creating bare slopes, and through the direct dumping of dirt into Derby Creek.

Erosion has caused five kinds of damage in the Panoramic Hill area:

a. Damage to potential construction sites, making them difficult or impossible to develop.

b. Promoting mudslides that have inundated homes in the past

c. Silting up of Derby Creek, reducing its capacity and possibly promoting flooding in the underground portion of the creek near the Bay.

d. Impairing the quality of the water in Derby Creek.

e. Severely eroding the banks of Derby Creek.

A wide variety of measures are available to control erosion caused by future development of Panoramic Hill. On construction sites these include: limiting development on slopes over 40%; following recommended construction practices and careful inspection of these practices; using mechanical and vegetative measures. As slope increases and especially on slopes over 30%, such factors as erosion, runoff and septic tank limitations increase geometrically.

Wildlife and Vegetation

The vegetation of Panoramic Hill and the adjacent University of California wooded lands to the north and east is almost completely non-natural. The University forested lands in the watershed of Strawberry Creek were all planted, primarily with different large stands of conifers. Similarly, most of the large trees that are characteristic of Panoramic H ll were planted by the residents over the last 50 years.

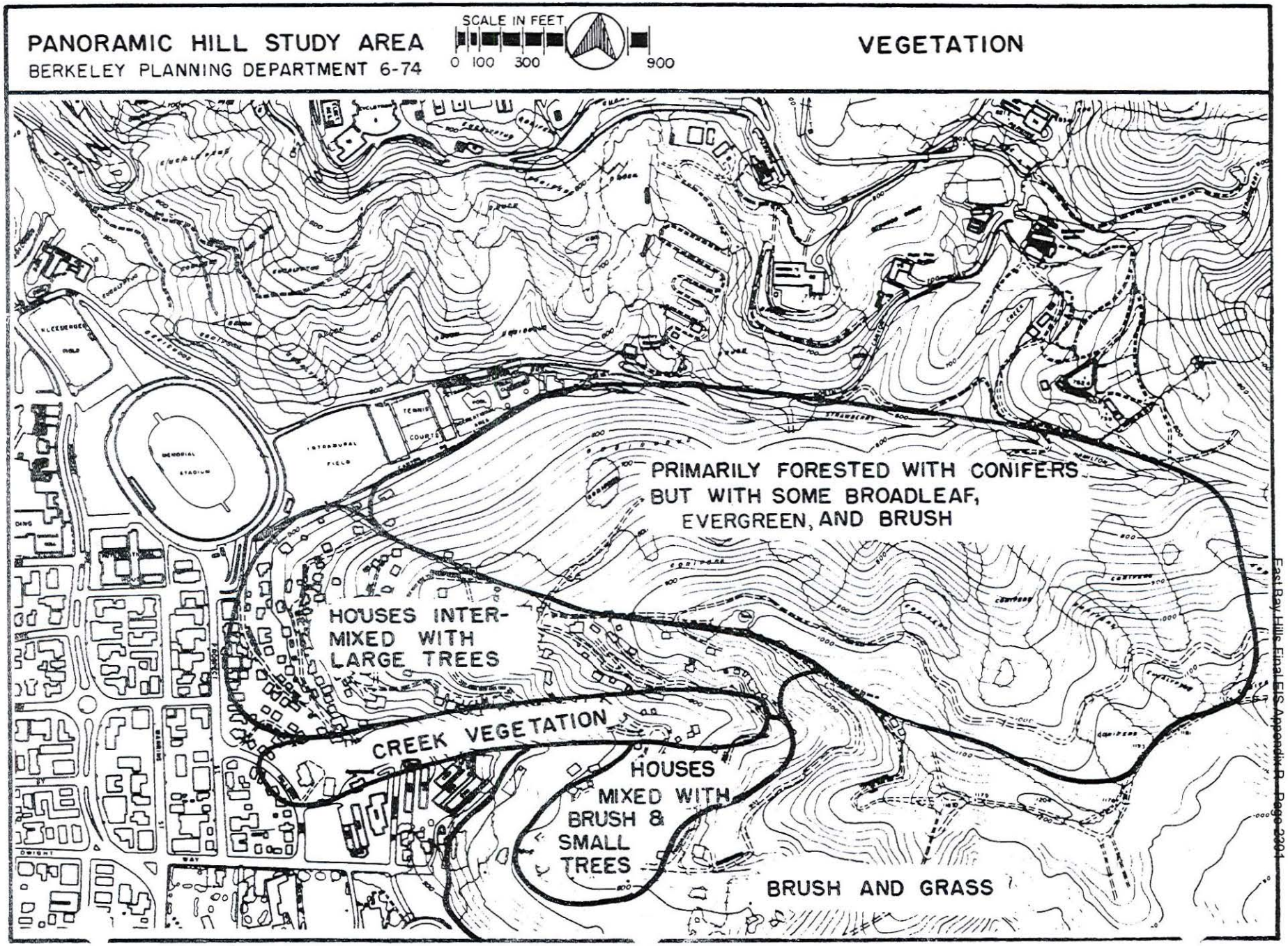
Prior to its development, Panoramic Hill and the adjacent area, had three vegetative types: 1) grassy hillsides, 2) "chapparal" type brush, such as coyote brush, and 3) Riparian woodland along the creeks, (i.e. Oaks, Bay trees and the like with ferns along the ground). The Blind School lands to the south of Panoramic Hill are probably typical of what the hill once looked like.

Vegetation in the Panoramic Hill area presents definite fire hazard problems. This is not because it is bad, but because man has chosen to ignore the consequences of introducing urban uses into wildland area. Vegetation is also primarily what makes the Panoramic Hill such an attractive, quiet and rustic place. The Panoramic Hill vegetation provides the following functions:

a. protects the soil from erosion and landslides;
b. reduces wind velocities and moderates climate;
c. provides food and shelter for wildlife;
d. provides visual relief from the housing development;
e. adds oxygen to the atmosphere.

There are four plant communities in the Panoramic Hill area now. (See attached map). These are: a) mixed evergreen forest; b) grasslands; c) brushlands; and d) riparian woodland. Along the northern portion of the Panoramic Hill area, in the watershed of Strawberry Creek, is a primarily planted conifer forest consisting of monterey pines, monterey cypress, knob cone pine, redwood, and deodora cedar. Intermixed in some areas are bay, poison oak, and other plants largely forming the understory of the forest. Grasslands exist primarily on the Blind School property to the south of the urbanized portion of the Hill. On the top of the ridges, both within the urbanized area and immediately adjacent to it, are brush covered slopes. Inlcuded within this brush are plants often termed "soft" chapparal and include such plants as Coyote Brush and elderberry.

Along Derby Creek, which transects the hill area, is a Riparian woodland typical of the streams that drain the Berkeley Hills. Within the creek are numerous oaks. The State Department of Fish and Game, consider riparian woodlands as comparable to salt marshes in importance as wildlife habitat. They support a wide diversity of wildlife habitats and the large number of wildlife species. Unfortunately, the middle fork of Derby Creek has been largeley destroyed by the inadvertant or deliberate efforts of man.



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Wildlife and Vegetation, Continued

When native vegetation is removed by man to build homes or as fire retardent measures, some wildlife habitat is lost, and thus fewer animals can be supported. Removing vegetation, if not carefully done, may increase soil erosion and slope stability, particularly in the wooded portions of the Hill.

In the Panoramic Hill Area, the kind of plantcommunity determines in large degree the danger of wildfire in the area. The evergreen forests of the University of California present the greatest hazard because of the quantity of fuel and the possibility of crown fires that may get out of control. The surrounding grass and brush areas are highly flammable but more easily controlled once on fire. Fire hazards can be reduced by a variety of methods, including landscaping techniques and brush clearance. (See Fire Vulnerability Study)

Because most of the vegetation on Panoramic Hill and adjacent areas is not native, we should expect relatively little important wildlife. Since wildlife habitat is the key to preservation of species, endangered species that may have existed have undoubtedly long since been driven out of most of the Hill by total alteration of their habitat. Presently the main wildlife is deer and raccoons.

The riparian vegetation along the creek has not been altered as much as the other areas of the Hill and some native wildlife may be present. However, extensive destruction of the creek through erosion, siltation, and diversion of its waters, as well as pollution from sewers and septic tanks, probably has undoubtedly driven out any sensitive wildlife species already.

Scenic Resources

Scenic resources of Panoramic Hill are abundant and extremely valuable. They enhance the health and well-being of the residents, improve the economic value of surrounding property, create a sense of local identity for Panoramic Hill, orient observers within the area and provide visual open space for the public.

The following elements are important scenic resources of the Panoramic Hill Area: a) Ridgelines define the form of the hill and provide a scenic backdrop for the City of Berkeley. The ridgeline of Panoramic Hill can be easily seen as one looks up Bancroft Avenue in the Campus area; b) Features add variety and character to the Panoramic Hill area. By features we include the shape of the hills, the canyon created by the creek, the different vegetation groups and the homes that have been built, especially the more notable architectural features; c) Vista points and views from individual homes provide panoramic views of major Bay Area features.

Panoramic Way not only provides views of the Bay, the San Francisco and Marin Peninsulas, but also immediate views of the University of California Campus, Blind School and the Hill itself. However, as important as the views of the residents and visitors to the Hill, are the views of the Hill from the flatter portions of the City. Because the homes at present are relatively low density and because of abundant vegetation, and because no homes have been built on the ridgeline itself, Panoramic Hill is itself a beautiful view for the rest of the City to gaze upon.

SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Fire and Seismic Problems[17]

The major environmental problem facing Panoramic Hill is fire. The Fire Vulnerability Study discusses fire adequately and no more needs to be said here. The other major life hazard is the potential for major destruction caused by an earthquake.

The Panoramic Hill area is transected by the Hayward Fault. The Hayward Fault is a large and active branch of the San Andreas Fault system. It has been a center for many earthquakes in the Bay Area including one of the largest to ever hit Northern California. The fault parallels the Warren Freeway in Oakland. North of Oakland, the Berkeley Hills form a very even front created by action over millions of years by the fault. The fault passes just under the western rim of the University of California stadium.

One of the greatest earthquakes in California History was centered on this fault. In 1868 a quake nearly as large as the San Francisco quake occurred near the town of Hayward. The Hayward Fault passes through the study area approximately at the first bend in Panoramic Way. (See attached map.)

One of the primary concerns for public safety along active faults is the possibility of sudden ground rupture during an earthquake. In the event of an earthquake of high magnitude along the Hayward Fault, displacements of several feet are possible. Most of this displacement would probably be in a horizontal direction though some verticle movement might also occur. The ruptures may not be confined to any single line but could be manifested in a zone as much as several hundred feet wide along the surface traces as mapped.

The state has officially designated a fault zone within which surface rupturing will probably take place in the future. This zone has been designated the Alquist-Priolo Geologic Hazards Zone. To determine this special zone, the State Geologist mapped as accurately as possible the location of known faults. He then added an area of 1/8 of a mile from the fault on each side. In areas such as Panoramic Hill where there are two parallel fault traces mapped, the zone is 1/8 of a mile on each side of each fault. The result is a very wide fault zone. Within this zone, all new structures must be preceded by a geologic investigation to determine whether or not their site is underlain by the fault. These investigations are required even if the state does not show a fault going through the site on the map. This is because the accuracy of locating the fault is not that good. If it is determined that the fault does underlie the site, no building is allowed within fifty feet of the fault. In the Panoramic Hill area with its already divided small lots, this law may have a significant effect on new construction in this area. However, at this time all of the details of this new law have not been worked out and the actual effect is difficult to ascertain at this time.

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[17] Information for this section is based largely on material contained in Dean Armstrong's, Tri-Cities Seismic Safety Study for the General Plan, San Pablo, CA 1972.

PANORAMIC HILL STUDY AREA
BERKELEY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 6-74
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 500
FAULT ZONE
APPROXIMATE BOUNDARY OF STATE DESIGNATED FAULT ZONE
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF HAYWARD FAULT
1868 BREAK
BERKELEY
OAKLAND
CANYON
CONIFERS
PANORAMIC
PROSPECT
700
800
900
1000

Fire and Seismic Problems, Continued

In fault areas, extraordinary measures are needed to insure continuation of water supplies, electrical power, sewer lines and communication lines as well as to insure immediate discontinuation of gas to both sides of broken pipelines. In the Panoramic Hill area, the threat of a major fire caused by broken gas lines is severe. If such a fire were to start at the fault location at the bottom of the hill, in a dry summer season, the whole hill could be easily lostto a fire. The natural propensity of fire to burn up hill plus the natural prevailing westerly winds during most of the summer could be disastrous in case such a fault rupture caused fire.

Not all fault displacement is rapid or occurs during a major earthquake. Some movement may be imperceptibly slow and be accompanied by no more than micro-earthquakes. This type of movement is called "fault creep". Creep or slippage of about 1/2 centimeter per year has been recorded at the University of California Stadium where it is doing structural damage. Undoubtedly, structures on Panoramic Hill rest astride the fault. They probably have suffered some damage due to it and will suffer more in the future.

The Panoramic Hill area like all areas of Berkeley, will be subject to severe ground shaking during an earthquake. Damage from ground shaking is related, to a large extent, to the depth of soil above the bedrock. In areas such as the upper part of the hill from Mosswood up there is virtually no soil cover. This area should experience less damage from shaking than most areas of the City. However, in areas where there is shallow soil cover such as at the base of a hill like Panoramic Hill, small woodframe dwellings are especially vulnerable to ground shaking. We should therefore expect that the fault zone will in this location also be the area where there is the most damage from ground shaking. The hillsides will all suffer from land-sliding triggered by the ground shaking.

Street and Utility Conditions[18]

Panoramic Hill is served by a 1900's style street system. The streets are very narrow (12 to 18 feet) and extremely twisty with two almost unmaneuverable switchbacks. There is only one road into the hill. The streets have a very poor surface made up primarily of patched potholes. Curbs, gutters and drainage on the street were designed for old style cars. Major improvements to the street, however, are not now feasible because such improvements would require closing Panoramic Hill and in effect closing the Hill for long periods of time.

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[18]Information for this section is based largely on interviews held by Dean Armstrong during February-April 1974 with the following: William Dabel, Assistant Director of Public Works, City of Berkeley; Robert Hemphill, Sewer Superintendent, City of Berkeley; Mark Ng, Engineer, Oakland Public Works Department; Grey Mosher, Berkeley Superintendent of Parks (letter); and Owen Eide, Engineer, East Bay Municipal Utility District.

Street and Utility Conditions, Continued

The sewers on Panoramic Hill are ~~over~~ 50 years old in the Berkeley portion. They are in very bad condition. Problems include massive root intrusions at several locations, moderate root intrusion throughout the length of the sewer, numerous cracks and breaks, crushed pipes, displacement between pipes at the joints. Separation of pipes at the joints at several locations and settlement of pipes are problems. In several locations there are dips in the line.

Root intrusions, blockages and the like result in slowing down the flow of sewage resulting in pressure buildup and destruction of the sewer in the form of collapse, blockage and resultant backup and overflow. Broken and separated pipes promote the intrusion of ground water. This adds to the flow already in the sewer causing increased water pressure and promoting sewer failure. Broken and separated pipes also promote extrusion of sewage from the sewer which leads to pollution of surface and groundwaters. The sewers zig zag across the street. With the use of equipment, it is therefore impossible to replace a sewer on a street as narrow as Panoramic Way without blocking traffic.

In a hillside area such as Panoramic Way, the sewer replacement would proceed at the rate of about two hundred feet per day. The road would have to be blocked from eight to twelve days in order to replace the sewer between the bottom of the hill and the intersection with Dwight Way. From that intersection on, most of the hill area has two points of access leading to this point. This time does not include replacement of sewers on Mosswood and Arden which presumably could be separate jobs.

Because of the poor condition of the Panoramic sewer, the Berkeley Sewer Department has requested that the City of Oakland not extend any more main sewer lines in the Panoramic side of the Hill. If residents of the Oakland side of Panoramic Hill greatly wanted to extend the existing sewers, it could be done only if Berkeley improved the existing sewers or if a bypass sewer was constructed by the City of Oakland, Such a bypass sewer has been discussed as a possibility of extending from upper Dwight Way on Panoramic Hill down to lower Dwight Way behind the Fernwald University Housing. Such a sewer would extend into Berkeley and would require Berkeley approval.

Failure to replace the sewer simply means that there will be more sewers breakdowns in the future. Generally, sewer problems can be solved by quick repair jobs. However, major sewer breaks have in one case and may in others require the closing of the street for an extended period of time.

The City of Oakland allows the use of septic tanks on lots of 10,000 square feet or larger under certain circumstances. That City discourages their use, however, because of the almost universal proneness of failure of the tanks. This is because the soil in the Oakland-Berkeley area is impermeable and does not easily receive liquid waste for leaching. The result is that the tanks often fail and the sewage flows out on the ground a short distance from the house. No septic tank permits are issued unless a soils engineer provides a written report stating that his design will work. Even if such a report is received, the Oakland authorities warn the prospective residents that they can expect trouble with the septic tank system. The result is a general discouragement of the development in the non-sewered areas of the hill.

Street and Utility Conditions, Continued

The water lines in the lower system were built between 1911 and 1950. Despite their great age, there have been few water line breaks. In fact, there have been only two breaks in the last ten years. However, one of these breaks resulted in closing Panoramic Way for a number of hours. Considering the age of the water lines, we can expect such breaks to be more frequent in the future.

Because of the narrowness of Panoramic Way, performance of any kind of work such as vegetation removal, street patching, sewer maintenance, and utility repair causes closing of the street or the need to move truck and equipment frequently to let cars pass. The result is that such work is done to a lesser extent than would be ideal or than is done in other less difficult areas of the City.

Neighborhood Congestion

Panoramic Hill has two personalities. During week days, it is quiet, tranquil and quite empty of cars and people. However, in the evening and on weekends, it becomes noisy, and congested. The reason apparently is that this steep hillside neighborhood with narrow twisting roads has a very low capacity to absorb people, automobiles and their activities. When too many cows graze land (that is exceed its carrying capacity), they destroy it. Similarly, too many people and their automobiles may destroy Panoramic Hill.

The number one problem of this nature is the automobile. Parking is difficult on Panoramic Hill. Many dwelling units have inadequate off-street parking. Much of the area has parking limited to one side only. There are many apartments which do not provide adequate parking area. Some of the houses are rented to groups of adults, thus generating extra automobiles. Because of the parking shortage, there are many cases of automobiles parking in no parking zones, in front of driveways and the like. The result is unpleasant to residents and dangerously impairs traffic flow. Residents have complained often of inadequate Police emforcement. On Saturdays and Sundays, cars visiting the area roar up and down the narrow streets. The crowding of more people and automobiles onto Panoramic Hill results in increased social tension, noise, dog activities and unpleasantness. Older residents expressed the greatest concern about this unpleasant situation. (For more details see "Residents' perception of the neighborhood environment" in the Appendix.)

POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

New Development

The possibility of extensive new development (greater than 25% more total development in the next fifty years), is a significant threat to Panoramic Hill. This is a great danger for two reasons: 1) More development means exposing more people to fire hazards; and 2) more development will further congest an area whose development already exceeds its capacity. The problems have been adequately stated in other parts of this report.

The greatest fear other than continual addition of new houses or expansion of existing structures to add more people, is that a very large scale residential project at the top of the Hill may be built in the future. A "Hiller Highlands" type project would afford to pay for the construction of a new water tank. If such a tank were constructed, a huge already subdivided area of Oakland could then be developed. This area has not been attractive for development because of lack of water and poor access. (See attached map for potential development area.)

Given the situation in regard to scattered ownership and obsolete lotting and road layout patterns (in terms of desirability to a developer), it is almost inconceivable that a development of this magnitude would happen. The only way it would happen would be if a developer bought the land up at the top of the Hill and put in a planned unit development that required a new subdivision. This would require City of Oakland approval. If they approved it, it would undoubtedly require a new road to be constructed to serve the project -- such a road would require City of Berkeley approval which would be unlikely. However, if an access road were built ahead of time, then a project such as this might occur in the next forty years. In summary, as long as primary vehicular access remains very limited, development above the 900 foot contour is virtually impossible.

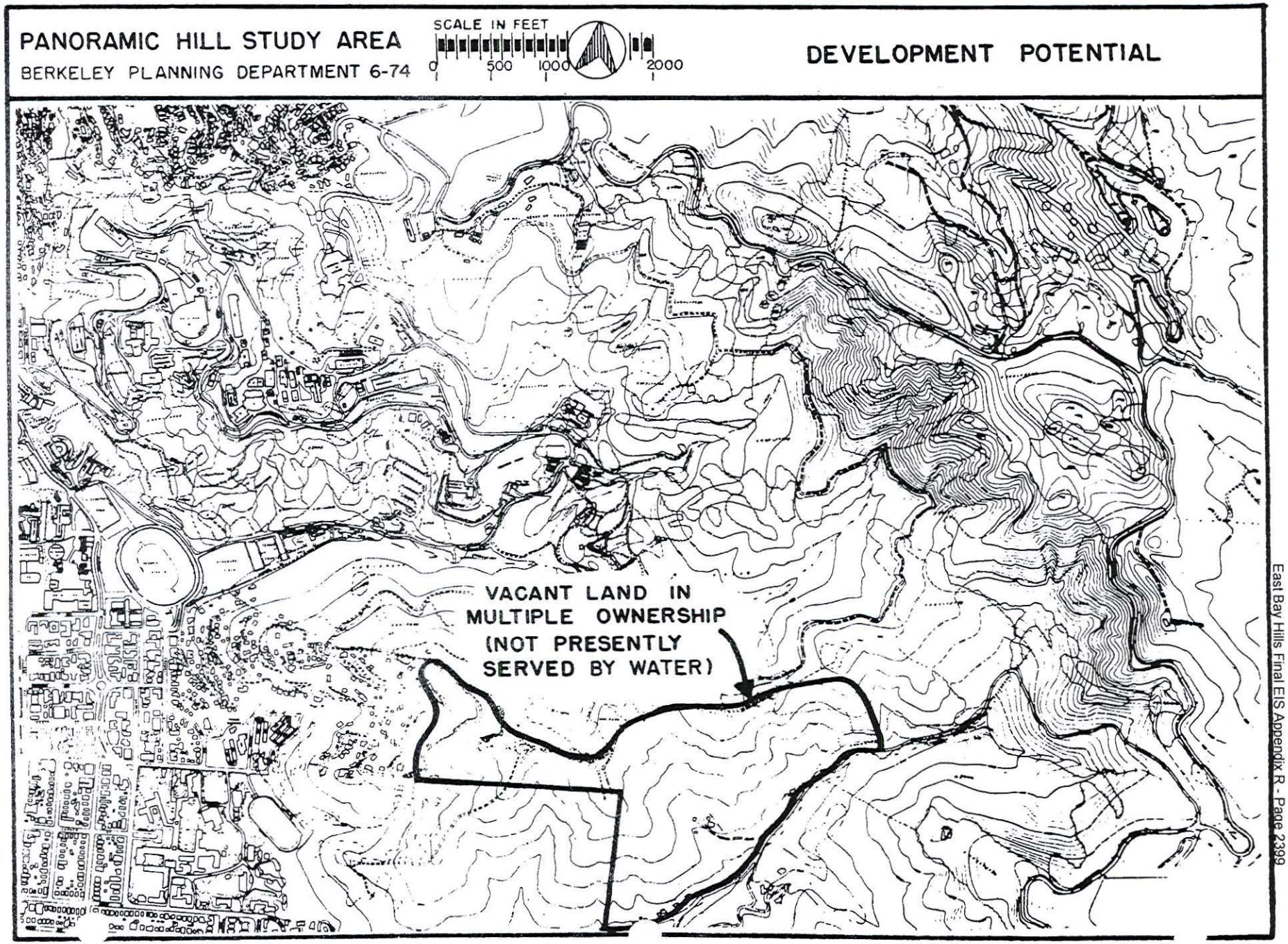
Second Access Road

Panoramic Hill has severe traffic congestion, a poor circulation pattern, inadequate access for emergency vehicles, and limitations on residents' abilities to escape from a fire.

In order to correct these problems, the Berkeley and Oakland Public Works Departments in the past have proposed constructing a second access road to Panoramic Hill. Projections of cost of the road have approached $500,000. Despite its obvious advantages for improving traffic circulation, the possibility of a road has been met with mixed reactions by neighborhood residents who would have to pay a large share of the cost. (See comments in "Residents' Perception of the Neighborhood Environment" in the Appendix).

Basically, most of the residents appear to like the extra fire safety that the road would bring, but are concerned about possible problems. The major concerns are the following:

1. A second access road would encourage what might be very extensive increased new development in Oakland portion of the hill.



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Second Access Road, Continued

2. It would reduce the seclusion of the neighborhood which is an asset much prized by the residents.

3. It would encourage Sunday sightseeing drivers and motorcycles to make a loop through Panoramic Way.

4. It might possibly increase burglar access to the neighborhood.

5. It would require a substantial expenditure of money.

6. It would require the establishment of an assessment district with the good possibility that residents would not approve such an assessment.

7. It would have to be constructed with minimum widths, curves, and grades. The result would be that it would be viewed by many residents as being a threat to their visual environment.

8. Construction of the road would not be possible without some and possibly considerable environmental damage.

9. Construction of such a road would introduce a completely new element into the neighborhood environment. As has been shown when a freeway is built to a formerly isolated area, the changes induced are hard to predict. Therefore, construction of the road has the potential for completely altering the existing environment. (Residents of the hill have stated repeatedly that they do not want dramatic changes to the character of the neighborhood.)

In light of these concerns, extra access and egress for emergencies might more suitably be provided by additional fire roads.

There are two logical locations for additional fire roads to serve Panoramic Hill. One road might well be built connecting the Hill with Tanglewood Road. Such a fire road should not require four-wheel drive vehicles for access and would allow quick response by the Oakland Fire Department. The second logical fire road would link lower Dwight Way and upper Dwight Way behind the UC Fernwald Housing. This road would allow quick escape for the Hill residents in major fire and quick access to the Hill by the Berkeley Fire Department for small fires. If both roads were built, and the existing fire trails were improved, fire protection for Panoramic Hill would be significantly improved.

Appendices



RESIDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENT

In the early stages of the study, a qustionnaire was sent to every household on Panoramic Hill. The questionnaire (See attachment) was designed to develop a list of problems and a list of assets associated with living on Panoramic Hill. The study staff desired to design programs that would lessen the problems without adversely affecting the existing assets.

Of approximately 200 questionnaires sent out, 113 were initially returned and tabulated. About 15 were returned too late to be tabulated. Thus nearly 2/3 of the households on the Hill responded to the questionnaires.

Analysis of the returned questionnaires indicated that Panoramic Hill residents can be divided into three main interest groups:

1. Berkeley Home Owners (36 questionnaire respondents)
2. Berkeley Renters (45 questionnaire respondents)
3. Oakland Home Owners (32 questionnaire respondents)

In order for any program to be successful, it should have the support of these three groups. In order to determine in which areas there are shared interests, the study analyzed the responses of each of these groups separately. The following information is designed to show where overlapping interests exist.

Major neighborhood assets were listed by all three groups in the following average order:

1. Views
2. Rural atmosphere, woodsiness
3. Separation of houses by trees, lot size, topography - privacy
4. Low population density
5. Quiet

Major neighborhood problems were listed by all three groups in the following average order:

1. Difficulty in evacuating from the Hillside for fire or earthquake
2. Ability of police, fire and other emergency services to respond to an emergency
3. Fire hazard
4. Increased new residential construction in Berkeley or Oakland
5. Crime
6. Illegal Parking

MAJOR ASSETS OF PANORAMIC HILL AS PERCEIVED BY RESIDENTS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

From a list of neighborhood assets developed by the study staff and a small group of neighborhood residents, the residents of the Hill were asked to select the five assets which they felt were the most important and to rank these assets from one to five. The following ranking of assets was made through the use of a point system whereby the asset deemed the most important by the respondent was given five points, the second most important was given four points and so on down to the fifth most important problem which was given one point. Total points were tabulated for each problem and ranked in the order of number of points received.

RATING OF ASSETS BY BERKELEY RENTERS (45 Respondents)	RATING OF ASSETS BY BERKELEY HOME-OWNERS (36 Respondents)	RATING OF ASSETS BY OAKLAND HOME-OWNERS (35 Respondents)
1. Rural atmosphere, woodsiness	1. Views	1. Views
2. Views	2. Separation of houses by trees, lot size, topography-privacy	2. Rural atmosphere, woodsiness
3. Quiet	3. Rural atmosphere, woodsiness	3. Separation of houses by trees, lot size, topography-privacy
4. Separation of houses by trees, lot size, topography-privacy	4. Low population density	4. Quiet
5. Low population density	5. Zoning and Building controls	5. Low population density
6. Closeness to University and transportation	6. Quiet	6. Wildlife, birds
7. Open spaces	7. Closeness to University and transportation	7. Zoning and Building controls
8. Zoning and Building controls	8. Physical appearance-architectural diversity and landscaping, residential maintenance	8. Limited automobile access
9. Wildlife, birds	9. Limited automobile access	9. Open space
10. Physical appearance-architectural diversity and landscaping, residential maintenance.	10. Open space	10. Hillside terrain

MAJOR PROBLEMS OF PANORAMIC HILL AS PERCEIVED BY RESIDENTS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

From a list of neighborhood problems developed by the study staff and a small group of neighborhood residents, the residents of the Hill were asked to select the five problems which they felt were the most important and to rank these problems from one to five. The following ranking of problems was made through the use of a point system whereby the problem deemed the most important by the respondent was given five points, the second most important was given four points and so on down to the fifth most important problem which was given one point. Total points were tabulated for each problem and ranked in the order of number of points received.

RATING OF PROBLEMS BY BERKELEY RENTERS (45 Respondents)	RATING OF PROBLEMS BY BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS (36 Respondents)	RATING OF PROBLEMS BY OAKLAND RESIDENTS (35 Respondents)
1. Difficulty in evacuating from Hill for fire or earthquake	1. Difficulty in evacuating from Hill for fire or earthquake	1. Fire hazard
2. Increased new residential construction in Berkeley	2. Rising property taxes - disproportionate assessments	2. Difficulty in evacuating from Hill for fire or earthquake
3. Ability of police, fire & other emergency services to respond to an emergency.	3. Ability of police, fire & other emergency services to respond to an emergency.	3. Ability of police, fire & other emergency services to respond to an emergency.
4. Illegal parking.	4. Fire hazard.	4. Street congestion.
5. Street congestion.	5. Excessive number of people within one dwelling unit.	5. Traffic by non-residents.
6. Crime.	6. Rental of illegally created residential units - violation of zoning laws.	6. Crime.
7. Fire hazard	7. Crime	7. Rental of illegally created residential units - violation of zoning laws.
8. Rising rents.	8. Increased new residential construction in Oakland.	8. Illegal parking
9. Street pavement condition.	9. Increased new residential construction in Berkeley.	9. Increased new residential construction in Oakland
10. Parking availability	10. Illegal parking.	10. Storm drainage.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS FROM THE RESIDENTS

The directions that the study took and the findings made were influenced greatly by the comments of residents contacted. In order to allow readers of the study to get a feel for neighborhood concerns, all of the comments made in the questionnaire by individual residents are reprinted below.

A. Neighborhood comments on the questionnaire

1. I'm very pleased that the Planning Commission is attempting a rational evaluation of the Hill. Keep up the good work. Thank you. (Oakland Homeowner)

2. This is a very complete and reasonable questionnaire! (Berkeley Homeowner)

3. I thought this was an excellent presentation of concerns. (Berkeley Homeowner)

4. I think the questionnaire was well gotton up. (Berkeley Homeowner)

5. During residence on Panoramic Way we have raised four children- all of whom went through UCB. One still lives on the Hill (a University employee) but in a separate house - she will send in an independent response to your questionnaire. I believe this to be an excellent questionnaire and I hope that several needed improvements will result. (Berkeley Homeowner)

6. I just want to say thanks for asking the resident's opinions about the changes that will be affecting us. (Berkeley Apartment renter)

7. In reference to Part Two, Evaluation of Neighborhood Problems, I am greatly offended by the presentation of "motorcycle riding" as a problem, or problem causing factor....In this day of limited availability of gasoline and crowded roads, you should become aware of the benefits of motorcycles, properly used, to relieve traffic congestion and to conserve energy....Street legal motorcycles are quiet, and they are efficient, basic transportation for one person. There are laws against noise and they should be rigorously enforced, against cars with faulty mufflers as well. There is, of course, a second class of motorcycles, which are intended to be ridden off the road, on private property or on trails designated for recreational vehicle type usage. There is no place for such vehicles in the Panoramic Hill area, and laws against the usage of such vehicles, including four wheeled vehicles as well as motorcycles, should be strictly enforced....I cannot emphasize enough the importance of making a clear distinction between the lawful use of motorcycles and the occasional misuse of them, mostly by juveniles. To classify motorcycles as a problem, or hazard, is just as unfair as to classify driving of automobiles as such.... The motorcycle is an efficient and safe vehicle in the hands of a skilled, adult operator, just like the automobile...(Berkeley Homerenter)

8. See also #2 under "Cultural Diversity"

9. See also #2 under "Enforcement of Existing Regulations"

B. Neighborhood Comments on Traffic

1. Traffic by non-residents is less considerate of residents, (excess speed and noise, less courtesy on narrow streets) than traffic by residents, and should be reduced, as should street congestion on the other hand. (Oakland Homeowner)

2. Pro-football games at Cal should be prohibited! How is Berkeley Cal benefitting from these games? (Oakland Homeowner)

3. Closing upper Panoramic would reduce non-resident traffic. (Berkeley Homeowner)

4. Some cars or motorcycles are using the narrow road as a race track. We need "bumps" to secure low speed, since children play near the strees. (Berkeley Homeowner)

5. Hill is used to test new cars by car dealers in Berkeley. Oakland streets are well taken care of. Could streets be widened in places where possible? There are some such places - easy to widen and it would help a lot! (Oakland Homeowner)

6. Can constant publicity be given to the fact that up-coming traffic has the right-of-way? There are many, many disagreeable encounters on the first level of Panoramic Way because the traffic headed down hill wishes to barge through, even though there are several red turn-out spaces marked on their side of the street. My observation is that these inconsiderate drivers are generally younger people - around college age. (Berkeley Homeowner)

7. A bus service or tramway is need to cut down on auto congestion. (Oakland renter)

8. Residents (students) in multi-unit buildings seem to be most unobservant of completely blocking traffic. Mercy - no more people on this hill! (Berkeley Homerenter)

9. Since we live at the bottom of Panoramic, we are more aware of traffic problems than of zoning or new construction issues. (Berkeley Apartment renter)

10. This is a quaint, pleasant place to live. The main problems are non-resident traffic which congests the roads, the drinking and garbage on upper areas of streets in non-resident hill area and the illegal parking. (Berkeley Apartment renter)

C. Neighborhood Comments on Additional Access to the Hill:

1. More access and exit is necessary for emergencies. Possibly building the proposed extension of Dwight Way and instituting a one-way street plan (See sketch) would reduce congestion along the one-way portions and provide better emergency capacity without increasing non-resident traffic flow. (Oakland homeowner)

2. If Oakland area is to be built up, it should have another access road which does not feed into Panoramic Way. (Berkeley homeowner)

3. The Hill is fine now, but obviously cannot take further building or development of any kind without the construction of one or more new access roads which would immediately ruin the character which those of us who moved here cherish the most. I see no disadvantages here. I support the status quo, with no improvements. (Berkeley homeowner)

4. The questionnaire seems to cover the major problems and assets of the area well except that additional emphasis should be placed on improvement of access and to road condition. I don't think that concerns about the population density and traffic congestion should be overly emphasized. In other words, improved access is a means to free up traffic flow to residences and allow the residential structure mix to prevail as is. (Berkeley homeowner)

5. The ever-present fear of fire--we do badly, really desperately, need an outlet road. Oakland authorities ought to give in on their stand that they could not build anything except a "standard" street with a sidewalk. (Oakland resident--also owns and rents a home in Berkeley portion of Panoramic Hill)

6. At present, all is well--but we are at the limits of density unless major service and access facilities are added. A long-term plan should (provide) access (to) the top of the Hill, (A great potential area for expansion) via Fish Ranch Road. (Oakland homeowner)

7. There should be access to the Panoramic /Dwight Way area by at least one additional road. For emergency evacuation and for easier accessibility to the area for emergency vehicles. (Berkeley apartment renter)

8. What ever happened to the access road to be built at the head of Dwight Way by Oakland and Berkeley? (Oakland homeowner)

9. A cheap second road should be built--limited use for police and/or fire trucks plus use during sewer repairs, etc. Should be chained at other times. (Berkeley homeowner)

D. Neighborhood Comments on Parking Problems:

1. (They should) pave areas already used exclusively for parking. (Berkeley apartment renter)

2. Parking should be forbidden on blind curves and hills, especially just below Dwight Place! (Oakland apartment owner)

3. (In regard to the question by off-street parking space), I don't know whether you mean a garage or space. I dug out the side of the hill, years ago, to provide parking space where our cars are off the street and would not be hit or cause congestion. (Oakland homeowner)

4. On street parking by permit (fee) might reduce congestion. (Berkeley Homeowner)

E. Neighborhood Comments on Preservation of Uncrowded Living:

1. The area should be protected against speculative "development" by either present owners or others. (Berkeley homeowner)

2. All further building, road and sewer construction should be prohibited in both Berkeley and Oakland; the Hill environment cannot support any further traffic and people congestion without great sacrifice to the quality of life. (Oakland homeowner)

3. My desire is to protect the rural, low density and private qualities of life on the Hill. Any minor inconveniences like road condition or limited access, to me, are the blessings that keep the area charming and remote and undeveloped. Anything that will bring more people up here is bad. Anything that keeps further development away is good. (Oakland homeowner)

4. The upper part of Panoramic Way is like a Shangrila--beautiful, quiet, and spacious. Basically, we love this Hill the way it is but would opt for the following improvements: a new and safe sewer system; wider and properly paved street to allow two-way traffic and proper access for fire service. We definitely feel that some property owners have exploited the area by building illegal units and by filling the units beyond capacity thus creating serious congestion in the already inadequate streets in terms of traffic and parking making travel hazardous and difficult. Also overloading already inadequate sewer systems and increasing taxes based upon

illegal and higher income property yelds, i.e. higher than normal resale based upon illegal income potential. (Berkeley apartment renter)

6. As a "pioneer" on the Hill (it was "real country" in 1930!), I am especially concerned with maintaining the "uncrowded feel" we move up here for. (Oakland homeowner--also owns and rents a home in Berkeley portion of Hill)

7. To my mind, the number one problem is the threat of subdivision. The Hill is already too crowded. Even with another access road, there should be a complete ban on construction. This poses a serious problem--the Hill will be priced only for the wealthy--but there should be solutions other than ruining it. (Berkeley homerenter)

8. Highest priorities should be to: 1) restrict new building; 2) minimize traffic on the Hill (especially non-residents). (Berkeley Apartment renter)

9. Even though I live in a multi-unit apartment (10 units), single occupancy is important to me as a renter. Multiple occupancy destroys the appeal of renting here. Also, I feel residential owners should have 100% say and that landlords living absent from property should be overruled. Further construction of units as this one (should be) discouraged or prohibited. (Berkeley apartment renter)

10. We must halt the construction on this Hill. It is killing the privacy, increasing street congestion, causing more accidents. The ecology of the Hill has been seriously upset. We must also stop landlords from creating multiple dwelling units out of single family homes (Berkeley Apartment Renter)

11. The value of Panoramic is directed to the fortunate few who can live in a rural environment and yet be able to walk to the downtown hussle. My residency here will end soon, but I feel it important to retain the living quality in the area. (Berkeley apartment renter)

12. I am one of those residents of Panoramic Hill who would like to see the area remain "as is" because in this condition lies its charm. Therefore, no more building should be allowed; the area simply cannot handle any more people "as is". The important factor, then, in retaining Panoramic Hill character, is to not let it burn down obviously. This can be hopefully prevented by keeping the existing road clear of illegally parked cars, fire trails, practice runs by local fire station trucks and perhaps in the future, the establishment of some kind of fire station at the top of the Hill.

If there is to be allowed further expansion of building on the Hill, then of course everything would have to be brought up to code: streets; sewers; drainage; lights; sidewalks; etc. But, in that case, the Hill would lose the very thing everyone loves about it. In my opinion, everything should be frozen now on the Hill just as it is--one more person would seem to be too much, or allow expansion but bring everything up to proper standards of city building (including bright street lights which would block out the view at night). (Oakland homeowner)

13. We owned two houses on Mosswood which we sold to single families to preserve the residential character of the neighborhood. One was originally a single-family dwelling which had been converted illegally into three (3) apartments; it is now once again a single-family house. We were offered considerably more money for these houses as multiple dwellings, but we preferred families as neighbors. (Berkeley homeowner)

14. My only concern is that Panoramic Hill be maintained as a scenic woodsy area and not allowed to be overdeveloped and overpopulated like so many other parts of Berkeley and Oakland. I believe everyone on Panoramic Hill shares this concern. (Berkeley apartment renter)

15. What an oasis--keep it so! (Berkeley homerenter)

16. It is our feeling that the major problems of the Panoramic Hill area can be best controlled by strict residential zoning that will maintain the current low population density of the area. Traffic patterns are, to a large extent, already controlled by the existing characteristics of the streets--that is, particularly the grades and narrowness--and it is our feeling that it would be a mistake to significantly change these characteristics. However, we do feel that for safety purposes, one other access road to Panoramic Way should be created, and illegal parking--particularly on blind curves--should be much more strictly controlled. (Berkeley homerenter)

17. See #5 under "Sewers and Septic Tanks".

E. Neighborhood Comments on Cultural Diversity of the Hill:

1. (The most important neighborhood asset is the) diversity of people, i.e. students, married, children, etc., including renters and owners. (This has always been a cosmopolitan Hill and should remain so) The wish by some to effect exclusionary zoning against renters, students, etc., is illegal. A court case would prove costly for the City. (Berkeley homeowner)

2. It appears that whoever drew up these questions slanted the questions so as to obtain and maintain an all-white single-family neighborhood. The delight of Panoramic Hill is its cosmopolitan mix, to wit: both young and older people; students; professionals and non-professionals; apartments and single-family units. Change this, and you will create a drab, all-white, boring, single-family neighborhood, and you will destroy Panoramic Hill. (Note: (You held interviews with) property owners--excluding renters) The Panoramic Hill Association does not represent the residents. Their voting membership excludes residents who rent. (Oakland homeowner)

F. Neighborhood Comments on Different Life Styles:

1. A slum area is rapidly developing because of "commune type" occupancy in a) Lower Panoramic Way-Berkeley; b) Upper Dwight Way house; 3) Auto parking congestion by the above. (Oakland homeowner)

2. I cannot understand how Berkeley could have "zoned down" strongly in recent years, supposedly to "preserve family neighborhoods for families", and then turn around and permit communes in residences. They bring all the disadvantages of apartments (traffic, noise, parking problems, etc.) plus some worse ones of their own--drug culture; junkies; pushers; criminals (Berkeley has become famous as a "hide-out" for criminals). San Francisco limits a residence to "not more than two (2) unrelated people"--we should too! (Berkeley homeowner)

G. Neighborhood Comments on Sewers and Septic Tanks:

1. One of the problems of the neighborhood is sanitary sewers spilling over (which) may be causing health hazard! (Berkeley duplex owner)

2. If the Berkeley sewer on Panoramic Hill is not adequate as is rumored, I think new buildings should not be permitted until the problem is solved--also, if as is rumored, septic tanks on the Oakland side are not performing as they should, building on the Oakland side should be stopped until the sewage disposal system there is adequate. (Berkeley homeowner)

3. We do not want sewers--our septic tanks on Dwight Hill very satisfactory. (Oakland homeowner)

4. Lack of a street sewer and restrictions on septic tank area has made it impossible for me to add a second bathroom. (Oakland homeowner)

5. I oppose new sanitary sewer construction on Panoramic Way because: 1) that would remove the impediment on new construction in Oakland inherent in the lot-size requirement

for septic tanks; and 2) it would knock out the main prop supporting the (Berkeley) building moratorium which is a health/safety and environmental control which should be resolutely maintained. The extension of sewer service to Oakland whould set in motion a building spree there which would put an insufferable traffic load on Panoramic Way; raise fire hazard and fire loss potential far beyond acceptable limits and sharply depreciate those special aesthetic and environmental assets of the area which are not only precious per se, but which also have tangible case value according to the County Assessor. That is particularly the case because there is no way that Panoramic Hill-Berkeley is going to change its opposition to the second access proposal, given (the City of) Oakland's requirements (relating to the design of the road).

If tolerating and patching a leaky sewer is the only way to establish the building moratorium--so be it! It is often said that lifting the ban (on building in the Berkeley portion of Panoramic Hill) would have only a minimal effect on Berkeley because there are so few buildable lots. It should be said, conversely, that the personal and economic impact of codifying the moratorium would also be small because there are so few holding affected. It is clearly the case that every new unit in Berkeley will have a potential effect on the health and safety hazard to Panoramic Hill--to the detriment of every Hill resident. To disparage and jeopardize an entire community to accommodate a handful of developers would be inexcuseable public planning. (Berkeley homeowner)

H. Neighborhood Comments on Street Condition:

1. (They should) make streets wide enough to get moving van or large emergency equipment up. (Berkeley apartment renter)

2. Part Two (Identification of Neighborhood Problems) has no indication of the intensity of feeling. In fact, I am--as a renter--content. My principle concern would be a deterioration of the physical condition of the neighborhood--quiet, density, foliage, etc. I would like to see the street repaired. Parking is a problem but I would not want the street's character to be modified in order to solve it. (Berkeley homerenter)

3. The street pavement on lower Panoramic is in deplorable condition and has been for many, many years. Filling in chuck holes after rains is not the solution to the unsightly condition. Why can't it be resurfaced? That isn't asking much for a taxpayer who has built and lived on Panoramic Hill for 39 years--is it? (Berkeley homeowner)

4. In my opinion, almost all our big problems can be traced to the condition of the street: condition of pavement is terrible; lack of a sewer in the street is an abomination; lack of a secondary access road is dangerous in light of the fire hazard. Part of our property taxes go to the City for street maintenance and repair--but it is very apparent and aggravating to see that this money is being siphoned off for use elsewhere. Give us a sewer, street re-pavement, and a second access road (behind the School for the Deaf) and 90% of our problems would vanish. (Oakland homeowner)

5. Canyon Road needs badly--a curb and marked parking spaces along its north side to assure adequate width for fire trucks. (Berkeley homeowner)

6. We do not mind the narrow bumpy road, since it discourages lots of traffic and "Sunday drivers". Even though the limited parking is sometimes inconvenient (when we have guests), we prefer having trees around our house to having paved parking areas. So, it is important to prohibit building which would increase these problems and destroy the privacy and the woodsy atmosphere. (Berkeley apartment renter)

7. There seems to be an insoluable problem here--I love the Hill for its Medieval streets and really don't mind the congestion problem resulting in the one-way sections. This inconvenience is one of the area's chief charms. The fire threat in late summer, however, is frightening when one considers evacuation. On the whole, I prefer to take the risk rather than stick out the road and make it easier for more cars to get up here.

I. Neighborhood Comments on City Services:

1. Berkeley and Oakland Fire Departments are great! Berkeley police used to service the whole Hill and you really knew they would be there! The Oakland police don't even know where Panoramic Way is! The Oakland street department should be given medals or something--they are the greatest. (Oakland homeowner)

2. Berkeley City police take a very long time to respond. (Berkeley apartment renter)

J. Neighborhood Comments on Enforcement of Existing Regulations:

1. We want an end to illegal land use! We want code enforcement. We do not want further restrictions on building, but do want enforcement of the duplex regulations. We want a new sewer, a new improved road and tight parking restrictions for off-street parking. The development of strategic parking lots could be a solution! (Berkeley homeowner)

2. The last two years I have thought of selling out because of the frustrations and problems of the Hill--the combination of problems gets to be too much sometimes.

   Why isn't the Oakland Planning Board in on this? Or do they want to wait till its too late, as usual? Now is the time for them to be working on this--or the upper half of Panoramic Way will be as congested as the lower half of Panoramic Way.

   If we have laws on the books--I think they should be enforced. To enforce them means we need the necessary trained personnel to do the job. We don't need an expert hired at X number of dollars to waste a year telling us what needs to be done--we know what needs to be done--what we need is to take the same amount of money and hire three or four people to be trained to do the job. One of my pet gripes is the fact that there are two men at the dog pound--one in the office and one "on the road"--sheer stupidity to think they can do anything except maintain the pound and pick up dead animals--whereas if they had enough help they could do something about roaming bands of dogs that are attacking people and other animals. I have just recently had the fifth deer hauled away--run down by dogs. (I have a dog of my own and love dogs--but I also care for the beautiful, defenseless deer.) I think one step could be to publish the fact that if a dog kills or runs down deer within city limits the owner is liable for a $500 fine and the dog can be impounded. (Oakland homeowner)

3. I wish an officer who is familiar with the red spaces marked on the street could patrol the street with some regularity and give tickets to cars illegally parked, especially in late afternoon and at night. I have a idea that no patrolling is done and no tickets given unless a resident complains. (Berkeley homeowner)

K. Neighborhood Comments on View Protection:

1. Tree growth should be controlled to preserve the neighborhood views! (Berkeley homeowner)

2. When we built here 39 years ago, no trees interferred with the Marina view. Now several trees block out the view that are below the property. Isn't there something that can be done about it? (Berkeley homeowner)

3. At the moment the matter I am most concerned about is my neighbor's tree which will shortly virtually destroy my view. Trimming of big trees is expensive and neighbors are not inclined to cooperate. (Berkeley homeowner)

L. Neighborhood Comments on Dogs:

1. Can't the city do anything to enforce control of dogs on the street" It is pretty sickening to see large dogs running through one's yard, breaking down plants and flowers, kicking the foliage off the ground-cover, depositing their excrement on walks and steps or in the middle of one's yard while the owner of the dog goes slowly along the street not noticing or caring that the owner of the property has to come out and clean up after the dog has gone, while often irreparable damage is done to plants! Are we going to have to resort to expensive fencing to maintain a little privacy against marauding dogs? Generally, I think the people who own property on this street take dogs out on leashes; it is the student type of young adult who appears to be the chief offender in this regard. (Berkeley homeowner)

2. The dogs have chased out the deer. We must keep the dogs locked up at night. (Berkeley apartment renter)

3. While on the previous page I checked off five other items as being more important than the dog problems, dogs are my chief annoyance. I occasionally walk to work on campus and get harassed by loose, unsupervised dogs; recently I have been walking less because of this and when I walk I carry rocks with which to defend myself. There is no excuse for this. I have often wondered if I could call the police on occasion and have a dog arrested! There are a pair of German Shephards across the street from me which are supposed to be in a fenced-in yard, but always manage to get loose. They are friendly dogs, but noisy. Why can't the leash laws be enforced? (Berkeley homerenter)

M. Neighborhood Comments on Other Matters:

1. The two city governments must coordinate their public services essential to the residents if the quality of life in this area is to remain. If effective coordination is impossible, then the City of Berkeley should consider annexing or incorporating the Hill part belonging to Oakland, as was done successfully by Berkeley in incorporating Park Hills from Contra Costa County for similar reasons. Hill residents associate themselves more with Berkeley than Oakland, and the Oakland residents would not mind paying higher taxes to Berkeley if public services improved, which should happen. The present situation is really stupid. The Hill has two garbage services when only one is really needed or wanted. It takes three phone calls to get adequate police service (Berkeley, UC, Oakland) and two phone calls to get adequate fire protection (Berkeley and Oakland) and road service (Oakland resident)

2. The survey should have asked how many and what kinds of animals residents own. (Oakland resident)

3. I wish there was more quiet. It is appalling to realize that every motor vehicle (cars, bicycles, motorcycles, trucks hauling heavy supplies, garbage collectors, delivery wagons, smaller vehicles of workers and repair men, etc.,) all have to go along the first level of Panoramic Way, making a tremendous lot of noise at times. (Berkeley homeowner)

4. In 18 years we have learned to accept and live with the problems of Panoramic Hill. I don't think that the quality of life has deteriorated in that period. Some things have improved--less motorcycle riding, less illegal parking. The main problems is that of fire hazard. There should be regular clearing of underbrush. Another access road to serve the upper Hill should be considered. (Berkeley homeowner)

5. Recent building on the Hill has not been sufficiently sensitive to the topography nor general atmosphere that makes the Hill life so attractive. (Oakland homeowner)

6. I think this area is unique and very beautiful mainly due to view and the dense, wild woods and brush cover. It is nice to find an area where they have built around foliage and not just chopped it down. I will buy in this area if I can. (Berkeley apartment renter)

7. Height limitation and off-street parking should be initiated to regulate new development. Streets should remain the same width. However, conditions of pavement should be improved. Some open space with views or natural features should be provided by the City--i.e. mini parks.

8. This is a unique neighborhood in Berkeley. There is a strong sense of community among the students and young working people on the lower two blocks of Panoramic. There is a marvelous European sense of scale on this street, due to its one land and winding roads. Although traffic and parking are a problem, the Hill would suffer from overpaving to correct these problems. Good luck! (Berkeley renter)

9. The lack of lighting on Orchard Lane is not only an invitation for an attack but is a hazard to life and limb since the steps are not kept very clean or free from debris. (Berkeley homerenter)

10. Panoramic should be available to build private homes that meet basic standards of taste and quality. Multiple units are ludicrous and idiocy on such a narrow street. Property taxes are excessive and a disgrace to retired people on fixed incomes who long ago built this neighborhood, forcing them to rent. Views should be preserved from existing buildings by future construction. Provided there is adequate lot size, studios and cottages add a delightful charm if a minimum space allotment and parking are provided. (Berkeley cottage renter)

11. Are the buildings earthquake safe? We are located right on the fault. (Berkeley apartment renter)

12. One of the Hill's assets is the access to trails for jogging. (Berkeley apartment renter)

13. Remove vegetation and bushes from side of roadways (Scotch Broom) etc. for approaching cars to afford a better, clearer view of on-coming traffic. (Require each spring) (Oakland homeowner)

14. Overcrowding of one unit, making possible large rental return, leads to overpricing of sale property, consequent increase of assessments on neighboring properties--ad infinitum! (Oakland homeowner)

QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE PANORAMIC HILL AREA

Berkeley Planning Department, March 1974

The Berkeley Planning Department has begun a study of the Panoramic Hill Area in order to determine possible city programs aimed at improving the existing environment. This questionnaire will provide information on the views of the residents about the state of the neighborhood environment. The questionnaire is designed to develop a list of problems and a list of assets associated with living in the Panoramic Hill area. The object is to design programs to lessen the disadvantages without adversely affecting the existing assets. In order to provide a framework for this consultation with the residents of the Hill, preliminary personal interviews were conducted with Panoramic Hill residents and preliminavy lists of problems and assets were developed. These lists are being submitted to the residents of the neighborhood for their review and comments.

In a later questionnaire we will ask your response to possible programs aimed at solving the problems.

PART ONE

EVALUATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS

The purpose of this first list is to identify factors which attracted you to live on Panoramic Hill and which tend to keep you there - desirable qualities which you wish to see protected and reinforced.

Please follow these directions in completing the questions about this list.

a) Cross off any items which appear trivial or unimportant to you;
b) Add, at the bottom of the list, items important to you which are omitted;
c) Place a check (✔) next to items which you consider particularly important or valuable; and
d) Number 1, 2, etc. the five items most valued by you, in the order of their importance.

__ Limited automobile access

__ Views

__ Separation of houses by trees, lot size, topography - privacy

__ Closeness to University and transportation

__ Hillside terrain

__ Zoning and building controls

__ Quiet

__ Physical appearance-architectural diversity gardens and landscaping, residential maintenance

__ Low population density

__ Steps, walks and trails (no sidewalks)

__ Open spaces

__ Rural atmosphere, woodsiness

__ Wildlife, birds

__ _____

__ _____

__ _____

__ _____

PART TWO

EVALUATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS

The purpose of this second list is to identify problems or problem-causing factors which you want the Planning Department's study to focus on - situations which you personally see as seriously threatening to the quality of life on Panoramic Hill and which you consider it important to have stopped or regulated.

Please follow these directions in completing the questionnaire.

a) Cross off any items which appear trivial or unimportant to you;
b) Add, at the bottom of the list, items important to you which are omitted;
c) Place a check (✓) next to items which you consider particularly pressing; and
d) Number 1, 2, etc. the five items which are most urgent or troublesome, in the order of their importance.

___ Storm drainage

___ Motorcycle riding

___ Street width, grade, curves

___ Excessive number of people within one dwelling unit

___ Difficulty in evacuating from hillside for fire or earthquake

___ Existing legal multi-unit buildings (apartments)

___ Fire hazard

___ Parking availability

___ Crime

___ Illegal camping

___ Dogs running loose

___ Rental of illegally created residential units - violations of zoning laws

___ Traffic by residents

___ Street pavement condition

___ Street congestion

___ Increased new residential construction in Berkeley portion of Panoramic Hill.

___ Street congestion

___ Traffic by non-residents

___ Residential development restrictions

___ Rising rents

___ Rising home prices

___ Dogs barking

___ Rising property taxes - disproportionate assessments

___ Illegal parking

___ Increased new residential construction in Oakland portion of Panoramic Hill

___ Ability of police, fire and other services to respond to an emergency

___ _____

___ _____

___ _____

___ _____

___ _____

___ _____

PART THREE

INFORMATION ON NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS

The answers to the previous questions will be of most value to the Planning Department if we have some information about the resident who filled out the questionnaire. Therefore, the following questions are asked:

1. Do you live in an apartment or single family home? _____.
2. Do you rent or own your dwelling? _____
3. How many off-street parking places are provided for your dwelling unit? ___
4. How many adults are in your household? _____
5. How many children are in your household? _____
6. How long have you lived on Panoramic Hill? ____years _____months
7. Do you intend to move within the next two years? _____
8. How many cars are there in your household? _____
9. Do you live in Berkeley or Oakland? _____
10. Are you a student at a college or university? _____
11. Are you or others in your household connected with the University of California as a member of the staff, faculty, student body? _____

Please use the following spaces or the back of this sheet to discuss your views that the questionnaire did not adequately present:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. THE RESULTS WILL BE TABULATED AND SENT TO YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Please return the questionnaire by March 22, 1974 to the Berkeley Planning Department using the enclosed stamped self-addressed envelope.

A P P E N D I X B

Residents' Opinions of Study Recommendations

In the concluding phases of the study, the staff developed a list of tentative recommendations. These recommendations were formulated after extensive consultation with neighborhood residents. However, to insure that the concerns of the residents were accurately reflected in the recommendations, a questionnaire was sent out to 190 households on Panoramic Hill. (See attachment) Of these 190, 101 were returned and tabulated. Thus, well over one-half of the households on Panoramic Hill responded to the questionnaire.

As with the first questionnaire, the opinions of residents were analyzed in three groupings:

1. Berkeley Renters (34 questionnaire respondents)
2. Berkeley Homeowners (34 questionnaire respondents)
3. Oakland residents (33 questionnaire respondents)

The twelve less respondents to the second questionnaire than to the first questionnaire, came almost entirely from a lower return of questionnaires from Berkeley renters.

The responses of the three groups were very uniform. The only difference was in the degree of agreement with Oakland residents and Berkeley homeowners having very strong views while the Berkeley renters were more likely to "agree in principle" to recommendations than to "strongly agree." (See tabulations)

The eight major recommendations of the study were overwhelmingly supported by the resident respondents. No recommendations received less than 82% support and five of the eight received 90% or more support. Generally, those who did not indicate support for the recommendations did so because they were "not certain" or had "no opinion." No recommendation received more than 10% statements of "disagree," and most received less than 5% disagreement.

The study recommendations are listed below in the order of their approval by the residents:

1. Develop Fire Emergency Response Plan for Panoramic Hill.

   (94% support; 83% "strongly agree" and 11% "agree in principle")

2. Regulate New Development to Promote Fire Safety.

   (93% support; 71% "strongly agree" and 22% "agree in principle")

Residents' Opinions of Study Recommendations, Continued

3. Develop a Fire Safety Public Information Program.

   (91% support; 67% "strongly agree" and 24% "agree in principle")

4. Vigorously Enforce Existing City Regulations Which Affect the Level of Fire Safety.

   (90% support; 76% "strongly agree" and 14% "agree in principle")

5. Insure That the University of California Officially Adopts and Implements a Fire Safety Vegetative Management Plan for Strawberry Canyon.

   (90% support; 61% "strongly agree" and 29% "agree in principle")

6. Develop Improved Fire Road Access and Resident Emergency Escape Routes.

   (86% support; 68% "strongly agree" and 18% "agree in principle")

7. Limit the Quantity of New Construction on Panoramic Hill.

   (85% support; 67% "strongly agree" and 18% "agree in principle")

8. Adopt and Implement a Mandatory Fire Prevention and Fire Hazard Reduction Program for the Private Homes and Vacant Lands on Panoramic Hill.

   (82% support; 61% "strongly agree" and 21% "agree in principle")

In addition to these eight recommendations, a ninth recommendation was presented to the residents relating to the continuation of a building moratorium in the Berkeley portion of Panoramic Hill. Since this was primarily a Berkeley concern, only the replies of Berkeley residents were tabulated. 84% of the Berkeley residents supported the continued moratorium.

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire.

1. Because of the fire hazard situation, the cities of Berkeley and Oakland should substantially limit the quantity of new construction on Panoramic Hill.

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	OAKLAND RESIDENTS	TOTAL HILL RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	18	25	25	68	
Agree In Principle	11	5	2	18	85
Disagree	2	1	4	7	7
Not Certain	3	2	1	6	
No Opinion	0	1	1	2	8
Total Respondents	34	34	33	101	100

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire, Continued

2. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should regulate the characteristics of any new construction in order to promote fire safety. This may include limitations on population and automobile congestion, requirements for the use of fire resistant materials, limitations on structural size and design, requirements for adequate separation of buildings and the like.

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	OAKLAND RESIDENTS	TOTAL HILL RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	21	24	27	72	
Agree In Principle	11	7	4	22	93
Disagree	1	0	2	3	3
Not Certain	1	3	0	4	
No Opinion	0	0	0	0	4
Total Respondents	34	34	33	101	100

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire, Continued

3. The University of California should develop and implement an officially adopted Vegetative Mangement Plan for those portions of Strawberry Canyon which threaten the fire safety of Panoramic Hill. This plan should be forwarded to the cities of Berkeley and Oakland for review and comment.

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	OAKLAND RESIDENTS	TOTAL HILL RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	17	25	20	62	
Agree In Principle	13	5	11	29	90
Disagree	2	2	0	4	4
Not Certain	2	0	2	4	
No Opinion	0	2	0	2	6
Total Respondents	34	34	33	101	100

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire, Continued

4. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should adopt and implement a mandatory fire prevention and fire hazard reduction program for the private homes and vacant lands on Panoramic Hill. The programs should be tailored to the specific Panoramic Hill situation. A major component of the programs should be vegetative management.

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	OAKLAND RESIDENTS	TOTAL HILL RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	14	23	25	62	
Agree In Principle	12	3	6	21	82
Disagree	4	3	1	8	8
Not Certain	4	4	1	9	
No Opinion	0	1	0	1	10
Total Respondents	34	34	33	101	100

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire, Continued

5. Resident fire escape and emergency vehicle access to Panoramic Hill should be improved. This can best be accomplished by improving existing fire roads and building at least one new quick access fire road. This program should involve cooperation between and financial support from the City of Berkeley, the city of Oakland, the University of California, the East Bay Regional Park District and the Panoramic Hill residents.

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	OAKLAND RESIDENTS	TOTAL HILL RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	23	23	23	69	
Agree In Principle	5	6	7	18	86
Disagree	6	2	1	9	9
Not Certain	0	3	1	4	
No Opinion	0	0	1	1	5
Total Respondents	34	34	33	101	100

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire, Continued

6. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should vigorously enforce existing city regulations which affect the level of fire safety. This would include stringent enforcement of existing zoning, building, fire, parking and traffic regulations.

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	OAKLAND RESIDENTS	TOTAL HILL RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	24	25	28	77	
Agree In Principle	5	5	4	14	90
Disagree	2	1	1	4	4
Not Certain	2	3	0	5	
No Opinion	1	0	0	1	6
Total Respondents	34	34	33	101	100

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire, Continued

7. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should develop a Fire Emergency Response Plan for Panoramic Hill. The Response Plan should be designed to guide the emergency actions of all area public safety agencies and the Hill residents. The Fire Emergency Response Plan should be geared to the specific fire situation facing Panoramic Hill. This plan should be prepared in cooperation with the residents, the University of California, the East Bay Regional Park District, EBMUD, PG&E and other affected agencies.

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	OAKLAND RESIDENTS	TOTAL HILL RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	27	28	29	84	
Agree In Principle	6	1	4	11	94
Disagree	1	1	0	2	2
Not Certain	0	2	0	2	
No Opinion	0	2	0	2	4
Total Respondents	34	34	33	101	100

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire, Continued

8. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should develop a public information program to assist residents in reducing fire hazards, preventing fire ignitions, suppressing small fires and handling home fire situations.

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	OAKLAND RESIDENTS	TOTAL HILL RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	21	24	23	68	
Agree In Principle	11	6	7	24	91
Disagree	1	2	1	4	4
Not Certain	0	0	1	1	
No Opinion	1	2	1	4	5
Total Respondents	34	34	33	101	100

Tabulation of Responses to the Questionnaire, Continued

9. In order to allow time for the city of Berkeley to prepare and adopt new development regulations for the Berkeley portion of Panoramic Hill, the existing development moratorium should be extended for six months beyond the present expiration date of June 5, 1974. During this moratorium period, single-family home additions of 200 square feet of floor area or less should be allowed, provided they do not create new dwelling units.*

	BERKELEY RENTERS	BERKELEY HOMEOWNERS	TOTAL BERKELEY RESIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Strongly Agree	18	20	38	
Agree In Principle	13	6	19	84
Disagree	0	4	4	6
Not Certain	1	2	3	
No Opinion	2	2	4	10
Total Respondents	34	34	68	100

*Tabulated for Berkeley Residents Only.

QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD VIEWS ON POSSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR PANORAMIC HILL

Berkeley Planning Department, May 1974

The Berkeley Planning Department is in the process of completing a major study of Panoramic Hill problems. Several of the study's major recommendations have been tentatively formulated. This questionnaire is designed to elicit resident views on these recommendations. Upon receipt of the resident views, the recommendations will be finalized and action programs will be designed to implement the recommendations.

TENTATIVE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY

Please give us your opinion on the following possible study recommendations:

1. Because of the fire hazard situation the cities of Berkeley and Oakland should substantially limit the quantity of new construction on Panoramic Hill.

Strongly agree	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

2. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should regulate the characteristics of any new construction in order to promote fire safety. This may include limitations on population and automobile congestion, requirements for the use of fire resistant materials, limitations on structural size and design, requirements for adequate separation of buildings and the like.

Strongly agree	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

3. The University of California should develop and implement an officially adopted Vegetative Management Plan for those portions of Strawberry Canyon which threaten the fire safety of Panoramic Hill. This plan should be forwarded to the cities of Berkeley and Oakland for review and comment.

Strongly agreec	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

4. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should adopt and implement a mandatory fire prevention and fire hazard reduction program for the private homes and vacant lands on Panoramic Hill. The programs should be tailored to the specific Panoramic Hill situation. A major component of the programs should be vegetative management.

Strongly agree	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

5. Resident fire escape and emergency vehicle access to Panoramic Hill should be improved. This can best be accomplished by improving existing fire roads and building at least one new quick access fire road. This program should involve cooperation between and financial support from the city of Berkeley, the city of Oakland, the University of California, the East Bay Regional Park District and the Panoramic Hill residents.

Strongly agree	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

6. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should vigorously enforce existing city regulations which affect the level of fire safety. This would include stringent enforcement of existing zoning, building, fire, parking and traffic regulations.

Strongly agree	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

7. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should develop a Fire Emergency Response Plan for Panoramic Hill. The Response Plan should be designed to guide the emergency actions of all area public safety agencies and the Hill residents. The Fire Emergency Response Plan should be geared to the specific fire situation facing Panoramic Hill. This plan should be prepared in cooperation with the residents, the University of California, the East Bay Regional Park District, EBMUD, PG&E and other affected agencies.

Strongly agree	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

8. The cities of Berkeley and Oakland should develop a public information program to assist residents in reducing fire hazards, preventing fire ignitions, suppressing small fires, and handling home fire situations.

Strongly agree	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

9. In order to allow time for the city of Berkeley to prepare and adopt new development regulations for the Berkeley portion of Panoramic Hill, the existing development moratorium should be extended for six months beyond the present expiration date of June 5, 1974. During this moratorium period single-family home additions of 200 square feet of floor area or less should be allowed, provided they do not create new dwelling units.

Strongly agree	( )
Agree in principle	( )
Disagree	( )
Not certain	( )
No opinion	( )

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

INFORMATION ON NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS

The answers to the previous questions will be of most value to the Planning Department if we have some information about the resident who filled out the questionnaire. Therefore, the following questions are asked:

1. Do you live in Berkeley or Oakland? _____

2. Do you live in an apartment or sangle family house? _____

3. Do you rent or own your dwelling? _____

4. How long have you lived on Panoramic Hill?

Two years or less	( )
3-9 years	( )
10 years or more	( )

Please use the following spaces or the back of this sheet to discuss your views that the questionnaire did not adequately present.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please return the questionnaire by May 21, 1974 to the Berkeley Planning Department using the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

87-097251

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 64466 C. M. S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

RESOLUTION GRANTING JACOBA MCKAY A CONDITIONAL REVOCABLE PERMIT TO ENCROACH INTO AND UNDER THE STREET AND PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OF DWIGHT WAY, FROM 130' ± NORTHERLY TO 195' ± SOUTHERLY OF DWIGHT PLACE

WHEREAS, Jacoba McKay has requested permission to encroach into and under the street of Dwight Way; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this resolution will authorize the City Manager to enter into and execute the attached agreement labeled Exhibit "A" for the construction of a private sanitary sewer main within the proposed encroachment area; and

WHEREAS, the location of said encroachment to be granted by this resolution is further delineated and depicted as Area 1 in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof and is for the purpose of installing a sewer main beneath the street. Said Area 1 being the public right-of-way of Dwight Way located approximately 130' northerly of and 195' southerly of the intersection of the centerline of Dwight Place and the centerline of Dwight Way; and

WHEREAS, the said encroachment is beneath the finished street area and will not interfere with use of same by the public, and the public welfare and convenience will not be endangered by said use; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is categorically exempt under the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: That Jacoba McKay is hereby granted a conditional revocable permit to encroach into and under the street area depicted in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Council of the City of Oakland, in granting this permission, prescribes as special conditions thereof the following:

1. That this permit shall be revocable at the pleasure of the Council of the City of Oakland, expressed by resolution of said Council.

2. That the Permittee, by the acceptance, either expressed or implied, of this revocable permit, hereby disclaims any right, title or interest in or to the portions of street area underlying the said encroachment and agrees that the temporary use of said area does not constitute an abandonment on the part of the City.

3. That the Permittee, by the acceptance, either expressed or implied, of this revocable permit, agrees and promises to hold harmless the City of Oakland, its agents, officers, and employees, from all and every claim, demand, lawsuit and judgment for damages of any kind and nature whatsoever arising out of or caused by the existence of said encroachment to said street area regardless of responsibility for negligence in accordance with the terms of the agreement between Jacoba McKay and the Cities of Oakland and Berkeley, attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

87-097251

4. The Permittee shall make no changes to the encroachments hereby allowed either structurally, with regard to dimension, or with respect to use, without the written consent of the Director of Public Works and understands that the City may impose reasonable fees and considerations for processing permits required for such proposed changes. Permittee also understands that the City is not obligated to grant any changes proposed by said Permittee.

5. The Permittee is responsible for the relocation of all public utilities and facilities as required.

6. The Permittee is responsible for the relocation of all City utilities including Fire Alarm Cable, Master Signal cable, street lighting and intersection signal cable, as required.

7. That the Permittee, by the acceptance, either expressed or implied, of this revocable permit shall be solely and fully responsible for the repair or replacement of any portion or all of said improvements in the event that said improvements shall have failed or have been damaged to the extent of creating a menace or of becoming a hazard to the safety of the general public; and that the Permittee shall be liable for the expenses connected herewith.

8. That the hereinabove conditions shall be binding upon the Permittee and the successive owners and assigns thereof.

9. That the Permittee shall file with the City of Oakland for recordation, a disclaimer and agreement that Permittee accepts and shall comply with and shall be bound by each and all of the terms, conditions and provisions of this resolution, which disclaimer and agreement shall be subject to the approval of the City Attorney and the Director of Public Works.

10. That the plans and exact location of said encroachment hereby granted are subject to the review and approval of the Office of Public Works and that the Permittee shall obtain all necessary permits prior to commencing said work.

11. That this resolution shall take effect when all the conditions hereinabove set forth shall have been complied with to the satisfaction of the City Attorney and the Director of Public Works of the City of Oakland and shall become null and void upon the failure of the Permittee to comply with the conditions hereinabove set forth after notice and failure to cure such conditions in a reasonable manner; and be it

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 16th day of April, 1987, by and between Jacoba deNeef, aka Jacoba deNeef McKay, aka Jacoba McKay, hereinafter referred to as McKay and the City of Oakland, California, a municipal corporation, hereinafter referred to as Oakland, and the City of Berkeley, California, a municipal corporation, hereinafter referred to as Berkeley.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, existing roads and sewers in the Panoramic Hill area are inadequate to support additional residential development in the Panoramic Hill area and

WHEREAS, a new access road and sewer main access into the Panoramic Hill area must be constructed before additional residential development may be permitted in the Panoramic Hill area and

WHEREAS, since 1967 Oakland and Berkeley have disapproved permits for the extension and construction of public sewers in the Panoramic Hill area due to the potential disruption of emergency vehicular access thereto in the event of sewer construction in the Panoramic Hill area, and

WHEREAS, access to the Panoramic Hill area or the prolonged disruption of Panoramic Way due to the failure of the Berkeley main line in general is deemed inadequate for emergency vehicle and construction purposes if there is a failure of the Berkeley sewer main on Panoramic Way and

WHEREAS, since 1968, McKay has owned and occupied a single family residence at 690 Panoramic Way which uses a septic tank and sump sewage disposal system and

WHEREAS, a sewage disposal condition constituting a public health hazard presently exists at 690 Panoramic Way, and

WHEREAS, the McKay septic tank and sump sewage disposal system is no longer usable, repairable or expandable, and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency in December, 1985, ordered McKay to abate the sewage disposal problem at 690 Panoramic Way or suffer the forfeiture or her residence and

WHEREAS, Oakland ordinances prohibit the construction of new septic tanks in Oakland and

WHEREAS, McKay will suffer extreme irreparable injury in the event of a forfeiture of her residence at 690 Panoramic Way, and

WHEREAS, Oakland and Berkeley desire to cooperate with homeowners currently using septic tank sewage disposal systems in the 690 Panoramic Way area to remedy the

potential health problem arising from septic tanks which will no longer be usable or expandable,

NOW, THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual benefits to be derived by the parties hereto it is agreed among Oakland, Berkeley and McKay as follows.

1. Oakland will issue a permit to McKay permitting McKay to construct a private sewer main extension together with necessary appurtenances (hereinafter "private sewer") which can be used in the disposal of sewage by McKay and such other property owners as hereinafter permitted, along and under the 3500 block of Dwight Way, Oakland. McKay shall pay all costs for construction and maintenance of the private sewer including, but not limited to, engineering, surveying, construction, inspection fees and charges, attorneys' fees and insurance. Plans and specifications shall be prepared by a licensed civil engineer of McKay's choosing. Plans and specifications shall meet the approval of the Director of Public Works of Oakland and construction of the private sewer main extension shall be accomplished in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Director of Public Works of Oakland and shall be subject to inspection by the Director of Public Works of Oakland.

2. McKay may choose the lowest responsible bid for construction of the private sewer.

3. The private sewer shall connect to the public sewer adjacent to Parcel No. 048H-7703-076-01 and Parcel No. 048H-7703-07-03 (presently 3456 Dwight Way) and extend south along Dwight Way. Provided, however, that the private sewer shall not extend beyond Parcel No. 048H-7703-62-02 (presently 690 Panoramic Way). The length of the private sewer will be approximately 315 feet. The property owners of currently developed properties identified in Exhibit A as Private Sewer Candidates (PSC) may enter an agreement with McKay to tie directly into the private sewer. The property owners of currently developed properties listed in Exhibit A as Sewer Extension Candidates (SEC) may also enter into an agreement with McKay and the City of Oakland to extend a sewer main from the terminus of the private sewer to Parcel No. 048H-7700-016-01 (presently 3555 Dwight Way), provided the extension is warranted for a septic tank failure and recommended by the Alameda County Health Department (ACHD). The length of the sewer extension will be restricted to approximately 148 feet.

No owners of a parcel or parcels of property not now developed shall be permitted to connect to the private sewer.

4. McKay shall execute individual agreements (such agreements) with the owners of parcels of property identified in Exhibit A (PSC) hereto who desire to connect

to the private sewer. Such agreements shall require that the owners of such parcels who desire to connect to the private sewer shall pay a share, as determined hereafter, of the total of all costs incurred by McKay related to the construction of the private sewer and maintenance thereof after construction. Costs of construction incurred by Dr. McKay shall include, but not be limited to, all reasonable engineering, surveying, construction, inspection and insurance costs, as well as attorney's fees and costs incurred by McKay relating to the sewer project.

The amount each property owner shall pay to McKay as his/her share of the cost of the private sewer construction and maintenance costs shall be as follows:

A. Private Sewer Candidates (PSC) shall pay:

1. 17.9% of total of all costs of construction of the private sewer;

2. A share of maintenance costs incurred from date of participation in the agreement as follows:

a) A pro rata share for all private sewer candidates while the private sewer only is in service;

b) A pro rata share of 90% of the maintenance costs for all private sewer candidates when the extension sewer is in service.

B. Sewer Extension Candidates (SEC) shall pay:

1. 3.6% of total of all costs for

construction of the private sewer;

2. A pro rata share of sewer extension participants of 10% of the maintenance costs of the private sewer from the date of participation in this agreement;

3. A pro rata share of the total costs for the construction and maintenance of the sewer extension. This total cost will be borne by the Sewer Extension Candidates (SEC) only.

Construction of the private sewer shall be deemed to commence on the date McKay awards the sewer construction contract to the successful bidder.

Construction of the sewer extension shall be initiated by a separate agreement between the property owners listed in Exhibit A as Sewer Extension Candidates. An agreement must also be executed between the said owners and the Cities of Oakland and Berkeley.

McKay shall execute individual agreements with the owners of property identified in Exhibit A hereto (PSC) who desire to connect directly to the private sewer or indirectly through a sewer main extension subsequent to the intitial participation of the property owners and after the date of commencement of construction of the private sewer. These owners shall pay to McKay the share costs itemized in paragraph 4. A., above, plus interest thereon not to exceed 12% compounded annually from the date of commencement of

construction of the private sewer.

Any owner of a currently developed parcel or parcels of real property identified in Exhibit A hereto shall have the right to connect to the private sewer so long as McKay owns the private sewer, and provided that such connection conforms with all local and state laws relating thereto. All costs relating to the construction, connection or extension of the McKay private sewer in addition to all other costs described herein shall be borne by any such property owner who desires hereafter to connect to the McKay private sewer. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to require McKay to bear any part or all of the cost of any extension or connection to the private sewer which a property owner may cause to be constructed after completion of construction of the McKay private sewer main extension.

All connections made by such property owners with whom McKay concludes such agreements to connect to the private sewer shall be made at the sole expense of each such property owner and shall require a building sewer permit from the City of Oakland.

5. Such agreements as McKay shall execute with the owners of the parcels identified in Exhibit A hereto shall expressly provide that the private sewer shall not be available or extended to any parcel or parcels of property other than those identified in Exhibit A hereto, or to any

structure that is not currently existing on such parcel or parcels, and further, that all terms, conditions and restrictions contained in such agreements shall be binding upon and inure to McKay's and each such property owner's grantees, devisees, heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns as covenants running with the land. Such provisions shall be recorded as covenants running with the land in the official records of Alameda County, California.

6. Such agreements as McKay executes with other property owners shall include provisions whereby other property owners agree to fully indemnify and hold McKay, Oakland and Berkeley, their engineers, officers, agents and employees, harmless from any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by any person and/or his agents, servants and employees under or in connection with the private sewer construction.

7. Oakland reserves the right to review for compliance with the terms of this Agreement such agreements as McKay shall execute with other property owners.

8. McKay shall fully indemnify and hold Oakland and Berkeley, their engineers, contractors, officers, agents and employees, harmless from any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by McKay or her contractor, agents, employees, or any third party under

or in connection with the sewer project.

9. Neither Oakland, Berkeley, nor any officer, engineer or employee thereof shall be responsible for any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted by McKay, her contractor, agents, employees or any third party under or in connection with any work done under this Agreement.

10. McKay or her contractor, prior to the commencement of construction, shall obtain Comprehensive Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability Insurance including automobile liability and/or complete operations coverage, and specifically including contractual liability covering liability assumed hereunder, providing Bodily Injury Liability limits of not less than $500,000.00 for each person and $500,000.00 for each accident or occurrence and, Property Damage Liability limits of not less than $100,000.00 for each accident or occurrence insuring Oakland and Berkeley, their officers and employees as additional insureds thereunder and McKay and/or her agents, servants and employees for claims which may arise from the operations of the contractor or sub-contractors in the performance of the work herein provided. The policy may not be cancelled, nor the amount of coverage thereof be reduced until completion of the sewer project, as such is determined by Director of Public Works of the city of Oakland. McKay

and/or her contractor shall furnish the Directors of Public Works of Oakland and Berkeley with a certificate of insurance evidencing the issuance of the aforesaid policy of insurance prior to commencement of the work on the sewer project.

11. Upon completion of the private sewer and acceptance of the work by the Director of Public Works of Oakland, McKay and such other property owners with whom she concludes such agreements shall be solely responsible for maintenance of the private sewer, and for all liabilities, if any, resulting therefrom.

12. With the exception of liabilities that are apportioned hereunder, this Agreement shall terminate at such time as the private sewer, at the request of Oakland, is dedicated by McKay, and others, if any, having an interest therein, to and accepted by Oakland as a public sewer.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to require Oakland to request dedication at any time of the private sewer by McKay to Oakland as a public sewer. Provided, however, that McKay, and others, if any, having an interest therein, shall dedicate the private sewer to Oakland as a public sewer free of any cost to Oakland if Oakland makes such a request in writing to McKay. McKay's agreement(s) with other property owners shall require those property

owners to dedicate their interest, if any, in said private sewer to the City of Oakland, if the City of Oakland so requests.

In the event that Oakland requests that McKay dedicate the private sewer to Oakland as a public sewer, McKay shall have a minimum of ten (10) years from the date of notice of completion of construction of the private sewer within which to recapture her cost of construction through such agreements as she shall conclude with other property owners who desire to connect to the private sewer as described in paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of this Agreement. As used in this paragraph McKay's costs of construction shall include but not be limited to the costs described in paragraph 4, above.

13. In the event that Oakland requests that McKay, and others, having an interest therein, dedicate the private sewer to Oakland as a public sewer, and Oakland accepts such dedication, then, and in that event, Oakland, from the date of acceptance of the offer of dedication, shall assume all responsibility for maintenance of the sewer and hereby agrees to fully indemnify and hold harmless McKay and such other property owners with whom McKay executes such agreements from any damages or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by the City of Oakland, its agents and employees, in connection with the public sewer and maintenance thereof after acceptance of the

offer of dedication by McKay and said parties, if any, having an interest therein. Such agreements as McKay shall conclude with other property owners who connect to the private sewer shall provide that it is expressly agreed between McKay and such property owners, for the benefit for the City of Oakland, that McKay and such property owners shall indemnify and hold harmless the City of Oakland, its agents and employees, from any damages or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done in connection with the private sewer prior to acceptance by the City of Oakland of the offer of dedication by McKay and such persons, if any, claiming an interest in the private sewer.

14. Should any litigation be commenced between the parties hereto concerning this agreement, or the rights and duties of the parties in relation thereto, the party prevailing in such litigation shall be entitled, in addition to such other relief as may be granted in the litigation, to a reasonable sum as and for his/her attorney's fees and costs in such litigation which shall be determined by the court in such litigation or in such separate action brought for the project.

15. This Agreement is made expressly for the benefit of the parties hereto, with the exception of those parties who own the parcels of property listed in Exhibit A hereto.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to create in, grant to or confer upon any person or entity any right or interest herein or to create any relationship of any kind between or among any person or entity not a party hereto.

16. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a copy of the Plan of the private sewer approved by the Office of Public Works of Oakland on 3/25, 1987.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF McKay and Oakland and Berkeley have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective officers, duly authorized all.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dated: 3/25/87

The City of Oakland

By: _____

Oakland City Attorney

Dated: 4/24'87

_____

Jacoba deNeef, aka
Jacoba deNeef McKay, aka
Jacoba McKay

Dated: 3-26-87

The City of Oakland

By: M. Karoline De Martini

Deputy City Manager

Official Title

Dated: 4/14/87

The City of Berkeley

By: _____

Asst C. M.

Official Title

ATTEST:

Dated: 4-24-87 Edythe Campbell
City Clerk, City of Berkeley

Dated: 3-25-87 Grace Jamieson
City Clerk, City of Oakland

ATTEST:

Dated: 4-24-87 Edythe Campbell
City Clerk, City of Berkeley

Dated: 3-25-87 Bruce Jameson
City Clerk, City of Oakland

OWNERS	APN
Private Sewer Candidates (PSC)	
James J. Baum, Esq. 701 Panoramic Way Berkeley, Ca 94704	048H 7704 044 01
Donald A. Glaser 3514 Dwight Way Berkeley, Ca 94704	048H 7703 058 048H 7703 069 03 048H 7703 069 04
Jacoba de Neef McKay 690 Panoramic Way Berkeley, Ca 94704	048H 7703 062 02
Barry Kramer 595 Dwight Place Berkeley, CA 94704 (or successor owner thereto)	048H 7700 003 01
M. C. Pelatowski 3527 Dwight Way Berkeley, Ca 94704	048H 7700 005 01 048H 7700 007 01
Sewer Extension Candidates (SEC)	
James Studabaker 3560 Dwight Way Berkeley, Ca 94704	048H 7703 065
Kathleen Sullivan 3541 Dwight Way Berkeley, Ca 94704	048H 7700 012 02
Ellen Raphael 3555 Dwight Way Berkeley, CA 94704	048H 7700 016 01

EXHIBIT A
McKay--Oakland, Berkeley Sewer Agreement
Final Draft - 12/18/86

87-097251

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 64466 C. M. S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

RESOLUTION GRANTING JACOBA MCKAY A CONDITIONAL REVOCABLE PERMIT TO ENCROACH INTO AND UNDER THE STREET AND PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OF DWIGHT WAY, FROM 130' ± NORTHERLY TO 195' ± SOUTHERLY OF DWIGHT PLACE

WHEREAS, Jacoba McKay has requested permission to encroach into and under the street of Dwight Way; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this resolution will authorize the City Manager to enter into and execute the attached agreement labeled Exhibit "A" for the construction of a private sanitary sewer main within the proposed encroachment area; and

WHEREAS, the location of said encroachment to be granted by this resolution is further delineated and depicted as Area 1 in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof and is for the purpose of installing a sewer main beneath the street. Said Area 1 being the public right-of-way of Dwight Way located approximately 130' northerly of and 195' southerly of the intersection of the centerline of Dwight Place and the centerline of Dwight Way; and

WHEREAS, the said encroachment is beneath the finished street area and will not interfere with use of same by the public, and the public welfare and convenience will not be endangered by said use; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is categorically exempt under the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: That Jacoba McKay is hereby granted a conditional revocable permit to encroach into and under the street area depicted in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Council of the City of Oakland, in granting this permission, prescribes as special conditions thereof the following:

1. That this permit shall be revocable at the pleasure of the Council of the City of Oakland, expressed by resolution of said Council.

2. That the Permittee, by the acceptance, either expressed or implied, of this revocable permit, hereby disclaims any right, title or interest in or to the portions of street area underlying the said encroachment and agrees that the temporary use of said area does not constitute an abandonment on the part of the City.

3. That the Permittee, by the acceptance, either expressed or implied, of this revocable permit, agrees and promises to hold harmless the City of Oakland, its agents, officers, and employees, from all and every claim, demand, lawsuit and judgment for damages of any kind and nature whatsoever arising out of or caused by the existence of said encroachment to said street area regardless of responsibility for negligence in accordance with the terms of the agreement between Jacoba McKay and the Cities of Oakland and Berkeley, attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

87-097251

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into and execute the attached agreement labeled Exhibit "A" for the construction of a private sanitary sewer main within the encroachment area; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City Clerk is hereby directed to have a certified copy of this resolution recorded at the office of the Alameda County Recorder.

87-097251

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIF.
RENE C. DAVIDSON CO. RECORDER

'87 APR 9 AM 9 57

D. H.

I certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed by the City Council of the City of Oakland, California,

on MAR 24 1987

ARRECE JAMESON
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council

Per _____ Deputy

600-246-001 (7/83)

2207_Slaby_Ann

From: Martín Blank
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Reconsider clear cutting trees.
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 3:46:56 PM

Dear FEMA,

Please reconsider the clear-cutting of trees in the East San Francisco Bay Hills. These trees have been here for decades and pouring herbicides in the ground will have a tremendously negative impact for our environment here.

Thank you.

--
Martín Blank
Concerned Oakland Resident

From:	lisa goodman
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	Eucalyptus in the Berkeley/Oakland hills
Date:	Sunday, June 02, 2013 2:50:47 PM
Attachments:	pastedGraphic.pdf

Dear FEMA,

Straight out.. I don't know enough to make an informed decision about these non-native trees, even though I'm a landscape contractor. I do know that we have among us many tree loving, highly knowledgeable foresters and other professionals and I think they should be the ones leading the way towards the best possible fire prevention. Most of us do not wish harm on any trees, they're majestic, live things, deserving of respect and protection. From what I've read and discussed with a highly knowledgeable Forestry professional, who's as objective as they come, the negatives of the Eucalyptus far outweigh their advantages. He supports taking them out, and he has no ax to grind (so to speak..).

What I would like to recommend is that herbicides be used as little as possible, and, instead, that maintenance crews cut out the seedlings as part of their ongoing land and fire management program.

Thank you for your efforts,

Lisa Goodman

From: ct zuber
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 2:46:33 PM

Hello:
I am writing you regarding the cutting down of the eucalyptus trees in Berkeley and Oakland.

I can't believe that the same people who are complaining about global warming, and everything else don't like these trees because they are non-native.(Trees absorb CO2 don't they?) They have been here much much longer that the non-native complainers. Keep the trees and make them move back, if they don't like them.

I was born in Berkeley. I love the trees, the smell of eucalyptus, the wind break, their ability to prevent mud slides, and pretty much everything else. Nobody is complaining in Palo Alto about eucalyptus trees and the town looks great,.

Everything burns if it gets hot enough, including the concrete slab these people should be made to live on. Keep the trees and please don't give them any money.
ctz

Christopher T. Zuber
Logic Communications Co. Inc. ®
CCL# 772638
510 834.1118 fax 834.2711
2336 Harrison St.
Oakland, CA 94612
cell (510) 205-0203

From: Mobile Mac
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Put me on your mailing list
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 1:38:51 PM

Hello,

I wish to stay updated - please put my e-mail on your mailing list:

mobilemac@att.net

Thank you,

Mark Janowicz
Moraga, CA. 94556

From: Eli Lyons
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: EIS
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 1:14:52 PM

Hello,

My name is Eli Lyons, I am a 5th generation San Franciscan, and have lived in Berkeley my whole life. I believe that necessary fire risk reduction should occur, but that it must be done responsibly, and in a way such that native species actually do return to the cut sites. By not planting native species, the plan is simply ruining a semi-mature ecosystem and polluting it with toxic herbicide. NATIVE SPECIES MUST BE PLANTED.

Thank you,
Eli

From: Pamela Benson
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Claremont Canyon
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 1:11:49 PM

I support the conclusions of the Environmental Impact Statement. Cut down the eucalyptus trees.

Pamela Benson
65 year Bay Area resident

From: Larry Ginsburg
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: proposed FEMA project in the East Bay Hills in Oakland & Berkeley
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 12:28:49 PM

I fully support the proposed reduction of fuel load in the East Bay Hills as proposed by FEMA.

I know that a few vocal opponents are raising issues that do not seem reasonable and I hope that FEMA will do what is best for our community. This means reducing the potential for another conflagration here in our hills. I have lived in these hills for 50 years and remember well the 1991 firestorm that burned down thousands of homes. I want to have our area safer from wildfires and support the FEMA plan. Both my home (address is 49 Bay Forest Drive, Oakland, CA 94611) and office are in impacted areas.

Please implement the plan to reduce the Eucalyptus trees and the potential for fire.

Larry P. Ginsburg, CFP®

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Oakland, CA 94611
Voice: (510).339-3933
Fax: (510).339-1611
email: LGinsburg@GinsburgAdvisors.com

From: Jane Risk
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 12:11:14 PM

June 1, 2013

Re: FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects

Dear Sirs:

I am asking FEMA not to approve the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills that is now in the public comment stage. I believe that the FEMA Draft Environmental Impact Study is seriously flawed, and is neither adequate nor accurate.

> Fire Danger: The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not meet its own stated goal of reducing flame lengths to 2 feet.

The projects in the East Bay will increase fire hazard by destroying the windbreak that can slow a wind-driven fire, by eliminating the fog drip that moistens the forest floor and makes ignition more difficult, and by encouraging the growth of grasses that ignite easily and spread a fire rapidly.

These projects intend to distribute tons of dead wood on the ground. Trees would be chipped on site, leaving up to 24 inches of chip litter on the ground. Dead wood is much more flammable than any living tree, not to mention the added danger of subterranean fire under the chips, as well as spontaneous ignition in the hot sun.

This approach has been shown not to work, with massive invasion of highly-flammable hemlock, thistle, broom and poison oak where it has been tried. The proposed treatments will result in an environment with flame lengths of between 14 feet and 69 feet, based on the same data set that was used to construct the EIS. This flame length is worse than what could be expected with the trees that exist currently. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to develop a proposal that actually fixes the problem.

> Fire Model: The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment of standing trees with the environment that will exist the day after approximately 500,000 trees are cut down to stumps. This is a meaningless comparison, as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this condition. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed the fire danger will begin to increase. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to include a fire model that analyzes the expected end result vegetation rather than an essentially irrelevant state.

> Erosion: UCB and Oakland do not intend to plant the project areas. Without tree roots to hold the soil in place, erosion and landslides will increase.

> Herbicide Use: The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. To prevent non-native trees from resprouting, the hills would be drenched with massive amounts (30,000+ gallons) of toxic pesticides. In addition, herbicides will be sprayed throughout the watershed to knock down the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy. Toxic sediments will seep into our creeks and could

permanently alter the watershed. Garlon causes cancer and so does glyphosate (Roundup) when sprayed broadcast over large areas. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use.

> Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. No other type of vegetation stores as much carbon as tall hardwood trees. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down almost half a million trees.

> Air Quality: The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. Hundreds of thousands of tons of sequestered carbon dioxide will be released into the atmosphere from the destroyed trees, adding not only to global warming, but also to local climate changes: More wind, more dry air, less fog, more air pollution. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

> Reasonable Alternatives: The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

> Funding: These projects are an inappropriate use of the limited resources of the Federal Emergency Management Agency that are for the express purpose of restoring communities destroyed by disasters and preparing communities for anticipated catastrophic events. When local matching funds are included, over 7 million dollars of taxpayer money would be wasted on destroying forests miles away from any residences. This is money that could and should be spent on creating defensible space around houses and other structures.

My husband and I live in San Francisco, but frequently join our children and grandchildren for walks on the wooded trails of Strawberry Canyon, Tilden Park, Wildcat Canyon, Redwood Park and Sibley Volcanic. In San Francisco we are facing similar plans by UCSF to log the Sutro Forest and by the SF Recreation and Parks Department Natural Areas Program to cut thousands of trees on city parklands, simply because they are ‘non-native’. They are targeting eucalyptus, pines, and acacia, not because of a fire risk, but because these species are despised by the native plant restoration community. If all of these projects are approved, over half a million beautiful, healthy trees will be logged in the Bay Area.

The Bay Area needs trees. Please do not approve the Environmental Impact Study for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills.

Sincerely,

Jane Risk, Sierra Club National Outings leader

64 El Sereno Court

San Francisco, CA 94127

Email: j2risk@gmail.com

From: Terry Buller
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Tree removal in Oakland
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 12:10:06 PM

To whom it may concern

I have been a resident of Oakland since 1975 and currently live close to Redwood Park.

In 1991 I watched the beginning of the Oakland Hills fire from my prior home on Estates Dr. From the rear windows of my home I could see Hiller Highlands and the surrounding hillsides. It was clear that as soon as the Eucalyptus trees became involved in the blaze the whole complex of houses was doomed. I watch it disappear in a veil of smoke and flames. The fire then proceeded across Hwy 24 and into the adjoining neighborhoods. This was made possible by the unchecked growth of Eucalyptus groves and other vegetation.
The connection between the danger of fires spreading into neighborhoods and these fire-friendly trees cannot be denied or ignored.
Please go forward with the plans to decrease this potentially fatal danger.

I would add the the restoration of vegetation after the devastating 1991 fire was much quicker than people expected. Eucalyptus removal will change the landscape, but not the new plantings with more appropriate trees will soon restore the natural open space we all appreciate.

Terry D. Buller
Attorney at Law
The Camron-Stanford House
1418 Lakeside Drive
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 832-4295
(510) 832-4364 fax
terry@bullerlaw.com

From: Bob Brodersen
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: East Bay Hills EIS
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 11:43:37 AM

I fully support the draft EIS and hope the funding can released as soon as possible.
I believe that the removal of all Euc 's should be done as soon as possible and the stumps treated to eliminate re-sprouting.

From: John Kenny
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Re: Support of EIS for East Bay Hills
Date: Sunday, June 02, 2013 11:06:22 AM

Dear FEMA,

I strongly support the wildfire hazard mitigation projects for the East Bay Hills. I believe the EIS findings of improved fire safety and likely long-term improvements to the native landscape should move forward without delay. With removal of invasive trees and yearly follow-up to discourage re-growth and weeds, native vegetation will thrive. Thank you for supporting this important work. Please approve the EIS as soon as possible.

John Kenny
2437 Edwards St.
Berkeley, CA 94702

From:	Sam Singer
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	We support funding for tree removal in Claremont Canyon
Date:	Sunday, June 02, 2013 11:03:29 AM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png
Importance:	High

Dear FEMA: As a resident of Roble Road in Berkeley, Calif., I strongly urge you to approve the EIS as quickly as possible to allow for the funding for the trees to be removed for fire safety purposes in Claremont Canyon.

My father lost his house on Alvarado Road in the hills fire of 1991, so I personally know of the danger eucalyptus trees and underbrush can cause to firefighters trying to battle a blaze.

We want the funding approved and tree removal to begin as soon as possible to ensure the safety of our community and to assist firefighters in preventing massive fires like 1991 that devastated Oakland, Berkeley and our neighborhoods.

Please let me know if I can help in any manner to assist in your tree removal project.

Thank you.

Regards, Sam Singer

Sam Singer | President | Singer Associates, Inc.
Office: 415.227.9700 | Cellular: 415.336.4949
singer@singersf.com | www.singer-associates.com



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From: fosmith@aol.com
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley Hills hazardous fire risk reduction
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 7:08:30 PM

To whom it may concern:

This is a good project that needs to be done and will enhance the biodiversity of the environment. The eucalyptus are not only a fire hazard but displace native flora and fauna of the area. The success of the previous fire hazard reduction project shows that, native vegetation will reestablish itself when the monterey pines and eucalyptus are removed. These environmental benefits will offset any temporary negative impacts of the tree removal process.

Thank you,
Fred Smith
92 Camino Encinas
Orinda, CA 94563

From: cherryshari@netzero.com
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Strawberry and Claremont Canyon Tree Clear Cutting Berkeley/Oakland, C A
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 6:21:03 PM

I was horrified to hear about the plan to clear-cut 85,000 beautiful Berkeley and Oakland trees, including 22,000 in historic Strawberry and Claremont Canyon. How do you have federal money for this destructive project while Head Start and public housing programs are being cut due to the sequester?

The trees in Strawberry and Claremont Canyon have been there for decades and hardly constitute a "hazard." But pouring 1,400 gallons of herbicide on the currently pristine hills will create a real hazard, and UC Berkeley even plans to use the highly toxic herbicide "Roundup" to squelch the return of non-native vegetation.

Please don't use my tax dollars for this.

Ms. Shari Morfin
712 Bancroft Rd, Suite 216
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

From: Jeanne Corsick
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley/Oakland Hills Fire Prevention Proposal
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 1:40:07 PM

Dear FEMA,

I am a native CA resident, raised in Santa Clara, CA. I am proud to be a citizen of the Bay Area. For decades there has been an incredible amount of progress emanating from this land, from Santa Clara to Fremont, Foster City to Mountain View, San Francisco to Sausalito, and of course Berkeley to Oakland and the surrounding area. The Bay Area is on the forefront of our nation, and our nation to the world. We need to be extremely cautious of the decisions we make here at home, not only for our residents, but also because of the effect we have on other locales in America and the world at large.

I urge you to continue extensive research into what is the most viable option for fire prevention control in the Berkeley Oakland hills prior to executing the plan as it currently stands.

Is removal of the non-native Eucalyptus truly the best answer to this serious issue?

Will these plots without vegetation truly prevent fire from spreading?

The local fire department has contained fires in the hills since 1991 successfully. That's 22 years without any major threat to communities living in the hills. They have learned how best to handle fires through continued extensive training. Their mistakes of the past have pushed them to where they are now, able to successfully control fire in the area. Additionally, those that choose to live in such close proximity to this potential threat have begun to better educate themselves and are continuing to take better preventative fire control measures around their properties.

If it comes to light through extensive research that the removal of these non-native species is warranted, then why is there no plan to plant native species?

And of more concern to me, why is the plan to use toxic chemicals such as RoundUp to prevent future growth? These are protected lands free from major industrialization and commercialization. Please seriously consider alternatives to chemical based herbicides and pesticides. States such as Massachusetts and Oregon have had similar needs for such research and have found positive results for their areas. We would need to conduct similar research to ascertain what could work in this area - let's do it! Please see this document for information regarding what Massachusetts found in it's research: http://www.mhd.state.ma.us/downloads/vmp/Herbicide_Alternatives.pdf. And this for Oregon: http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4567

We cannot simply take what appears to be the easiest route. The plan as it currently stands will have long term effects on not only human health, but also animal habitats. Water and air quality will potentially be effected. People who walk the surrounding trails will be much less likely to visit, etc.

In all honesty none of us truly know the effects of what will happen. And that is really my point. A lot more research is needed before moving forward with this project. Who will be effected, man and animal? How will water be effected? How will air be effected? Where will the animals go? And many more questions have not satisfactorily been answered.

I am strongly opposed to this project moving forward.

Thank you for your time.

--
Best,

Jeanne

From: Michelle Reyes
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley/Oakland Hills Fire Prevention Proposal
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 11:16:02 AM

Dear FEMA,

I was born and raised in Contra Costa County, and have been living in San Francisco for eight years. I am a graduate student at the Presidio Graduate School, pursuing a Masters of Business Administration in Sustainable Management. The Bay Area is an amazing place to live, and this is supported by the people who live here. These people may be at risk based on your proposal to distribute toxic chemicals into the Berkeley and Oakland Hills. I urge you to continue extensive research into what is the most viable option for fire prevention control prior to executing the plan as it currently stands.

Is removal of the non-native Eucalyptus truly the best answer to this serious issue?

Will these plots without vegetation truly prevent fire from spreading?

The local fire department has contained fires in the hills since 1991 successfully. That's 22 years without any major threat to communities living in the hills. They have learned how best to handle fires through continued extensive training. Their mistakes of the past have pushed them to where they are now, able to successfully control fire in the area. Additionally, those that choose to live in such close proximity to this potential threat have begun to better educate themselves and are continuing to take better preventative fire control measures around their properties.

If it comes to light through extensive research that the removal of these non-native species is warranted, then why is there no plan to plant native species?

And of more concern to me, why is the plan to use toxic chemicals such as RoundUp to prevent future growth? These are protected lands free from major industrialization and commercialization. Please seriously consider alternatives to chemical based herbicides and pesticides. States such as Massachusetts and Oregon have had similar needs for such research and have found positive results for their areas. We would need to conduct similar research to ascertain what could work in this area - let's do it! Please see this document for information regarding what Massachusetts found in it's research: http://www.mhd.state.ma.us/downloads/vmp/Herbicide_Alternatives.pdf. And this for Oregon: http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4567

We cannot simply take what appears to be the easiest route. The plan as it currently stands will have long term effects on not only human health, but also animal habitats. Water and air quality will potentially be effected. People who walk the surrounding trails will be much less likely to visit, etc.

In all honesty none of us truly know the effects of what will happen. And that is really my point. A lot more research is needed before moving forward with this project. Who will be effected, man and animal? How will water be effected? How will air be effected? Where will the animals go? And many more questions have not

satisfactorily been answered.

I am strongly opposed to this project moving forward.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Reyes

--
Michelle L. Reyes
michellereyes415@gmail.com
(916) 798-6119
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/mlreyes415/
"Be the change that you want to see in the world" – Mahatma Ghandi

From: normamurphy@comcast.net
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: support for project
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 10:59:43 AM

I live in the Oakland hills and I want to support the removal of eucalyptus trees in all the areas mentioned in the report. They are definitely a fire hazard, they are ugly and messy and all efforts to remove as many as possible have my complete support.

Norma Murphy
2989 Butters Dr.
Oakland, CA 94602

From: Jess Maron
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley/Oakland Hills Fire Prevention Proposal
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 10:46:20 AM

Dear FEMA,

I am a 15 year resident of San Francisco, raised for the most part in Santa Cruz, CA. I am proud to be a citizen of the Bay Area. For decades there has been an incredible amount of progress emanating from this land, from Santa Clara to Fremont, Foster City to Mountain View, San Francisco to Sausalito, and of course Berkeley to Oakland and the surrounding area. The Bay Area is on the forefront of our nation, and our nation to the world. We need to be extremely cautious of the decisions we make here at home, not only for our residents, but also because of the effect we have on other locales in America and the world at large.

I urge you to continue extensive research into what is the most viable option for fire prevention control in the Berkeley Oakland hills prior to executing the plan as it currently stands.

Is removal of the non-native Eucalyptus truly the best answer to this serious issue?

Will these plots without vegetation truly prevent fire from spreading?

The local fire department has contained fires in the hills since 1991 successfully. That's 22 years without any major threat to communities living in the hills. They have learned how best to handle fires through continued extensive training. Their mistakes of the past have pushed them to where they are now, able to successfully control fire in the area. Additionally, those that choose to live in such close proximity to this potential threat have begun to better educate themselves and are continuing to take better preventative fire control measures around their properties.

If it comes to light through extensive research that the removal of these non-native species is warranted, then why is there no plan to plant native species?

And of more concern to me, why is the plan to use toxic chemicals such as RoundUp to prevent future growth? These are protected lands free from major industrialization and commercialization. Please seriously consider alternatives to chemical based herbicides and pesticides. States such as Massachusetts and Oregon have had similar needs for such research and have found positive results for their areas. We would need to conduct similar research to ascertain what could work in this area - let's do it! Please see this document for information regarding what Massachusetts found in it's research: http://www.mhd.state.ma.us/downloads/vmp/Herbicide_Alternatives.pdf. And this for Oregon: http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4567

We cannot simply take what appears to be the easiest route. The plan as it currently stands will have long term effects on not only human health, but also animal habitats. Water and air quality will potentially be effected. People who walk the surrounding trails will be much less likely to visit, etc.

In all honesty none of us truly know the effects of what will happen. And that is

really my point. A lot more research is needed before moving forward with this project. Who will be effected, man and animal? How will water be effected? How will air be effected? Where will the animals go? And many more questions have not satisfactorily been answered.

I am strongly opposed to this project moving forward.

Thank you for your time.

Jess Maron

From: Meehan Rasch
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: EBH-EIS
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 5:05:40 PM

What's the carbon storage impact of removing so many large trees? I favor natives over eucalyptus, and read an EPA report that in the early stages of growth, trees store carbon rapidly; consequently, as tree growth slows, so does carbon sequestration (see http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/waste/downloads/Forest%20Carbon%20Storage.pdf). But does it actually pencil out to remove big trees that have stored decades worth of carbon and replace with younger natives in early stage of growth?

From:	Keith Lewis
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	Comment on EIS for Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction
Date:	Monday, June 03, 2013 4:21:10 PM

Dear Sir/Madam -

I hereby submit my support for the removal of some dangerous trees in my neighborhood, as proposed in your EIS.

There is a stand of several fir & pine trees that pose a fire hazard, and a recurrence of the 1991 firestorm that devastated this neighborhood. They are located on an easement on the 1000 block of Siler Road on property.

I look forward to their removal, as proposed in your report.

Sincerely,

KL

--

Keith Lewis

510-549-9685 (h)
510-919-0229 (m)

From: Lisa Bruce
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Support for EIS for East Bay Hills
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 3:46:58 PM

Dear FEMA,

I strongly support the welfare hazard mitigation projects for the East Bay Hills and feel that they have been studied long enough. I believe the EIS findings of improved fire safety and likely long-term enhancement to the land should move forward without delay. We Claremont Canyon residents know only too well that, when ignited, the eucalyptus canopy will spread wildfire dramatically during our windy fire season. With removal of invasive trees and yearly follow-up to discourage re-growth and weeds, native vegetation will thrive.

Thank you for supporting this important work. Please approve the EIS as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bruce

From: Keith Lewis
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comment on EIS for Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 3:28:21 PM

Dear Sir/Madam -

I hereby submit my support for the removal of some dangerous trees in my neighborhood, as proposed in your EIS.

There is a large stand of several eucalyptus trees that pose a fire hazard, and a recurrence of the 1991 firestorm that devastated this neighborhood. They are located on 800 block of Alvarado Road on property that I believe is part of Garber Park.

I look forward to their removal, as proposed in your report.

Sincerely,

KL

--

Keith Lewis

510-549-9685 (h)
510-919-0229 (m)

From: Joy Sue Hutchinson
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Comment on the proposed fire hazard mitigation plan
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 2:59:02 PM

Dear Friends:

When I recently learned of the plan to cut down hundreds of thousands of trees and to apply toxic herbicides throughout the East Bay hills, my heart and my soul cried with pain.

I walk in the East Bay Hills almost every day and greatly appreciate and love the beauty in these lands.

Please do not harm our environment in this way! I have reviewed some of the EIS material and understand the reasoning behind the need to do this, but please, can't there be a better way?

I am no scientist, but I am a lover of life. I consider trees to be some of my best friends. This is a horrifying plan to cut down many of our friends. And what of all the wildlife who depends on these trees? What will become of them?

From my understanding, these are some of the reasons not to go forward with this plan:

* These projects are more likely to **increase the risk of wildfires** than to reduce that risk.
  By distributing tons of dead wood onto bare ground
  By eliminating shade and fog drip which moistens the forest floor, making ignition more likely
  By destroying the windbreak that is a barrier to wind driven fires typical of wildfires in California
  By expanding the oak-bay woodland being killed by Sudden Oak Death, thereby adding more dead wood
* These projects will **damage the environment** by releasing hundreds of thousands of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from the destroyed trees, thereby contributing to climate change.
* These projects will **endanger the public** by dousing our public lands with thousands of gallons of toxic herbicides.
* **Erosion** is likely on steep slopes when the trees are destroyed and their roots are killed with herbicides.
* **Non-native vegetation** such as broom, thistle, and hemlock are more likely occupants of the unshaded, bared ground than native vegetation which will not be planted by these projects.
* **Prescribed burns** will pollute the air and contribute to the risk of wildfire, endangering lives and property.
* These projects are an **inappropriate use of the limited resources** of the Federal Emergency Management Agency which are for the expressed purpose of restoring communities destroyed by disasters such as floods and other catastrophic events and preparing communities for anticipated catastrophic events. Most of the proposed projects in the East Bay are miles away from any residences.

Please, please, please! Can you try to consider some less violent alternatives?

Love,

Susan Hutchinson
865 52nd Street
Oakland, CA 94608

From: anandamayi
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Opposed
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 2:53:47 PM

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the clearing of non-native trees in the east bay hills.
Thank you
Anandamayi Arnold
2404 Martin Luther King Jr Way
Berkeley

From: Hills Conservation Network
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: 4,681 signers: Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills petition
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 2:14:06 PM

Dear FEMA,

I started a petition to you titled *Stop the deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills*. So far, the petition has 4,681 total signers.

You can post a response for us to pass along to all petition signers by clicking here: http://petitions.moveon.org/target_talkback.html?tt=tt-42455-custom-21317-20130617-MOL1P_

The petition states:

> "The current Draft EIS is unacceptable as it will inflict enormous environmental damage, expose the public to thousands of gallons of toxic herbicide, destroy raptor habitats, destabilize steep slopes, and actually increase the risk of hazardous wildfires. FEMA should retract this EIS and remove those portions of the EIS that call for clear-cutting tall trees. The EIS should instead support a far less destructive methodology that would focus on a "species-neutral" approach, focusing on eliminating ground fuels and the fire ladder, thinning where appropriate, and limbing up as needed to ensure minimal risk of crown fires. Killing more than 50,000 trees and poisoning them for up to 10 years will have disastrous effects on this beautiful and healthy ecosystem, and cannot be allowed to happen."

To download a PDF file of all your constituents who have signed the petition, including their addresses, click this link: http://petitions.moveon.org/deliver_pdf.html?job_id=882912&target_type=custom&target_id=21317

Thank you.

--Hills Conservation Network

If you have any other questions, please email petitions@moveon.org.

The links to download the petition as a PDF and to respond to all of your constituents will remain available for the next 14 days.

This email was sent through MoveOn's petition website, a free service that allows anyone to set up their own online petition and share it with friends. MoveOn does not endorse the contents of petitions posted on our public petition website. If you don't want to receive further emails updating you on how many people have signed this petition, click here: http://petitions.moveon.org/delivery_unsub.html?e=xH6bm7btHgt1XQnAc8fwEiBFQkgtRUlTLUZFTUEtUklYQGZlbWEuZGhzLmdvdg--&petition_id=42455.

From: Jeanne Corsick
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Berkeley/Oakland Hills Fire Prevention Proposal
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 1:40:07 PM

Dear FEMA,

I am a native CA resident, raised in Santa Clara, CA. I am proud to be a citizen of the Bay Area. For decades there has been an incredible amount of progress emanating from this land, from Santa Clara to Fremont, Foster City to Mountain View, San Francisco to Sausalito, and of course Berkeley to Oakland and the surrounding area. The Bay Area is on the forefront of our nation, and our nation to the world. We need to be extremely cautious of the decisions we make here at home, not only for our residents, but also because of the effect we have on other locales in America and the world at large.

I urge you to continue extensive research into what is the most viable option for fire prevention control in the Berkeley Oakland hills prior to executing the plan as it currently stands.

Is removal of the non-native Eucalyptus truly the best answer to this serious issue?

Will these plots without vegetation truly prevent fire from spreading?

The local fire department has contained fires in the hills since 1991 successfully. That's 22 years without any major threat to communities living in the hills. They have learned how best to handle fires through continued extensive training. Their mistakes of the past have pushed them to where they are now, able to successfully control fire in the area. Additionally, those that choose to live in such close proximity to this potential threat have begun to better educate themselves and are continuing to take better preventative fire control measures around their properties.

If it comes to light through extensive research that the removal of these non-native species is warranted, then why is there no plan to plant native species?

And of more concern to me, why is the plan to use toxic chemicals such as RoundUp to prevent future growth? These are protected lands free from major industrialization and commercialization. Please seriously consider alternatives to chemical based herbicides and pesticides. States such as Massachusetts and Oregon have had similar needs for such research and have found positive results for their areas. We would need to conduct similar research to ascertain what could work in this area - let's do it! Please see this document for information regarding what Massachusetts found in it's research: http://www.mhd.state.ma.us/downloads/vmp/Herbicide_Alternatives.pdf. And this for Oregon: http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4567

We cannot simply take what appears to be the easiest route. The plan as it currently stands will have long term effects on not only human health, but also animal habitats. Water and air quality will potentially be effected. People who walk the surrounding trails will be much less likely to visit, etc.

In all honesty none of us truly know the effects of what will happen. And that is really my point. A lot more research is needed before moving forward with this project. Who will be effected, man and animal? How will water be effected? How will air be effected? Where will the animals go? And many more questions have not satisfactorily been answered.

I am strongly opposed to this project moving forward.

Thank you for your time.

--
Best,

Jeanne

From: Michael Vlastone
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Stop tree cutting project!
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 12:34:52 PM

The planned tree cutting project an outrageous waste of tax payers money that destroys a valuable habitat without any contribution to the project's stated goals.

There are less expensive and viable approaches that do not destroy forests or dump chemicals into environment needlessly.

Michael Vlastone

email: vlastone@aol.com
mobile: 415-794-5112
office: 510-788-4018
fax: 510-788-4334

From: Konrad Gauder
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Removal od hazardous eucalyptus Oakland hills
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 12:04:31 PM

To Whom it may concern:

As the owner of a landscape design-build firm for thirty five years, I wish to support the removal of as many blue gum eucalyptus/stands in the Oakland hills as is possible. The tree is highly invasive, dangerously flammable, and crowds-out all native under/story vegetation, thus creating vast mono-cultures of immense trees.

In the Claremont Canyon, where eradication has already occurred, a diverse variety of native trees and shrubs has become established, and with the passage of time, promises to mature into a diverse ecosystem, providing habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

To those who advocate for under-story clearing of mature Eucalyptus stands to mitigate fire hazard, I would point to both the inherent danger of sudden limb/fall (Eucalyptus are referred to as the Widow-Maker), and the labor intensity (cost) of such a proposal.

California has a bounty of diverse trees, shrubs and grasses and perennial ground covers. I believe this project provides an opportunity to restore the East Bay hills to their precolonial diversity and beauty.

Sincerely,

Konrad Gauder
Landsculpture
Berkeley California

From:	Michelle Reyes
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject:	Berkeley/Oakland Hills Fire Prevention Proposal
Date:	Monday, June 03, 2013 11:16:02 AM

Dear FEMA,

I was born and raised in Contra Costa County, and have been living in San Francisco for eight years. I am a graduate student at the Presidio Graduate School, pursuing a Masters of Business Administration in Sustainable Management. The Bay Area is an amazing place to live, and this is supported by the people who live here. These people may be at risk based on your proposal to distribute toxic chemicals into the Berkeley and Oakland Hills. I urge you to continue extensive research into what is the most viable option for fire prevention control prior to executing the plan as it currently stands.

Is removal of the non-native Eucalyptus truly the best answer to this serious issue?

Will these plots without vegetation truly prevent fire from spreading?

The local fire department has contained fires in the hills since 1991 successfully. That's 22 years without any major threat to communities living in the hills. They have learned how best to handle fires through continued extensive training. Their mistakes of the past have pushed them to where they are now, able to successfully control fire in the area. Additionally, those that choose to live in such close proximity to this potential threat have begun to better educate themselves and are continuing to take better preventative fire control measures around their properties.

If it comes to light through extensive research that the removal of these non-native species is warranted, then why is there no plan to plant native species?

And of more concern to me, why is the plan to use toxic chemicals such as RoundUp to prevent future growth? These are protected lands free from major industrialization and commercialization. Please seriously consider alternatives to chemical based herbicides and pesticides. States such as Massachusetts and Oregon have had similar needs for such research and have found positive results for their areas. We would need to conduct similar research to ascertain what could work in this area - let's do it! Please see this document for information regarding what Massachusetts found in it's research: http://www.mhd.state.ma.us/downloads/vmp/Herbicide_Alternatives.pdf. And this for Oregon: http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4567

We cannot simply take what appears to be the easiest route. The plan as it currently stands will have long term effects on not only human health, but also animal habitats. Water and air quality will potentially be effected. People who walk the surrounding trails will be much less likely to visit, etc.

In all honesty none of us truly know the effects of what will happen. And that is really my point. A lot more research is needed before moving forward with this project. Who will be effected, man and animal? How will water be effected? How will air be effected? Where will the animals go? And many more questions have not

satisfactorily been answered.

I am strongly opposed to this project moving forward.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Reyes

--
Michelle L. Reyes
michellereyes415@gmail.com
(916) 798-6119
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/mlreyes415/
"Be the change that you want to see in the world" – Mahatma Ghandi

From: kyra@lmi.net
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 5:08:12 PM

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

It is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the HERBICIDE use that is being proposed. We ask that you RETRACT the EIS and rework it to fully consider ALL THE IMPLICATIONS of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment iwth the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state.

Kyra Rice
Merriewood Drive, Oakland Hills

From: Tony Holiday
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Stop the Tree-Felling Nonsense
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 5:00:05 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

In these days of climate change and global warming, I am very concerned that FEMA has been asked to approve the Environmental Impact Study that's now in the public comment stage.

UC, the City of Oakland, and the East Bay Regional Parks District have requested grants of approximately $7.5 million of taxpayer money for drastic deforestation of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills, including poisoning of tree stumps with toxic herbicides. This is totally unacceptable to any thinking person. What a waste of money and unbelievable disrespect for nature and our ecosystem. We need some common sense here.

I feel this Environmental Impact Study is seriously flawed. The plan allows for clear-cutting of a healthy ecosystem that has tall, healthy non-native trees (Monterey pines, acacias, and eucalyptus, the latter growing here more than a century). These forests are home to many animals, in addition to providing recreational opportunities for East Bay residents.

This tree-felling and poison-slathering would severely change the ecosystem by eliminating critical raptor habitat. Owls and hawks control rodents, which without these birds could pose a possible public health risk.

The EIS has not paid enough attention to more sensible alternatives to such a destructive plan.

How on earth could anyone with any sense at all think it will prevent fires in these hills? It will instead cause more fire danger because the type of vegetation that will replace the non-native trees is known to be more prone to fires. It will instead support more dangerous fires that produce flame lengths that are triple the length of the flames in our present non-native forests.

This is not a well thought out plan and will cause more problems instead of

less. Thinking people are amazed and angered that anyone could even suggest such a drastic and flawed plan.

There is far too much "native plant" nonsense going on these days, to the extent that these arrogant and misguided people have gone way overboard and have shown no common sense at all. "Experts" they are certainly not! There are other ways to make sure vegetation around homes is cleared out so as to minimize fire danger without baring these beautiful hills so drastically. Why have the proponents of this so little respect for nature and our planet, and why can they not see what they are proposing does not help things at all, but could do much harm.

Environmentalists like me are very concerned about the horrific effects of such a poorly designed plan and it's time for common sense and concern for the environment, wildlife, and humans who live and play in the area to prevail. I am seriously concerned about the lack of intelligence these people have so far shown.

We should be planting more trees these days, not cutting them down. Why is there such a huge lack of respect and concern for the environment lately? Use of poisonous herbicides should be made illegal and so should the felling of thousands of healthy trees that are loved by so many.

May common sense prevail.

Sincerely,

Tony Holiday
San Francisco

From:	Robert Bruce
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	"Libby Schaaf"
Subject:	East Bay fire hazard reduction plan comment
Date:	Tuesday, June 04, 2013 4:26:01 PM

Dear FEMA:

We understand that FEMA is soliciting comments on grant applications by three East Bay public agencies asking for fire hazard reduction. The EIS looks for possible environmental impacts other than fire hazard reduction.

There is considerable controversy among certain citizen organizations and among private citizens about whether this project will do more harm than good, especially because of unintended results. I am among the skeptics, and believe that fire hazard reduction is far more complicated than cutting down tens of thousands of trees, regardless of species.

Vegetation such as large stands of trees is known to trap and reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, especially in an urban environment such as the East Bay. This benefit will be eliminated under this grant plan.

There does not seem to be any significant funding for area restoration, as plan proponents would like to see. Therefore, the cutting will be done without funding for replanting and restoration. Covering the ground with toxic wood chips from eucalyptus trees will poison the soil underneath and prevent or stall any replanting and regrowth for countless years.

Using toxic herbicides to prevent eucalyptus regrowth may threaten vegetation below by polluting the numerous streams that flow from the hills into the Bay. How will the grant money mitigate this danger?

Eucalyptus poses no greater fire threat than other trees if its debris is removed regularly. It was not the primary vegetation responsible for the 1991 Tunnel Fire or for any other fires before or since. Many, if not most, of the private citizens backing the grant applications, in fact live in or near large eucalyptus groves --- the obvious reason they would like them eliminated. They are not a majority of hills residents.

My wife and I are survivors of the 1991 Tunnel Fire. We published the Phoenix Journal for more than 5,000 fire survivors and 25,000 more concerned East Bay residents. We sold our rebuilt home and moved away in 2001, but plan to move back later this year, at which time I will resume active participation in fire-prevention activity.

We believe that balanced fire hazard reduction makes sense. Clear-cutting will only result in environmental degradation and further hazardous situations. The applicants only want clear-cutting for their *particular reasons*.

Another concern not addressed in the EIS or in public forums is our suspicion that certain entities of the University of California see clear-cutting as a cost-effective means of clearing land for further construction and expansion.

We urge you to reject these grant application until a balanced plan for fuel reduction and site restoration is in place. The current applications invite disaster.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Bruce
1455 Oak Knoll Road
Ukiah, CA 95482-6884
+1.707.468.8700-home
+1.415.218.3652-mobile
rbruce07@comcast.net

From: Rhonda Collins
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Removal of trees in East Bay Hills
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 4:09:00 PM

To whom it may concern,

Let me add my voice to the many who oppose the plan to remove thousands of trees from the East Bay Hills behind Oakland. This strip of green belt is a treasure to Bay Area residents. My family spends much time there, hiking and enjoying nature. I hope my young daughters can continue to enjoy it for years to come. Because I have young children I particularly and strongly oppose the use of herbicides in these public park areas.

Please, for once can we protect the little bit of greenery left around us, rather than destroying it? Can we preserve a clean environment for our children to grow up in?

I implore you not to go forward with this plan.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Collins
766 Kingston Ave.
Oakland, CA 94611

From: Serena Laing
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Don"t use herbicides on our hills
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:58:57 PM

I have taken the time to read through both arguments regarding the plan for the hills and I feel that the use of herbicides does no good for the people, environment, or future of my home. I have written two guidebooks about Oakland and Berkeley, it is a beautiful place that needs to be carefully maintained for future generations.

Serena Laing

books: http://www.amazon.com/GrassRoutes-Oakland-Berkeley-Second-Travel/dp/157061606X

From: Kenneth B. Finney
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: FEMA East Bay, CA tree removal plans
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:41:45 PM

I support FEMA's plans to remove East Bay eucalyptus trees, but I think the use of herbicides is a bad idea under all but the most compelling of circumstances. I urge FEMA to find alternatives to herbicide use. Ken Finney, Kensington, CA 94708

From: R Solomon
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EPRPD projects
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:41:42 PM

The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

In other words, the current draft EIS is too limited in its scope.

Chihoko and Richard Solomon

From: Yogesh Angrish
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: DO NOT Cut 100,000 Trees Please
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:33:24 PM

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment iwth the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state.

Thank You,
Yogesh Angrish
San Francisco

From:	Julianna Riley
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	EIS for UC & EBRPD
Date:	Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:23:15 PM

Dear FEMA,

I am writing to request that you hold all funding for deforestation projects in our neighborhood, retrack the EIS and rework it to fully consider a number of holes.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state.

If you have any questions I can be reached at j.degreeve@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Julianna M. Riley

--
hear blessings dropping their blossoms around you

From:	Ellen Gierson
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills
Date:	Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:58:32 PM

FEMA:

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment iwth the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state.

Ellen Gierson
4175 Opal Street
Oakland, CA 94609

From: Ruth Frassetto
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Deforestation project East Bay Hills
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:17:35 PM

I am opposed to this massive project as it stands. I would like to see it done in stages with a plan to replant the areas with native oaks and other native trees. To preserve the parks and hillsides for both humans and animals.
I am primarily opposed to the following:
expose us to massive amounts of herbicides
- destroy raptor habitat and the habitat of many other forest creatures
- release huge amounts of sequestered CO2
- destabilize steep hillsides
- waste almost $6 million of taxpayers funds that could be used for real fire risk mitigation
Thanks

Ruth Frassetto
The Grubb Co.
rfrassetto@grubbco.com
510 697-8606
Sorry for any typo's (it's my iPhone :)

From: Suzanna Aguayo
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Draft EIS
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:13:49 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not approve the Draft EIS for UC and Oakland vegetation management which is under review.

I am opposed to the Draft EIS because,the Draft EIS does not adequately address the effects of these proposed projects. The use of a toxic herbicide that is known to cause cancer is absolutely unacceptable, and should be reason enough to rework the Draft EIS. But the ironic fact that the Draft EIS will not realistically prevent a single fire from happening or spreading quickly. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

Please do not approve this project. There are better ways to approach the health and safety concerns of the citizens of Berkeley and Oakland. Please consider them instead.

Thank you,

--
Suzanna Aguayo
1346 Gilman Street
Berkeley, CA 94706

From:	Ward Spangler
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	Oakland East Bay Regional Parks tree clearing project
Date:	Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:06:44 PM

FEMA:

I am opposed to the current project which so far looks like a buzz cut. It is serving no purpose but it is turning a beautiful natural part of our city into a wasteland.

STOP IMMEDIATELY!!!!!

Ward Spangler
wardspang@sbcglobal.net
(510) 531-1105

From: alicia snow
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Retract the EIS !
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:46:26 PM

I am writing to you today because the FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable. It is incredibly short-sighted in that it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

Additionally, as currently written, it does not adequately address the cost or the environmental risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. These are herbicides that are illegal to use throughout the European Union, and yet the University of California feels it is acceptable to spray them all over the Oakland Hills for as many as ten years in an effort to keep the eucalyptus from re-sprouting. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy. Nor does it adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

Most seriously, The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed! It compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut! This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state.

FEMA must not allow this to happen.

Alicia Snow
1586 Shrader Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

From: Carl Kelley
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Cutting down trees in the Oakland hills. WTF?
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:41:15 PM

Hello,

Looks like you plan to:

- expose us to massive amounts of herbicides
- destroy raptor habitat and the habitat of many other forest creatures
- release huge amounts of sequestered CO2
- destabilize steep hillsides
- waste almost $6 million of taxpayers funds that could be used for real fire risk mitigation

-- Carl Kelley
1502 Posen Avenue
Albany, CA 94706
510-527-3123

From:	Julie Schlein
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	DEFORESTATION PROJECT
Date:	Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:41:10 PM

As s resident of the Berkeley Hills and a person who lives in a dense city, i find this project inappropriate to our needs as a community. We need to maintain some green areas, the habitats within them, the air, and the very stability of the earth underneath our homes. Also, i the herbicides will affect our health. There is simply no way such large amounts of chemicals, places on plants, cut or not, can possibly be contained.

On rely on these areas for soft green places to walk, as well as all the small animals and birds who live here.

Perhaps some of this work of making changes, can be done more slowly and carefully, taking into account the entire picture of the needs of the residents of this area, and of the city as a whole.

Please do not do this extreme cutting. Lets honor the earth, the trees, the animals and the residents of this city.

Thank you.

Julie Schlein
Berkeley Hills Resident

From: Kitty Jones
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: HEY, DON"T CUT DOWN TREES IN BAR AREA!!!
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:40:49 PM

To whom it may concern,

This is a terrible plan and will do nothing to prevent fire! Don't waste tax-payer money to ruin the Berkeley/Oakland hills ecosystem!!

This plan will merely:
- expose us to massive amounts of herbicides
- destroy raptor habitat and the habitat of many other forest creatures
- release huge amounts of sequestered CO2
- destabilize steep hillsides
- waste almost $6 million of taxpayers funds that could be used for real fire risk mitigation

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Kitty Jones
UC Berkeley Student of College of Natural Resources

--
"The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for whites or women for men." Please don't eat animals. :)

From: richard hardack
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:26:44 PM

To whom it may concern:

The current logging plan for the Oakland Hills is appalling. The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment iwth the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state.

Thank you,

Richard Hardack

From: Christopher Patrick Miller
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Rethink the EIS for UC and Oakland NOW!
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:24:52 PM

To Whomever It May Concern,

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is disastrous for its potential to decrease carbon sequestration capacity in the hills, increase erosion, pollute the water cycle, and undermine one of the great natural resources of the East Bay. Quite literally, you would destroy for generations to come one of the greatest assets of life in Northern California.

I ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy. I urge you also to consider new methods for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

The current plan relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment with the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state.

Aside from the potential damages to human life and the broader ecosystem, I believe this sets a dangerous precedent for FEMA to unilaterally implement dangerous, preventative measures without consulting a broader public or expert opinion. FEMA should not be the organization that is making decisions about long-term environmental decisions and we can't allow a state of emergency to supercede reason and research.

Sincerely,

- Christopher Patrick Miller

PhD Candidate

English and Critical Theory

University of California, Berkeley

From: Chris Young
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Vegetation Management projects
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:22:39 PM

The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment iwth the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state.

In Creative Inspiration, Joy and Consciousness,

Chris Young-Ginzburg
a.k.a. FLUIDGIRL
Performance Artist, Entertainer, Holistic Life Guidance

PERFORMANCE/DANCE CLASSES: www.Fluidgirl.com
HOLISTIC LIFE GUIDANCE: www.DivineHealingAspirations.com

Be yourself. Everyone else is taken." - Oscar Wilde

From: Chris Young
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: 100,000 Tree Cutting
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:21:05 PM

To whom it may concern -

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. I ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

In Creative Inspiration, Joy and Consciousness,

Chris Young-Ginzburg

From: Clare Hedin
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: The Berkeley Hills Trees
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:20:44 PM

Hello,

I am an East Bay Resident and a citizen of USA and UK. On both counts I wish to request that you cancel your plans to deforest 100,000+ trees from the Hills and I also wish you to cancel your plans to use chemicals to achieve quick results once you have done that.

Respect our land. It is not yours.

Sincerely,

Clare Hedin



Clare Hedin, MA
Healing, Music and Consciousness
www.clarehedinmusic.com
www.clarehedin.com
www.theArtsforEarth.com
USA Cell: 720 382 8414
UK Cell: 07563 775 011
Skype: clhedin

From: Elizabeth Forrest
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: deforestation
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:07:31 PM

Brief & to the point. Do not be ridiculous & wasteful of my taxpayer dollars with your terrible deforestation pointless horror in the
East Bay area. Elizabeth Forrest

From: Phoebe J.
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Deforesting California hills
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:06:23 PM

Dear folks at FEMA,
I'm grateful to you for the many lives you've improved and saved over the years, and know that you can come up with a truly beneficial fire plan for the Berkeley Hills that isn't going to do more harm than good.

The plan to reduce fire risk through clear cutting and herbicides in the Berkeley Hills sounds like it was taken from of the wish list of lumber and chemical corporations. We love our trees, our hills, our health, and our safety (as well as that of future generations) too much to submit to such a plan. Drop the current plan and start over, please.

Best wishes,
Phoebe Jevtovic
94708

From: JULIE LONG
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX; inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: COMMENT: Oakland hillside tree removal
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:00:07 PM

Dear FEMA:

I am a Bay Area Native, born in Berkeley and raised in the Oakland Hills. This subject is of critical interest to me as a veteran of many drought and non-drought years, as well as the Oakland Hills fire of 1991 and as a nature lover. Nowhere in the concern for the trees and vegetation does FEMA address the impact on wildlife who will lose their homes if the trees are cut down.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately address the effects of these projects on Greenhouse Gas emissions and the ongoing reduction in carbon sequestration capacity. The analysis not only uses an inappropriate baseline, but also fails to adequately consider the loss of ongoing carbon sequestration that will result from these projects. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the Greenhouse Gas implications of cutting down 100,000 tall trees.

The FEMA draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD projects is unacceptable as currently written in that it does not adequately address the cost or the risks associated with the herbicide use that is being proposed. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the expected herbicide use not only to kill eucalyptus trees, but also the hemlock, broom, thistle, and poison oak that will emerge as a result of the loss of shade canopy.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately analyze reasonable alternatives proposed for fire risk mitigation. Far less costly, far less environmentally damaging, and far more effective methods have been proposed, but the EIS fails to consider them. The EIS needs to be retracted and reworked to analyze reasonable alternatives rather than simply dismissing them without any serious analysis.

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it does not adequately the effects on air quality resulting from the proposed plan. We ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to fully consider all the implications of the proposed projects on air quality.

TThe FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment iwth the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut. This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state. Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it

to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state.

I DEMAND that this plan be reworked.

Julie Long Gallegos
Gaslight Original Beadwork
www.GaslightOriginalBeadwork.com
415-794-1204

From: Jerry Landis
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc: inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject: Eucalyptus
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 12:59:03 PM

As a Berkeley resident, I APPROVE the eradication of non-native eucalyptus in the Berkeley hills.

From: Steven Jenner
To: EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Subject: Oakland Hills tree cutting
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 12:55:42 PM

Living on Grizzly Peak Blvd. in Oakland, CA, my house survived the 1991 fire. Six homes and all the forest across the street burned. For five years after that, I had a serious rat infestation. Clear cutting thousands of trees will create a rat infestation for all houses nearby.

Sincerely,
Steven Jenner

From:	Dale Riehart
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	Stop the deforestation projection the Berkley Hills
Date:	Tuesday, June 04, 2013 12:54:35 PM

Dear FEMA,

The FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland, and EBRPD vegetation management projects in the hills is unacceptable because it relies on a fire model that is fundamentally flawed in that it compares the risk of the current environment iwth the environment that would exist the day after 100k+ trees are cut.

This is a meaningless comparison as the EIS does not specify any means by which the project proponents will maintain the environment in this state.

Because of this, shortly after the projects are completed, the fire danger will increase as more flammable weed/brush and tall grass vegetation takes hold. Because of this, we ask that you retract the EIS and rework it to modify the fire modeling to compare the current state to the expected new equilibrium state, not a completely meaningless state

Regards,

Dale Riehart
86 South Park St
San Francisco, CA 94107

From:	Scott Rubel
To:	EBH-EIS-FEMA-RIX
Cc:	inquiries@hillsconservationnetwork.org
Subject:	Do not remove 100,000 trees
Date:	Tuesday, June 04, 2013 12:52:37 PM

The move to remove 100,000 trees (FEMA Draft EIS for UC, Oakland) is dangerous and wrong for many reasons. Removing habitat and adding the greenhouse gases are among the most important effects. Please do not approve the EIS.

Scott Rubel
977 Montecito Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90031-1633