



City of Santa Barbara California

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SCH 2020070069 AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING ON NOVEMBER 5, 2020 FOR THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

PROJECT LOCATION: City of Santa Barbara except the Airport

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Santa Barbara Fire Department (SBFD) is proposing to implement a comprehensive, coordinated Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to protect lives, property, and natural resources threatened by wildland fire. The proposed CWPP updates the City's 2004 Wildland Fire Plan consistent with the federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act passed in 2003 and subsequent guidance booklet "Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan; A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities," issued in 2004, accounting for changes in the City of Santa Barbara's (City's) fire environment and work completed under that 2004 Wildland Fire Plan. While not a governing document requiring action, a CWPP is a strategic plan that outlines a series of policies and action items that are intended to guide implementation of the CWPP. The policies and actions focus on codes and standards, funding, fire rehabilitation, evacuation, fire protection, vegetation/fuels management, and public education. Action items identify tasks to be implemented by the SBFD, and other responsible City departments, to achieve the stated goal of protecting lives, property, and natural resources threatened by wildland fire. The CWPP process is intended to provide the community a forum for identifying values at risk from wildfire, which may include people, property, natural resources, cultural values, economic interests, and infrastructure. The identification of these values at risk by the community strongly influences the potential wildfire hazard mitigation projects identified in the proposed CWPP.

The proposed CWPP includes various goals, policies, and actions that represent a compilation of existing and newly proposed policies and actions related to codes and standards, funding, fire rehabilitation, evacuation, fire protection, vegetation/fuels management, and public education. Current activities conducted by the SBFD under the 2004 Wildland Fire Plan were analyzed in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the 2004 Wildland Fire Plan (City of Santa Barbara 2004) and are incorporated herein by reference. This description only addresses new proposed policies and/or actions that could result in impacts to the environment, which include the following categories:

- Proposed modifications to the High Fire Hazard Area
- Proposed modifications to the Vegetation Management Areas
 - Defensive space
 - Roadside clearing
 - City Vegetation Management Units (VMUs)
 - Community Fuel Treatment Network (CFTN)
- Proposed modifications to the Vegetation Management Methods
- Communication Facility Maintenance

The proposed CWPP also includes several other policies and actions that would not involve any physical impacts to the environment, including public education, interagency coordination, acquisition of funding, data gathering and management, acquisition of firefighting and communications equipment, and evacuation planning.

DOCUMENT: A Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) has been prepared for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and is available for review and comment. The Draft PEIR has been prepared to analyze the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The area included within the CWPP contains sites listed on hazardous substances databases/lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Potential impacts associated with the proposed project's location on hazardous materials sites would result in less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated. A detailed analysis of the proposed project's potential impacts and associated mitigation with regard to hazardous substances is provided within the Draft PEIR. The City of Santa Barbara, Fire Department, is the lead agency for this Draft PEIR.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The City of Santa Barbara encourages the public to provide written comments on this and other projects. The public review period begins on **Monday, September 28, 2020**. Comments on the Draft PEIR must be received by **Friday, November 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.** Please send your comments by US Mail to: City of Santa Barbara, Fire Department, Attn: Amber Anderson, Wildland Fire Specialist, 925 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990 or by email to: **CWPP@SantaBarbaraCA.gov**. The Draft PEIR is available online at: <https://CWPP.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PEIR>.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING: A public hearing on the Draft PEIR will be held before Planning Commission on **November 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** You are invited to attend the hearing and address your verbal comments to the Planning Commission. Meeting agendas, minutes, and videos are available online at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PC.

Following the end of the Draft PEIR public review period, a Final PEIR including responses to comments will be prepared, and subsequent noticed public hearing will be held at the Planning Commission and City Council to consider actions to approve the project.

If you challenge the project approval or environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to the public hearing.

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to gain access to, comment at, or participate in this meeting, please contact the Planning Division Office at (805) 564-5470, extension 4535. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements in most cases.

* **NOTE:** The regular Planning Commission meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon. On Thursday, October 29, 2020, an agenda with all items to be heard on Thursday, November 5, 2020, will be available at 630 Garden Street. Agendas and Staff Reports are also accessible online at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/pc. Environmental documents can be viewed online at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/eir. Please note that online Staff Reports may not include some exhibits. Agenda items are subject to change. It is recommended that applicants and interested persons plan to arrive at 1:00 P.M. However, for longer agendas, all parties are encouraged to monitor Channel 18 and when the item prior to the application of interest begins come to the Commission hearing. Continuances will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Meetings can be viewed live on City TV-18, or on your computer via <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Video/> Meeting rebroadcast schedule can be found at <http://www.citytv18.com/schedule.htm>.