



Dear Neighbor,

This is not a solicitation for money, but an alert about the plan to cut down over 50,000 trees and spread hazardous herbicides near your home.

Save The East Bay Hills is an all volunteer group of Oakland Hills families working to stop the deforestation of East Bay public lands by the City of Oakland, the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), and U.C. Berkeley (UCB). This plan, with a stated goal of eliminating Monterey Pine, Acacia and Eucalyptus stands and forests and converting them to "grassland with islands of shrubs," involves cutting down over 400,000 trees and spreading cancer causing herbicides in areas which span seven East Bay cities -- Oakland, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Richmond, Point Richmond and Castro Valley. **In your vicinity, forests in Claremont Canyon, Strawberry Canyon, Frowning Ridge and above and adjacent to the Caldecott Tunnel are slated for tree cutting and herbicide spread.**

"This plan is a land transformation disguised as a wildfire hazard mitigation plan. If it is implemented it will endanger firefighters and the general public; and it will be an outrageous waste of taxpayer money."

- Dave Maloney, former Oakland firefighter and Chief of Fire Prevention at the Oakland Army base who served on the Oakland Emergency Preparedness Task Force convened after the 1991 fire. Read his report criticizing this plan at: <http://goo.gl/hm9Jp8>

Because the agencies involved are waging a deliberate campaign of misinformation about the plan in order to quell public backlash, they are downplaying the amount of trees to be cut down as well as the amount of herbicides to be used in direct contravention of terms they have already agreed and/or voted to implement. We are writing homes near targeted areas to alert residents to what these agencies plan to do to the open spaces near their homes by citing the exact terms of the plan.

FEMA, which is partially funding this agenda (the remainder will be paid by local taxpayers) describes its nature and scope in its published Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS states that in your vicinity, UCB will be cutting down 12,000 Monterey Pine, Eucalyptus and Acacia trees on 56 acres of Strawberry Canyon and 10,000 trees on 43 acres of Claremont Canyon. In other areas of Claremont Canyon, the

City of Oakland and the EBRPD will remove all trees growing on the ridge lines and up to 90% growing below it.

At Frowning Ridge, all Eucalyptus, Monterey Pine and Acacia trees will be cut down, another 25,000 trees on 185.2 acres. Because the stated goal of this effort is to radically transform these areas from forest to grasses, FEMA notes that the plan will result in "significant alteration of community character." It will also wipe out habitat for multitudes of animals. No money has been budgeted for replanting of any kind.

In addition to those in your neighborhood, forests in 11 East Bay Regional Parks -- including Tilden, Wildcat Canyon, Redwood, Sibley, and Huckleberry -- and areas adjacent to and spanning the Caldecott Tunnel will also see Monterey Pine, Acacia, and Eucalyptus trees chopped down.

According to the FEMA EIS, the EBRPD will use 2,250 gallons of hazardous herbicides. The City of Oakland and U.C. Berkeley will also use hundreds, if not thousands, more as the hundreds of thousands of tree stumps that will be created as well as the brush which will grow in the absence of trees will be

Table 3-1. Summary of Proposed and Connected Project Areas

Project Area	Proposed Action Acres	Connected Action Acres	Total Acres
UCB			
Strawberry Canyon-PDM	56.3	0	56.3
Claremont-PDM	42.8	0	42.8
Subtotal	99.1	0	99.1
Oakland			
North Hills-Skyline-PDM	68.3	0	68.3
Caldecott Tunnel-PDM	53.6	0	53.6
Frowning Ridge-PDM (UCB project)	185.2	0	185.2
Tilden Regional Park-PDM (EBRPD project)	34.3	0	34.3
Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve-PDM (EBRPD project)	3.9	0	3.9
Claremont Canyon-PDM (EBRPD project)	13.7	0	13.7
Subtotal	359.0	0	359.0
EBRPD			
Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve	4.1	0	4.1
Wildcat Canyon Regional Park	65.6	46.6	112.2
Tilden Regional Park	97.7	194.2	291.9
Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve	21.6	130.4	152.0
Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve	43.6	118.4	162.0
Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve	17.8	0.3	18.1
Redwood Regional Park	58.4	92.8	151.2
Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve	4.6	0	4.6
Anthony Chabot Regional Park	200.0	478.2	678.2
Lake Chabot Regional Park	4.8	0	4.8
Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline	22.2	0	22.2
Subtotal	540.2	1,060.7	1,600.9
TOTAL	998.3	1,060.7	2,059.0

Above: Chart found in the FEMA EIS citing total acres of public land to be deforested and then poisoned with herbicides.

A coalition of hills residents opposed to the deforestation & poisoning of East Bay public lands

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treated up to twice yearly for 10 years with one or more of three different herbicides, including Monsanto's *Glyphosate*, associated with an increased risk of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, *Imazapyr*, associated with an increased risk of adrenal, brain, and thyroid cancer, and Dow Chemical's *Triclopyr*, linked to an increased risk of breast cancer and genetic damage called dominant lethal mutations. Herbicide drift, for which *Glyphosate* is particularly infamous, will inevitably result in these chemicals spreading beyond their place of original application, especially since they are to be spread on ridge lines and slopes during the rainy season. Wind and storm run off will deliver these poisons to nearby private property. In fact, FEMA admits that the plan will have "unavoidable adverse impacts" on "human health and safety" and that there will be "potential adverse health effects of herbicides on vegetation management workers, nearby residents, and users of parks and open space." FEMA goes on to state that, "because residential neighborhoods are adjacent to the parks and open space, residents could also be exposed to herbicides directly during application and indirectly after application. Because a university, a high school, three elementary schools, and a preschool are also close to project areas, students of all ages have the potential to be exposed."

While San Francisco public health officials recently announced the reclassification of *Glyphosate* as a Tier 1 (most hazardous) chemical and Marin County has recently banned it on popular hiking trails, East Bay officials -- including District 1 Oakland City Council Member Dan Kalb who is the most vocal supporter of this plan -- remain heedless of recent warnings by the World Health Organization that *Glyphosate* is a "probable human carcinogen" and are pushing forward to expose large numbers of residents and animals to this and other chemicals.

Images of the FEMA maps outlining specific areas to be targeted can be found on our website, as well as refutations of the various other misrepresentations being made about this plan by public officials. These include the false claims that the plan will reduce fire risk when it will exacerbate it, that minimal chemicals will be used when wildlife and residents will be repeatedly exposed to thousands of gallons of toxic herbicides -- some of which require spraying -- and the claim that the trees targeted for eradication are particularly fire prone and do not belong.

As homeowners and residents who will be directly impacted by this plan in terms of your views, your property values, your increased risk of fire, and your exposure to carcinogenic herbicides, we hope that you will take a stand against this multifaceted threat by writing local officials to express opposition. We also hope you will help us to educate and encourage others to do the same.

Please visit the "Take Action" page of our website for more information and contact links to public officials: saveeastbayhills.org.

The FEMA EIS language describing some of the deforestation/herbicide spreading plans for Strawberry Canyon, Claremont Canyon, Frowning Ridge and two areas near the Caldecott Tunnel.

3.4.2.2.1 *Strawberry Canyon-PDM*

... most eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and acacia, would be cut down ... Eucalyptus and acacia would be prevented from resprouting by application of herbicides to the stumps.... Approximately 12,000 eucalyptus, pine, and acacia trees would be cut down...The project may involve the closure of Centennial Drive for a few hours at a time..."

3.4.2.2.2 *Claremont-PDM*

Claremont-PDM is largely a eucalyptus forest...About 10,000 trees would be cut down, mainly eucalyptus with some pine and acacia...Three temporary access roads are anticipated to be required for this project. The three roads would be 12 feet wide and total approximately 2,600 feet long... Temporary closure of Claremont Avenue may be required during cutting and skidding...

3.4.2.3.3 *Frowning Ridge-PDM (UCB)*

UCB owns the 185.2-acre Frowning Ridge proposed project area. UCB proposed to remove... all eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and acacia... Approximately 25,000 eucalyptus and pine trees up to 48 inches DBH* would be cut down. Many of the trees are more than a hundred feet tall... Closure of Grizzly Peak Blvd. may be required during cutting and skidding of trees...

* DBH is the diameter of a tree trunk at 4.5 feet above the ground.

3.4.2.3.1 *North Hills-Skyline-PDM (Oakland)*

This proposed 68-acre proposed project area is on the southwest side of Grizzly Peak Boulevard north of State Route (SR) 24 and above the Caldecott Tunnel. It includes eucalyptus, pine, and brush... Oakland's goals are to remove eucalyptus and Monterey pine and to convert brush to grassland along Grizzly Peak Boulevard... Eucalyptus would be chipped, and the chips would be spread over a maximum of 20% of the site at a maximum depth of 24 inches... To suppress resprouting of eucalyptus, the cambium ring of stumps would be chemically treated with a combination of Garlon4 and Stalker... Eucalyptus resprouts and new seedlings would receive follow-up herbicide treatment twice a year with Garlon4, Stalker, or Roundup as required to remove eucalyptus from the site.

3.4.2.3.2 *Caldecott Tunnel-PDM (Oakland)*

The 54-acre Caldecott Tunnel-PDM proposed project area is on the east side of Broadway and SR 24, south of the southwestern end of the Caldecott Tunnel... Oakland's goal for Caldecott Tunnel-PDM is conversion from a eucalyptus-dominated forest to annual grassland and eventually to coastal scrub... To suppress resprouting of eucalyptus, the cambium ring of stumps would be treated with a combination of Garlon4 and Stalker... All eucalyptus resprouts and eucalyptus seedlings would receive follow-up treatment with Garlon4, Stalker, or Roundup twice a year.