

WHAT IS IN STORE FOR THE OAKLAND & BERKELEY HILLS?

As East Bay officials respond to public backlash over the plan to deforest and poison large areas of East Bay public lands, their public statements are seeking to downplay the amount of environmental destruction they have already agreed and/or voted to implement when their various agencies - UC Berkeley, the East Bay Regional Parks District and the Oakland City Council - accepted the terms of the FEMA grant.

These terms are described in the publicly available FEMA Environmental Impact Statement which describes precisely what is to be done. Following is some of the language from the FEMA EIS language describing plans to deforest and spread toxic herbicides in Oakland and Berkeley - in Strawberry Canyon, Claremont Canyon, Frowning Ridge, Tilden Park, two areas near the Caldecott Tunnel and several parks in and near the Montclair region of Oakland: Sibley, Redwood, Huckleberry, Anthony Chabot and Leona Canyon Preserve. (Note: This document focuses on Oakland and Berkeley, but a total of seven East Bay cities contain public lands to be targeted under this plan).

As multiple agencies may each be performing work on different areas in the same parks and preserves, there are sometimes multiple descriptions of the work to be done. Herbicides will be used in each of the areas noted as described elsewhere in the FEMA EIS. In fact, the FEMA EIS contains several pages of documentation submitted by the EBRPD to FEMA noting how many gallons of herbicides will be used in total - 2,245 gallons, a figure that does not include the amount to be used by UCB and Oakland which will add hundreds, if not thousands, of additional gallons. See documentation here: <http://goo.gl/EfFv8B>

FEMA Environmental Impact Statement Language

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...

3.4.2.3.3 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.

CLAREMONT CANYON REGIONAL PRESERVE

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...

3.4.2.3.6 Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve-PDM (EBRPD) This proposed EBRPD project is also referred to as Claremont Canyon-Stonewall. It would occur in a 13.7-acre proposed project area designated CC001-PDM at the western end of the preserve. The dominant type of vegetation is eucalyptus forest. EBRPD would thin existing dense eucalyptus stands, favoring retention of the larger trees, to create an open eucalyptus stand with minimal understory. EBRPD's approach to implementation of its proposed and connected projects is described in **Section 3.4.2.4** (*Note to reader: As described in further detail below, "thinning" by EBRPD means the elimination of up to 90% of trees*)

3.4.2.4.4 Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve contains seven proposed project areas totaling 21.6 acres that are included in EBRPD's grant application. In addition, the park contains eight connected project areas totaling 130 acres. The project areas are throughout the preserve on both sides of Claremont Avenue in Oakland... EBRPD would convert most of the coastal scrub and smaller amounts of coyote brush scrub, eucalyptus forest, California annual grassland, and broom scrub to successional grassland...

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK

3.4.2.3.4 Tilden Regional Park-PDM (EBRPD) This proposed EBRPD project includes five proposed project areas in Tilden Regional Park on the opposite side of Grizzly Peak Boulevard from Strawberry Canyon-PDM and Frowning Ridge-PDM. The proposed project areas ... total 34.3 acres. The most abundant types of vegetation are eucalyptus forest and oak-bay woodland. EBRPD would convert the majority of the eucalyptus and smaller amounts of coyote

brush scrub and coastal scrub to successional grassland... EBRPD's approach to implementation of its proposed and connected projects is described in **Section 3.4.2.4**. (*Note to reader: As described in further detail below, "thinning" by EBRPD means the elimination of up to 90% of trees*)

3.4.2.4.3 Tilden Regional Park

Tilden Regional Park contains four proposed project areas totaling 97.7 acres that are included in EBRPD's grant application. In addition, the park contains 13 connected project areas totaling 194 acres. The project areas are near Grizzly Peak Boulevard or residential areas on the east side of Grizzly Peak Boulevard and extend from near the southeastern corner of Kensington to Vollmer Peak. The most abundant vegetation types are eucalyptus forest and oak-bay woodland. EBRPD would convert about half of the eucalyptus forest and smaller amounts of coastal scrub, coniferous forest (trees that produce cones), and coyote brush scrub to successional grassland...

SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE

3.4.2.3.5 Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve-PDM (EBRPD)

This proposed EBRPD project would occur on a 3.9-acre site designated SR003 at the southwestern edge of the preserve in the western portion of a narrow strip of land between Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Skyline Boulevard. This area is referred to as the Sibley Island... EBRPD would convert the eucalyptus and most of the coastal scrub to successional grassland.

3.4.2.4.5 Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve

Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve contains four proposed project areas totaling 43.6 acres that are included in EBRPD's grant application. In addition, the park contains six connected project areas totaling 118 acres. The project areas are in the southern section of the preserve on both sides of Grizzly Peak Boulevard. A section of the preserve in Oakland called the Sibley Triangle is included in connected project areas. The two most abundant vegetation types are eucalyptus forest and oak-bay woodland. EBRPD would convert about two-thirds of the eucalyptus forest and smaller amounts of coastal scrub, ... pine forest, broom scrub, and coyote brush scrub to successional grassland.

HUCKLEBERRY BOTANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE

3.4.2.3.6 Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve ... The project areas extend along the southern edge of

the preserve, adjacent to a residential area on the north side of Skyline Boulevard... EBRPD would convert about two-thirds of the northern maritime chaparral, about half of the eucalyptus, and a portion of the coastal scrub to California annual grassland and successional grassland....

ANTHONY CHABOT REGIONAL PARK

3.4.2.4.9 Anthony Chabot Regional Park

Anthony Chabot Regional Park contains nine proposed project areas totaling 200 acres and eight connected project areas totaling 478 acres.... Proposed and connected project areas ... are in the northern half of the park, north of Keller Avenue. These project areas total 47.7 acres. The most abundant vegetation types in these project areas are oak-bay woodland and coastal scrub, and less than 4% of these areas are eucalyptus forest. EBRPD would convert most of the coastal scrub and smaller amounts of coyote brush scrub, pine forest, and eucalyptus forest to successional grassland. In proposed project area AC002, coastal scrub and a small amount of pine forest would be converted to California annual grassland...The project areas ... south-southeast along Skyline Boulevard from Keller Avenue... total 97.6 acres. The principal types of vegetation in these project areas are successional grassland, eucalyptus forest, and California annual grassland. EBRPD would convert half of the eucalyptus forest and smaller amounts of coastal scrub, pine forest, and coyote brush scrub to successional grassland...Connected project area ... north of Lake Chabot... total 440 acres, of which 384 acres is eucalyptus forest. EBRPD would convert half of the eucalyptus and much smaller amounts of coyote brush scrub, coastal scrub, and California annual grassland to successional grassland...

REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK

3.4.2.3.7 Redwood Regional Park

Redwood Regional Park contains eight proposed project areas totaling 58.4 acres and five connected project areas totaling 92.8 acres. Most of these areas extend along the east side of Skyline Boulevard at the north-west end of the park, adjacent to single-family homes, or extend eastward from that area along trails into the park. Other project areas are on Redwood Road and Skyline Boulevard in the south-central section of the park. The principal vegetation types in the Redwood Regional Park project areas are... pine forest, eucalyptus forest, and oak-bay woodland. .. EBRPD would convert substantial portions of the ... pine forest and smaller amounts of coyote brush scrub, coastal scrub, native coniferous forest, and broom scrub to successional grassland. ... More than 30 acres of red gum eucalyptus would be retained as thinned eucalyptus forest with a sparse understory. *(Note to reader: As described in further detail below, “thinning” by EBRPD means the elimination of up to 90% of trees)*

LEONA CANYON REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

3.4.2.4.8 Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve

Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve contains proposed project area LE005, a 4.6-acre area on the eastern edge of the preserve adjacent to a residential area off Skyline Boulevard. This project area is dominated by coastal scrub. EBRPD would convert most of the coastal scrub and a small area of pine forest to successional grassland.

***How Does the EBRPD Define “Thinning” in Section 3.4.2.4 of the FEMA EIS?**

According to the FEMA EIS Section 3.4.2.4, the EBRPD defines “thinning” according to the EBRPD’s Wild-fire Hazard Reduction, Resource Management Plan: “Eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and acacia trees would be targeted to reduce the number of trees per acre or remove entire groves.” What level of “thinning,” specifically, does this plan call for? EBRPD will cut down 100% of these trees on ridgelines. Below the ridgelines, they will cut down enough trees so they are spaced to a distance of 25 feet in some areas and to a distance of 35 feet in others. The average tree density after implementation would be approximately 60 trees per acre from average densities of between 400 to 900 trees per acre, a decrease of more than 90%. Such an extreme reduction is inconsistent with the public’s understanding of the word “thinning.”

Overall, the FEMA EIS will result in the destruction of about 400,000 trees across 2,059 acres of public lands by all three project partners. In addition, despite suggestions that “native” trees will grow where forests are cut down, no funds are allocated for replanting nor do any such plans exist as the explicitly stated goal of the plan is “conversion of dense scrub, eucalyptus forest, and... pine forest to grassland with islands of shrubs.” To understand why this increases the risk of fire, visit: <http://goo.gl/GUq7HG>