

BE A LORAX

Speak for Tilden's Trees!

On May 12, the Board of the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), in partnership with the City of Oakland and UC Berkeley, voted to cut down nearly half a million healthy trees growing on 2,059 acres of East bay public lands, including 11 public parks, and to spread thousands of gallons of toxic herbicides upon their stumps.

When this deforestation project is complete, Tilden Park will be unrecognizable. Where once were vast forests filled with soaring trees that create shady hiking trails beneath their towering canopies will be seas of chemically treated tree stumps; while forests which once provided our wild neighbors safety, shelter, shade, a place to nest and which create the ecosystem that produces their food supply will be decimated.

Please help us stop this environmentally catastrophic plan to destroy the forests and harm the wild inhabitants of Tilden Park and other East Bay public lands. Please speak for the trees!

A VISION BETRAYED

EBRPD THEN:

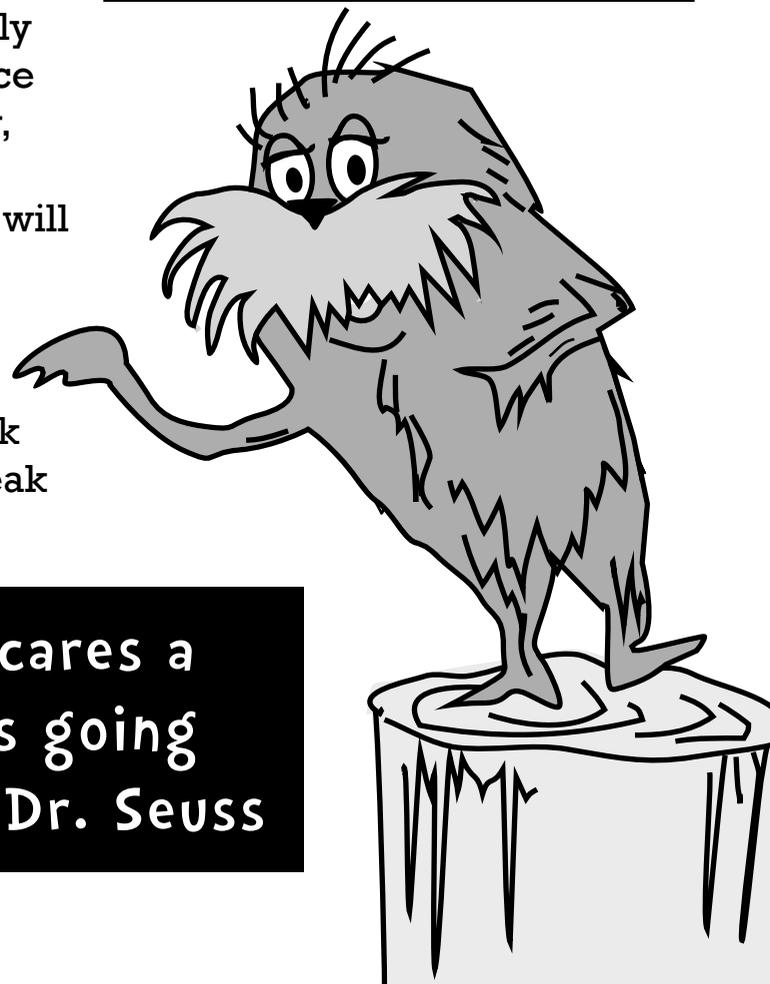
"Eucalyptus of several species ... form the keynote of the area and provide excellent picnic areas."

- 1939 EBRPD, describing Tilden Park

EBRPD NOW:

"In 11 regional parks... EBRPD would ... promot[e] conversion of ... eucalyptus forest, and ... pine forest to grassland with islands of shrubs."

- 2015 EBRPD



"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, It's not." - Dr. Seuss

This plan will result in *“unavoidable adverse impacts ... to vegetation, wildlife and habitats, protected species, soils, water quality, aesthetics, community character, human health and safety, recreation, and noise.”*

- FEMA Environmental Impact Statement

According to FEMA, the federal agency funding this plan, Oakland and UC Berkeley will remove 100% of Monterey Pine, Acacia, and Eucalyptus trees across their various project areas (including 12,000 trees at Strawberry Canyon, 10,000 trees at Claremont Canyon and 25,000 trees at Frowning Ridge). Likewise, the East Bay Regional Parks District will remove "entire groves" on ridgelines and across vast areas of several parks, including Tilden, where FEMA states that in some areas, the "EBRPD would convert the majority of the eucalyptus... to grassland..." and in others, "EBRPD would convert about half of the eucalyptus forest and smaller amounts of... coniferous forest (trees that produce cones)... to ... grassland."

Overall, nearly half a million trees would be removed 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 is conversion of forest to grassland.

Several agencies have also warned that this plan will increase the risk of fire and cause other harms:

- FEMA's environmental consultants stated that "there is no scientific evidence to support the project as

proposed;"

- The U.S. Forest Service stated it would "increase the probability of [fire] ignition over current conditions" because "removal of the overstory trees can introduce changes to the environment which increase fire behavior in undesirable ways;"

- The Chief of Fire Prevention at the Oakland Army Base stated that this plan "turns fire science on its head" and called it "a land transformation disguised as a wildfire hazard mitigation plan," that "will endanger firefighters and the general public; and ... be an outrageous waste of taxpayer money;"

- The Environmental Protection Agency stated that, "the project could result in degradation of natural resources," is not likely to "provide for natural regeneration," and is predicated on "extensive use of herbicides" and "risks posed to human health and the environment from that use;"

Despite evidence showing that the herbicides are cancerous, the EBRPD will apply a total of 2,250 gallons (<http://goo.gl/EfFv8B>) of these chemicals in our public parks. That amount does not include herbicide use by the other two partnering agencies which would add hundreds, if not thousands, more.

SPEAK FOR THE TREES

Tell the General Manager & Board of the EBRPD that you oppose their plan to turn our healthy forests into grassland and to spread thousands of gallons of toxic chemicals on our public lands.

GENERAL MANAGER
ROBERT DOYLE
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
bdoyle@ebparks.org

East Bay Regional Parks District Board of Directors

WHITNEY DOTSON,
Board President
wdotson@ebparks.org

JOHN SUTTER
jsutter@ebparks.org

DENNIS WAESPI
dwaespi@ebparks.org

DOUG SIDEN
dsiden@ebparks.org

AYN WIESKAMP
awieskamp@ebparks.org

Beverly Lane
blane@ebparks.org

DIANE BURGIS
dburgis@ebparks.org



To partner with environmental activists working to stop this plan, email:
cuidoaction@gmail.com

To learn more, visit:

