

**American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break II  
Auburn City Fire Department**

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Item/Description

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SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT PRE-APPLICATION  
CITY OF AUBURN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Project Description Narrative

a. Project Overview/Description

The objectives of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break proposed project is to provide a means of protection to the Auburn community from the disaster of wildfire, preserve our natural and cultural resources, enhance our watershed, support wildlife habitat, and maintain recreational opportunities to the pristine American River and Auburn State Recreation Area.

The proposed project is to implement a Shaded Fuel Break to high risk areas adjacent to the City of Auburn on U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Lands. The intent is to create a 300-400 foot wide by 4000 feet long fuel reduction project to be applied to approximately 45 acres in an area most vulnerable to wildfire. In addition, three (3) locations in a prior Sierra Nevada Conservancy project require additional enhancement; fuel reduction, consisting of approximately 10 acres. All proposed project areas are located in a “very high” risk area due to fuels, topography, and terrain. There is significant wildfire threat to the surrounding residential, commercial, recreation, watershed, habitat, and cultural resources. This project is primarily designed to protect the community and natural resources from destruction of wildfire but will additionally benefit the watershed and recreational resources regardless if a wildfire occurs or not.

The application of the Shaded Fuel Break prescription has been used on numerous private and public lands, received approval from state and federal agencies, and multiple environmental review and approval processes have been completed. The Shaded Fuel Break is a carefully planned thinning of dense vegetation so that wildfire does not easily move from the ground into the overhead tree canopy where fire intensifies and spreads rapidly. The intent of the Shaded Fuel Break is to provide protection by reducing flammable fuels consumed in a wildfire to lessen fire intensity and to allow fire suppression resources the ability to achieve the highest probable success in mitigating such a wildfire. The 2013 Rim Fire in the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest wildfire in California history, encompassed many fuel reduction project locations during intense burning periods. Specifically a Shaded Fuel Break protecting the communities of Groveland and Pine Mountain Lake where fire suppression crews achieved significant success in mitigating fire spread. Although the fuel break itself did not stop the advancement of fire, it allowed fire suppression resources an advantage area where fire suppression tactics were performed in a safe and effective manner. (Source- *RIM FIRE- Preliminary Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Report*, 2013).

The enhancement areas of the proposed project are crucial to reduce development destruction from wildfire and are critical to the watershed. These areas are located in drainages known as “chutes” or “chimneys”; very steep V

shaped canyons with massive fuel loads of natural vegetation when during a wildfire will burn with fierce intensity and cause major destruction to any structures as well as the land itself. Fire professionals are extremely concerned when any wildfire occurs in drainages due to the fact that fuels burn extremely rapid, there is limited success in fire suppression efforts because of terrain, and such areas are an extreme safety concern for firefighting personnel and surrounding development due to intense fire behavior. The 2012 Robbers Fire and the 2013 American Fire in the upper American River Watershed System both incurred intense fire behavior in such drainages. Limited if any success of fire suppression occurred in these areas and afterwards it was observed that all vegetative materials were totally consumed by intense fire including significant layers of soil. This leaves the V shaped canyons prone to severe erosion and soil runoff during times of precipitation. The V shaped canyons are watershed collectors for ground surface waters that feed into main watershed streams such as the American River. By reducing the vegetation in drainages fire suppression may be more effective, watersheds may experience less destruction from wildfire, and less vegetation generally will add water to the natural system. In this case the American River.

#### Desired Outcome

Outcomes of success for this project include the effect of the visible fuels reduction on approximately 45 acres thus creating an immediate fire safe area and the long term ability to apply regular maintenance year after year in a way that is manageable from a ground work perspective and fiscally feasible. The success of this project is treated fuel areas that will become a routine event for future maintenance while sustaining fire safety. The project will not only bring fire safety to the community, but esthetically pleasing views of well-maintained wildland urban interface lands, a greater producing watershed, a more diverse ecological system, greater recreational opportunity, sustainability to cultural resources and an example of a multi-agency collaborative project.

The successful outcome is one that will provide a means of protection from wildfire that will saves lives and property, eliminate the potential for silt and earthen debris runoff into the American River watershed, maintain and enhance wildlife habitat, and preserve the cultural and recreational resources.

#### Projected Specific Tangible Results-Fuels and Treatment

The following provides a greater in-depth review of the fuel types, fuel loading, and desired levels of fuel reduction outcomes.

Fuel Description.

Fuel Model used: Fuel Model 2.

Areas where fuels are the primary carrier of fire under oaks, conifers, and pine. Dead and downed stemwood from the open brush and timber overstory will contribute to fire intensity. Occasional clumps of fuel; tree and brush species will generate higher intensities and may produce fire brands.

### Vegetation Description.

Vegetation from 1" to 24" in height includes a diversity of annual grasses and forbes in the understory of the brush and tree fuels. Grasses, leaf litter and downed limbs comprise the majority of surface fuels. Brush under 24" are distributed in clumps, comprised of manzanita, buck brush, poison oak, ceanothus, and current. Small diameter oak, pine, and conifer are present in the "sapling" form.

Vegetation greater than 24" in height include the above mentioned brush up to 8' in height. California blackberry can be found in some areas shaded by tree crowns along natural water drainages. Invasive species have been found in the project areas that include scotchbroom, frenchbroom, and "tree of heaven" (*Ailanthus altissima*) of which can reach heights of up to 10' or more.

Trees form the dominant overstory/canopy to as much as 95% crown closure in some areas. Trees consist of oak, conifer, and pine. There are numerous "clumping" of oak throughout the project areas that generally consist of 3" to 5" dbh stems numbering in 4 to 6 per clumping. There are numerous pines that range in 3" to 5" dbh in the oak understory and mingled with the brush fuels. Dead trees exist of which include long standing dead without limbs and canopy and standing with limb and canopy that contribute to the downed litter and stemwood adding to the fuel load.

### Fuel Arrangement and Continuity.

Ladder fuels are well developed in the project areas that are comprised of ground fuels; annual grasses and forbes, intertwined with the brush; mid story fuels that grows directly under the tree canopy. In many areas the continuity of ground fuels to canopy cover is so dense that multiple brush and tree species do not achieve healthy growth and end up competing with each other. This fuel continuity among the ladder fuels adds to fuel loading of which increases fire intensity and prohibits larger tree species adequate growth to perhaps become resistant to wildfire.

Current Fuel Loading:

**Fuel Loading- Fuel Model 2<sup>1</sup>**

1 Hour, including dead fuel load	2	Tons/Acre
Total fuel load, > 3-inch dead and live	4	Tons/Acre
Live fuel load, foliage	.5	Tons/Acre
	6.5	Tons/Acre Average Fuel Load

<sup>1</sup>Source- USFS General Technical Report INT-22

Desired Overall Fuel Reduction:

**Fuel Reduction Planned- Fuel Model 2**

50% 1 Hour, including dead fuel load <sup>2</sup>	1	Tons/Acre
60% Total fuel load, > 3-inch dead and live	2.4	Tons/Acre
25% Live fuel load, foliage	.125	Tons/Acre
	3.5	Tons/Acre Average Fuel Load Reduction

<sup>2</sup>Does not include annual grasses, forbes, etc.

Project Area Specifics- Desired Outcomes

Robie Point to Borland Ave Area<sup>1</sup>

<b>Fuel Type- Trees, Live</b>				
	Trees Per Acre (TPA) (Approx.) > 2" Stems	% Of Canopy Cover Current	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired % Of Canopy to Achieve
Oak, Fire, Pine, Other	379	89	60	65 Min 55 Max
<b>Fuel Type- Trees, Dead; Standing and Fallen</b>				
	Number of With Canopy	Number Without Canopy	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired Outcome for project
Standing	6	6	< 1	Remove standing with canopy, leave standing without canopy for habitat
Fallen	11		< .5	Remove excess branches, leave for habitat
<b>Fuel Type- Brush, Live</b>				
	Average Height of Brush	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired % to Reduce	
Typical Brush Plants	8 Feet	36	90	
Invasive Species	Scotch/Frenchbroom	< .5	100	

<sup>1</sup>Source: Field survey data cross referenced with NFES 2719/PMS 839

Marina/Gold Draw Area<sup>1</sup>

<b>Fuel Type- Trees, Live</b>				
	Trees Per Acre (TPA) (Approx.) > 2" Stems	% Of Canopy Cover Current	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired % Of Canopy to Achieve
Oak, Fire, Pine, Other	296	95	66	65 Min 55 Max
<b>Fuel Type- Trees, Dead; Standing and Fallen</b>				
	Number of With Canopy	Number Without Canopy	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired Outcome for project
Standing				
Fallen	4			Remove excess branches, leave for habitat
<b>Fuel Type- Brush, Live</b>				
	Average Height of Brush	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired % to Reduce	
Typical Brush Plants	6 Feet	30	90	
Invasive Species	Scotch/Frenchbroom Trees of Heaven	< 4	90	

<sup>1</sup>Source: Field survey data cross referenced with NFES 2719/PMS 839

Rio Camino Draw Area<sup>1</sup>

<b>Fuel Type- Trees, Live</b>				
	Trees Per Acre (TPA) (Approx.) > 2" Stems	% Of Canopy Cover Current	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired % Of Canopy to Achieve
Oak, Fire, Pine, Other	348	85	65	65 Min 55 Max
<b>Fuel Type- Trees, Dead; Standing and Fallen</b>				
	Number of With Canopy	Number Without Canopy	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired Outcome for project
Standing	1		< .5	Remove standing with canopy
Fallen				
<b>Fuel Type- Brush, Live</b>				
	Average Height of Brush	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired % to Reduce	
Typical Brush Plants	3 Feet	25	90	
Invasive Species Plants	Scotch/Frenchbroom Trees of Heaven	< 1	90	

<sup>1</sup>Source: Field survey data cross referenced with NFES 2719/PMS 839

Tamaroo Draw Area<sup>1</sup>

<b>Fuel Type- Trees, Live</b>				
	Trees Per Acre (TPA) (Approx.) > 2" Stems	% Of Canopy Cover Current	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired % Of Canopy to Achieve
Oak, Fire, Pine, Other	261	75	70	65 Min 55 Max
<b>Fuel Type- Trees, Dead; Standing and Fallen</b>				
	Number of With Canopy	Number Without Canopy	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired Outcome for project
Standing				
Fallen	3			Remove excess branches, leave for habitat
<b>Fuel Type- Brush, Live</b>				
	Average Height of Brush	% Of Total Project Area as Fuel Source	Desired % to Reduce	
Typical Brush Plants	6 Feet	25	90	
Invasive Species Plants	Scotch/Frenchbroom	< 4	100	

<sup>1</sup>Source: Field survey data cross referenced with NFES 2719/PMS 839

**b. Work Plan and Schedule**

Vegetation will be removed by hand; using hand saws, pole saws, and chainsaws. Cut materials will be hauled, stacked in piles, and chipped with a mechanical chipper. Chipped materials will be scattered within the project area and left on site for natural decomposition and soil stability enhancement. Although the prescription allows for pile burning this project has been planned with the chipping component to 1) avoid smoke issues, 2) create a more complete project by cutting and chipping, and 3) avoid additional crew time for pile burning. Burning may be used in some cases to eliminate invasive plant species instead of chipping where the broadcast of material may expand such species.

Work will be performed by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) personnel and contracted chipping vendor crews. CDCR personnel work in crews of 10-15 with an assigned supervisor, a Cal Fire Captain. The CDCR crews will focus on actual hand work; cutting and hauling, while private vendor crews operate chippers and equipment. Private vendors will be used primarily for specialized equipment such as track chippers and rig hauling. Machinery to be used is a rubber tracked chipper and will operate from existing un-improved roads and trails to access project areas. A vendor crew size is 4-6 personnel and includes operators with a supervisor. The intent of this combination of crew diversity and equipment use is to conduct fuels reduction in the most cost effective and efficient way while at the same time ensure a quality and complete project.

### SNC PROJECT WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT TASKS (Pre-work/Site prep)</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Assessment of project area by AFD, State Parks, and BOR. (Additional review for wildlife habitat, endangered species, and cultural resources) Develop mitigation measures as required	Months 1-2
Establish operations plan: times of work (daylight hours) work locations, and resource needs AFD, Cal Fire, State Parks, and BOR	Months 1-2
Mark and flag project area; project boundaries, hazards, mitigation areas, access locations AFD, Cal Fire State Parks	Months 2-3 (and throughout project as needed)
Coordinate with Cal Fire and CDCR crews project location, treatment prescription, expectations; work/safety/mitigation procedures, conduct training, and review emergency procedures AFD, Cal Fire	Months 2-4
Secure vendor/contractor for specialized equipment and chipping equipment AFD	Months 2-4
Coordinate with vendor/contractor project location, treatment prescription, expectations; work/safety/mitigation procedures, working with CDCR crew rules, and emergency procedures AFD, Cal Fire	Months 2-5
State Parks and AFD to sign and post areas where trails exist notifying trail users of project implementation prior to start of work	Months 2-3
6 Month Progress Report Due	Months 1-6
<b>DETAILED PROJECT TASKS (Work implemented)</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Ground work implemented by Cal Fire CDRC Crews and vendor/contractor Schedule coordinated by AFD May be some restrictions due to: crew availability, high fire danger, greater than normal precipitation, wildlife habitat nesting season, special events; Tevis, Western States 100 Mile, Confluence festival, and as determined Coordination by AFD includes; oversight, monitoring, mapping, photo taking, collaboration with stakeholders, AFD	Months 3-18
Carsonite Markers placed at boundaries of completed project areas 100-200 feet apart BOR, AFD, State Parks	Months 3-18
6 Month Progress Reports Due	Months 7-12 Months 13-18
Grant administration; payment receipt, invoice processing, report/record keeping Fire Chief	Months 1-18+
Before, during, and after project photos, PR/Media events; site visits, tours AFD	Months 1-24
Project Completion- Final Report	Month 24

### c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements

#### CEQA/NEPA Compliance

The City of Auburn has filed a Notice of Exemption for this project of which is consistent with like projects administered by the fire department. Since this land is in public holding; Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land and leased to California State Parks for recreational use, NEPA has been performed by the Bureau of Reclamation; Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) updated/completed in 2012 for the project area. BOR and State Parks will have the ability to perform CEQA and or NEPA as so desired prior to and during implementation of work using their own resources and funding. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Auburn and BOR, the Notice of Exemption is acceptable to all the agencies for projects administered and implemented by the City of Auburn.

#### Historical Information- Land Tenure Information

The proposed project is located adjacent to the City of Auburn on U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Lands. For well over 30 years the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation has had a contractual agreement with Cal Fire for fire suppression and fuels management. In January 2009 that long term agreement was terminated leaving the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation responsible for any fire suppression and fuels management events. Due to funding constraints all fuels management programs have been halted; all fiscal considerations are given to fire suppression costs as priority. The termination of this agreement and cease of fuel management programs has put the City of Auburn at great risk. While the City of Auburn aggressively implements fuels reduction programs on private lands adjacent to public lands, any and all fuel treatments are compromised when the equally needed fuels treatments are not applied to public lands. The City of Auburn has been diligently working with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to address this issue. In 2010 the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and the City of Auburn Fire Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing the City of Auburn the rights and permissions to treat U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Lands the same as adjacent private lands. This MOU was renewed for an additional five (5) year term in 2013. The MOU does not provide or identify any sources of funding for fuels treatment; only the ability for the City of Auburn to perform treatment as applicable. Since the implementation of the MOU there have been approximately eight (8) projects adjacent to the city of Auburn for fuels reduction funded through various resources such as: grants, community work days; volunteer labor, private contractors donating time and materials, and monetary donations through the "Project Canyon Safe" Program initiated by the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council.

Without a secured funding source the City of Auburn is aggressively pursuing ways to implement fuels treatment to areas on public lands posing risk to the City. In 2012/2013 The Auburn City Fire Department received grant funding from SNC to implement the Shaded Fuel Break in areas of critical fire risk and valued watershed areas. The funded project assisted in treating approximately 40% of the entire American River Shaded Fuel Break in what is considered as one of the

most critical areas. This current proposed project is considered the next critical area to the overall project.

#### d. Organizational Capacity

The Auburn Fire Department (AFD) has extensive experience in implementing fuel reduction projects like a Shaded Fuel Break and has successfully implemented a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) fuel reduction project similar to this proposal. For over 10 years the agency has collaboratively worked with US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), California State Parks, Cal Fire, and most recently the SNC in successful fuel reduction project achievement. Utilizing multiple agencies proves greater success achievement through cooperative use of each individual agency's resources. While AFD coordinates, oversees, and administers projects, State Parks assists with logistics such as portable sanitation facilities, trail access and control, and crew logistics. BOR contributes technical assistance in conducting site assessment for habitat and cultural resources prior to and during work phases. Cal Fire provides crews that are trained and equipped for fire line and fuel projects and provides technical assistance in the way of GIS & GPS mapping for project documentation. The SNC has made this possible in the past by providing funding that is focused solely on actual work performed; reducing fuels. This leveraging of multiple agency resources and the experience of administering and implementing fuel reduction projects provides a high probability of success where the greatest benefit is achieved.

Project coordination will be performed by AFD and will be "in-kind" all costs will be borne by AFD. AFD has an agreement with Cal Fire as a local agency enabling AFD the use of CDCR hand crews. California State Parks, Cal Fire, and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation have specialized resources such as environmental, cultural, and wildlife experts available during project construction as part of the collaborative commitment. The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council will continue to support this project as part of the larger "Project Canyon Safe" program by promoting education through meetings and publications.

#### e. Cooperation and Community Support

The initial project of an 11 mile Shaded Fuel Break was originally developed through a collaborative effort between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California State Parks, Cal Fire, and the City of Auburn Fire Department. A prescription was developed by the agencies that address the need for fuels reduction while taking into consideration agency specific issues. Each agency has areas of interest that include protecting the environment, protecting development, and providing recreational opportunities. The project known as the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break was identified and incorporated into several plans of which include: the Auburn State Recreation Area Fire Prevention Plan, The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council Strategic Fire Plan, and the Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The collaborative

agencies are all in support of this proposed project.

Initially, the City of Auburn coordinated implementation on private lands while U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and State Parks coordinated implementation on public lands. Funding for treatment on private lands came from the actual property owners. Funding for public land treatment consisted of agreements coordinated through the federal and state agencies. When such agreements were eliminated in 2009, so was the treatment on public lands of which increases the risk to the City of Auburn and the private treated lands.

In 2010 the City of Auburn and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation entered into a MOU that gives permissions to the city to perform fuels treatment on public lands. The next step was to seek community support for actual ground work and fund raising to implement and maintain the project.

The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council developed the campaign of "Project Canyon Safe". A "grassroots" effort of citizens to take on the implementation and maintenance of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break project on public lands. May 22, 2010 was the first "work day" declared on a specific location within the Shaded Fuel Break. Within a 7 hour period, 9 acres were treated by 114 volunteer individuals, 158 tons were chipped by private contractors donating their time and resources, no injuries occurred, and monetary donations were made to continue the support of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break. On July 9, 2011, the second annual "work day" took place involving 118 volunteers, clearing 4.5 acres in 4 hours, and 119 tons were chipped by vendors donating their time and equipment.

The Foundation "Project Canyon Safe" was established in May 2010 where funds; through donation and fund raising, are deposited only to be used for project implementation on the Shaded Fuel Break. There has been approximately \$25,000 collected with an additional "up to" \$75,000 matching as a pledge from a private foundation. Such funds are used for chipping services; rental and contracting specialized equipment, contracting for hand work, and other related resources used on fuel reduction projects within the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break.

After the May 22, 2010 event the GAAFSC and AFD conducted a number of community meetings in an attempt to organize neighborhoods to "adopt" a specific section of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break.

Approximately 50 acres have been treated through citizen volunteer efforts on public and private lands. Sustainability is a concern for citizens and is the incentive to continue ground work and fund raise. By "adopting" a section of the project a sense of ownership and pride is achieved knowing that efforts reduce the risk to the community and the environment of which directly benefits those that participate. (There is a separate document "*Project Canyon Safe*" of which identifies all areas of the American River Shaded Fuel Break, neighborhood "adopted" sections, and status).

f. Long-Term Management and Sustainability

Once initial treatment is applied AFD will coordinate the sustainability and/or maintenance component of project areas with the partner agencies; Cal Fire, Bureau of Reclamation, and California State Parks. Each agency has made a commitment to annually identify priority areas for treatment and collaborate on what resources are needed. This will be done through coordination with the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council when the annual review of "Project Canyon Safe" is completed; an annual process that identifies all areas and treatment/maintenance status of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break. The collaborative agencies also put an annual plan together identifying where treatment/maintenance will be performed with agency resources. Beginning in 2013 the partner agencies have budgeted for work crews such as Cal Fire CDCR and California Conservation Corps for project sustainability. The first "work plan" for 2013/2014 has been developed specifically by the agencies, for the agencies, in addressing sustainability to the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break.

DOUG LAMALFA  
1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0501

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FAX: (530) 223-5897

<http://lamalfa.house.gov>

November 15, 2013

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Proposition 84 Grants Program Review Committee  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break, Auburn City Fire Department

Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased to offer my strong support of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break collaborative project on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands in and around the City of Auburn.

This important fuel reduction project will help to decrease the risk of wildfire to Auburn and surrounding communities. Reducing the level of fire fuels in the areas will serve to better protect the residential communities, natural resources, and recreational areas in and near the Auburn State Recreation area.

I fully support the Auburn City Fire Department's application for grant funding as well as the department's commitment to coordinating this important project.

If my staff or I may provide you with additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



DOUG LAMALFA  
Member of Congress

DL:sw

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YUBA CITY, CA 95993  
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# California State Senate



SENATOR  
**JIM NIELSEN**

FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
HEALTH  
INSURANCE  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

November 18, 2013

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Proposition 84 Grants Program Review Committee  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**RE: American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break, Auburn City Fire Department**

Dear Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to convey my support of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break collaborative project on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands in and around the City of Auburn.

The grant funds totaling \$157,110 will be utilized to help reduce the risk of wildfire to Auburn and surrounding communities and will be met with local matching funds in the amount of \$131,096. During these dry years, reducing the level of fire fuels in these areas is essential to local efforts to better protect the residential communities and recreational areas both in and near the Auburn State Recreation Area.

For these reasons, I support the Auburn City Fire Department's application for grant funding as well as the department's commitment to coordinating this important project.

If my staff or I may provide you with additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Nielsen".

JIM NIELSEN  
Senator, Fourth District

JN:cb



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Central California Area Office  
7794 Folsom Dam Road  
Folsom, California 95630-1799

**NOV 13 2013**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CC-413  
ENV-8.0

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Letter of Support - American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break, Auburn City Fire Department

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Bureau of Reclamation supports the Auburn City Fire Department's application for Proposition 84 grant funding in support of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break Project.

The proposed fuel reduction work will not only reduce the risk associated with wild land fire to the local community, but will also protect and enhance wild land resources of the Auburn Project Lands, the American River watershed, and the recreation resources within the Auburn State Recreation Area.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. John Hutchings at 916-989-7179 or e-mail [jhutchings@usbr.gov](mailto:jhutchings@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,

Drew F. Lessard  
Area Manager



### Long-Term Management and Sustainability

Once initial treatment is applied AFD will coordinate the sustainability and/or maintenance component with the partner agencies. This project area is already identified as part of the "Project Canyon Safe" campaign and is included in work projects that maintain the entire American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break. "Project Canyon Safe" has conducted fuels treatment by way of volunteer labor; vendor donated labor, and donated equipment use. Priority work areas are those with established projects; initial implementation, of which this project would receive priority for future maintenance. Sustainability will be achieved using cost effective methods, collaborated efforts, and various resources. These include: leveraging all available resources from the public agencies to focus on this project, applying for grant funding, citizen work events, local fund raising to cover costs of fuels treatment, and donation of services from allied agencies and private contractors.

AFD will continue to seek funding for all areas of the project as well as provide resources for coordination and oversight. Currently the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation entered into a multiyear contract with the California Conservation Corps to perform fuels management on public lands, primarily maintenance. AFD and State Parks continue to coordinate "crew days" for CDCR crews with budgeted agency funding. 2014 will be the first year all public agencies have minimal funding for crew work and are focusing this crew work on an annual collaborative planning process for sustainability of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break.

Coordinated by AFD, the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council (GAAFSC) and partner agencies collaborate to address the needs of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break and establish priorities, work projects, and locations on an annual basis. An updated "Project Canyon Safe" was completed in 2013 identifying progress since 2010.

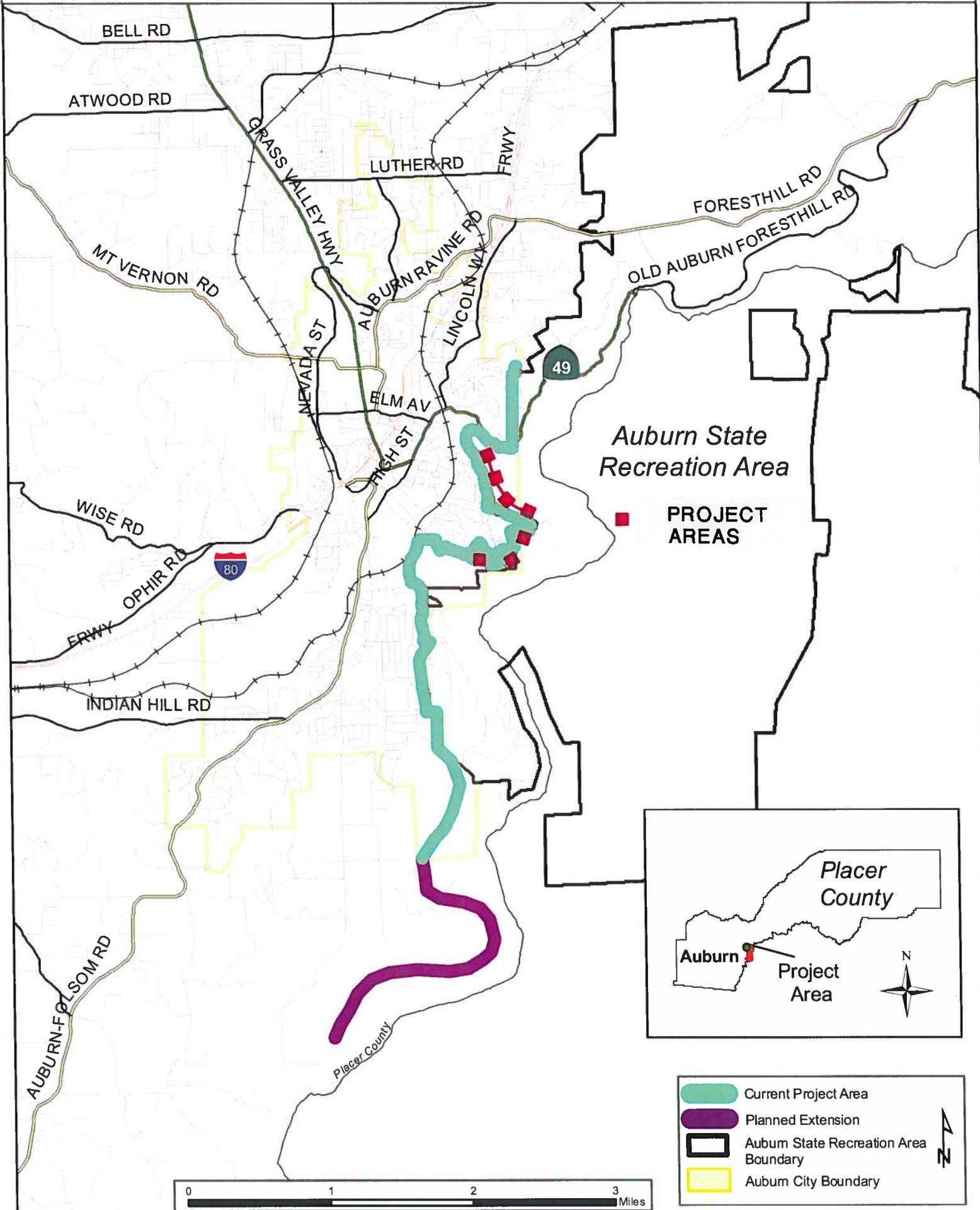
While the "Project Canyon Safe" document involves the GAAFSC and public input into project status, AFD, State Parks and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation will create a work plan annually focusing on sustainability using agency specific resources. The 2013/2014 American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break Maintenance Plan identifies resources available and priority project locations for the defined period. With a commitment of 25 crew days, maintenance performed will ensure sustainability to the project.

Since this is a major project listed in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) long term funding to keep the project sustainable is being recommended to the Placer County Board of Supervisors utilizing funds from the Middle Fork Project.

The American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break is a model program in multiple ways that include Federal, State, and Local governmental agencies collaborating together to determine needs, design a project, implement work, and contribute in their own ways with the limited resources each has to offer. In addition, the campaign of "Project Canyon Safe" has brought in the element of the community of which can greatly contribute in ways public agencies cannot. Stakeholders in this project are everyone! The partnership is based upon what is best for the

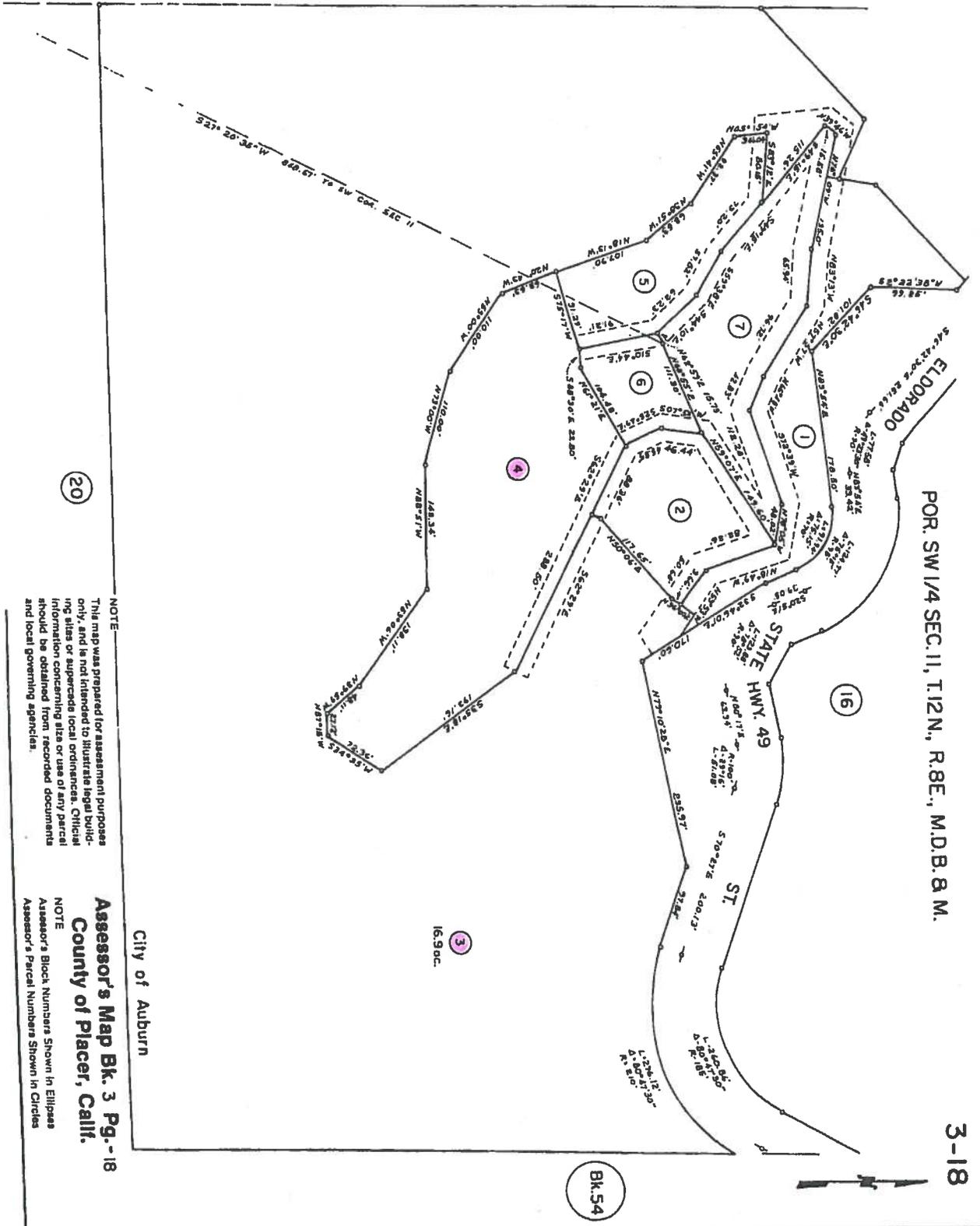
community which includes our development and natural resources and allows for innovative ways to achieve desired results. There is no doubt the success of keeping our communities safe from wildfire rely heavily on the sustainability of the shaded fuel break. This is an “on-going” project that takes all stakeholders of each generation to maintain.

# Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Project



POR. SW 1/4 SEC. 11, T.12N., R.8E., M.D.B. 8 M.

3-18



NOTE  
 This map was prepared for assessment purposes only, and is not intended to illustrate legal building sites or supercede local ordinances. Official information concerning size or use of any parcel should be obtained from recorded documents and local governing agencies.

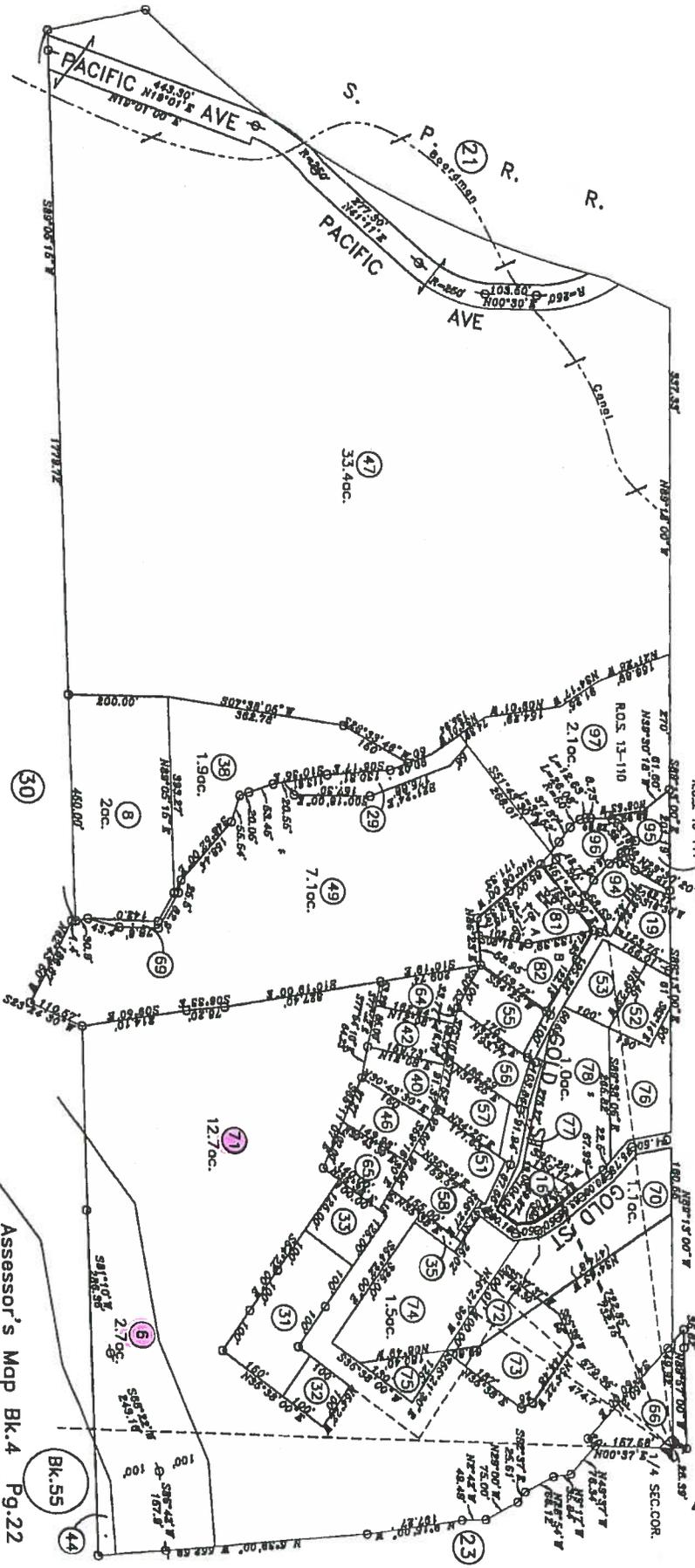
NOTE  
 Assessor's Map Bk. 3 Pg. - 18  
 County of Placer, Calif.  
 Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipse  
 Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles

Parcels or portions of parcels within the Project Area

POR. S.E. 1/2 SEC. 15, POR. S.W. 1/4 SEC. 14, T.12N., R.8E., M.D.B.&M. 4-22

Survey M.O.R. Bk. 1, Pg. 5A  
 Parcel Map Bk. 4, Pg. 121  
 Survey Map M.O.R. Bk. 5, Pg. 50  
 Parcel Map M.O.R. Bk. 18, Pg. 76

Survey M.O.R. Bk. 13, Pg. 110  
 Survey M.O.R. Bk. 14, Pg. 73  
 Survey M.O.R. Bk. 16, Pg. 144, No. 2317



14 15 16

1" = 200'

NOTE  
 All distances on curved lines are chord measurements.

03-20-2002 RNP  
 Page Redrawn from Basecrop Information

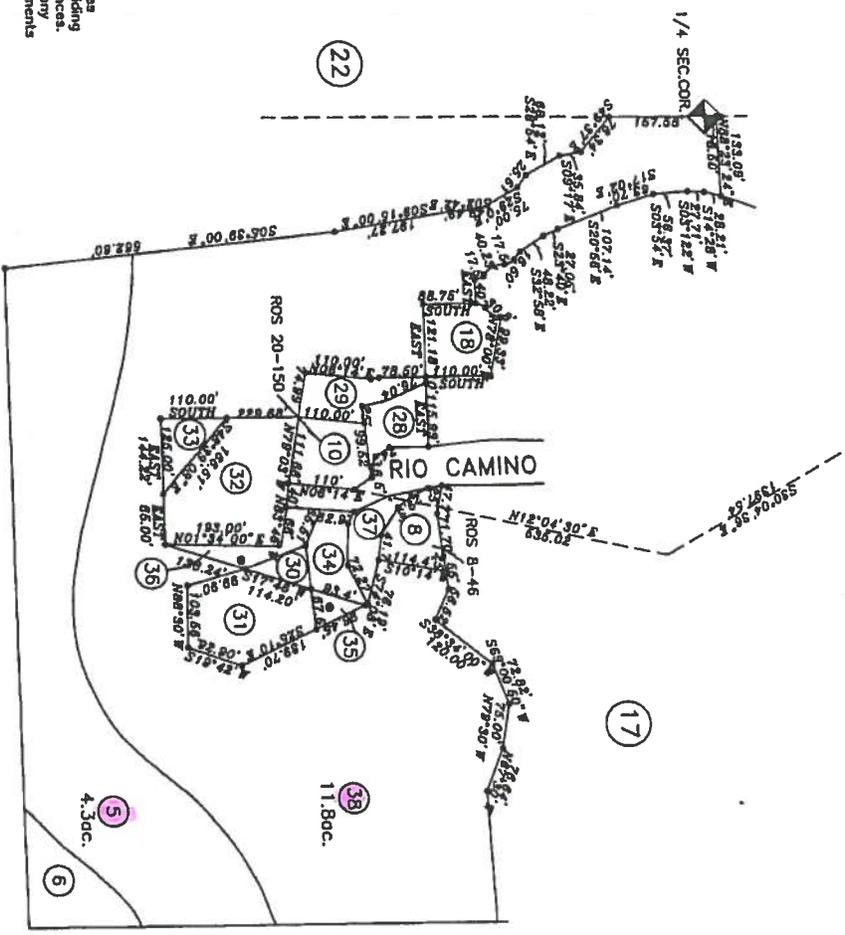
NOTE  
 This map was prepared for assessment purposes only, and is not intended to illustrate legal building sites or establish precedence over local ordinances. Official information concerning size or use of any parcel should be obtained from recorded documents and local governing agencies.

Assessor's Map Bk. 4 Pg. 22  
 County of Placer, Calif.

NOTE  
 Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.  
 Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

Parcels or portions of parcels within the Project Area

POR. S.W.1/4 SEC.14, T.12N., R.8 E., M.D.B.&M.  
 Survey M.O.R. Bk.8, Pg.46  
 Survey M.O.R. Bk. 20, Pg. 150, # 3067



NOTE  
 This map was prepared for assessment purposes only and is not intended to illustrate legal building sites or establish precedence over local ordinances. Official information concerning size or use of any parcel should be obtained from recorded documents and local governing agencies.

03-25-2005 MMS  
 Map Redrawn Per Baseplot Information

NOTE  
 All distances on curved lines are chord measurements.

Pg. 04  
 Bk. 55

Pg. 03  
 Bk. 55

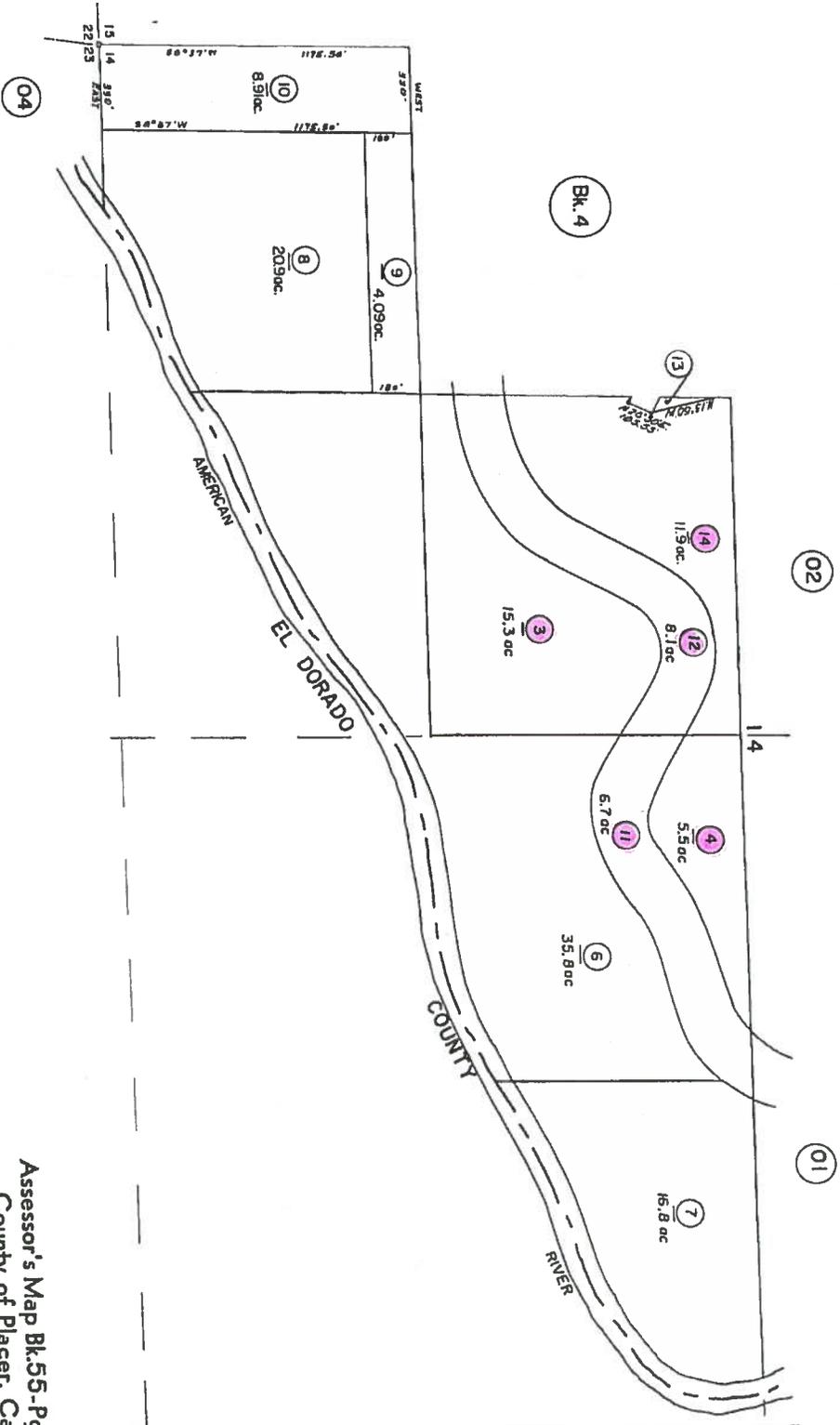
Assessor's Map Bk.4 Pg.23  
 County of Placer, Calif.

NOTE  
 Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.  
 Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

Parcels or portions of parcels within the Project Area

POR. S 1/2 SEC. 14, T.12N., R9E., M.D.B. 8.M.  
 Survey M.O.R. Bk. 1, Pg. 5A.

55-03



6-74  
 8-68  
 3-68

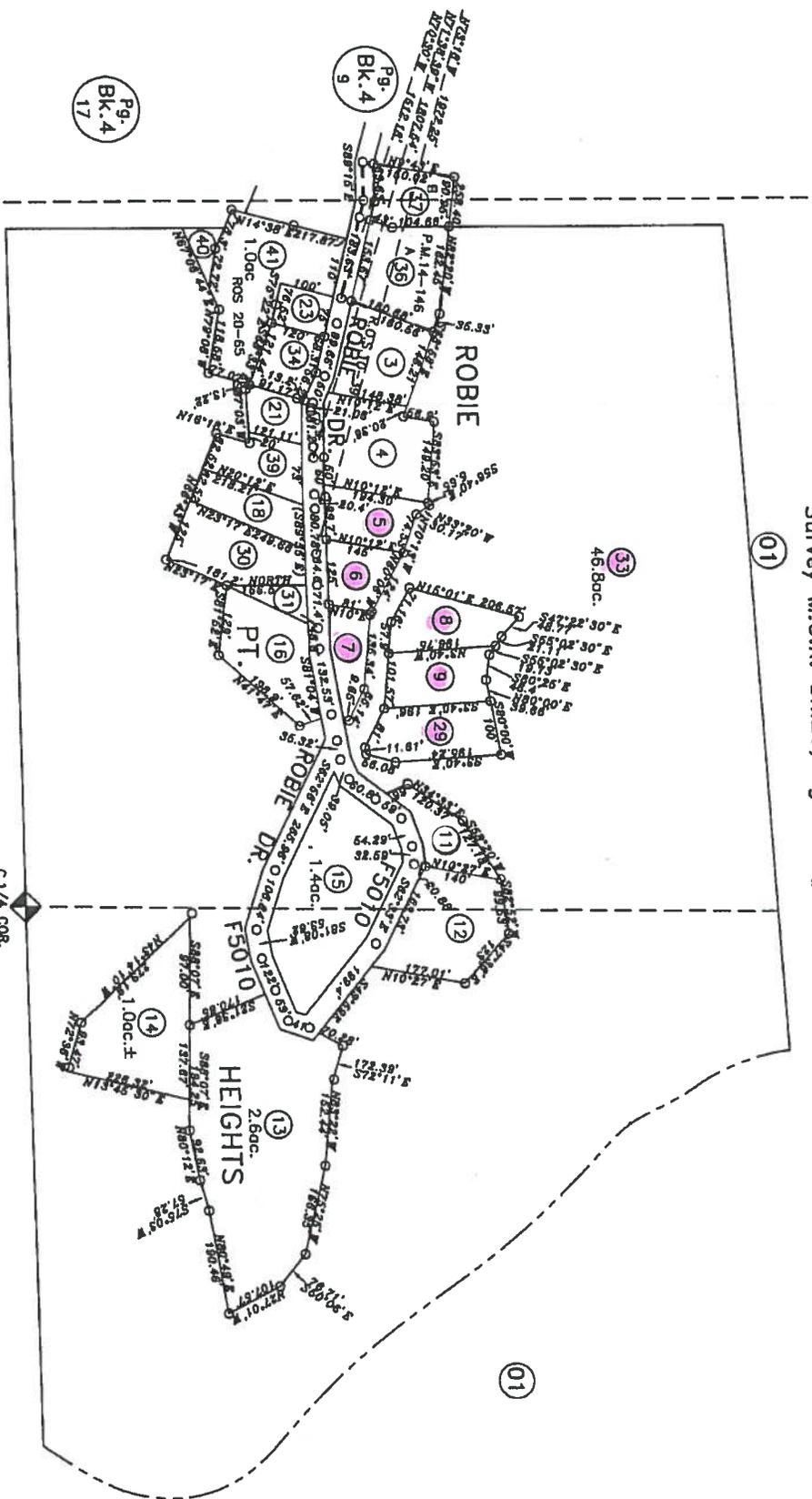
NOTE-Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipse.  
 Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circle.

Assessor's Map Bk. 55-Pg. 03  
 County of Placer, Calif.

Parcels or portions of parcels within the Project Area

POR. N.1/2 SEC.14, T.12N., R.8E., M.D.B.&M.  
 Parcel M.O.R. Bk.14, Pg.146  
 Survey M.O.R. Bk.10, Pg.39 No.1132  
 Survey M.O.R. Bk.20, Pg. 65, # 2768

55-02



NOTE  
 All distances on curved lines are chord measurements.

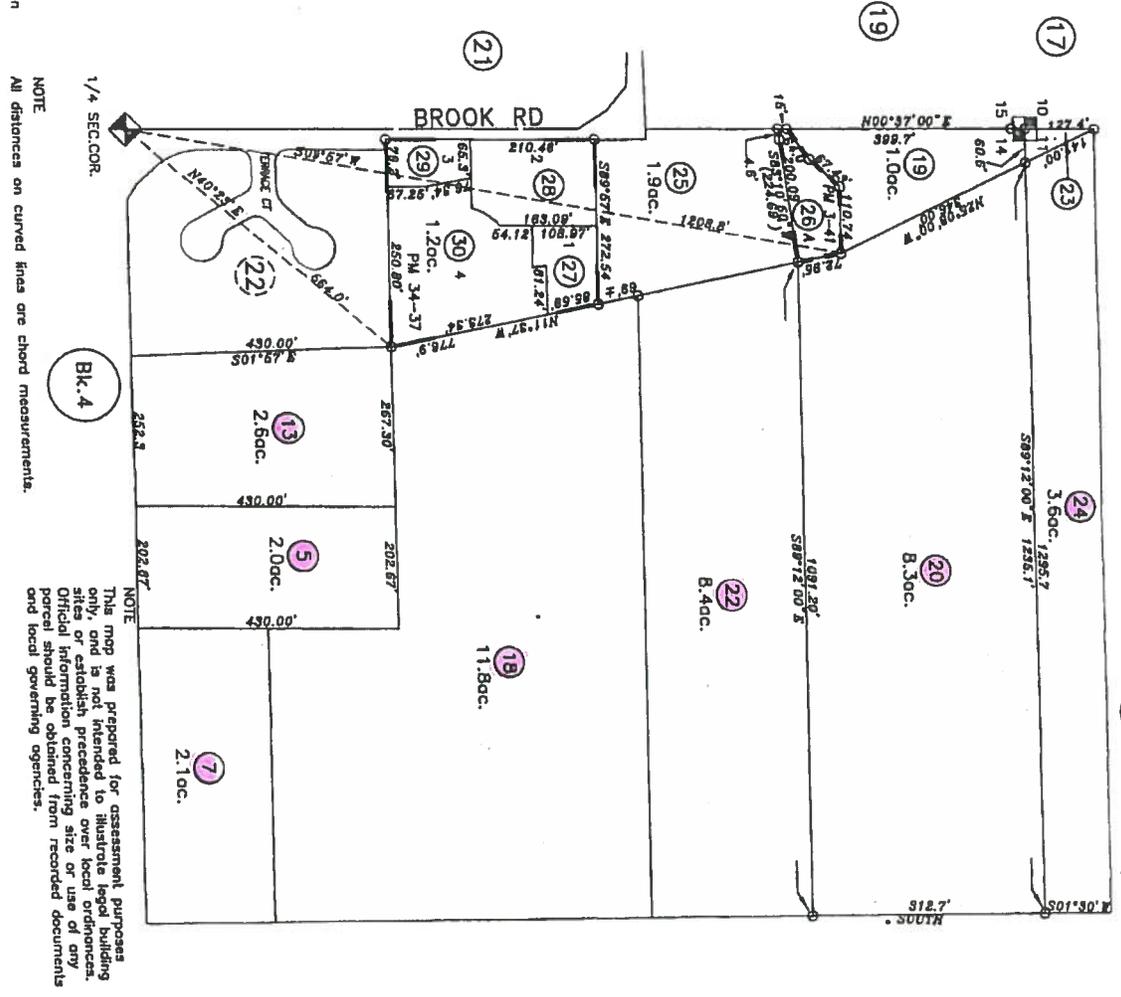
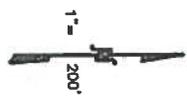
NOTE  
 This map was prepared for assessment purposes only and is not intended to illustrate legal building sites or establish precedence over local ordinances. Official information concerning size or use of any parcel should be obtained from recorded documents and local governing agencies.

NOTE  
 Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.  
 Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

Assessor's Map Bk.55 Pg.02  
 County of Placer, Calif.

04-04-2001 JAC Basecrop Information  
 Page Redrawn Per  
 Parcels or portions of parcels within the Project Area

PORS. S.W.1/4 SEC.11, N.W.1/4 SEC.14, T.12N., R.8E., M.D.B.&M.  
 Parcel Map M.O.R. Bk.3 Pg.41  
 Parcel Map M.O.R. Bk.34 Pg.37, LS 05-3



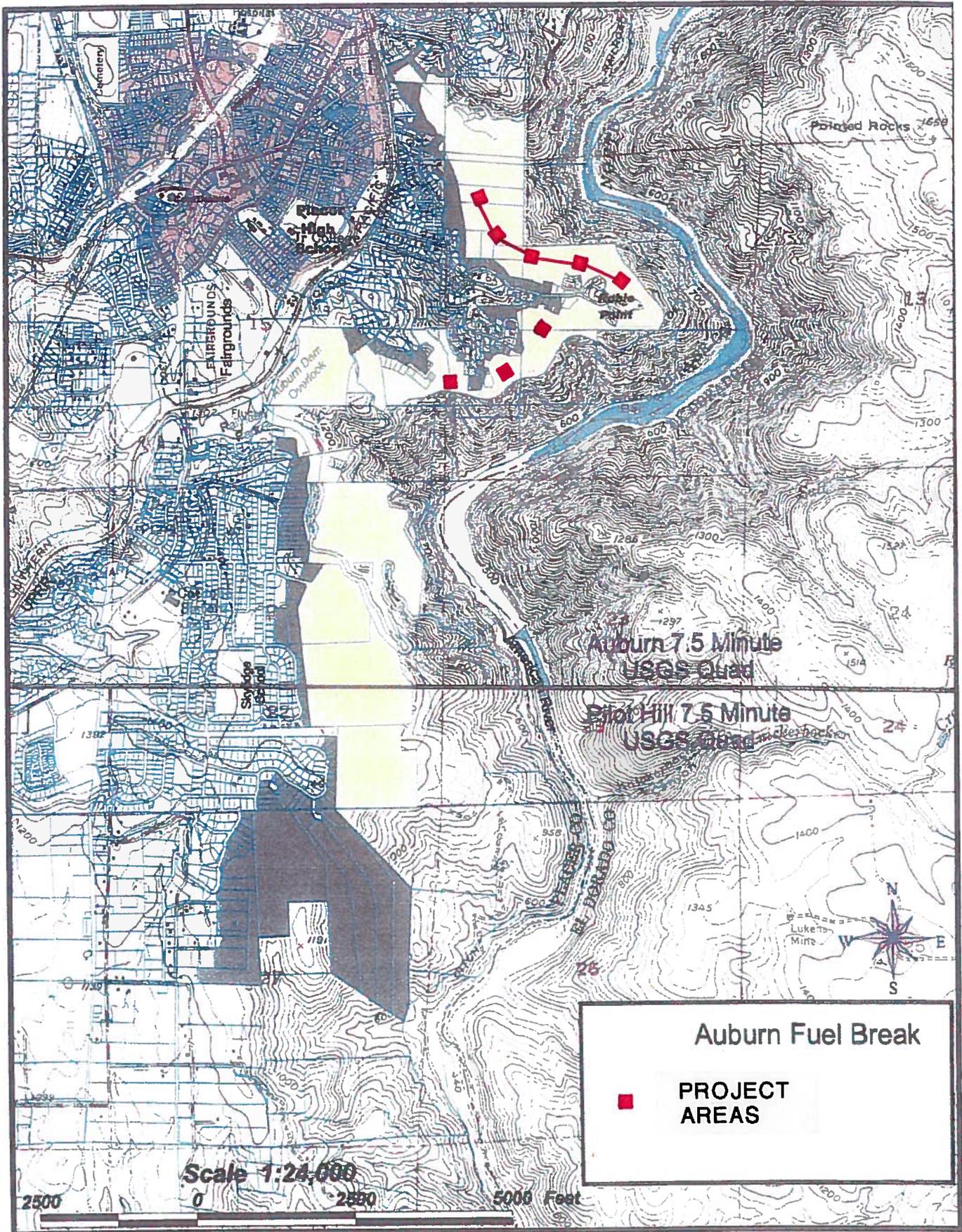
NOTE  
 All distances on curved lines are chord measurements.

NOTE  
 This map was prepared for assessment purposes only, and is not intended to illustrate legal building sites or establish precedence over local ordinances. Official information concerning size or use of any parcel should be obtained from recorded documents and local governing agencies.

NOTE  
 Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.  
 Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

CITY OF AUBURN  
 Assessor's Map Bk. 3 Pg.20  
 County of Placer, Calif.

Parcels or portions of parcels within the Project Area



**Auburn Fuel Break**

**PROJECT AREAS**

**Scale 1:24,000**

2500 0 2500 5000 Feet

2500

0

2500

5000 Feet

2500



**Main Project Area  
Borland Avenue Looking to the South**

**Main Project Area  
Midway of Project  
Looking West**





**Main Project Area  
Robie Looking North**



**Enhance Area  
Tamaroo Draw**



**Enhance Area  
Marina Draw**



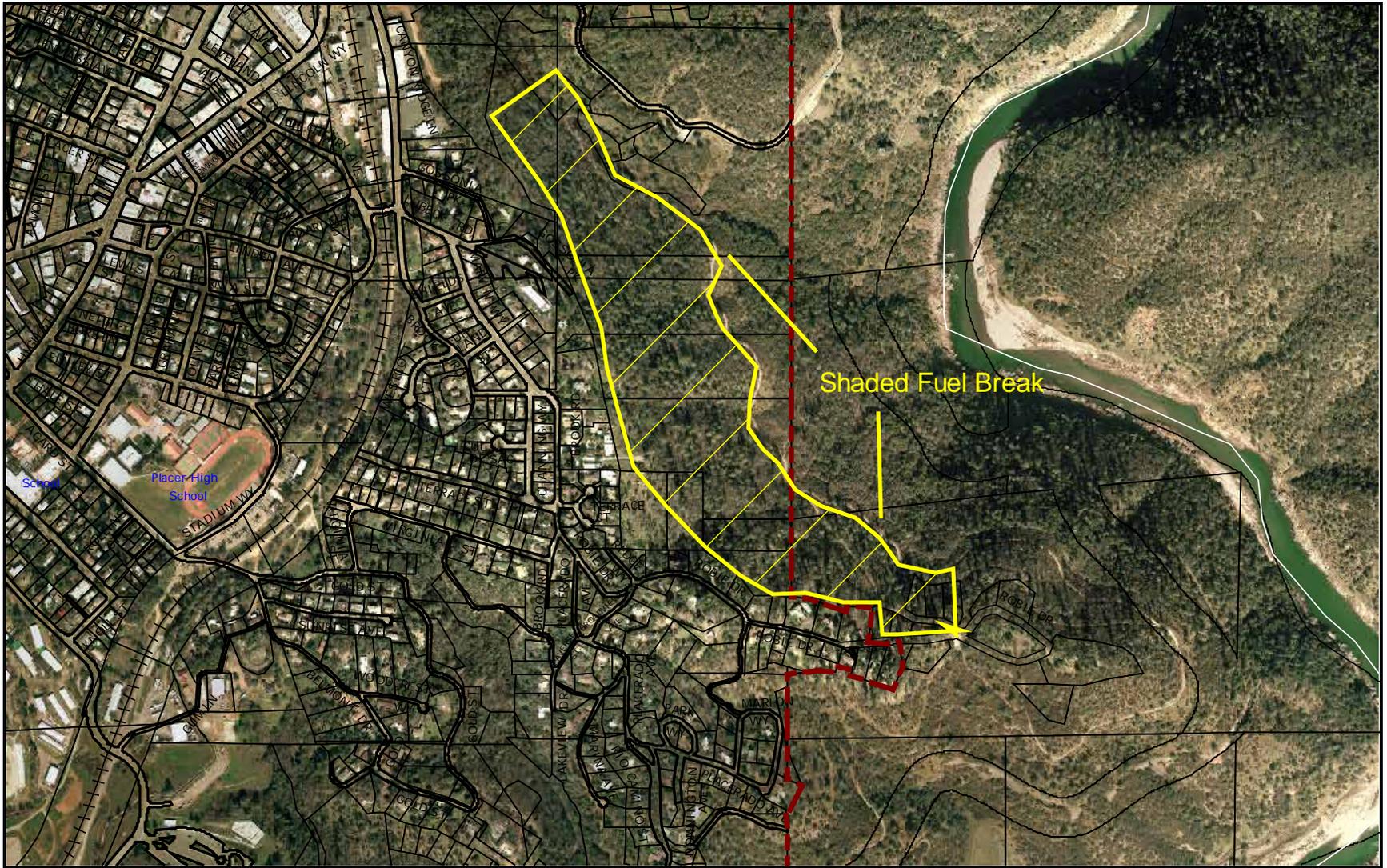
**Enhance Area  
Rio Camino Draw**



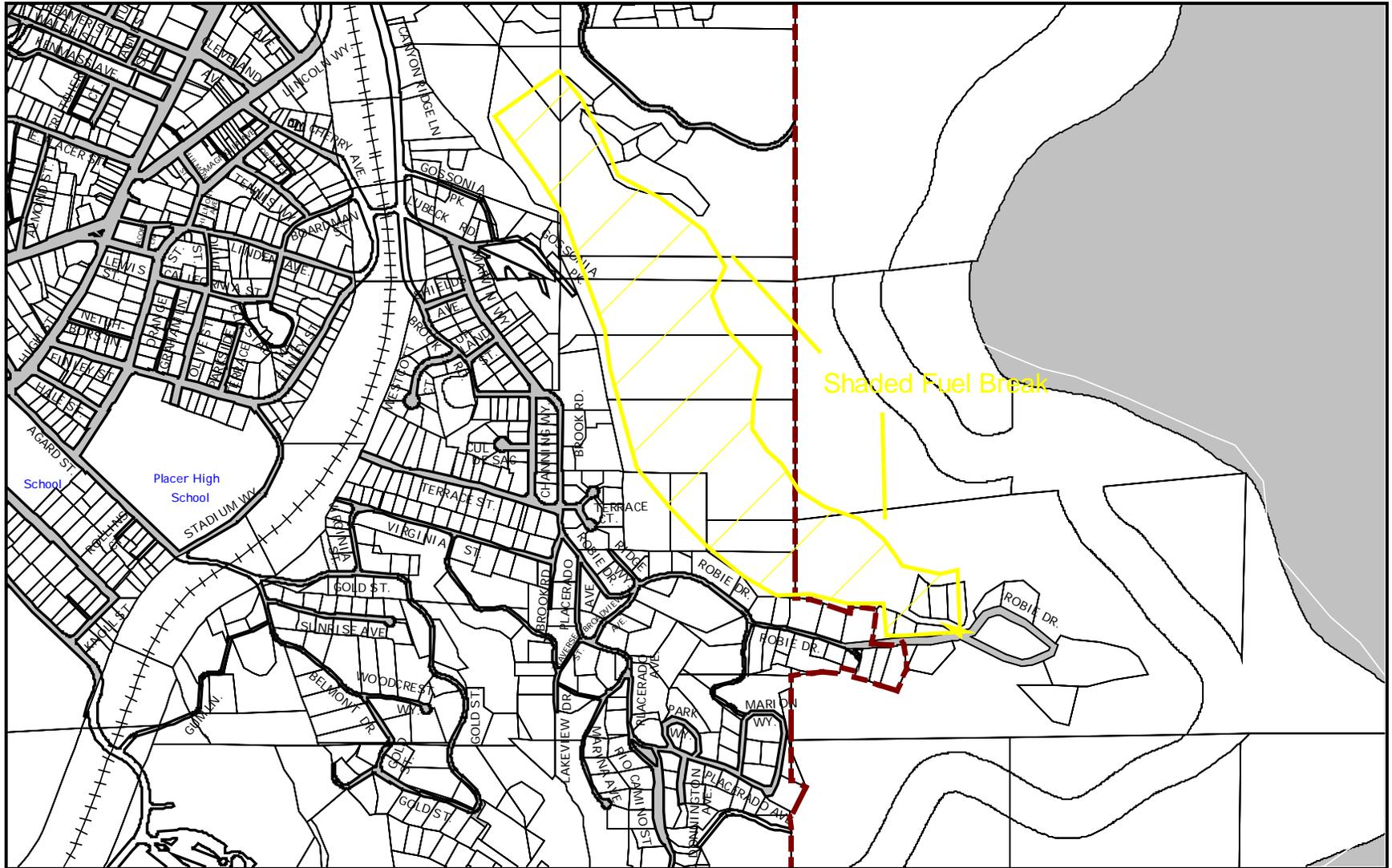
**Project in Progress  
(SNC #567 2012)**

**Completed- Overview  
(SNC #567 2012)**

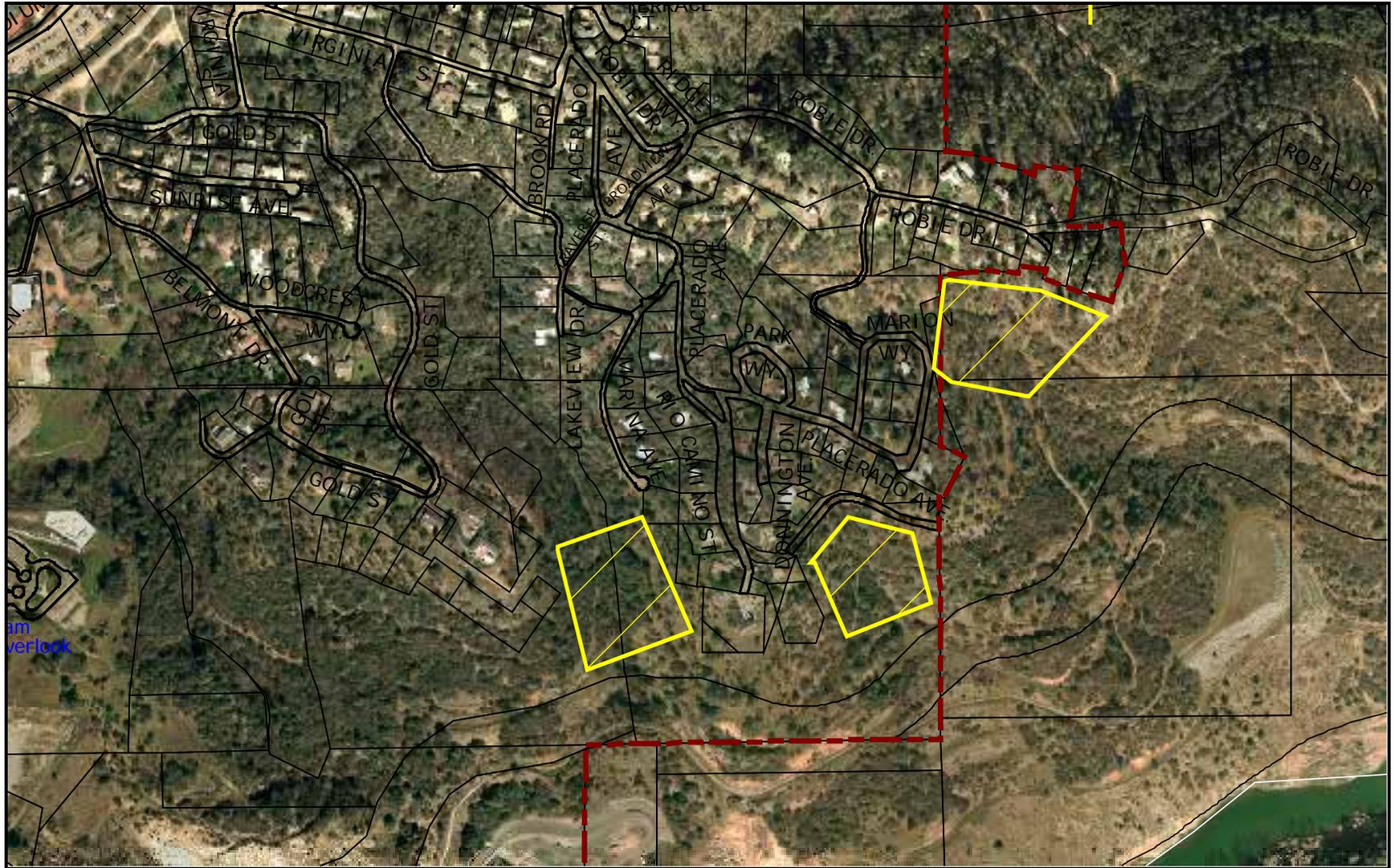




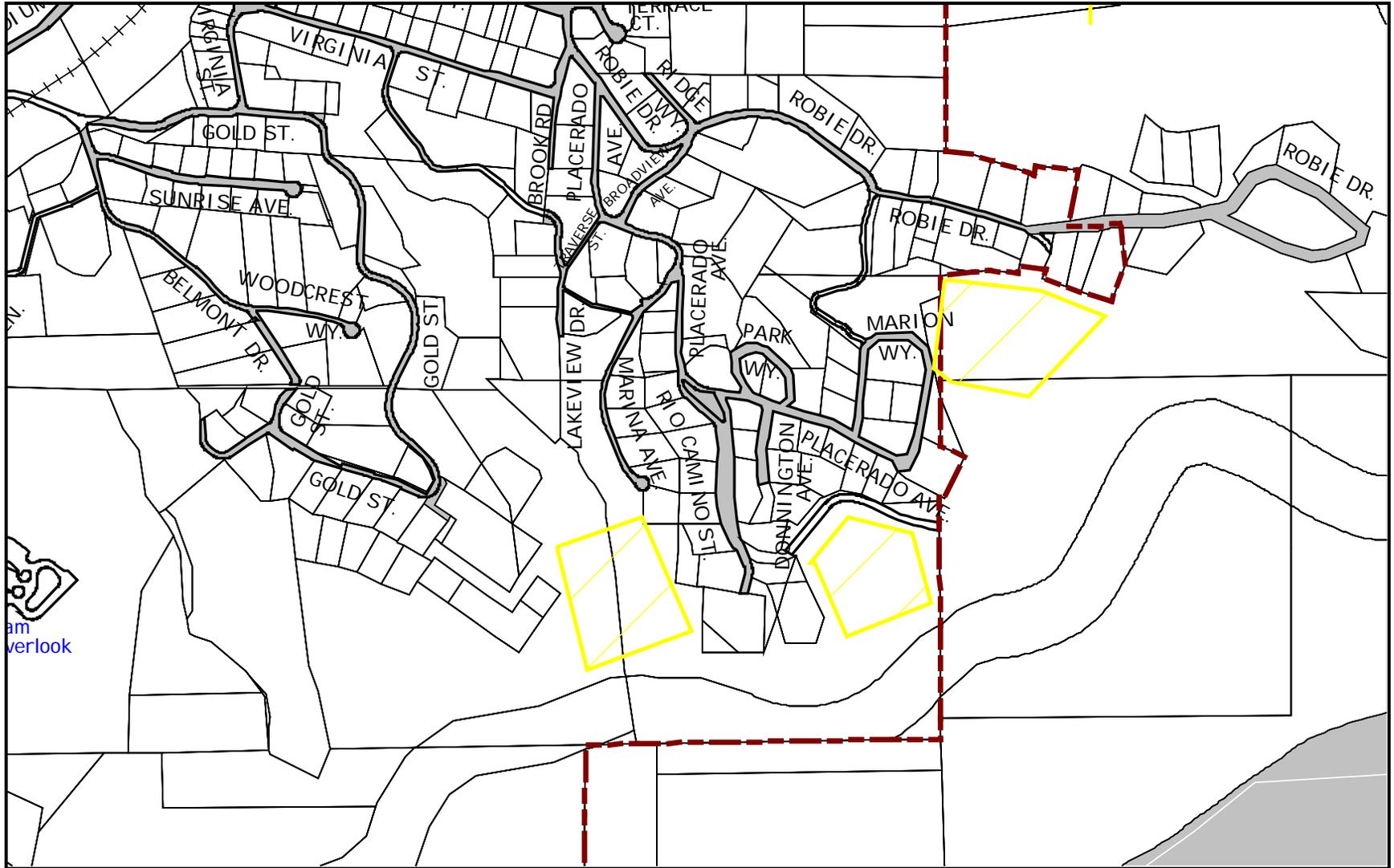
Proposed Shaded Fuel Break Area- Robie Point north to south of Highway 49



Proposed Shaded Fuel Break Area- Robie Point north to south of Highway 49



Proposed Enhance Areas- Marina/Gold, Rio Camino, & Tamaroo



Proposed Enhance Areas- Marina/Gold, Rio Camino, & Tamaroo

### Budget Detail

Viewing the project for benefits identifies the importance in several different areas. Protecting values at risk, meaning development and property, can be viewed in the way of dollars leveraged for benefit. There is an estimated \$81,790,242.00 in structure valuation in the immediate Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone of where the project is proposed. With the funding request of \$157,110.00, the benefit of every SNC dollar will protect \$520.00 worth of value at risk or a 1:520 ratio. (Source: 2010 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan).

Although an in-depth scientific analysis has not been performed for this project regarding watershed, using nonscientific theory that if 40% of the vegetation were removed roughly 40% additional precipitation would be directed into the watershed system instead of being absorbed by dense vegetation. This could ultimately add to the watershed value as greater producing. Just the mere fact of reduced vegetation in areas without the occurrence of a wildfire will greatly enhance the watershed by allowing added run-off waters rather than be absorbed by vegetation. It is well known that catastrophic wildfire leaves an area very prone to erosion which can lead to landslide, siltation, and cause damage to improvements. As it is very difficult to determine exact impacts, there is a benefit of preventing wildfire damage that may ultimately prevent effects on watershed use albeit for drinking, agriculture, or recreation. Long term effects can cause significant economic impacts that are difficult to predict and may require a substantial amount of time to recover from. Similar to a benefit cost analysis, but without the ability to put a dollar amount on such impacts, the air pollutants from a wildfire can impact the economy, the ecology system, and may create long term health issues for residents. A few years ago the Tevis Cup Ride and the Western States 100 Mile events were cancelled, not because of fire, but due to smoke from wildfires in the Foresthill area. Not only was this a recognized health issue, but created an economic impact to our area.

### Project Funding Requested-Agency Contributions

Requested funding for this project is focused on the actual ground work to be performed. Minimal direct costs include carsonite markers to mark the project area for identification for future maintenance. The majority of the requested funding will be directed to costs of CDCR crews, private chipping vender, and a small amount to cover administrative costs.

Project coordination performed by AFD will be "in-kind" and all costs will be covered by AFD. AFD has an agreement with Cal Fire as a local agency supporting the mission of Cal Fire enabling AFD the use of CDCR hand crews at a significantly reduced rate. California State Parks, Cal Fire and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation commit specialized resources such as environmental, cultural, and wildlife experts during project construction as their collaborative commitment and "in-kind" to this project; logistics such as portable sanitation, trail signage, and GPS/GIS mapping and documentation. The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council will continue to support this project as part of the larger "Project Canyon Safe" program by promoting education through meetings and publications.

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>Project Budget</b>	<b>Total SNC Funding</b>
Contractors to Perform Ground Work; Chipper Equipment and crews, and Cal Fire CDCR Crews	\$149,410.00
Boundary Markers for Project Identification	\$3,300.00
Administrative Costs: AFD Grant Administration	\$4,400.00
<b>SNC Grant Total Request</b>	<b>\$157,110.00</b>

### Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada

A total dollar value of \$131,096.00 is identified as “in-kind” contributions for this proposed project. This means that for every dollar of SNC funding used, \$.83 is matched to the project from Federal, State, and Local Agencies.

<b>Matching Fund Source</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Auburn City Fire Department	Wage, Benefits, and supplies for Project Coordinator(s)	\$16,400.00
Cal Fire- CDCR Hand Crews	CDCR Hand Crews to perform ground work at reduced rate and GIS/GPS mapping	\$110,596.00
Auburn City Fire Department	Misc. supplies; flagging, fuel, office supplies, photos	\$200.00
California State Parks	Portable sanitation and crew logistics	\$2,400.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Field survey and assessment during work periods	\$1,500.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>		<b>\$131,096.00</b>

### Cost Allocation Plan

The allocation plan used to determine costs are derived from actual known rates for personnel based on the projected time that will be spent on this specific project only. For example: an amount of \$4,400.00 is identified for administrative costs; this is calculated for one (1) executive that will spend approximately 50 hours at a rate of \$88/hour to perform administrative duties to include; reporting, invoicing, RFP processing, and performance monitoring/record keeping. All hours spent specifically for administration on this project will be logged on a separate record for the project. This amount, not to exceed, is the only cost outside of direct costs being requested. Other costs for the project such as personnel time, logistics, supplies, facilities, vehicles, and office expenses, are absorbed by the collaborative agencies as “in-kind” contribution to the project.

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM**

**Project Name:** American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break II

**Applicant:** City of Auburn Fire Department

<b>SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Cal Fire CDCR Hand Crews 85 crew days at \$226/day Used to perform ground work</i>	\$19,210.00					\$19,210.00
<i>Private Vendor with Mechanical Chipper 35days at \$3,720/day, Includes chippers, supervisor, crews, and transportation</i>	\$130,200.00					\$130,200.00
<b>DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>	\$149,410.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$149,410.00
<b>SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Carsonite Markers for Project Areas Used to mark project boundaries 200 markers at \$16.50/each</i>	\$3,300.00					\$3,300.00
<b>INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,300.00
<b>PROJECT TOTAL:</b>	\$152,710.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$152,710.00
<b>SECTION THREE Administrative Costs (Costs may not to exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :</b>						<b>Total</b>
<i>Grant Administration Chief Officer 50 hours at \$88/hour Includes; RFP processing, invoicing, reports, performance monitoring</i>	\$4,400.00					\$4,400.00
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:</b>	\$4,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,400.00
<b>SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:</b>	\$157,110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$157,110.00
<b>SECTION FOUR</b>						
<b>OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Cal Fire Crews- Reduced rate for AFD- 85 days at \$1290.84, GIS mapping \$875</i>	\$110,596.00					\$110,596.00
<i>AFD Project Coordination; personnel costs, wage &amp; benefit 400 hours at \$41/hour</i>	\$16,400.00					\$16,400.00
<i>California State Parks, provision for portable sanitation at work sites, trail signage, and notices to park users.</i>	\$2,400.00					\$2,400.00
<i>Bureau of Reclamation, on site assessment and survey as needed. Personnel time of 30 hours at \$50/hour</i>	\$1,500.00					\$1,500.00
<i>AFD- Misc. supplies; flagging, photo, and notices</i>	\$200.00					\$200.00
<b>Total Other Contributions:</b>	\$131,096.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$131,096.00



## Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

<b>1. Project Name</b>			
Auburn Shaded Fuel Break			
<b>2. CEC Number</b>	1222	<b>3. Date Checklist Completed</b>	
<b>4. Location</b>			
Auburn-Folsom South Unit, Central Valley Project, Auburn, California Auburn Quad; T12N, R8E, Sections 2, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22; Pilot Hill Quad T12N, R8E, Section 26, 27.			
<b>5. Project Description</b>			
<p><b>Background:</b> The Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Prescription was developed 10 years through collaboration between Reclamation, California State Parks, and CalFire. The Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Project is an ongoing project, and this document serves to review and update NEPA compliance, and to consolidate all project activities into one central document. Reclamation will evaluate and review periodically to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, policy, and regulations. (For more information see the attached Shaded Fuel Break Prescription, and Auburn Pre-fire Management Plan.)</p> <p><b>Project:</b> The intent of the fuel break is to create a fuel model or vegetative arrangement where wildfire reduces intensity as it burns into the fuel break. A ground fire, burning grass and leaf duff is the desired fire behavior. An arrangement which, provide the desired fire behavior effects, involves an area where ladder fuels are removed and tree or brush canopies will not sustain fire, and where the contiguous fuels arrangement is interrupted. A shaded fuel break is a defensible location to be used by fire suppression resources to reduce the hazard of wildland fires. The total project area encompasses approximately 250 acres along the ridge line adjacent to the City of Auburn.</p> <p>The project objective is to reduce hazardous fuels, such as trees, shrubs, brush, and other vegetative growth, within the project area as prescribed. All work will be accomplished by use of hand crews, biological treatment or mechanical equipment; supported by chippers and/or prescribed burning as determined appropriate on a case-by-case basis. Burning will take place at designated locations after review and appropriate consultations. All vegetation will be cut at ground level to minimize ground disturbance. The approximate width of the shaded fuel break is approximately 300 feet. Fuel reduction work will include both the implementation of the prescription in undisturbed areas, and maintenance of existing fuels breaks.</p> <p>Threatened and endangered plant and animal species, such as elderberry, nesting birds, and other special status species, shall not be removed or treated, or otherwise adversely affected, within any shaded fuel break Surveys for special status species will be conducted prior to commencement of onsite activities.</p>			
<b>a) Proposed Start Date</b>	September 2012	<b>b) Proposed End Date</b>	August 2017



Project Name	CEC Number	Date Checklist Completed
Auburn Shaded Fuel Break	1222	

6. Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion		
a) This action or group of actions would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
b) This action or group of actions would involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain

7. Evaluation of Exceptions to Actions Within Categorical Exclusion		
a) This action would have significant adverse affects on public health or safety.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
b) This action would affect unique geographical features such as: wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, etc.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
c) The action will have highly controversial environmental effects.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
d) The action will have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
e) This action will establish a precedent for future actions.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
f) This action is related to other actions with individual insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
g) This action will affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
h) This action will adversely affect species listed or proposed to be listed as Endangered or Threatened.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
i) This action threatens to violate Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
j) This action will affect Indian Trust Assets.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain
k) This action will disproportionately affect minority or low-income Populations.	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Uncertain

8. Choose ONE of the following:	
<input type="radio"/>	An existing <b>Environmental Assessment</b> adequately covers the scope of this project. EA Date: _____ Conducted by: _____
<input type="radio"/>	An existing <b>Environmental Impact Statement</b> adequately covers the scope of this project. EIS Date: _____ Conducted by: _____
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	After reviewing the screening criteria, this project qualifies for a <b>Categorical Exclusion</b> . Categorical Exclusion Code: 43 CFR 46.210 (k) Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres. (Full text attached)
<input type="radio"/>	This project is exempt from NEPA requirements under the provisions of: <i>Cite superseding law:</i>



Project Name	CEC Number	Date Checklist Completed
Auburn Shaded Fuel Break	1222	

**9. Environmental Commitments/Comments**

Preparer: Matthew See Date: 10/26/12  
 Matthew See, Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concur: (see attached) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Archaeologist Concurrence with Item 10g

Concur: (see attached) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional ITA Concurrence with Item 10j

Approved: Melissa Vignau Date: 10/26/12  
 Melissa Vignau, Chief of Resources Division

technical, or procedural nature; or whose environmental effects are too broad, speculative, or conjectural to lend themselves to meaningful analysis and will later be subject to the NEPA process, either collectively or case-by-case.

(j) Activities which are educational, informational, advisory, or consultative to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals, or the general public.

(k) Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres. Such activities:

(1) Shall be limited to areas—  
 (i) In wildland-urban interface; and  
 (ii) Condition Classes 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III, outside the wildland-urban interface;  
 (2) Shall be identified through a collaborative framework as described in “A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan;”

(3) Shall be conducted consistent with bureau and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;

(4) Shall not be conducted in wilderness areas or impair the suitability of wilderness study areas for preservation as wilderness; and

(5) Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and may include the sale of vegetative material if the primary purpose of the activity is hazardous fuels reduction. (Refer to the ESM Series for additional, required guidance.)

(l) Post-fire rehabilitation activities not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, heritage site restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds) to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Such activities must comply with the following (Refer to the ESM Series for additional, required guidance.):

(1) Shall be conducted consistent with bureau and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;

(2) Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the

construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and

(3) Shall be completed within three years following a wildland fire.

#### **§ 46.215 Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary circumstances.**

Extraordinary circumstances (see paragraph 46.205(c)) exist for individual actions within categorical exclusions that may meet any of the criteria listed in paragraphs (a) through (l) of this section. Applicability of extraordinary circumstances to categorical exclusions is determined by the Responsible Official.

(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

(b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].

(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).

(k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007).

(l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112).

#### **§ 46.220 How to designate lead agencies.**

(a) In most cases, the Responsible Official should designate one Federal agency as the lead with the remaining Federal, State, tribal governments, and local agencies assuming the role of cooperating agency. In this manner, the other Federal, State, and local agencies can work to ensure that the NEPA document will meet their needs for adoption and application to their related decision(s).

(b) In some cases, a non-Federal agency (including a tribal government) must comply with State or local requirements that are comparable to the NEPA requirements. In these cases, the Responsible Official may designate the non-Federal agency as a joint lead agency. (See 40 CFR 1501.5 and 1506.2 for a description of the selection of lead agencies, the settlement of lead agency disputes, and the use of joint lead agencies.)

(c) In some cases, the Responsible Official may establish a joint lead relationship among several Federal agencies. If there is a joint lead, then one Federal agency must be identified as the agency responsible for filing the environmental impact statement with EPA.

#### **§ 46.225 How to select cooperating agencies.**

(a) An “eligible governmental entity” is:

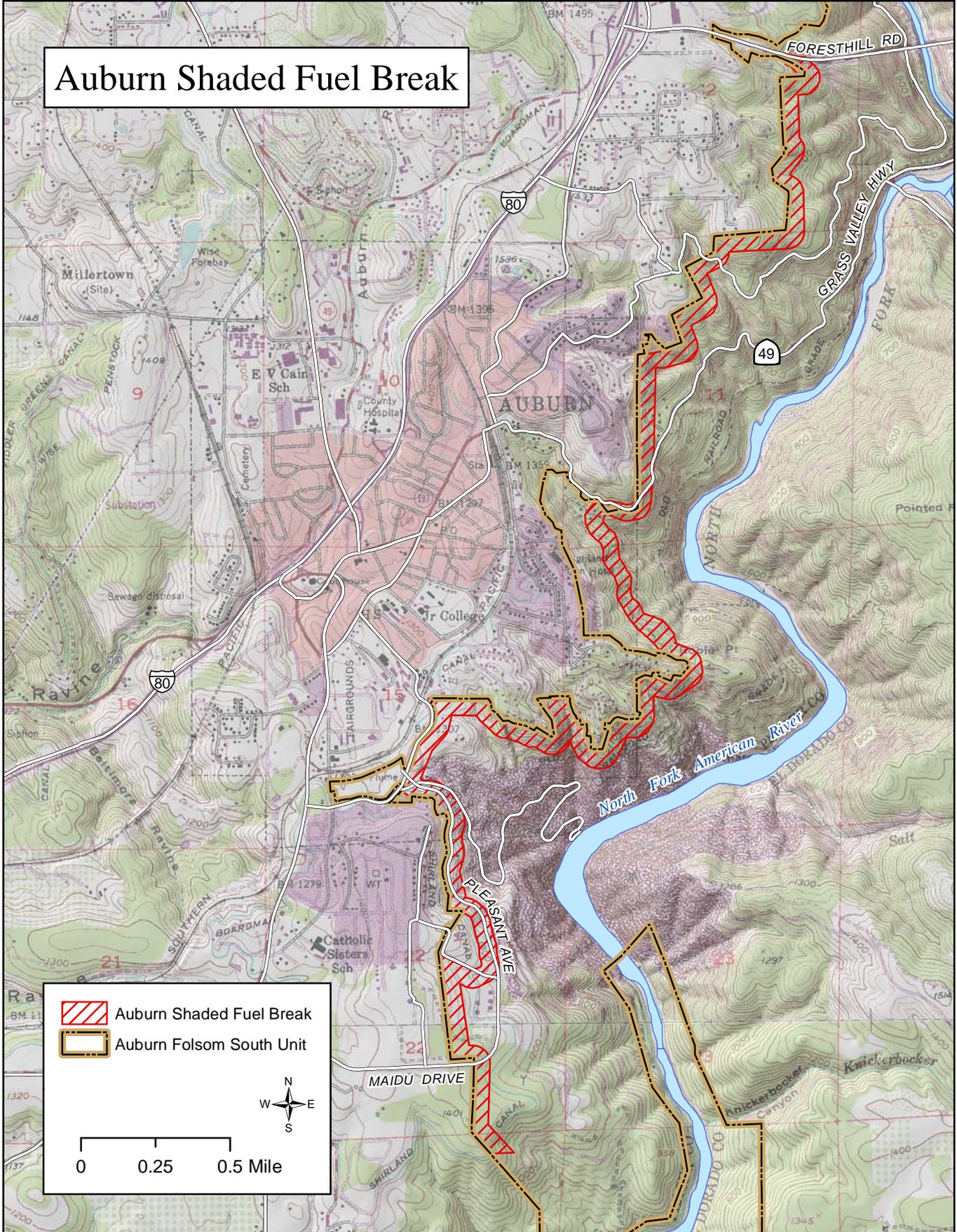
(1) Any Federal agency that is qualified to participate in the development of an environmental impact statement as provided for in 40 CFR 1501.6 and 1508.5 by virtue of its jurisdiction by law, as defined in 40 CFR 1508.15;

(2) Any Federal agency that is qualified to participate in the development of an environmental impact statement by virtue of its special expertise, as defined in 40 CFR 1508.26; or

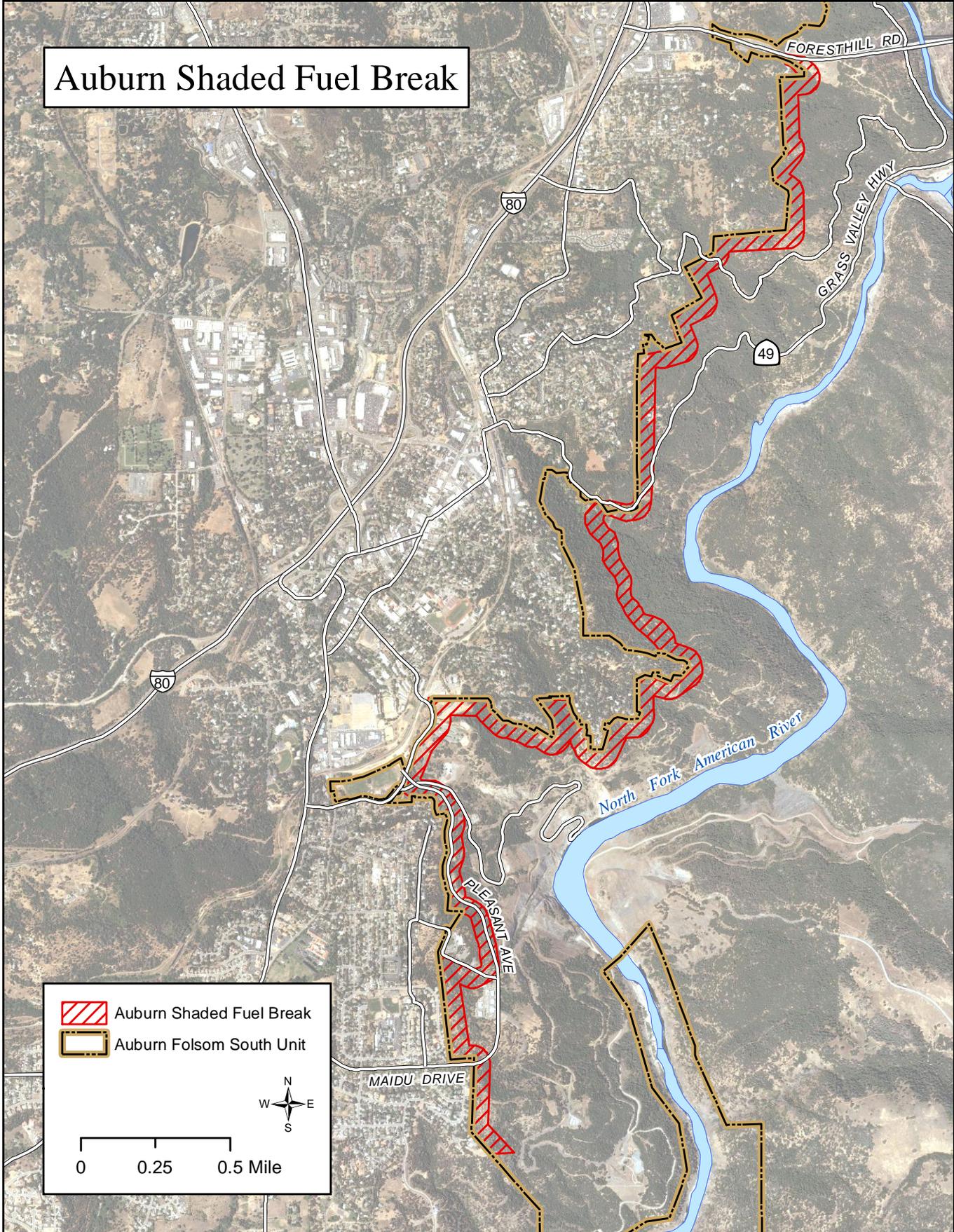
(3) Any non-Federal agency (State, tribal, or local) with qualifications similar to those in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(b) Except as described in paragraph (c) of this section, the Responsible Official for the lead bureau must invite eligible governmental entities to participate as cooperating agencies

## Auburn Shaded Fuel Break



## Auburn Shaded Fuel Break



## See, Matthew A

---

**From:** Rivera, Patricia L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 7:33 AM  
**To:** See, Matthew A  
**Subject:** RE: Section 106 & ITA Review Request - CEC 1222 - Auburn Shaded Fuel Break

Matt,

I reviewed the proposed action to continue the collaboration between Reclamation, Californian State Parks, and CalFire in reviewing and updating the auburn Shaded Fuel Break Prescription that was developed 10 years ago and implementing a fuel break which encompasses approximately 250 acres along the ridge line adjacent to the City of Auburn.

The intent of the fuel break is to create a fuel model or vegetative arrangement where wildfire reduces intensity as it urns into the fuel break. A ground fire, burning grass and leaf duff is the desired fire behavior. An arrangement which, prove the desired fire behavior effects, involves an area where ladder fuels are removed and tree or brush canopies will not sustain fire, and where the contiguous fuels arrangement is interrupted. A shaded fuel break is a defensible location to be used by fire suppression resources to reduce the hazard of wildland fires.

The project objective is to reduce hazardous fuels, such as trees, shrubs, brush, and other vegetative growth, within the project area as prescribes. All work will be accomplished by use of hand crews, biological treatment or mechanical equipment, supported by chippers and/or prescribed burning as determined appropriate on a case-by-case basis. Burning will take place as designated locations after review and appropriate consultations. all vegetation will be cut at ground level to minimize ground disturbance. The approximate width of the shaded fuel break is approximately 300 feet. Fuel reduction work will include both the implementation of the prescription in undisturbed areas, and maintenance of existing fuels breaks.

Threatened and endangered plant and animal species, such as elderberry, nesting birds, and other special status species, shall not be removed or threatened, or otherwise adversely affected, within the shaded fuel breaks. Surveys for special status species will be conducted prior to commencement of onsite activities.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.  
The nearest ITA is a Public Domain Allotment approximately 12 miles ne of the project location.

Patricia

---

**From:** See, Matthew A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 4:58 PM  
**To:** BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section; Rivera, Patricia L  
**Cc:** Williams, Mary D (Diane); Robbins, Eleanor J (Ellie)  
**Subject:** Section 106 & ITA Review Request - CEC 1222 - Auburn Shaded Fuel Break

Hi,

Please review the attached CEC for Section 106 and ITA concurrence.

The attached CEC is a consolidation of past CEC's that were done for the project.

Thanks, Matt

---

Matt See  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Bureau of Reclamation  
7794 Folsom Dam Road  
Folsom, CA 95630  
Ph (916) 989-7198  
Fax (916) 989-7208  
[msee@usbr.gov](mailto:msee@usbr.gov)

**See, Matthew A**

---

**From:** Soule, William E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** See, Matthew A  
**Cc:** Nickels, Adam M; Barnes, Amy J; Bruce, Brandee E; Fogerty, John A; Goodsell, Joanne E; Williams, Scott A; Perry, Lauren (Laurie) M  
**Subject:** RE: Section 106 & ITA Review Request - CEC 1222 - Auburn Shaded Fuel Break

Matt:

Re: 12-CCAO-211; Auburn Shaded Fuel Break

The proposed undertaking to permit/approve forest and vegetation thinning at Auburn State Recreation Area has no potential to cause effects to historic properties assuming historic properties are present pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). The action consists of an ongoing project which maintains a defensible zone of reduced ladder fuels (trees and brush) where wildfires can be controlled or stopped in a band along the edge of Reclamation lands (Auburn State Recreation Area) west of the North Fork American River. This zone is maintained between Reclamation lands and the City of Auburn, CA.

The action will involve the use of hand tools to remove and thin vegetation that will be cut as close to ground level as possible with the stumps and roots below ground level to be left in place. Slash piles will be burned within disturbed contexts such as road rights of way and cleared open space at the end of roads. All vegetation removal will be done using hand tools. There will be no driving over the surface and there will be no ground disturbance as a result of this action. After reviewing the draft CEC and the document titled *Shaded Fuel Prescription for Bureau of Reclamation Lands of the Auburn State Recreation Area* (01-29 I conclude that the proposed action will not affect properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and I concur that the 'No' box should be checked on line 7g of CEC 1222 titled "Auburn Shaded Fuel Break."

Location: Auburn Folsom South Unit, Central Valley Project, Auburn, California.

Legal Location: Auburn, CA Quadrangle, T. 12N., R. 8E., Sections 2, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22 and Pilot Hill, CA Quadrangle, T. 12N., R. 8E., Sections 26, 27.

Categorical Exclusion Code: 43 CFR 46.210 (k) Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres.

This email memo is intended to conclude the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this concurrence with the CEC file. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

William E. Soule, M.A., Archaeologist  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-153  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Phone: 916-978-4694  
Email: [wsoule@usbr.gov](mailto:wsoule@usbr.gov)

---

**From:** Williams, Scott A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 4:21 PM  
**To:** See, Matthew A  
**Cc:** BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section  
**Subject:** RE: Section 106 & ITA Review Request - CEC 1222 - Auburn Shaded Fuel Break

Matt,

Your project has been assigned project Tracking Number 12-CCAO-211.  
Bill Soule will be your Section 106 contact.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your project.

Scott A. Williams, M.A. Archaeologist  
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-153  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
916-978-5042

---

**From:** See, Matthew A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 3:58 PM  
**To:** BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section; Rivera, Patricia L  
**Cc:** Williams, Mary D (Diane); Robbins, Eleanor J (Ellie)  
**Subject:** Section 106 & ITA Review Request - CEC 1222 - Auburn Shaded Fuel Break

Hi,

Please review the attached CEC for Section 106 and ITA concurrence.

The attached CEC is a consolidation of past CEC's that were done for the project.

Thanks, Matt

---

Matt See  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Bureau of Reclamation  
7794 Folsom Dam Road  
Folsom, CA 95630  
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Fax (916) 989-7208  
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# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

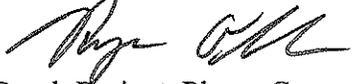
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In Reply Refer To:  
08ESMF00-2013-I-0031-1

OCT 25 2012

### Memorandum

To: Matt See, Natural Resource Specialist, U.S Bureau of Reclamation,  
Folsom, California

From: *for* Eric Tattersall, Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife  
Office, Sacramento, California 

Subject: Proposed Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Project, Placer County, California

This is in response to your request for concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with the determination that the proposed Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Project is not likely to adversely affect the threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) (frog) or valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is proposing the construction and maintenance of a 300-foot wide shaded fuel break along an approximately four mile route within the Auburn State Recreation Area, east of Auburn, California. The shaded fuel break will be created through the removal of vegetation typically less than six inches in diameter and involve the use of hand crews, mechanical equipment (including chippers), and potentially prescribed fire. Our response is based on the information provided with your request, other information available to the Service, and is issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act).

The proposed project is located within the range of the California red-legged frog. Based on information associated with our review of several other projects in the vicinity of this project, as well as Service staff's knowledge of the area, suitable breeding habitat for the frog exists within dispersal distance of the proposed project, and the project area contains suitable non-breeding habitat for the frog. However, because a major highway and/or extensive development separates the project area from potentially suitable breeding habitat, it is unlikely that frogs would be able to disperse into the project area. Because it is unlikely that frogs occur within the project area, the potential for effects to this species is discountable, therefore we concur with your determination that the proposed Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Project is not likely to adversely affect the frog.

Since the proposed project is within the range of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Reclamation is proposing to conduct surveys for elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus* spp.), the sole host plant for the beetle, prior to commencement of project activities. If any elderberry shrubs are found, Reclamation is proposing to reduce the potential effects to the beetle by implemented the avoidance measures (e.g. buffers) identified in the Service's 1999, *Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (Guidelines). Because Reclamation will implement avoidance measures in accordance with the Guidelines, which reduces the potential effects to levels that are insignificant and/or discountable, we concur with your determination that the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Project is not likely to adversely the beetle.

Unless new information reveals effects of the proposed project that may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered; or the project is modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species that was not considered; or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed action, no further action pursuant to the Act, is necessary.

Please address any questions or concerns regarding this response on the proposed Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Project to Jeremiah Karuzas or Ryan Olah, Coast Bay/Forest Foothill Division Chief, at (916) 414-6600.

# Auburn State Recreation Area Prefire Management Plan



(1-29-02)

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## DEFINITIONS

**Wildland Urban Interface or Interface** = The geographical meeting point of two diverse system, wildland and structures. At this interface, structures and vegetation are sufficiently close that a wildland fire could spread to structures or a structure fire ignite vegetation.

**Intermix or Wildland Intermix** = Interspersing of developed land with wildland, where there are no easily discernible boundaries between the two systems. An example would be what a real estate brochures describe as "ranchettes" or "weekend farmers" homes. Poses more problems in wildland fire management than interface.

**Defensible Space** = Adequate space (free from flammable vegetation) between structures and flammable vegetation, which allows firefighters a safe working area within which to attack an oncoming fire.

**Fuel Break** = A divide of expanses of fuels into smaller units. Native vegetation is modified so that fire burning into them can be more readily and safely controlled. The fuel type is changed to another that offers less resistance to control efforts.

**Fire Break** = An area cleared of flammable fuels to mineral soil, which is used as a wildfire control line, where a fire's progress is stopped.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**BOR or Reclamation** = United States Bureau of Reclamation

**DPR or CSP** = California Department of Parks and Recreation

**CDFFP or CDF** = California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**BLM** = Unites States Bureau of Land Management

**USFS** = Unites States Forest Service

**ASRA** = Auburn State Recreation Area

**WUI** = Wildland/Urban Interface

# AUBURN DAM AND STATE RECREATION AREA FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Introduction

This paper introduces the purpose and the need for a Comprehensive Fire Management plan for The Auburn Dam and Reservoir Project lands. It also discusses a Fire Management Planning Strategy that has been developed by representatives of the California Departments of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and The United States, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The development of certain elements of the fire planning strategy have been closely coordinated with the City of Auburn Fire Department and with a representative of The United States, Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

## Background

Reclamation is responsible for the management of The Auburn Dam and Reservoir Project lands, a project originally authorized by Congress in 1965. The total acreage within the project boundary is 42,000 acres. Of this, Reclamation has ownership for approximately 26,000 acres. The remaining acreage is owned by BLM, the United States Forest Service, and private parties. DPR and CDF have management authority over all Project lands through cooperative agreements with Reclamation. The total lands are known as the Auburn State Recreation Area and are operated by the State of California as a state recreation area.

Project lands within the American River watershed are largely comprised of two large river drainages, the North and Middle Forks of the American River that have carved over fifty miles of canyons within both Placer and El Dorado counties. Much of this area runs adjacent to the communities of Auburn and Foresthill, along with other residential developments. The oak-chaparral environment within this area can be highly combustible under certain dry conditions and the risk of wildland fires is a major concern as residential and visitor use activity continues to increase.

Because of these concerns, Reclamation is working with CDF and DPR to develop a Comprehensive Fire Management Plan for the Project Area. The development of this plan and its implementation is being greatly enhanced through appropriate coordination with local counties, communities, fire safe councils and other interest groups and jurisdictions. It may be appropriate to include both BLM and USFS lands within the Comprehensive Fire Plan. Funding mechanisms for the development of the Comprehensive Fire Management Plan have been identified as critical and needs further investigation.

The managing partners initiated the fire planning process for the ASRA lands in the summer of 2000. However, with the advent of a dry year in 2001, and the resulting high fire danger, concerns of local community leadership have reached high levels. In response, the managing partners are moving quickly to identify and implement appropriate actions. These actions are focusing on Reclamation Lands that interface with private property where certain priority conditions may exist.

A priority condition of great concern for the managing partners is residential density associated with these interface lands, such as the canyon rim adjoining the City of Auburn. It has been in response to this concern that the managing partners have focused on the Fuels Management Element of the Comprehensive Fire Plan for those interface lands.

A Fuels Management Action Plan has been developed, to not only be responsive to fire management concerns of the local interface areas, but also to be consistent with the broader goals and objectives of a comprehensive fire management plan for the ASRA. This plan will work to preserve and restore the natural resources and protect the cultural resources of the area. It is the intent of this strategy to implement the Fuels Management Action Plan for the priority interface lands, as soon as possible, consistent with the broader goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. A major component for implementation is the selection of appropriate Demonstration projects to help ensure the viability of any fuels management activities.

It is vital to identify appropriate goals and objectives as a first step in the development of a comprehensive fire plan. The following is the product of much discussion, as the agencies integrated the needs for both fire protection and resource management.

## FIRE PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### **Goal:**

To protect human life and both public and private resources by reducing the risk and hazard of wildland fire within the American River Canyon by practicing management strategies that promote the preservation and restoration of natural resources and protection of cultural resources.

### **Objective:**

Mitigate fire danger in order to:

- Enhance public safety
- Protect natural and cultural resources
- Provide for recreational opportunities
- Conduct cost effective maintenance of features and facilities

## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR RECLAMATION LANDS

To insure the effectiveness of this fire management program, a planning strategy has been developed that compliments and augments fire planning and management activities of local communities, jurisdictions and Fire Safe Councils.

- I. **Fire Prevention:** Almost all fires that start on the Reclamation lands in the American River Canyon are directly caused by human activity. As public use and other activities increase on Reclamation lands, the probability of fire ignitions also increases. Fire prevention activities on Reclamation lands include:
  - A. Education.
  - B. Public information.
  - C. Visitor and Resource Management actions:
    1. Placement of structures and facilities.
    2. Area closures to vehicle and/or visitor access.
    3. Other uses as appropriate.
  - D. Area patrols and other law enforcement activities.
  
- II. **Fire Safe Practices for Urban/Wildland Interface Lands:** The single most effective practice to reduce the spread of wildland fire and help prevent damage to structures is to create areas of reduced and/or modified fuels. This strategy includes practices utilized by local communities and landowners adjacent to Reclamation land using the following components:
  - A. Defensible Space: The area extending from a structure out to between 30 and 100 feet creating an area where fuels that allow fire to spread from the wildland to a structure or a structure to the wildland to be more easily controlled.
  - B. Education: Through local fire departments, local Fire Safe Councils, and other activities.
  - C. Inspections: Coordinate with State and local government to encourage defensible space regulations, and appropriate regulations for new construction.
  - D. Assistance Programs: Help to identify and support fuel modification activities that encourage and assist landowners in the creation and maintenance of defensible space, (i.e. Chipper Program, mulching, composting).

III. **Fuel Management:** Reduction of wildland fuels in strategic locations will enhance fire suppression activities and provide increased firefighter safety. Fuels management activities will occur on (1) Reclamation lands adjacent to other properties that enhance defensible space activities, (2) on Reclamation lands adjacent to public access roads and trails, and (3) on Reclamation core lands to increase wildlife habitat benefits and increase water values.

- \* Fuel reduction techniques include: hand tools and mechanical equipment, prescribed burns, biological controls and chemical application will be available for use to reduce or modify fuels as appropriate.

## FUELS MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR INTERFACE LANDS

Fuel modification within interface lands is critical for reducing the potential for a costly and damaging fire. The following prescriptions can be utilized for fuel management in three distinct geographic areas, or zones, within the interface.

The three zones are as follows:

- 1. Defensible Space:** This is the area closest to structures and is defined as being within 30 to 100 feet of existing buildings or improvements. To be Fire Safe, this area should be considered to be the leanest in terms of flammable vegetation. In addition to the Shaded Fuel Break prescription treatments described below, all annual grasses are to be maintained to below 4 inches in height. Branches overhanging structures are to be removed along with any portion of vegetation within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe. Dead wood and branches within the zone and leaves and needles on roofs are also to be removed.
- 2. Defensible Landscape:** This is the area outside the Defensible Space zone (>30 to 100 feet from structures) where the land manager has decided to implement fuel management. This will increase the effectiveness of fuel management activities implemented within the Defensible Space Zone. The Shaded Fuel Break prescription treatments described below can be used as the guideline for fuel management within this zone.
- 3. Shaded Fuel Break:** This is a strategic location along a ridge, access road, or other location where fuels have been modified. The width of the shaded fuel break is usually 100 to 300 feet depending on the site. This is a carefully planned thinning of dense vegetation, so fire does not easily move from the ground into the overhead tree canopy. A shaded fuel break is not the removal of all vegetation in a given area. Fire suppression ground and air resources can utilize this location to suppress wildland fires. Any fuel break by itself will not stop a wildland fire. It is a location where the fuel has been modified to increase the probability of success for fire suppression activities. Ground resources can use the location for direct attack. Air resources may use the location for fire retardant drops. The Shaded Fuel Break prescription treatments described in this document is the guideline for fuel management within this zone.

## FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN Greater Auburn Interface Area

This action plan lays out a process for implementing fire management strategies for Reclamation lands that interface with the Greater Auburn Area. The urban/wild land interface area identified as a priority starts at or about Shirland Tract, running east along the north canyon rim of the American River along Reclamation property lines up stream to approximately the Foresthill Bridge within Placer County.

This interface area will be divided into manageable sections based generally on geographical and location characteristics. Project Priority Selection Criteria will then be applied to these sections and a priority list will be developed. Each section will then be evaluated and a Fuel Break Prescription will be tailored to meet specific resource and fire management needs for the selected section. Appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation will be completed prior to fuels management. Implementation will be accomplished through coordination and in partnership with local entities.

On-going or long-term maintenance of these project sites is a significant issue that needs to be addressed as part of this fire management strategy. Local partnerships will need to play an important roll in this regard.

As an initial step, a demonstration project or projects will be planned to demonstrate the effectiveness of these implementation strategies and the Priority Selection Criteria. The selection of demonstration projects will be done in close coordination and partnership with local entities. A similar process as to the one mentioned above will be used to evaluate and select appropriate fuel management program for any demonstration sites on Reclamation lands before project implementation will occur.

### Project Selection Criteria

- **Residential density:** Higher numbers of people living within the interface project area receive a high priority. Density of existing private property development is a high priority.
- **Defensible Space Activities:** An action or commitment by private property owners to reduce or modify the type or amount of vegetative fuel that will help prevent fire to move from a structure to the wildland, or the wildland to a structure.
- **Project Costs and Funding:** Project costs should include labor and equipment, management and administration for the planning, implementation, and on-going maintenance and oversight of a proposed project. Funding of a proposed project must cover the cost of the whole project and must be identified prior to initiating

the planning phase of the project. Project funding may come from grants, in-kind labor, matching funds, etc. A project will not be pursued until funding sources have been identified.

- **Local Partnerships:** Partnerships with local communities, counties and other local organizations are extremely important to the success of fuels management activities. Partnerships can be in the form of cost sharing or in-kind services and other local support. Partnerships will receive a higher priority.
- **Topography:** Topography has a direct relationship to the speed of wildland fire spread. The steeper the slope the faster the fire spread and the higher the priority. The ideal location to create a fuel break is at the break-over point from the canyon wall to the ridge top.
- **Fuel Characteristics:** Wildland fuel density and arrangement has a particular effect on the spread of wildland fire. By the removal of light flashy fuels, thick dead and/or live fuels, and ladder fuels from the landscape reduces the risk of catastrophic fire. High fuel density areas will receive a high priority.
- **Strategic Location and Accessibility:** Modifying fuel density from areas next to access roads and structures allow firefighting personnel to gain access and to more safely and efficiently control the advance of a wildland fire. Project areas that provide for strategic locations and accessibility will receive a higher priority.
- **Complexity of Environmental Review:** Generally, the environmental review and compliance process should be without unresolved conflicts or highly controversial environmental effects. Project actions not having adverse effects on unique or sensitive geographical, cultural or biological resources such as wetlands, historical features or endangered species, etc., will have a higher priority.
- **Project Maintenance and Administration:** To ensure the success of a project, an on-going maintenance program for the project site must be identified. Maintenance of a project site includes regular monitoring, and sustaining the integrity of the site through use of various vegetation management techniques. Administration of project maintenance includes coordinating and implementing the defined maintenance program, distribution of the funds to support the program, and monitoring on-going defensible space activity. Projects with an identified maintenance and administrative component will receive a higher priority.
- Other factors may be considered for project site selection as they are identified.

The decision-making processes will be accomplished by the representatives of the managing partners, (the Technical Team). Members of the Technical Team are responsible for coordinating with appropriate agency personnel, as needed, in order to ensure representation of their agency's position given a particular issue. Project decisions will be made by a consensus of the Technical Team. Should a Technical

Team member have a dissenting opinion for any action, no further project action will be taken until the issue can be resolved. Decisions may be elevated if appropriate.

Project Administration will continue as it currently exists. The CDF remains responsible for fire prevention and suppression activities on Reclamation lands as stated in the Cooperative Agreement. The California State Parks and Recreation maintains responsibilities for recreation and resource management on Reclamation lands as identified in its cooperative agreement. Funding and appropriate staff time to coordinate and administer this action plan should be made available from existing resources under these cooperative agreements.

### **Desired Project Benefits**

Fuel break land treatments in wildland / urban interface areas include many benefits, some of which, tend to be intangible in nature. The true test of success resulting from fuel breaks on interface lands occurs after a wildfire has occurred. What life, property and natural resources were saved? What tactical advantage did firefighting resources encounter during the extinguishing of the fire? These questions are futuristic and may only be projected prior to wildfire.

The subsequent results are desired during and after interface fire protection projects are completed.

#### **A. Public Safety:**

Reduced fuel loading on fuel break lands produces a less intense fire behavior which allows firefighting crews to make a stand, either offensively or defensively, on fuel break lands. The result is a more effective effort to protect the lives of citizens living in the fire's path along with residential and commercial structures. The fuel loading on fuel break lands will change from fuel models of 4 and 6, which have approximately 13 tons per acre and 6 tons per acre respectively, to fuel models of 1,2, and 3, which have approximately .74 tons/ac, 4 tons/ac and 3 tons/ac. On an "average day" in the summer, the flame lengths from fuel model 4 on the fuel break lands, as they are now (without treatment), would support flame lengths of approximately 26 feet and a fireline intensity of 6784 Btu/ft/s. On fuel break lands without treatment the current fuel model 6 flame lengths would be approximately 8 feet with a fireline intensity of 415 Btu/ft/s. The resulting fuel models of 1,2 and 3 after treatment will support flame lengths of 6, 9 and 15 feet with fireline intensities of 327 Btu/ft/s, 797 Btu/ft/s and 2278 Btu/ft/s.

#### **B. Education:**

Fire protection projects, such as fuel breaks, most often involves the need to create the fuel break on private lands which, creates a situation where communities become directly involved with public agency sponsored projects. During the cooperative process between agency and community an education process occurs. There

becomes an awareness of the need for private landowners to participate in wildfire protection projects. Landowners are in direct contact with agency representatives who explain first hand, the why and how projects, such as fire defense projects are implemented. Landowners will become informed regarding wildfire behavior, land use planning concerns, and environmental protection issues. The education will occur resulting from public presentations and participation solicitation. Brochures, interpretive demonstration sites, newsletters and other activities will be a part of the education process which, will result in a better understanding of fuel break projects.

C. Protection of Natural Resources:

Fuel break lands create habitat edge effects which, benefit species that rely on edge and open canopy habitats. The fuel break will allow firefighting resources to quickly extinguish fires spreading from structural improvements to the wildlands, thus protecting the balance of ASRA lands from devastating fire. When fire does burn fuel break areas, the fuels consumed involve ground fuels such as grass, low lying brush and duff. In turn, the tree species remain with a very low mortality. Without fuels reduction, all of the vegetation on site becomes available to burn, in short, all vegetation on site is destroyed. With the resulting fuel load reduction, water yields on fuel break lands will increase by 35% assuming an average annual rainfall of 35" (USFS, Faust 1979). Plant species diversity and recruitment of new growth will be promoted by fuel break development.

D. Protection of Cultural Resources:

During fuel break establishment, cultural resources will be identified and recorded. On fuel break lands cultural resources can be protected as a result of less severe fire intensity. Fuel break lands encounter lower burn duration, resulting in cultural resources encountering less fire. Additionally, if circumstances permit, cultural resources can be protected by retaining vegetation as barriers.

E. Conduct Cost Effective Maintenance of Features and Facilities:

Once fuel loads are reduced on fuel break lands, the maintenance of those lands becomes less costly than the initial establishment. Costs may average \$400.00 per acre to treat whereas costs may involve approximately \$200.00 per acre to maintain ( Handcrew estimates). Additionally, the improvements within the area will be protected thus resulting in maintenance costs rather that replacement costs in event of wildfire impingement. Existing parking areas, roads, canals, trails and other such features will be incorporated into the fuel break planning process in order to reduce costs and be more efficient.

## SHADED FUEL BREAK PRESCRIPTION FOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LANDS OF THE AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA

This is a defensible location to be used by fire suppression resources to reduce the hazard of wildland fires. Any fuel break by itself will **NOT** stop a wildland fire. It is a location where the fuel has been modified to increase the probability of success for fire suppression activities. Ground resources can use the location for direct attack. Air resources may use the location for fire retardant drops.

### Prescription

The intent of the fuel break is to create a fuel model or vegetative arrangement where wildfire reduces intensity as it burns into the fuel break. A ground fire, burning grass and leaf duff is the desired fire behavior. An arrangement which, provides the desired fire behavior effects, involves an area where ladder fuels are removed and tree or brush canopies will not sustain fire, and where the contiguous fuels arrangement is interrupted.

This general arrangement allows fire and resource managers to retain a species diversity of individual younger, middle aged and older plants, which allows the opportunity for an uneven aged vegetative type, without compromising the project objectives. For example, young saplings of individual oaks or conifers may be retained, although, they may be under the desired diameter, they may not contribute to undesired fire behavior effects. Additionally, it may be necessary to cull a few trees in a thick stand of conifers over the desired diameter in order to improve forest health. It is important to remember that this prescription is a guide, not an absolute. Site specific prescriptions may be developed later for individual projects which, all will be in accordance with the project objectives.

Implementation consists of removing or pruning trees, shrubs, brush, and other vegetative growth on the project area as prescribed. All work will be accomplished by use of hand crews, biological treatment or mechanical equipment; supported by chippers and/or burning as determined appropriate on a case-by-case basis. The preferred width of a shaded fuel break along a ridge top or adjacent to one is approximately 300 feet

Trees up to the 6-inch diameter at breast height (dbh) class are eligible for removal under this prescription. However, larger hazardous snags may be removed. Due to operational needs, it may be necessary to remove an occasional tree with a dbh larger than 6 inches based on forest health and project objectives. Individual trees under 6-inch bdh may be retained for diversity and if they do not disrupt project objectives. This will only be done on a case-by-case basis after proper review by all agencies.

Threatened and endangered plant and animal species, such as elderberry and other sensitive species, shall not be removed or treated, or otherwise adversely affected, within any shaded fuel break.

Cultural resources are a major resource and will be protected.

1. Understory fuels:

Understory fuels over 1 foot in height are to be removed in order to develop vertical separation and low horizontal continuity of fuels. Individual plants or pairs of plants may be retained provided there is a horizontal separation between plants of 3 to 5 times the height of the residual plants and the residual plants are not within the drip lines of an overstory tree.

2. Mid-story fuels:

Trees up to the 6-inch dbh may be removed. Exception to this size limit shall be trees that have significant defect and/or which do not have a minimum of a 16-foot saw log or trees, such as saplings, that do not present an undesirable effect. Live but defective trees larger than the 6-inch dbh providing cavities for obvious wildlife use will be retained.

Trees shall be removed to create horizontal distances between residual trees from 20 feet between trunks up to 8 to 15 feet between tree crown drip lines. Larger overstory trees (> 6-inches dbh) do count as residual trees and, in order to reduce ladder fuels, shall have vegetation within their drip lines removed. *Prune branches off of all residual trees from 8 to 10 feet off the forest floor, not to reduce the live crown ratio below 1/2 of the height of the tree.*

Criteria for residual trees (up to < 6-inch dbh):

**Conifers:** Leave trees that have single leaders and thrifty crowns with at least 1/3 live crown ratio.

Conifer leave tree species in descending order:

Sugar pine  
Ponderosa pine  
Douglas fir  
Knob-cone Pine  
Gray Pine  
White fir  
Incense cedar

Intolerant to shade species have a higher preference as leave trees because their seed will be less likely to germinate in the understory.

### 3. Snags:

Snags are a conduit for fire during a wildland fire. However, they also provide excellent wildlife habitat in their natural state. The following is the criteria of when snags shall be retained:

18-inch diameter class or larger and not more than 30 feet in height which are not capable of reaching a road or structure provided there is a separation of least 100 feet between snags.

**Hardwood trees:** Leave trees that have vertical leaders and thrifty crowns with at least 1/3 live crown ratio.

Hardwood leave tree species in descending order:

Valley Oak  
Big Leaf Maple  
Blue Oak  
Black Oak  
Madrone  
Live Oaks

**Brush:** It is desirable to remove as much brush as possible within the shaded fuel break area. However, if individual plants or pairs of plants are desired to be left, leave plants with the following characteristics: young plants less than 5 feet tall and individual or pairs of plants that are no more that 5 feet wide.

From a fuels management perspective the following are brush leave species in descending order:

#### **Category 1**

Dogwood  
Redbud

#### **Category 2**

Toyon  
Buckeye  
Coffeeberry  
Lemmon Ceanothus  
Buck brush (Wedge leaf ceanothus)

**Category 3**

Whitethorn  
Deer brush  
Manzanita  
Chamise  
Yerba Santa  
Poison Oak  
Scrub Oak

Non-native species (such as olive, fig, etc.) will be considered on a case- by- case basis.

4. Wetlands:

Wetlands and riparian areas will not be adversely affected for treatment and ground operations.

5. Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ):

To provide mitigation for riparian associated species and to reduce the potential risk of habitat fragmentation, the following will apply:

WLPZ widths and operational limitations shall be in conformance and consistent with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 936.5, Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection zone Widths, as approved by the California Board of Forestry.

**916.5, 936.5, 956.5 Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Widths and Protective Measures [All Districts]**

TABLE I

Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Widths and Protective Measures <sup>1</sup>									
Water Class Characteristics or Key Indicator Beneficial Use	1) Domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or		1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or		No aquatic life present, watercourse showing evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high water flow conditions after completion of timber operations.		Man-made watercourses, usually downstream, established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply or other beneficial use.		
	2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.		2) Aquatic habitat for nonfish aquatic species.						
2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.		3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.							
Water Class	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV		
Slope Class (%)	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure	
					[see 916.4(c)] [see 936.4(c)] [see 956.4(c)]		[see 916.4(c)] [see 936.4(c)] [see 956.4(c)]		
<30	75	BDG	50	BEI	See CFH		See CFI		
30-50	100	BDG	75	BEI	See CFH		See CFI		
>50	150 <sup>2</sup>	ADG	100 <sup>3</sup>	BEI	See CFH		See CFI		
<p>1 – See Section 916.5(e) for letter designations application to this table.</p> <p>2 – Subtract 50 feet width for cable yarding operations.</p> <p>3 – Subtract 25 feet width for cable yarding operations.</p>									

**Class I watercourse (Fish bearing):**

Exclude from equipment operations (except on existing roads) and remove one thousand hour and smaller sized dead fuels ( $\leq$  5 inches in diameter).

**Class II watercourse (Aquatic habitat for non-fish aquatic species):**

No treatment of overstory and the treatment of understory will not reduce vegetative cover below 50%. One thousand-hour and smaller sized dead fuels ( $\leq$  5 inches in diameter) will be removed. Ground based equipment will not operate within the zone except on existing roads. Prune residual trees.

**Class III watercourse (No aquatic life present):**

Full shaded fuel break prescription will be implemented but no ground-based equipment will operate within exclusion zones except on existing roads.

## BRUSH FIELD PRESCRIPTION FOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LANDS OF THE AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA

Implementation consists of removing or pruning brush, and other vegetative growth on the project area. All work will be accomplished by use of heavy equipment, masticator and/or hand crews supported by chippers and/or burning.

Due to operational needs tree canopies may need to be thinned, pruned or modified as part of the brush field fuel break prescription. This will only be done on a case by case basis after proper review by all involved agencies.

Threatened and endangered plant and animal species, such as elderberry and other sensitive species, shall not be removed or treated, or otherwise adversely affected.

Cultural resources are of a major concern in any area where they may exist. These resources will be protected.

### **Prescription:**

**Brush:** It is desirable to remove as much brush as possible within the brush field fuel break area. However, if individual plants or pairs of plants are desired to be left, leave plants with the following characteristics: young plants less than 5 feet tall and individual or pairs of plants that are no more than 5 feet wide. The distance between residual plants shall be 3 to 5 times the height of the residual plants. Three (3) times the height distance for slopes less than 30%, five (5) times for slopes equal to or greater than 30%.

The width of the brush field fuel break shall normally be 300 feet.

From a fuels hazard perspective the following are brush leave species in descending order:

#### **Category 1**

Dogwood  
Redbud

#### **Category 2**

Toyon  
Buckeye  
Coffeeberry  
Lemmon Ceanothus  
Buck brush (Wedge leaf ceanothus)

#### **Category 3**

Whitethorn  
Deer brush  
Manzanita

Chamise  
Yerba Santa  
Poison Oak  
Scrub Oak

Non-native species (such as olive, fig, etc.) will be considered on a case by case basis.

**Wetlands:**

Wetlands and riparian areas will not be adversely affected for treatment and ground operations.

**Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ):**

To provide mitigation for riparian associated species and to reduce the potential risk of habitat fragmentation, the following will apply:

WLPZ widths and operational limitations shall be in conformance and consistent with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 936.5, Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection zone Widths, as approved by the California Board of Forestry.

**916.5, 936.5, 956.5 Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Widths and Protective Measures [All Districts]**

TABLE I

Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Widths and Protective Measures <sup>1</sup>								
Water Class Characteristics or Key Indicator Beneficial Use	1) Domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or		1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or		No aquatic life present, watercourse showing evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high water flow conditions after completion of timber operations.		Man-made watercourses, usually downstream, established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply or other beneficial use.	
	2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.		2) Aquatic habitat for nonfish aquatic species.					
	3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.							
Water Class	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV	
Slope Class (%)	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure
					[see 916.4(c)] [see 936.4(c)] [see 956.4(c)]		[see 916.4(c)] [see 936.4(c)] [see 956.4(c)]	
<30	75	BDG	50	BEI	See CFH		See CFI	
30-50	100	BDG	75	BEI	See CFH		See CFI	
>50	150 <sup>2</sup>	ADG	100 <sup>3</sup>	BEI	See CFH		See CFI	

1 – See Section 916.5(e) for letter designations application to this table.  
 2 – Subtract 50 feet width for cable yarding operations.  
 3 – Subtract 25 feet width for cable yarding operations.

**Class I watercourse (Fish bearing):**

Exclude from equipment operations (except on existing roads) and remove one thousand hour and smaller sized dead fuels ( $\leq$  5 inches in diameter).

**Class II watercourse (Aquatic habitat for non-fish aquatic species):**

No treatment of overstory and the treatment of understory will not reduce vegetative cover below 50%. One thousand-hour and smaller sized dead fuels ( $\leq$  5 inches in diameter) will be removed. Ground based equipment will not operate within the zone except on existing roads. Prune residual trees.

**Class III watercourse (No aquatic life present):**

Brush field prescription will be implemented but no ground-based equipment will operate within exclusion zones except on existing roads.

## GRASS FIELD PRESCRIPTION FOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LANDS OF THE AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA

Implementation consists of mowing and possibly re-establishing native grass species on the project area. All work will be accomplished by use of heavy equipment, and/or hand crews.

Threatened and endangered plant and animal species, such as elderberry and other sensitive species, shall not be removed or treated, or otherwise adversely affected.

Cultural resources are of a major concern in any area where they may exist. These resources will be protected.

### **Prescription:**

**Grass:** Grass fuel breaks shall be a minimum of 300 feet wide. All grasses are to be maintained below four (4) inches in height just after the grasses cure cut in early summer.

### **Wetlands:**

Wetlands and riparian areas will not be adversely affected for treatment and ground operations.

### **Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ):**

To provide mitigation for riparian associated species and to reduce the potential risk of habitat fragmentation, the following will apply:

WLPZ widths and operational limitations shall be in conformance and consistent with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 936.5, Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection zone Widths, as approved by the California Board of Forestry.

**Class I watercourse (Fish bearing):**

Exclude from equipment operations (except on existing roads) and remove one thousand hour and smaller sized dead fuels ( $\leq 5$  inches in diameter).

**Class II watercourse (Aquatic habitat for non-fish aquatic species):**

No treatment of overstory and the treatment of understory will not reduce vegetative cover below 50%. One thousand-hour and smaller sized dead fuels ( $\leq 5$  inches in diameter) will be removed. Ground based equipment will not operate within the zone except on existing roads. Prune residual trees.

**Class III watercourse (No aquatic life present):**

Grass field prescription will be implemented but no ground-based equipment will operate within exclusion zones except on existing roads.

## MAINTENANCE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LANDS OF THE AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA

Once fuels have been modified within an area, maintenance activities should be planned and implemented on a regular basis to keep the effectiveness of the original treatment. If no maintenance activities occur, the effectiveness of the original treatment will diminish every year, potentially yielding no net effect within 5 years. The necessary maintenance activities will be minimal if implemented on an annual basis.

The original prescription treatment should be followed for maintenance. Possible fuel reduction techniques to be utilized for maintenance include the following:

**Hand Work:** Use of hand tools by crews or individuals. This technique is labor intensive and potentially expensive (>\$1000 per acre). Impacts to soils are negligible.

**Mechanical Work:** Use of heavy equipment such as masticators and/or bulldozers. This technique is moderately expensive (as low as \$400 per acre) but limited by topography (to slopes less than 50%) and not appropriate for most watercourse and lake-protection zones and excessively wet soils.

**Chemical Controls:** Use of California registered herbicides. This is the most cost-effective technique. Implementation usually requires one or two individuals for ground application. This technique has negligible soil effects but may not be appropriate for certain areas such as riparian zones, watercourses, and areas of listed plants.

**Prescribed Browsing:** Use of goats in a controlled setting to browse within appropriate areas to reduce fuel levels. Browsing goats can be an effective tool to control grasses and low growing vegetation, when controlled properly, can have little impact to the environment. Costs may vary.

**Prescribed Burning:** The use of planned and controlled burning operations to reduce fuel levels. Control lines are established prior to burning. Burning and Air Pollution permits are required to conduct these operations. This technique varies in cost per acre depending on complexity of project. Burning is becoming more difficult to complete due to air regulations.



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Mid-Pacific Region  
Central California Area Office  
7794 Folsom Dam Road  
Folsom, CA 95630-1799

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CC-416  
LND-6.00

**APR 25 2013**

Fire Chief Mark D'Ambrogi  
Auburn City Fire Department  
1225 Lincoln Way  
Auburn, California 95603-5004

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the City of Auburn Fire Department  
and Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Chief D'Ambrogi:

This letter transmits the finalized MOU between the City of Auburn Fire Department and Reclamation, authorizing City of Auburn Fire Department to perform fire fuels reduction and management projects on those Reclamation project lands in or adjacent to Reclamation's Shaded Fuel Break Project.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Matt See at 916-989-7198 or e-mail [msee@usbr.gov](mailto:msee@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,

Drew F. Lessard  
Acting Area Manager

Enclosure – 1

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**  
**Between**  
**Auburn Fire Department (AFD)**  
**and**  
**U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (RECLAMATION)**

1. Introduction

This MOU between City of Auburn Fire Department (AFD) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is to establish a collaborative relationship to implement and manage wildland fire fuels reduction programs on those lands under the authority of the Bureau of Reclamation adjacent to the City of Auburn, California; specifically identifying Reclamation's Shaded Fuel Break as the priority project.

2. Background

For several years Reclamation's Shaded Fuel Break Project has been implemented on Reclamation project lands in an effort to reduce wildland fuels in strategic location to enhance fire suppression activities and provide increased firefighter safety on Reclamation Project Lands adjacent to local communities and private lands. This is a collaborative project between Reclamation, the City of Auburn, Cal Fire, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. An approved Vegetation Management Program and Shaded Fuel Break Prescription (Prescription) are in place (attached) to implement this project as well as State and Federal environmental compliance. Each entity is committed to the management and maintenance of the Shaded Fuel Break Project and encounters constant challenges relating to funding and availability of resources.

3. Objective

Reclamation and AFD intend to cooperatively support one another to proceed with management and operation of the Shaded Fuel Break Project. Reclamation will give permission to AFD to perform fire fuels reduction and management projects on those Reclamation project lands in or adjacent to Reclamation's Shaded Fuel Break Project; specifically to maintain Reclamation's Shaded Fuel Break Project on a project by project basis.

4. General Provisions

- a. The established Prescription for Reclamation's Shaded Fuel Break Project will be the guideline for implementing and managing potential wildland fire fuels reduction treatments
- b. Reclamation will allow AFD, its agents; contractors and or vendors to perform fuel treatments with AFD oversight within the Prescription on Reclamation Project lands in or adjacent to Reclamation's Shaded Fuel Break Project.

- c. AFD will coordinate with Reclamation and receive specific project approval for each treatment performed by AFD or its agents on Reclamation project lands.

5. Exclusions/Limitations

- a. Nothing in this agreement may be construed to obligate the Auburn Fire Department or the United States to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress. Nor does this agreement obligate the Auburn Fire Department or the United States to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available.
- b. Funding for wildland fire fuel reduction treatments will follow applicable guidelines as established by a funding source.

6. Responsibilities

- a. AFD will be responsible for the management, coordination, implementation, and inspection and monitoring of fire fuels treatments when applied to Reclamation project lands in or adjacent to Reclamation's Shaded Fuel Break Project.
- b. AFD will coordinate closely with Reclamation on the status of each ongoing activity performed under this MOU.

7. Liability

AFD hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States, their employees, agents, and assigns from any loss or damage and from any liability on account of personal injury, property damage, or claims for personal injury or death arising out of AFD activities under this MOU.

8. Insurance

AFD is to maintain certificates of liability insurance evidencing \$1,000,000.00 coverage in a standardized form while undertaking any activities under this MOU; to include liability, Worker's Compensation and fire suppression requirements resulting from inadvertent ignition during wildland fire fuel reduction treatments. Any vendor or contractor performing activities under the direction of AFD on Reclamation project lands will submit an endorsement showing the AFD and Reclamation, its officers, agents and employees as additional named insured.

9. Term of MOU/Amendment/Authorities not altered

This MOU will be in effect upon the execution of this MOU by both parties. This MOU will stay in effect for one year and will automatically renew annually for a total term of five years unless terminated in writing. Either AFD or Reclamation may terminate this MOU after thirty (30) days of written notification to the other.

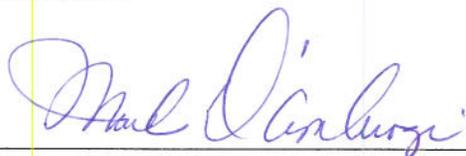
Amendment. This MOU may be amended through written agreement of all signatories.

Authorities not altered. Nothing in this MOU alters, limits, or supersedes the authorities and responsibilities of any Party on any matter within their respective jurisdictions. Nothing in this MOU shall require any of the Parties to perform beyond it respective authority.

10. Scope of MOU

Nothing in this MOU is intended to negate, reduce, or impact, any and or all other agreements that each agency has with other agencies or jurisdictions.

Execution:



Auburn City Fire Department

APR 25 2013

Date



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

APR 25 2013

Date