



Public Works Department, Park Division
965 Fir Street
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 896-7800

Agenda Prepared: 3/5/2021
Agenda Posted: 3/5/2021
Prior to: 6:00 p.m.

**CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Special Meeting Agenda
March 8, 2021, 6:00 pm

Remote Meeting via City's Zoom Platform

Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection in the Park Division Office at 965 Fir Street, Chico during normal business hours or online at <http://www.chico.ca.us>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

This meeting is conducted in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20. Members of the public may virtually attend the meeting by using the City's **Zoom** platform. ***This meeting will not be televised.***

*Emailed public comments will be accepted with the subject line **PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM ____**, sent to parkpubliccomment@chicoca.gov during the meeting prior to the close of public comment on an item. The public is encouraged not to send more than one email per item and not to comment on numerous items in one email. For any emails received during the meeting, the names of the people submitting the email will be read, but not the email itself. However, emails will become part of the public record and available to the public for review after the meeting.*

Zoom public participants may use the following information to remotely view and participate in the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission meeting online:

Event Name: **BIDWELL PARK & PLAYGROUND COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING 3-08-2021**
Date/Time: Monday, March 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm
Event URL: <https://zoom.us/j/98998994545?pwd=OEpWbG1aems5aUIEOGJOL3czMVhoZz09>
Event #: 989 9899 4545
Password: 119799
Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833 Call-in Password: 119799

SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTE: Citizens and other interested parties are encouraged to participate in the public process and will be invited to address the Commission regarding each item on the agenda.

Instructions for Using Zoom:

- Join the meeting using the link above.
- You must have audio and microphone capabilities on the device you are using to join the meeting.
- When you join the meeting make sure that you join the meeting with audio and follow the prompts to test your speaker & microphone prior to joining the meeting.

To Speak on An Item Using Zoom:

- The Chair will call the item and staff will begin the staff report.
- Click on the Raise Hand icon if you would like to speak on the item after the Chair opens the public comment period for the item. The City Clerk will call your name when it is your turn to speak.
- When your name is called, you will be prompted to unmute yourself.
- When your time is up, you will be muted.
- You will repeat this process for each item you want to speak on.



Please contact the Park Division Office at (530) 896-7800 if you require an agenda in an alternative format or if you need to request a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in a meeting. This request should be received at least 3 working days prior to the meeting

1. **SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

1.1. Call to Order

1.2. Roll Call

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

2.1. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Action: Approve minutes of BPPC meeting held on 1/25/21.

3. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – IF ANY**

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** NONE

5. **REGULAR AGENDA**

5.1. **UPDATE ON CA CONSERVATION CORPS GRANT FOR WORK ON 10-MILE HOUSE ROAD**

The Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) will receive an update on a recent grant opportunity to have the California Conservation Corp's (CCC's) perform the annual roadside maintenance on 10-Mile House Road in Upper Park, and an opportunity to do more in-depth fuel break vegetation work along the road. *.(Report – Linda Herman, Park & Natural Resource Manager)*

Recommendation: None this is an informational item only

5.2. **CONSIDERATION OF FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) AND FINAL VEGETATIVE FUELS MANAGEMENT PLAN (VFMP).**

At its 12/18/20 meeting, the BPPC reviewed the Draft program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Vegetative Fuels Management Plan (VFMP), which was released for the 45-Day public comment period on 12/18/20. A Final PEIR and VFMP have been completed, which include the responses to the comments received and any changes made to the PEIR and VFMP in response to the comments. The BPPC will consider a resolution recommending that the City Council certify the PEIR and its associated Mitigation and Monitoring Program and approve the Final VFMP. (*Report – Linda Herman, Park & Natural Resource Manager*)

Recommendation: The Park & Natural Resources Manager recommends that the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission:

1. Approve the resolution recommending that the City Council certify the PEIR and its associated Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Chapter 4 of the PEIR).
2. Recommend that the City Council adopt the Vegetative Fuels Management Plan.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to the next regular BPPC meeting on **3/29/21 at 6:00 p.m.** at a location or format to be determined.

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
MINUTES OF
January 25th, 2021 Meeting
Remote Meeting via City's WebEx Platform

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: *This meeting was conducted in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20. The public was able to view the meeting via the City's WebEx Platform. Public comments were also accepted by email sent to parkpubliccomment@chicoca.gov before and during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment on an item.*

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1 Call to Order

Called to order by Acting Chair Haar at 6:00 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Garrett Liles
Jeff Glatz
Anna Moore
Lise Smith-Peters
Aaron Haar

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present:

Erik Gustafson (Public Works Director O&M)
Linda Herman (Park and Natural Resource Manager)
Richie Bamlet (Urban Forest Manager)
Shane Romain (Park Services Coordinator)
Monica Murdock (Admin Assistant)
Wolfy Rougle (City consultant)

2. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

2.1 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Approve minutes of BPPC meeting held on December 14th, 2020.

Commissioner Smith-Peters stated that there are some minor typographical errors in the Minutes, in which Staff stated would be corrected.

A motion was made by Commissioner Glatz and seconded by Commissioner Moore to approve the Minutes as corrected by Staff.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Liles, Commissioner Smith-Peters,
Commissioner Glatz, Acting Chair Haar.

NOES: None

3. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT -NONE

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS -NONE

5. REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 REPORT FROM THE 1/20/2021 BPPC NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Natural Resource Committee (NRC) will provide a report on the following agenda item that was discussed at its 1/20/21 meeting. A copy of the NRC meeting agenda and staff reports is attached. (*Report – Lise Smith-Peters, Interim Committee Chair*):

5.1.1. ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PROGRAMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) FOR THE DRAFT VEGETATIVE FUELS MANAGEMENT PLAN.

At its meeting on 12/14/20, the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) reviewed a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the City's proposed Draft Vegetative Fuels Management Plan. A Notice of Availability of the PEIR was issued on 12/18/20 which started the 45-day public comment period and announced an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the PEIR at the BPPC Natural Resource Committee (NRC) meeting on 1/20/2021.

DRAFT PEIR DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Draft PEIR is available for public review at the following locations: 1) City of Chico Parks Division, 965 Fir Street by appointment only, call 530-896-7800 to schedule an appointment; and 2) Chico Branch of the Butte County Library, 1108 Sherman Avenue, open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 pm. An electronic version of the Draft PEIR is also available on the City's web page at <https://chico.ca.us/post/vegetative-fuels-management-plan>. **Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 2, 2021.**

Recommendation: *None. The BPPC will provide its comments, if any, and accept comments from the public on the Draft PEIR. All comments received will be addressed in the Final PEIR and will not be discussed at tonight's meeting.*

Public comments were received from Woody Elliott.

In response to Mr. Elliott's comments about whether all of the deliverables in the grant for the Plan have been completed, Consultant Rougle replied the project is on track.

Acting Chair and Committee member Haar stated that he would like to see public workshops regarding the purpose of the Vegetative Fuels Plan after it is adopted.

Commissioner and Committee member Lise Smith-Peters stated she would like the Commission to support the Mr. Elliott's comment that all future vegetation work plans come before the BPPC for approval.

Commissioner Liles provided comments that the work plan and project consistency checklist in the VFMP will add a layer of Staff time but should help in informing the public.

Commissioner Glatz suggested that instead of bringing them to the BPPC maybe the work plans can be posted on the website or Facebook as a way to inform the public of this work.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Commission via WebEx or by email at parkpubliccomment@chicoca.gov at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda, with comments being limited to three minutes or as determined by the Chair. The Committee cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

Comments were received from Woody Elliott. Mr. Elliott's comments are noted in detail in the Final PEIR.

7. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

These items are provided for the Commission's information. Although the Commission may discuss the items, no action can be taken at this meeting. Should the Commission determine that action is required, the item or items may be included for action on a subsequent agenda.

7.1 Parks Division Report – Linda Herman, Park and Natural Resources Manager

7.2 Street Tree Division Report – Richie Bamlet, Urban Forest Manager

Comments were received from Woody Elliott.

8. COMMISSIONER REQUESTS

Pursuant to AP&P 10-1, a majority vote of the commission is needed in order to agendize these items for discussion at a future meeting. If agendized, public comment will be taken at that meeting.

8.1 By email dated 12/16/20 Commissioner Liles requests to agendize a presentation regarding the City's Bike Plan, network, and infrastructure.

Action: A motion was made by Commissioner Glatz to accept the request of Commissioner Liles to agendize the presentation of the Bike Path Plan and network. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Liles, Commissioner Smith-Peters, Commissioner Glatz and Acting Chair Haar.

NOES: None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. to a Special Meeting on March 8th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at a location or format to be determined.

Date Approved: ___/___/___

Prepared by:

Monica Murdock, Admin Assistant
Distribution: BPPC

Date



BPPC Staff Report

Special Meeting Date 3/08/21

DATE: 3/03/21
TO: Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC)
FROM: Linda Herman, Park and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CA CONSERVATION CORPS GRANT FOR WORK ON 10-MILE HOUSE ROAD

REPORT IN BRIEF:

The BPPC will receive an update on a recent grant opportunity to have the California Conservation Corp's (CCC's) perform the annual roadside maintenance on 10-Mile House Road in Upper Park, and an opportunity to do more in-depth fuel break vegetation work along the road.

Recommendation: None this is an informational item only

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) are internally managed by the CCC and the crew hours are free to the City. Grant funds would be available to provide crews, a supervisor, equipment, and materials to perform vegetation work on approximately 15 acres, a value of approximately \$87,000 worth of work.

BACKGROUND:

The 10-Mile House Road off of Hwy 32 has long served as a major fire fuel break for Upper Bidwell Park, the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, and neighboring houses. The weeds and overgrown brush along 10-Mile House Road on the southside of Upper Bidwell Park are minimally trimmed back prior to fire season each year (See Attachment 1 for map and pictures). This work has primarily consisted of string trimming just a few feet on either side of the road using CalFire Salt Creek or California Conservation Corps crews.

However, the Public Safety and Emergency Services Chapter 3.5.4.7, Implementation Guidelines I.PS/ES-12 and I.PS/ES-13 in the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) state:

I.PS/ES-12 – “Fuel breaks should be developed and maintained along existing roads by selectively cutting and pruning.”

I.PS/ES-12 - “Fuel breaks should be created and maintained 100 feet on each side of Ten Mile House Road, Musty Buck Road and other locations as appropriate. An overstory canopy to promote shade and wildlife habitat should be maintained.”

DISCUSSION:

The Shasta Cascade CCC's contacted Staff regarding a GGRF grant opportunity that is available to them for fire fuel load reduction projects, which includes the “creation or maintenance of fuel breaks in strategic locations, as identified in CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or similar strategic planning documents”. The project also must be in or near a Cal Fire State Response Area (SRA) High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (see attached SRA map). The only area within or near an SRA is in eastern portions of Upper Park. For these reasons, Staff proposed extending the fuel break clearing along 10-Mile House Road as a potential grant project to help meet the fuel break objectives in the BPMMP.

The proposed project would perform fuel load reduction work on approximately 15 acres along 10 Mile House Road. The vegetation will be cleared, cut, thinned, or pruned using chainsaws, pole saws, and other hand tools. Woody material will be chipped or scattered if chipping is not possible. The chipped woody material will be spread out in the project area to a depth of no more than 4 inches. Downed dead trees and standing dead or diseased trees (< 8” in dbh) may be removed as practical and appropriate.

The width of the fuel break will vary and could be up to 50 feet wide from the center of the road on both sides. Vegetation elevation of up to 14 feet of road overhangs will occur to allow for increased emergency vehicle access, and to help prevent torching and crown fires. The goal is to create an open stand of well-spaced single-or few-stemmed trees that has reduced horizontal and vertical fuel continuity. Examples of the types of vegetation to be reduced are characterized by an overstory of gray pine, live oak, and blue oak with a dense understory of evergreen shrub species such as buckbrush, yerba santa, redberry, coffeeberry, toyon, scrub oak, poison oak and manzanita. The CCC's work will be supervised and monitored by City Park Staff and staff from the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve.

The City was notified that the funding for the project was tentatively approved contingent upon the completion of environmental review. There is a very short timeline for this grant performance period and the work must be completed by May 2021. However, this is the time frame that is normally used to perform fuel break maintenance to prepare the road for the upcoming fire season.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Although this type of vegetation work was contemplated under the BPMMP program EIR and Mitigation and Monitoring Program, the proposed activities could also be categorically exempt under CEQA PRC Class 4 Section 15304 –“Minor Alterations to Land” as the proposed activities consists of minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation to reduce wildfire threat and which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

We will be conducting biological and cultural surveys of the project area to determine whether there is any potential significant impact to threatened or sensitive resources from these activities. If the criteria for an exemption is met, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Butte County Clerk and State Clearinghouse. A bird survey will be conducted, and any native trees >8” dbh that may need to be removed will be reviewed and marked by an arborist, botanist, or Registered Professional Forester prior to the start of any work.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: 10-Mile House Road Map/Pictures
- Attachment 2: CalFire SRA Fire Severity Zone Map

10-MILE HOUSE ROAD FUEL BREAK MAINTENANCE PROJECT



Project includes thinning, elevating, and removal of vegetation for up to 50 feet on both sides of this 1.2 mile fire access road (~15 acres).



Figure 2 10 Mile House Rd at intersection with Guardian Trail GPS 39.80554983, -121.71707247

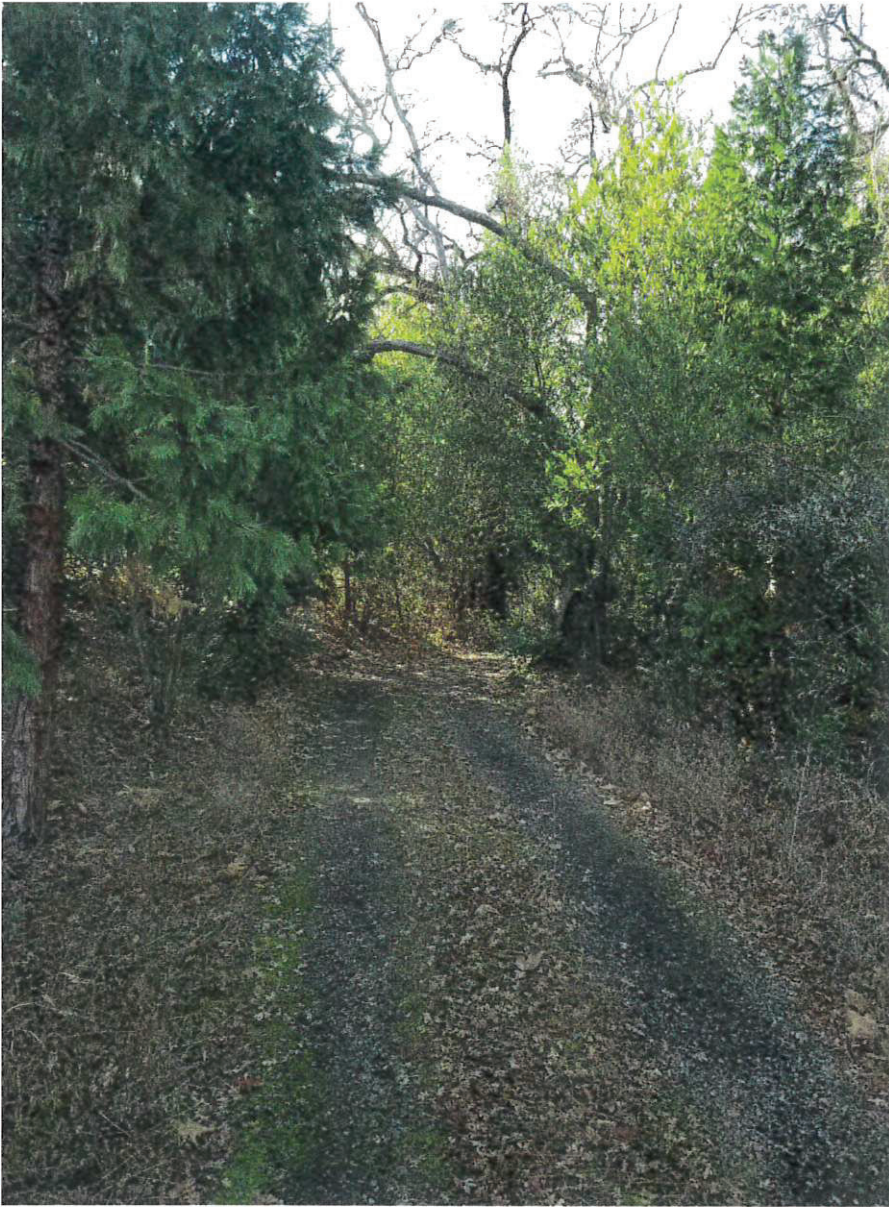


Figure 3 near the end of Ten Mile House Rd. Looking west about 500 feet west of meadow area. GPS unavailable.



Figure 1 500 feet from the top of 10 Mile House Rd. Looking west. GPS 39.8058555, -121.71419716



BPPC Staff Report

Special Meeting Date 3/08/21

DATE: 3/03/21
TO: Bidwell Park & Playground Commission
FROM: Linda Herman, Park and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) AND FINAL VEGETATIVE FUELS MANAGEMENT PLAN (VFMP).

REPORT IN BRIEF:

At its 12/18/20 meeting, the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) reviewed the Draft program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Vegetative Fuels Management Plan (VFMP), which was released for the 45-Day public comment period on 12/18/20. A Final PEIR and VFMP have been completed, which include the responses to the comments received and any changes made to the PEIR and VFMP in response to the comments. The BPPC will consider a resolution recommending that the City Council certify the PEIR and its associated Mitigation and Monitoring Program and approve the Final VFMP.

Recommendation: The Park & Natural Resources Manager recommends that the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission:

1. Approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) recommending that the City Council certify the PEIR and its associated Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Chapter 4 of the PEIR).
2. Recommend that the City Council adopt the Vegetative Fuels Management Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

With assistance from the Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD), the City applied for and was awarded a \$158,907 Community Wildfire Prevention grant from Cal Fire to develop the VFMP. The grant does not include funding for the implementation of the VFMP, and the project specific environmental review and implementation of the proposed projects identified in the Plan. The City also pledged a local match of \$55,828 for a total project cost of \$214,735.

BACKGROUND:

Draft Vegetation Management Plan (VFMP):

The Draft VFMP was prepared by consultants to describe actions that the City will implement on the City's 6,400+ acres of parks, greenways, and open spaces over many years to minimize fire risk and to enhance vegetation values such as improving ecological health. Although the primary driver of the VFMP is to improve wildfire safety, the Plan also addresses other important values that are meaningful to Chico's residents and visitors. These values include native biodiversity (i.e., parklands free from invasive species), habitat for wildlife (including agricultural pollinators and wildflowers), recreation values, community safety, Chico heritage and historic values, and ecosystem values such as water supply, conveyance, and quality.

The VFMP guides and authorizes vegetative work on every acre of City-owned land and identifies several potential key projects that could be implemented under the VFMP. The goals and objectives of the plan are as follows:

GOAL 1. MINIMIZE FIRE RISK WHILE PROTECTING ECOLOGICAL VALUES

Objective 1.1 Identify and characterize the City's existing high fire hazard areas, and present policies and management actions to reduce parkland fire hazards and impacts in each of the City's five main vegetation communities.

- Objective 1.2** Reduce fire hazard to homes, businesses, and natural resources while continuing to manage natural parks for natural values, and other parklands for their respective primary management objectives as described in VFMP Sections 3.1- 3.5 (e.g., floodwater conveyance for Lindo Channel, airport safety for airport parcels).
- Objective 1.3** Establish and implement strategic management actions on City-owned lands to reduce the likelihood of unwanted ignitions in the wildland-urban interface.
- Objective 1.4** Make it easier for the City to efficiently complete future vegetation management projects (and increase the pace and scale of vegetation management) by establishing standard project requirements for all work.
- Objective 1.5** Reduce the negative effects of parkland fires on structures, lives, and natural resources.

GOAL 2. RESTORE AND MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE FIRE RETURN INTERVALS IN CHICO'S PARKLANDS

- Objective 2.1** Fulfill the need for a comprehensive fuels management program for Bidwell Park as expressed in the 2008 Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) Natural Resources Management Plan.
- Objective 2.2** Create conditions under which fire, when it does occur, can have beneficial effects in Chico's parkland ecosystems.
- Objective 2.3** In grasslands, sustain health /and biodiversity (including by fostering good fire) while reducing any threats to homes, businesses, or natural resources from unwanted grass fires.
- Objective 2.4** After prescribed fire in the three woodland vegetation zones (Upland Mix, Blue Oak-Gray Pine), create an open stand of well-spaced single or few-stemmed trees that has reduced horizontal and vertical fuel continuity.
- Objective 2.5** In riparian areas, maintain riparian values, including cold water temperatures needed by salmon and riparian buffers' ability to filter sediment, while reducing overgrowth by removing invasive plants first before removing any native plants.

At its meetings on 7/20/20 and 8/31/20, the BPPC considered the Draft VFMP, which allowed the BPPC and public to provide comments on the draft plan.

Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR):

Staff proposed that a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), as defined by Section 15168 of the CA CEQA Guidelines, be prepared for the adoption and implementation of the VFMP. Section 15168 states that a PEIR may be prepared on series of actions that can be characterized as one large project or program and are related either:

1. Geographically,
2. As logical parts in a chain of contemplated actions,
3. In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program, or
4. As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar way(s).

All the scenarios described above apply to the VFMP, so the Commission approved moving forward with the preparation of a PEIR for the VFMP.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15082(a), a Notice of Preparation (NOP) requesting comments on the scope and content of the proposed PEIR was prepared and circulated on 9/9/20 in the newspaper, by email, and on the Butte County Clerk's Office and State Clearing House (SCH) websites for the required 30-day scoping period. The BPPC Natural Resources Committee (NRC) reviewed and provided comments on the NOP on 9/16/20, and the BPPC reviewed the NRC's comments and the PEIR proposed scope on 9/28/20. The NOP scoping comment period ended on 10/9/20.

A Draft PEIR was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutes and City Environmental Review Guidelines to identify:

1. Potential significant effects of the proposed VFMP activities and projects on the environment and to indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be avoided or mitigated.
2. Any unavoidable adverse impacts that cannot be fully mitigated or otherwise avoided.

In the PEIR, the activities proposed in the VFMP received general environmental review (e.g., analyzing their cumulative impacts as a program after considering standard project requirements), and mitigation measures, where needed, were identified to reduce anticipated environmental impacts below a threshold of significance.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) announcing the 45-Day public comment period for the Draft PEIR and a public hearing to consider public comments at the 12/14/20 BPPC meeting was posted in the local newspaper and on the Butte County Clerk's and SCH websites on 12/18/20. The Draft PEIR public comment period ended on 2/2/21.

DISCUSSION:

After receiving agency and public comments, a Final PEIR was prepared to include the following Chapters:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction.** This chapter includes a discussion of the purpose and organization of the Final PEIR.
- **Chapter 2: Responses to Comments.** This Chapter contains comments received during the 45-day public review period and responses to those comments. Master responses are also provided on topics raised by several commenters.
- **Chapter 3: Revisions to Text of Draft PEIR and VFMP.** This Chapter denotes corrections or clarifications to the Draft PEIR and the VFMP based on the comments received. Corrections are indicated by underlined text for language that has been added, and strikethrough text for language that has been deleted.
- The comments and changes made have not resulted in significant new information. No new potentially significant environmental impacts have been identified and no new mitigation measures are needed.
- **Chapter 4: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program.** When approving projects with mitigation measures that if implemented would avoid or lessen otherwise potentially significant impacts, CEQA requires public agencies to adopt monitoring and reporting programs or conditions of project approval to mitigate or avoid the identified potentially significant effects (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(a)(1)). This chapter lists each mitigation measure that could potentially be used to mitigate otherwise potentially significant impacts from future activities under the PEIR and presents a tabular summary of monitoring requirements. The MMRP consists of the following components:
 - Mitigation measures
 - Implementation trigger/timing of mitigation
 - Party responsible for implementation of the mitigation
 - Agency responsible for monitoring mitigation, and
- **References used in responding to comments.** This is not a list of all references used in developing the VFMP or the full PEIR.

The BPPC, pertinent agencies, interested public parties, the County Clerk's office and the SCH were provided the required 10-day Notice of Availability of the Final PEIR (attached as Attachment 2) on 2/25/21. The 10-Day NOA also announced a public hearing set for the 3/8/20 BPPC Special Meeting for consideration of the revised Final PEIR and VFMP. The Final PEIR and VFMP are available for review in the City's Park Division Office at 965 Fir Street, and on the City's website at:

<https://www.chico.ca.us/post/vegetative-fuels-management-plan>

The Final PEIR and the VFMP must be approved by the City Council and the BPPC is requested to recommend City Council certification of the Final PEIR and adoption of the Final VFMP.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: Final PEIR 10-Day NOA

1 all in accordance with CEQA.

2 5. The City provided written responses to all public agency comments received on
3 the Draft EIR at least ten days before certification of the Final EIR, pursuant to
4 the provisions of CEQA.

5
6 6. A good faith effort has been made to identify potentially feasible mitigation
7 measures and alternatives to the extent necessary to avoid or substantially lessen
8 the significant adverse effects of the VFMP, and such mitigation measures and
9 alternatives were considered in the review process in accordance with the
10 provisions of CEQA.

11
12 7. The Final EIR for the proposed VFMP has been properly completed and has
13 identified all significant environmental effects of the proposed VFMP, and there
14 are no known potential significant environmental effects that are not addressed in
15 the Final EIR.

16
17 8. A good faith effort has been made to seek out and incorporate all points of view in
18 the preparation of the Draft EIR and the Final EIR.

19 9. The EIR for the VFMP reflects independent judgment and analysis.

20 B. The Bidwell Park and Playground Commission recommends that the City Council
21 approve the VFMP and certify the EIR.
22

23 //

24 //

25 //

26 //

27 //

28 //

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was adopted by the Bidwell Park & Playground

Commission at its meeting held on _____, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Deborah R. Presson, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Vincent C. Ewing, City Attorney*

*Pursuant to The Charter of the
City of Chico, Section 906(E)



**CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE/NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**



February 25, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Chico Bidwell Park and Playground Commission will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, March 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.** regarding the following project. Due to continued COVID restrictions, the meeting will be an online remote meeting.

Consideration of the Final Vegetative Fuels Management Plan and Associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 2020090170). – The Vegetative Fuels Management Plan (VFMP) outlines a framework for managing fuel loads and vegetation on City-owned properties, encompassing approximately 6,400 acres, to reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic wildfire. Implementation of the VFMP would involve thinning, pruning, grazing, prescribed burning, removal, herbicide use, and other modification of trees and vegetation, particularly invasive nonnatives, within the VFMP area. The VFMP also identifies and describes several proposed key projects at specific locations that serve as examples of the kinds of vegetation management activities the City may contemplate in the future. Although the initial focus of this Plan was to improve wildfire safety and fire resiliency, the Plan also addresses other important values such as native biodiversity (i.e., parklands free from invasive species), wildlife habitat, recreation, community safety, Chico heritage and historic values, and ecosystem values such as water supply, conveyance and quality.

At its August 31, 2020 meeting, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) reviewed a Draft VFMP and authorized the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the VFMP and associated proposed key vegetation projects. The Final PEIR has been completed and provided to the BPPC. The BPPC will review and consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding certification of the environmental document, and a recommendation regarding the Final VFMP. Questions regarding this project may be directed to Park & Natural Resources Manager Linda Herman, who can be contacted at (530) 896-7241 or at linda.herman@chicoca.gov.

As discussed above, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, a PEIR has been prepared by the City to consider potential impacts associated with implementation of the VFMP, and to provide mitigation measures that will reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels. The Draft PEIR was released for public and agency review on December 18, 2020, and the review period ended on February 2, 2021 (a 46-day review period). Comments were received and responses have been developed as part of a Final PEIR. Copies of the Final VFMP, and the Draft and Final PEIR are available for review in the City Public Works Operations & Maintenance Department, 965 Fir Street, Chico, and on the City of Chico website at <https://chico.ca.us/post/vegetative-fuels-management-plan>

Any person may participate and be heard at the public hearing through written comments or during the online remote meeting. The Bidwell Park and Playground Commission may not have sufficient

time to fully review materials presented at the public hearing. Interested parties are encouraged to provide written comments via email at parkpubliccomments@chicoca.gov prior to the public hearing to allow distribution to the Commission. All written materials not submitted by email must be submitted in advance of the public hearing in person to the City of Chico, Park Division, 965 Fir Street, or mailed to P.O. Box 3420, Chico, CA 95927. Written materials should refer to the specific public hearing item listed above. The Bidwell Park and Playground Commission agenda, including staff reports and how to access this remote meeting, will be available prior to the Commission meeting on the City's website at. <https://chico.ca.us/post/2021-agendas-2>

In accordance with Government Code Section 65009, any person who challenges the action of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission in court, may be limited to raising only those issues that were raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

POSTED/PUBLISH DATED: Thursday, February 25, 2021

cc: BPPC/City Clerk/E-R/County Clerk/All BPPC Interested parties' email