



**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