

Hill Campus Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan Environmental Impact Report

Public Scoping Meeting

December 2, 2019

Meeting Purpose

- Provide information on the proposed Hill Campus Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan (WVFMP)
- Provide information on the environmental review process for the WVFMP
- Accept oral and written comments from agencies, organizations and the public on the scope of and alternatives to consider in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) being prepared by UC Berkeley for the proposed Hill Campus WVFMP

Background

- UC Berkeley proposes to implement the WVFMP for the Hill Campus (Plan Area)
- Plan Area is a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone with a history of wildfire and conditions conducive to future catastrophic wildfire
- East Bay fires (1923 to 1998):
 - 11 Diablo (north-east) wind fires burned 9,840 acres, destroyed 3,542 homes, killed 26 people
 - 3 west-wind fires burned 1,230 acres, destroyed 4 homes
- Grizzly Fire (2017) – burned 20 acres, required evacuation of 1,000 people in the Plan Area
- Hot dry summers, topography, flammable vegetation, dense urban development, limited fire-fighting access and Diablo winds

Background

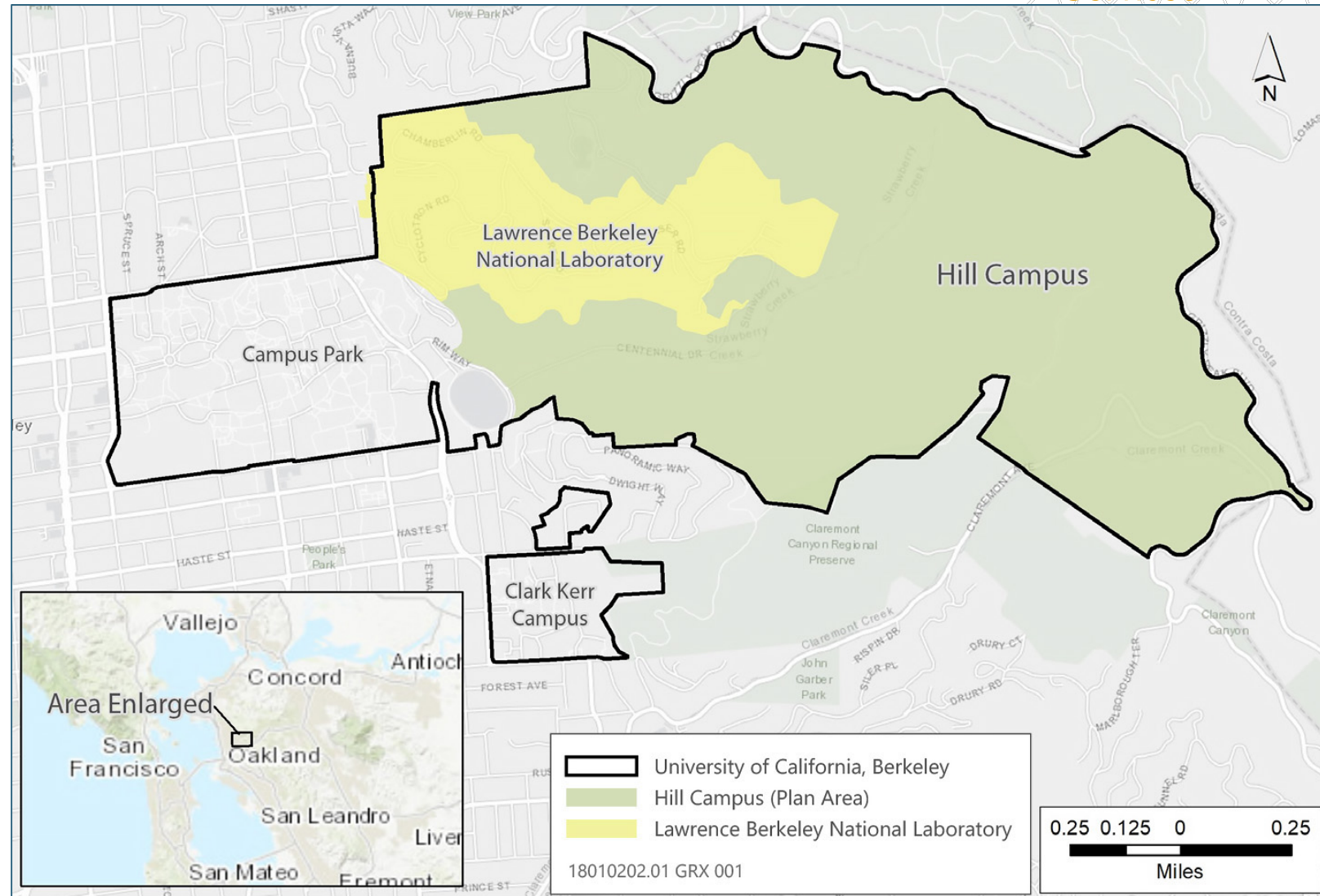
- Proposed WVFMP purpose is to reduce wildfire risk and diminish or avoid the harmful effects of wildfire on people, property, and natural resources within the Hill Campus
- WVFMP is part of a coordinated regional strategy to install and maintain fuel breaks and provide safe evacuation for the campus and adjacent communities
- Partners in regional strategy include Hills Emergency Forum (East Bay Municipal Utility District, East Bay Regional Park District, LBNL, CAL FIRE, and the Cities of Oakland, Berkeley, El Cerrito) and the Diablo FireSafe Council
- Regional FEMA grant awarded because of the Plan Area's strategic, interagency, and regional importance, but funds were terminated in 2016

Background

- UC Berkeley will prepare an Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - The EIR will evaluate the physical environmental effects of implementation of the proposed WVFMP, consider alternatives, and identify mitigation measures, as necessary
- UC Berkeley received a CAL FIRE grant to implement portions of the WVFMP



Plan Area



Proposed Project

- Three types of vegetation treatment types using five types of vegetation treatment activities proposed for use throughout the entire 800-acre Plan Area
 - To be evaluated at a program-level in the EIR for future implementation
- Five proposed “Identified Treatment Projects”, consistent with the proposed treatment types and activities
 - To be evaluated at a project-level for implementation upon EIR certification
- The near-term implementation of the Identified Treatment Projects, along with the longer-term implementation of later treatment projects, studied at a program level, together comprise the proposed “project”

Proposed Project

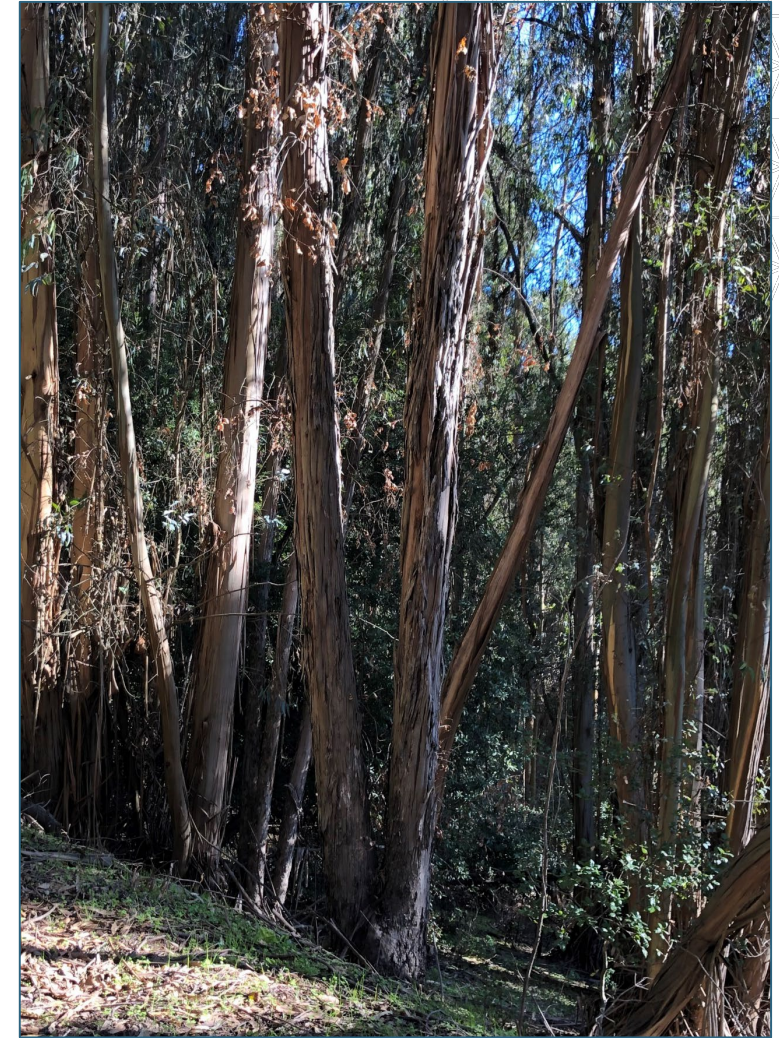
Proposed Treatment Types :

- **Evacuation Support** - roadside treatments along emergency evacuation routes in Plan Area, focused on treating vegetation prone to torching and blocking access as well as improving visibility during evacuation;
- **Fuel Breaks** - strategically-located linear strips where vegetation has been treated to aid in the containment of a fire and reduce the likelihood of crown fire transition; and
- **Fire Hazard Reduction** - focused on reducing hazardous fire conditions and fire brand distribution in the Plan Area to help promote landscape resiliency and improve native habitat

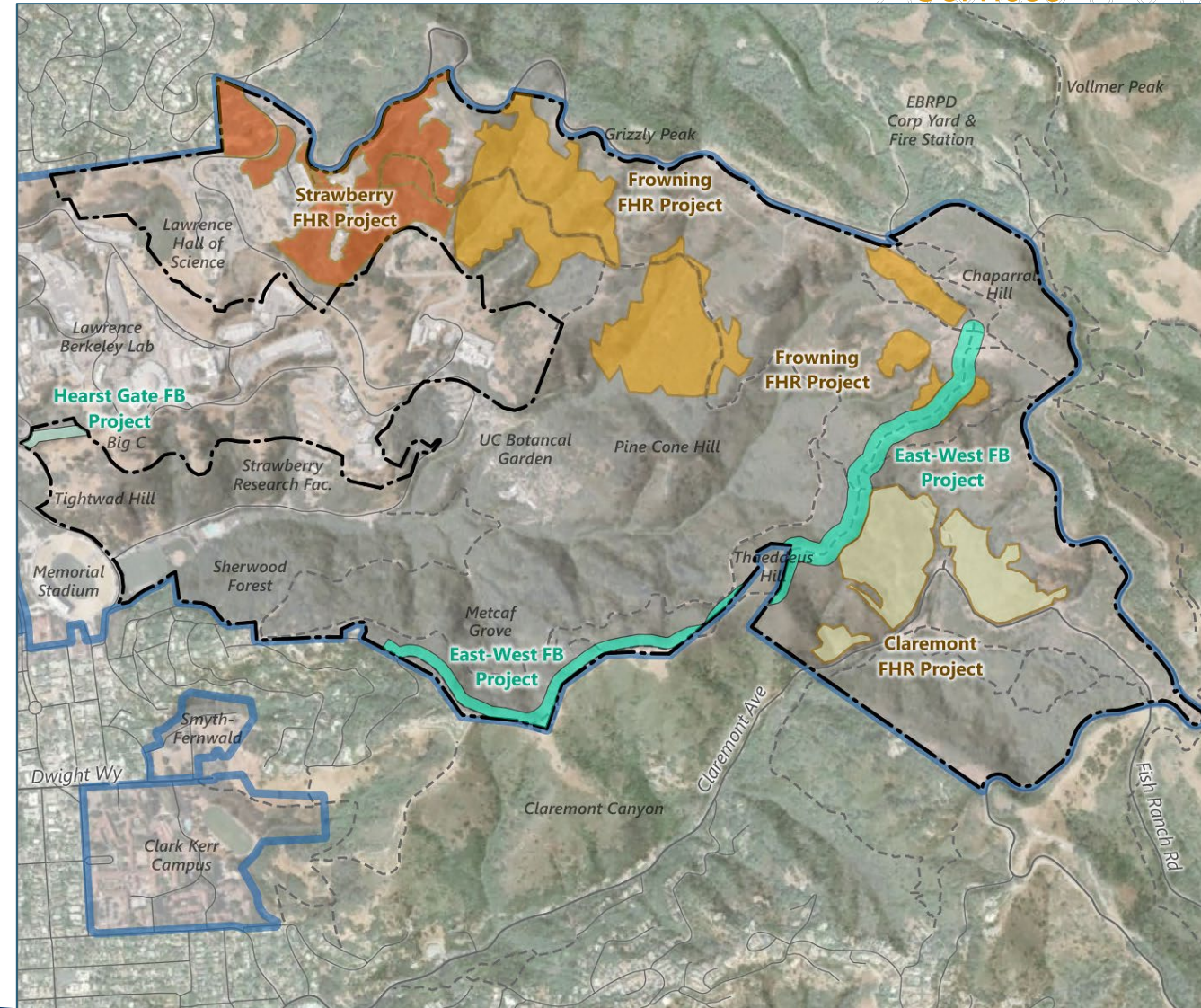
Proposed Project

Proposed Treatment Activities :

- Prescribed burning
- Manual vegetation treatment
- Mechanical vegetation treatment
- Prescribed herbivory (managed grazing or browsing)
- Targeted ground application of herbicides



Proposed Project – Identified Treatment Projects



Topics to be Addressed in EIR

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology / Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards / Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Noise
- Recreation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Wildfire

Refer to Initial Study for analysis of resource topics that will not be addressed in the EIR

Available online:

<https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/resources-notices/public-notices>

Environmental Review Process/Schedule

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NOP Released (30-day Public Review Period)** | November 20, 2019 |
| Public Meeting** | December 2, 2019 |
| NOP Review Ends | December 20, 2019 |
| Draft EIR Released (45-day Public Review Period)** | June 2020 (anticipated) |
| Public Meeting** | Summer 2020 |
| Final EIR Released | November 2020 (anticipated) |
| EIR Certified | December 2020 (anticipated) |

**** Opportunities for Public Input**

How to Submit Comments

Responses to this NOP must be received by 5:00 PM on December 20, 2019

Oral Comments

- Accepted during public comment session of scoping meeting

Written Comments

- Accepted at scoping meeting
- Accepted by mail:
Raphael Breines, Senior Planner
Physical and Environmental Planning
University of California, Berkeley
300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382
- Accepted by email:
 - planning@berkeley.edu

Oral Comments

- Complete speaker card; step to microphone when your name is called
- Speak clearly and state your name and affiliation, if any
- Comments will be recorded and transcribed
- Focus comments on environmental issues and alternatives you wish to be addressed in the EIR
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes
- This is an opportunity for us to listen to your comments. We are early in EIR preparation, so we do not have answers or conclusions yet.