

Updated Announcement: Stakeholder and Calfire public meetings on VTP EIR in Southern California, April 29 and May 1

To initiate the peer review requested by the California Legislature, the peer review panel will be holding two public meetings with stakeholders and Calfire in Southern California. This will initiate the interaction with interested parties as we will work over the next two months to prepare and submit our report. Each meeting place can hold around 45 people so these meetings are organized to present and discuss key issues rather than replicate official comments that are already in the extensive public record. A summary of the panel tasks are attached. For further information contact Bill Stewart at billstewart@berkeley.edu or at (510) 643-3130.

VTP EIR Peer Review Panel chosen by the California Fire Science Consortium

Scott Stephens, UCB Professor of Fire Science (co-chair)

Jan van Wagtendonk, National Park Service scientist, emeritus

Jay Perkins, Fire behavior specialist, US Forest Service (ret) and consultant

Ed Smith, Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

Paul Zedler, Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin

Bill Stewart, UCB Forestry Specialist

Meetings

Tuesday, April 29, 3-5pm, Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, CA 91107.

Thursday, May 1, 9-11:30am, Calfire Monte Vista headquarters, 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019

Agenda Topics : We want to organize the discussions around 4 questions from our defined task. We hope stakeholders will speak to these issues and that the panel members can then engage stakeholders in a broader dialogue.

1. The peer review should focus and prioritize their review and responses to the specific questions related to fire behavior science, fire ecology and the role of vegetation management in supporting resilient ecosystems.
2. Whether alternative means of achieving these goals exist that might reflect a better balance of achieving key project goals in an environmentally superior way. Key project goals could be considered to include: public safety, infrastructure reliability, ecosystem resiliency, wildland habitat values, open space values, endangered species habitat, effective fire suppression during common fire weather regimes and within potential future climate envelopes (e.g. Santa Ana, non Santa Ana), current treatment expenditure levels, current and projected land use, etc.
3. Whether the process outlined in the document governing subsequent activities undertaken in reliance on the VTP PEIR provides the sufficient oversight and control to ensure that they will be adequately monitored, assessed, and mitigated.
4. How potential vegetation management treatments interact/tradeoff/complement with fire risk reduction actions within residential areas, commercial areas, and infrastructure areas (i.e. how do various preventative actions interact from practical and financial viewpoints