

**REVISED Notice of Preparation**

To: Distribution List

From: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst  
California Board of Forestry and  
Fire Protection  
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Tel: (916) 653-8007

**Subject: *REVISED* Notice of Preparation of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report**

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is the lead agency and will prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the proposed statewide Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP or Program). The proposed Program is part of the Board's comprehensive fire prevention policy, which will be implemented by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Portions of two earlier Program Environmental Impact Reports for the VTP are incorporated into this PEIR. The last Notice of Preparation (NOP) was filed in 2005, and listed CAL FIRE as the lead agency. Given the passage of time, the Board is updating and revising the Notice of Preparation for this PEIR to seek input from responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the PEIR, and to ensure accurate information is contained in the public notices relating to this PEIR.

This PEIR analyzes the potential environmental effects of the Program. The VTP is proposed to achieve the overarching goal of using vegetation treatments to alter fire behavior to reduce the harmful effects on the people, property and natural resources in the State of California. The VTP is proposed to be implemented primarily on privately owned land within the State Responsibility Area (SRA).

The VTP organizes treatments into three general types: (1) Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) treatments focused in WUI-designated areas, generally consisting of fuel reduction to prevent the spread of fire between wildlands and structures, or vice versa; (2) creating fuel breaks, which are strategically placed vegetation treatments that actively support fire control activities; and (3) ecological restoration projects, which would generally occur outside the WUI in areas that have departed from the natural fire regime as a result of fire exclusion and would focus on restoring ecosystem resiliency by moderating uncharacteristic wildland fuel conditions to reflect historic vegetative composition and structure.

The VTP contemplates treating no more than 60,000 acres per year. Potential locations for the proposed treatments are depicted on the attached maps.

The VTP is also intended to assist in supporting federal and local non-SRA fuel reduction projects through the use of vegetation treatments proposed in the PEIR. The VTP PEIR will study the potential environmental effects of the proposed Program's strategic treatment of wildland vegetation with the overarching goal of wildland fire prevention.

As proposed, the VTP would allow for vegetation treatment activities to meet specific project objectives for fire prevention, fire protection, and/or ecological restoration. These treatment activities may include: prescribed fire, manual activities and mechanical activities, prescribed herbivory (beneficial grazing), and targeted ground application of herbicides. These activities are proposed to be used singularly or in combination, depending upon the treatment type and environmental considerations.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) a Program EIR may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related to, among other things, the issuance of general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program or individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority, and having generally similar environmental effects that can be mitigated in similar ways. The Board recognizes the link between fuels management and fire protection across the SRA, and has the statutory responsibility to establish policy for wildland resources in the SRA. CAL FIRE has the responsibility for implementation of Board policy, and will therefore take the lead on implementing the Program consistent with the PEIR. Responsible and trustee agencies will need to use the PEIR when considering permit or other approval for individual projects conducted pursuant to the PEIR.

By issuing this NOP, the Board intends to continue and further its consultation with responsible and trustee agencies and members of the public to ensure that the PEIR captures the most up-to-date scientific and environmental information available.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are more fully identified in the Preliminary Draft Program Environment Impact Report available on the Board's website at:

[http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board\\_committees/resource\\_protection\\_committee/current\\_projects/vegetation\\_treatment\\_program\\_environmental\\_impact\\_report\\_\(vtpeir\)/](http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_(vtpeir)/).

An initial study was not conducted because the Board determined that an EIR is required for the project. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15063.)

Agency Scoping Meetings: Pursuant to section 21080.4(b) of the Public Resources Code, responsible and trustee agencies have the right to request a meeting to determine the scope and content of the environmental information required. Please contact the Board at the address below to request such a meeting.

Public Scoping Process: In addition, and in accordance with section 21080.3 of the Public Resources Code, the Board will be conducting a scoping meeting at \_\_\_\_\_, and will hold open a public scoping period for 30 days from the date of this notice.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, any response to this Revised NOP must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please send your response, including the name of the designated contact person for your agency, to:

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst  
Telephone: (916) 653-8007  
Fax: (916) 653-0989  
Email: VegetationTreatment@bof.ca.gov

**Project Title: Vegetation Treatment Program**

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14 (CEQA Guidelines), Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

## STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FOR FIRE PROTECTION

- SRA (State Responsibility Area)
- FRA (Federal Responsibility Area)
- LRA (Local Responsibility Area)
- Incorporated Cities



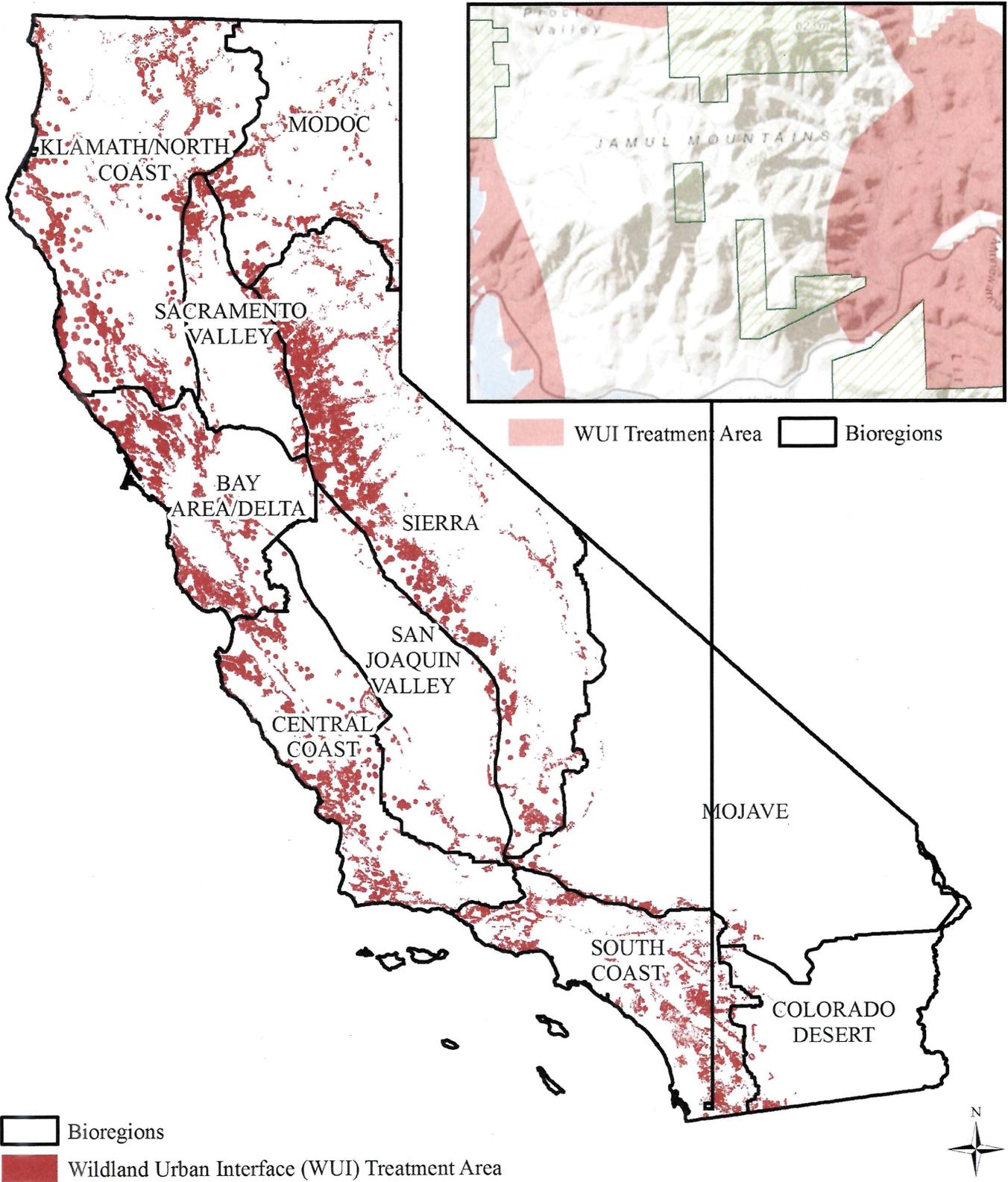
The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of data or maps.

Obtain FRAP maps, data, metadata and publications on the Internet at <http://frap.cff.ca.gov>  
For more information, contact CDF-FRAP, PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, (916) 327-3939

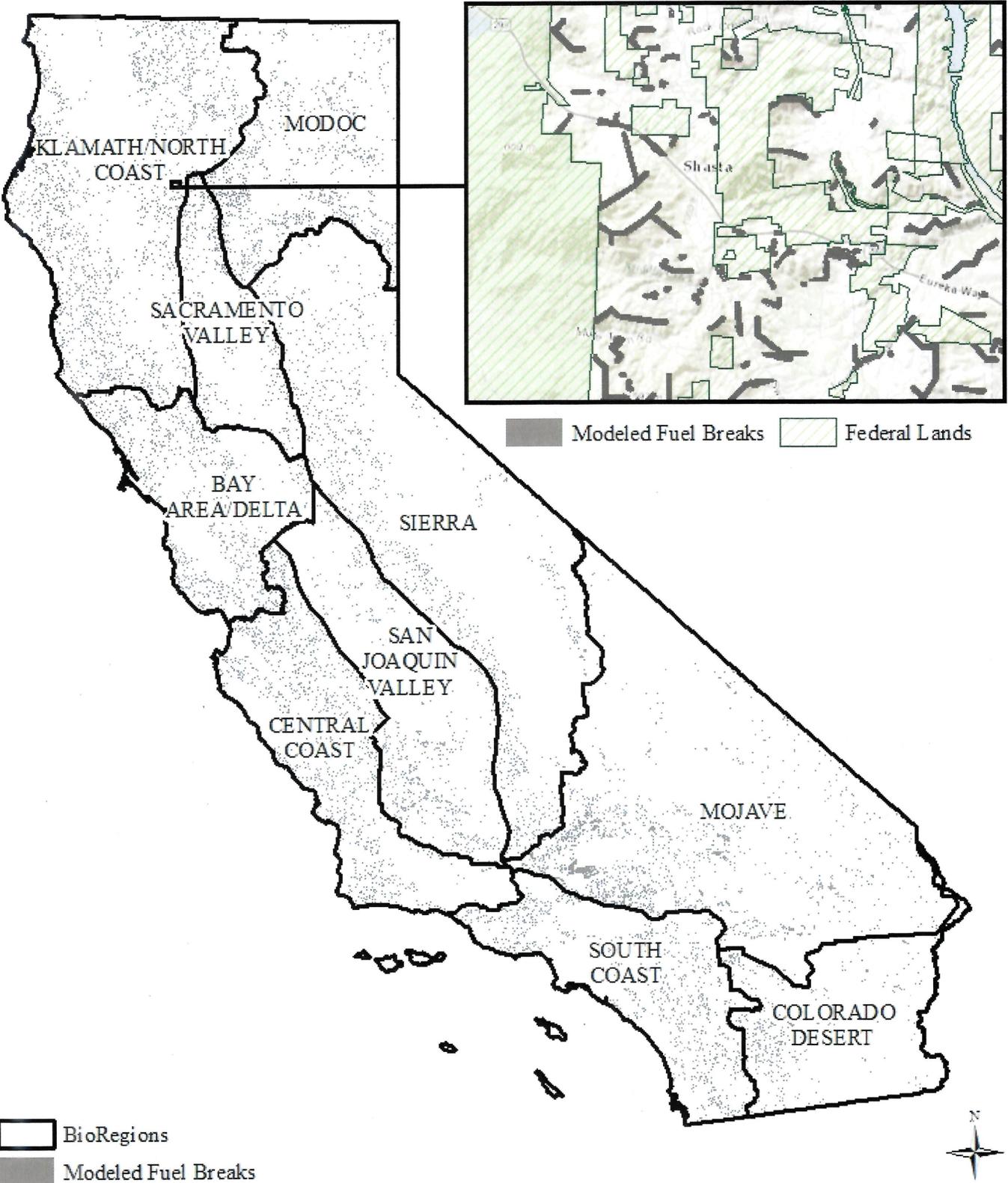
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor, State of California  
John Laird, Secretary for Resources, The Natural Resources Agency  
Ken Pimlott, Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MAPID: sramap  
DATA SOURCES:  
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA13\_2)  
CAL FIRE Incorporated Cities (Incorp13\_2)  
NHD Lakes (NHD\_CA\_92/200)

# Modeled Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Treatment Areas



# Modeled Fuel Break Treatment Areas



# Modeled Ecological Restoration Treatment Areas

