ERIC GIBSON
DIRECTOR

County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

5201 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE B, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1666
INFORMATION (858) 694-2960
TOLL FREE (800) 411-0017
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu

[July 1, 2010]

CEQA Initial Study - Environmental Checklist Form
(Based on the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G Rev. 10/04)

1. Title; Project Number(s); Environmental Log Number:

   Dead, Dying and Diseased Tree Removal, Greater Julian Area and Nearby Areas.

2. Lead agency name and address:
   County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use
   5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B,
   San Diego, CA 92123-1666

3. Contact Thomas Oberbauer
   Phone number: (858) 694-3701
   E-mail: Thomas.Oberbauer@sdcounty.ca.gov.

4. Project location:

   The Greater Julian Area is the unincorporated area of San Diego County from north of Mesa Grande on State Route 76 (SR 76), south of the intersection of SR 79 and County Highway S2, including Volcan Mountain, to the bottom of Banner Grade on SR 78, south along SR 79 to Cuyamaca and west, and including Pine Hills and Santa Ysabel. The areas addressed in this proposal include the lands adjacent to State Routes 78 and 79. If funding remains available, additional lands in Cuyamaca, Descanso, Guatay and Pine Valley would be treated within the Cuyamaca-Laguna and I-8 – Laguna Fire project areas. Funding under this program may also apply to a portion of the San Diequito River below Lake Hodges Dam in the Rancho project area.

   Thomas Brothers Coordinates: Pages: portion of K 8, all of J 9, K 9, J 10, K 10 and portion of L 10 on page 409 ,1135, 1136, 1155, 1156, and portion of 1176. If funding remains available, additional lands in pages 1216, 1236, and 1237 would

be included. The portion of the San Dieguito River that may be treated under this program is located on pages 1148,1149, and 1168.

5. Project Applicant name and address:

Department of Planning and Land Use, County of San Diego, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B-5, San Diego, CA 92123

6. General Plan Designation: Rural including Country Town
Community Plan: North Mountain, Julian and Cuyamaca and if funding available Central Mountain and San Dieguito
Land Use Designation: Various but predominantly 18, Multiple Rural Use
Density: Various but predominantly 1 du/4, 8 or 20 acre(s)

7. Zoning

Use Regulation:	Rural Residential
Minimum Lot Size:	Various but predominantly 4 acre(s)
Special Area Regulation:	None

8. Description of project:

Dead, Dying and Diseased Tree Removal Program

Description of Project

This project would consist of the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees up to a maximum of 500 feet from structures, facilities and evacuation roads providing access to three or more homes or facilities in the Greater Julian Area, as recommended by the Forest Area Safety Task Force. The Greater Julian Area includes land from north of Mesa Grande on State Route 76, south of the intersection of SR 79 and Highway S2, including Volcan Mountain, to the bottom of Banner Grade on SR 78, south to Cuyamaca and west, and including Pine Hills and Santa Ysabel within the unincorporated area of San Diego County. The project is free to property owners and is voluntary. If the treatments in the Greater Julian Area are completed and funding from the grant remains, further removal of trees would occur in the Cuyamaca - Laguna and I-8 - Laguna Fire Project Areas and potentially the San Dieguito portion of the Rancho Project Area. The areas in which the County has permission for cutting trees from the property owners are marked in Figure 1 in tan and are on parcels adjacent to roads and highways. The potential additional areas in Descanso, Guatay and Pine Valley are marked on Figure 2 where the tan areas are private lands with improvements and the blue areas are private lands without improvements. The project includes the following pre-tree removal procedures:

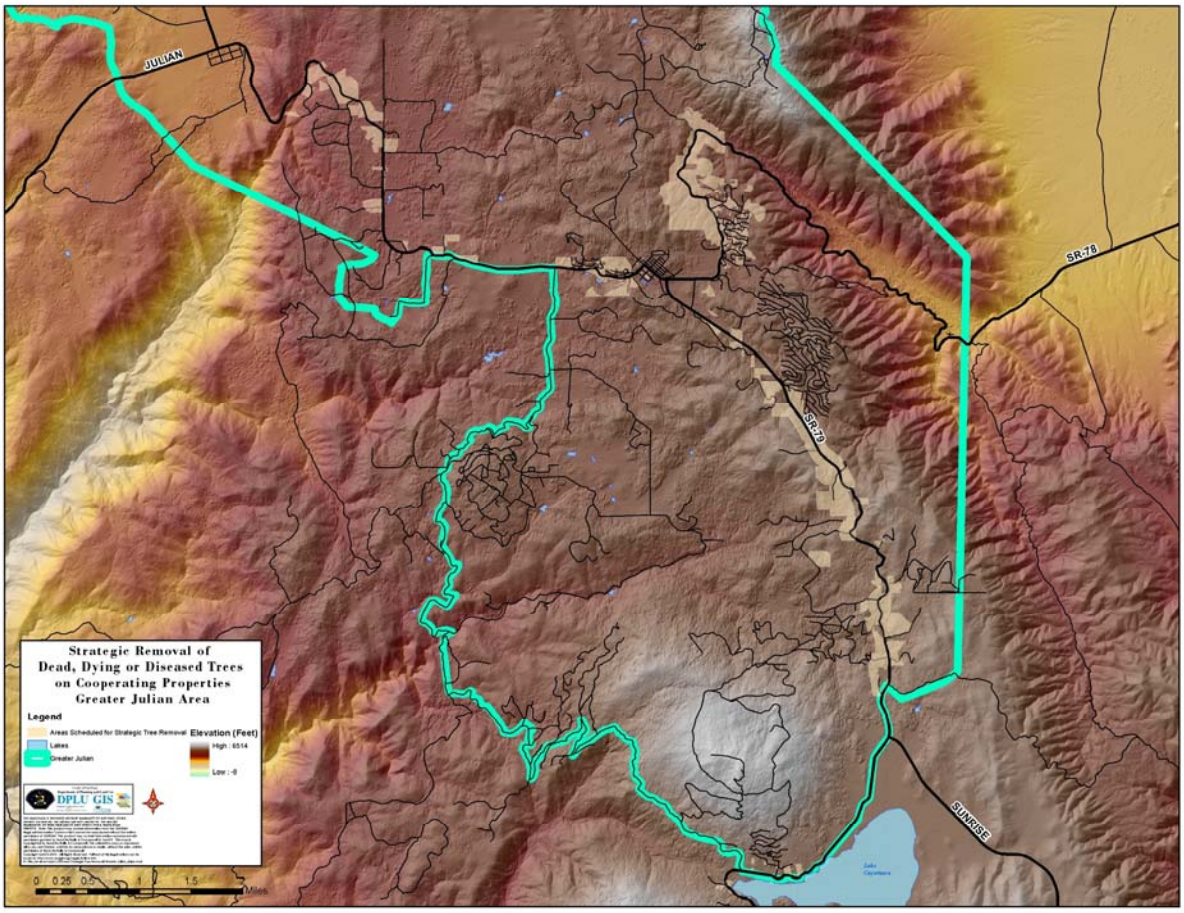

Figure 1. Strategic Removal of Dead, Dying and Diseased Trees on Cooperating Properties Greater Julian Area.

Areas shown in tan on the map illustrate the areas from which the Dead, Dying and Diseased Trees will be removed. The actual number of trees is relatively low ranging from one or two to roughly a maximum of two dozen trees per acre.

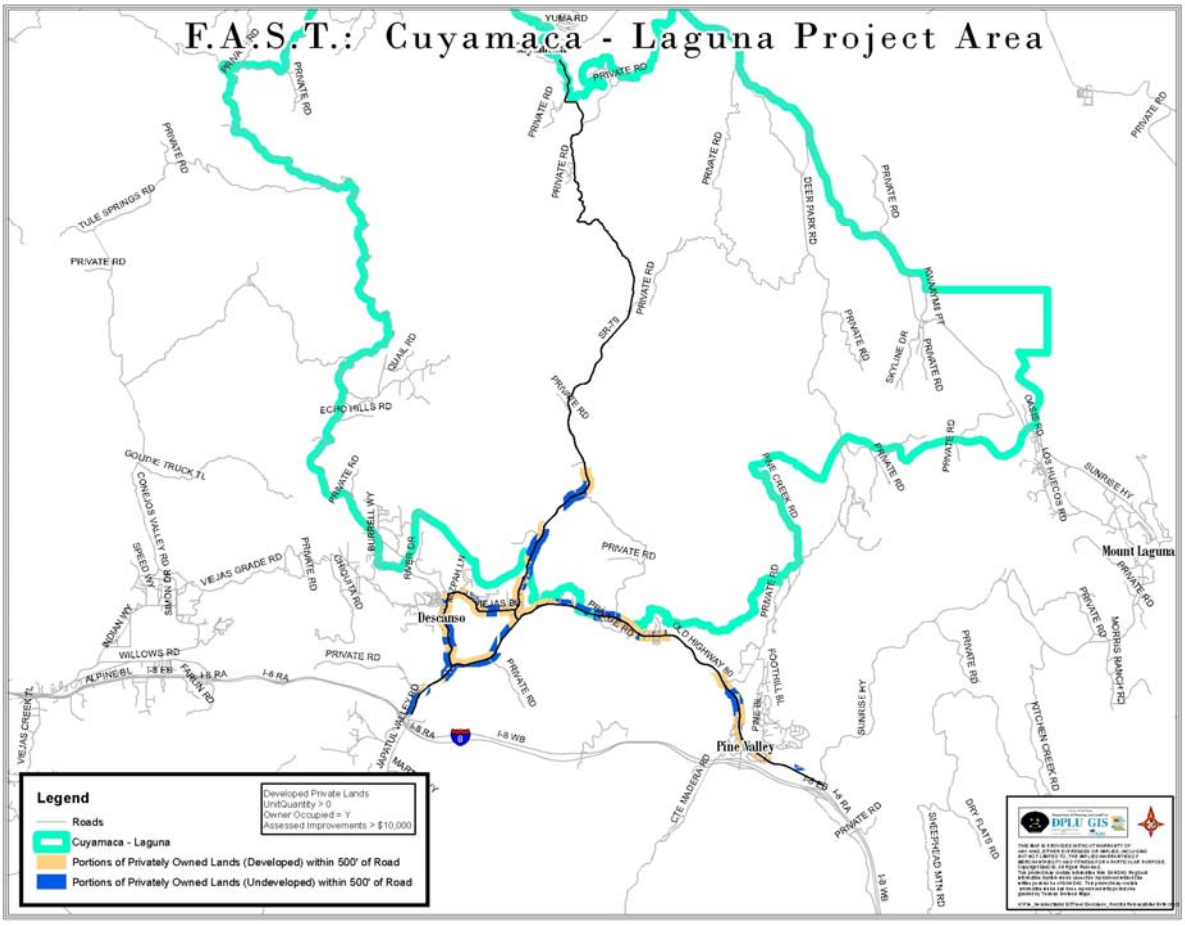

Figure 2. Potential Location of Strategic Removal of Dead, Dying and Diseased Trees in the Cuyamaca - Laguna Project Area.

Areas delineated in tan and blue on the map are approximate locations of private lands that may qualify for removal of dead, dying and diseased Trees. If funds remain from the dead tree removal in the Greater Julian area, they may be applied in this area. Actual properties to participate will be determined by notifying property owners of the availability of the program. If property owners are interested, they will provide a letter indicating right of entry for marking of the trees and conducting biological and archaeological surveys.

Pre-Tree Removal Procedures:

1. Notices would be sent to private property owners indicating availability of program
2. Right of entry would be signed by property owner
3. Properties would be identified for presence of dead and dying trees within 500 feet of structures, facilities or evacuation corridors serving three or more homes or facilities.
4. Dead or dying trees would be marked by the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or their trained staff for whom they are responsible.

5. Biological surveys of the areas surrounding the trees under consideration for removal would be performed by a certified biologist
6. Archaeological surveys of the areas surrounding the trees under consideration for removal would be performed by a registered Archaeologist. .
7. Areas with sensitive resources (cultural or biological) that are identified through the surveys and that have the potential to be affected by the tree removal will be identified on a map and will be stricken from the list of trees to be removed. The tree identification marker will be removed andthe treatment area map will be revised to reflect that the tree will not be disturbed . Depending on the circumstances the sensitive area may be further flagged on the ground to further guarantee avoidance.
8. The biological information and maps will be reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff, who may identify additional areas to be removed from the cutting area and the markers are removed by the RPF or their staff.
9. Contractors shall only cut marked trees in presence of the County Registered Professional Forester or their trained staff.

Examples of the conditions for before and after treatments are shown on Figures 3 and 4 for a site on the Palomar Mountain area that was treated in 2009 and 2010.

Figure 3. Sample Dead Tree Treatment Area on Palomar Mountain Before Treatment.

This is an example of an area that was treated for the removal of dead, dying and diseased Trees on Palomar Mountain. Note V shaped pair of trees when comparing to Figure 4. Red colored shrubs in foreground are poison oak that has changed color in the fall.

Figure 4. Sample Dead Tree Treatment Area on Palomar Mountain After Treatment

Note the V shaped pair of trees remain. These trees were considered a hazard for tree cutters and were left in place. Note the understory is intact. Poison Oak in foreground is leafless during early spring season.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate a before and after view an aerial view of an area of Palomar Mountain that was treated for removal of dead trees.

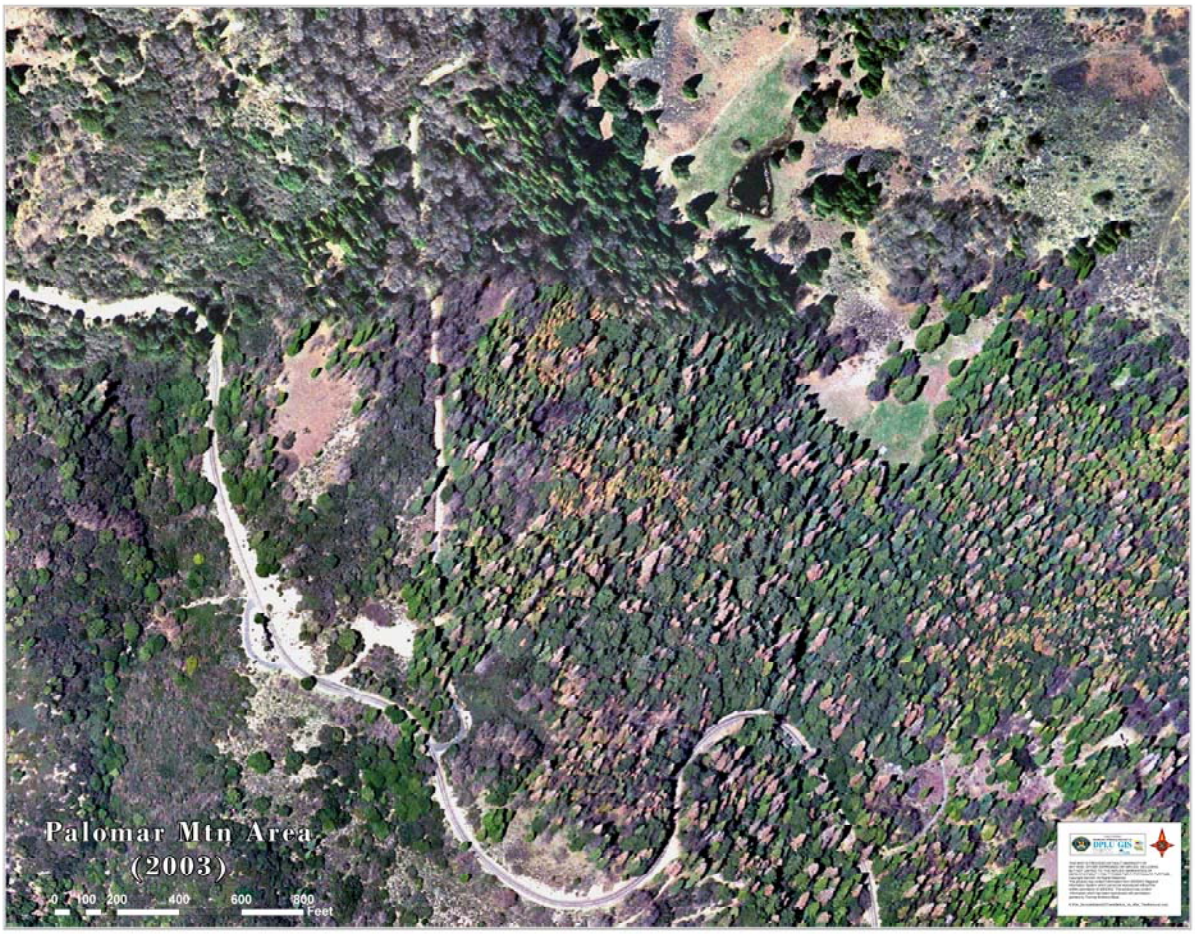

Figure 5. Sample of a Treatment Area on Palomar Mountain Before Treatment

This is a true color before image from 2003 illustrating the magnitude of tree mortality on Palomar Mountain in 2003. This photograph includes lands that were treated by the County contractors as well as private property owners. Dead trees appear pink or orange due to the needles turning that color on coniferous trees when they die.

Figure 6. Sample of Treatment Area on Palomar Mountain After Treatment

This after treatment image from 2008 illustrates the area after being treated for the removal of Dead, Dying and Diseased Trees by County contractors and private landowners. The impacts of the Poomacha Fire are evident on the south side of the road on the lower left of the photograph. In this photograph, the County treatment areas extended 200 feet but in some cases the property owners removed dead trees an additional distance from the road.

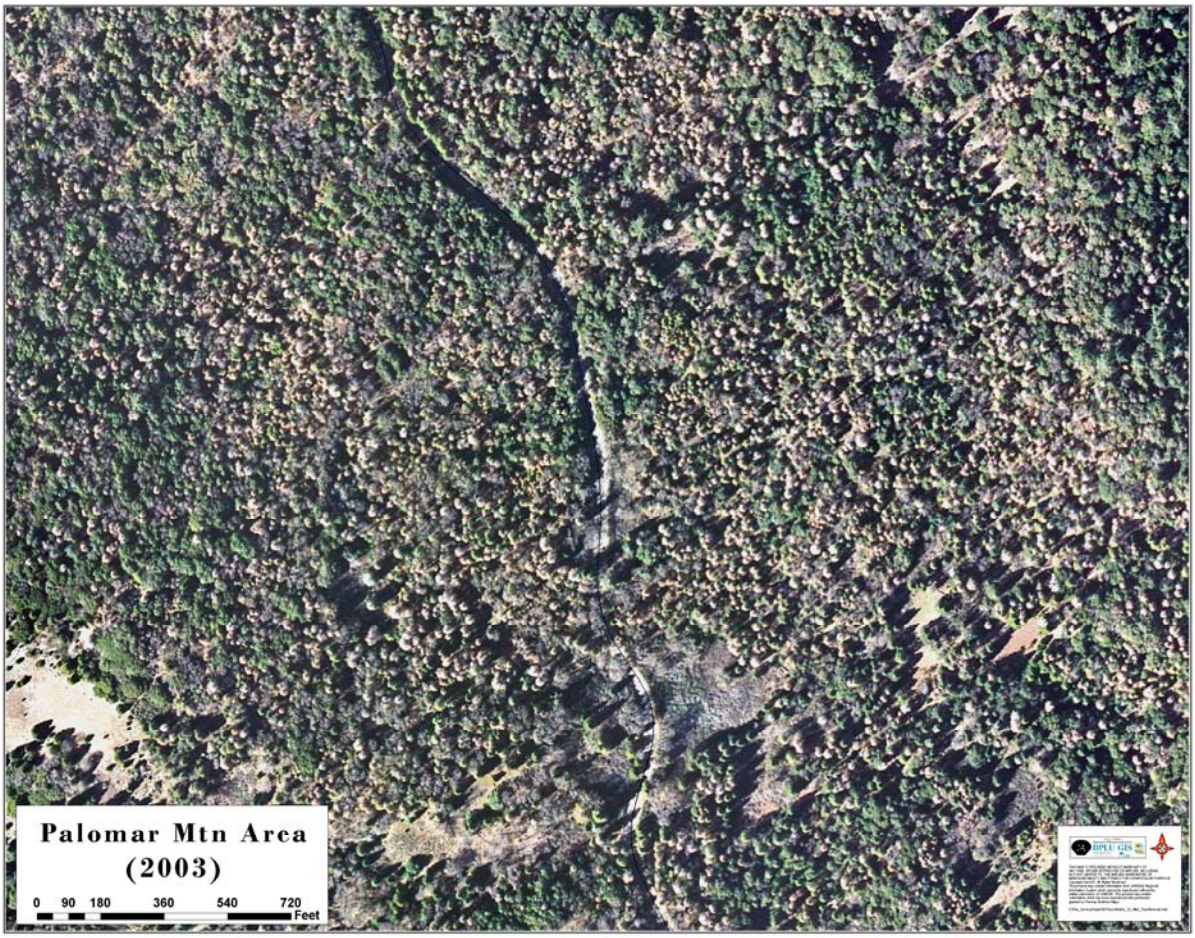

Figure 7. Sample of Area of Treatment on Palomar Mountain Before Treatment in Canfield Road Area.

This is a example of an area with a high number of dead trees before treatment. This photograph illustrates areas that were treated by the County contractors as well as by private landowners. The trees that have tan or pink colors are dead due to needle coloration changing on dead conifers.

Figure 8. Sample of Area of Treatment on Palomar Mountain After Treatment in Canfield Road Area After Treatment.

This photograph illustrates the forest after the removal of the dead trees. This included treatment of areas near roads by the County Contractors and additional dead tree removal on private lands. The white areas in the photograph are snow.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to insure that during fires or other catastrophic events, dead trees do not fall, roll slide, or otherwise travel down slopes onto roads and become an impediment to evacuation or fire access. Furthermore, the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees is intended to create defensible space for fire fighters and improve forest health by removing fuels that transfer fires onto healthy trees and to healthy portions of the forest.

Southern California has been subjected to a prolonged drought for the past 13 years, during which only one rainfall season exceeded normal precipitation. This period has included the driest season in recorded history, in which seasonal rainfall was as low as thirty percent of normal. Over this time period, for example, the Cuyamaca Lake region received 100 inches less rain than normal. This extended dry period has stressed the

health of forest trees in the mountains of San Diego County and has provided opportunities for tree killing insects, such as the bark beetle and gold-spotted oak borer, to cause pine and oaks death throughout the region. Another major reason for accelerated tree mortality is the high density of trees per acre in this region. It is generally accepted that the forest tree density in southern California as well as elsewhere in the west is higher than the land and precipitation levels can sustain (Keeley et al, 2004, Minnich 1995, Allen et al., 2002). Small naturally occurring ground fires that would burn the understory and thin the forest have been managed or prevented. Though precipitation is sufficient to induce sprouting of seedlings and growth of young trees, the maturing trees compete for limited water and nutrients in the soil. This situation has created high level of tree mortality which in turn has created a severe fire hazard in the Greater Julian Area as well as the Cuyamaca -,Laguna and I-8 – Laguna Fire project areas.

Under natural conditions, the overly dense trees and dead, dying and diseased trees would be removed by frequent lightning fires. This project to remove dead, dying and diseased Trees is intended to identify and remove these trees, thereby reducing the number of trees to a density that is more sustainable by the natural precipitation (Husari et al, 2006). The fire hazard benefits of forest thinning are described in Hatchett et al. (2006), Stephens et al. (2010) and the Mountain Area Safety Task Force (2010). The loss of tens of thousands of acres of forest in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park during the Cedar Fire of 2003 is an example of the devastating consequences that occur when overly dense forests with high numbers of dead trees burn in large wildfires (Goforth and Minnich, 2008).

During the fires of 2007, particularly the Poomacha Fire, the areas where dead, dying and diseased trees had been removed along evacuation corridors were used as base lines from which to fight the fire. The firefighters attribute part of their ability to keep safe and prevent the burning of the Palomar Mountain community and prevent the destruction of the forest there to the treatments that had been conducted previously in 2004-2006 to remove dead, dying and diseased trees (Thom Porter, CAL FIRE personal communication, 2008; George Lucia, Valley Center Fire District Fire Marshall who participated in fighting the Poomacha fire on Palomar Mountain, personal communication, 2008). This is in contrast to the situation in the 2003 Cedar fire in which tens of thousands of acres of coniferous forest were destroyed by the fire, including very old trees and hundreds of nearby homes. Much of the forest burned in the 2003 fires is not recovering due to the severity of the fire as a result of the density of trees and extraordinary number of trees killed by drought and insects (Goforth and Minnich, 2008).

Sections 1052.1 and 1052.4 of the California Forest Practice Rules have defined emergency action for fuel hazard reduction as consisting of removal of dead and dying trees within 500 feet of legally permitted structures and evacuation corridors. This 500 foot distance is considered reasonable for the Greater Julian Area, though under Section 1052.4 of the California Forest Practice Rules, for communities at risk identified by the California Fire Alliance such as Julian, Alpine, Pine Valley, Mount Laguna, and

others, emergency conditions for removal of dead trees is considered for ¼ mile from roads and structures.

Determination of Treatment Area

The **Forest Area Safety Taskforce (FAST)** was formed in the fall of 2002, and formalized in the spring of 2003, to address life and property safety concerns related to declining forest health and the increasing number of dead, dying and diseased trees and brush in San Diego County. The Forest Area Safety Task Force (FAST), a collaborative effort, is made up of various government agencies, tribal groups, as well as local, state and federal elected officials, community organizations and private citizens. The priority of this joint venture is to remove the dead, dying and diseased trees in and around evacuation corridors and communities at risk in the forested areas of San Diego County. The FAST group identified priority areas for removal of Dead, Dying and Diseased trees in order to reduce fire hazards to better protect lives, homes, property, and sensitive habitats.

Priority treatment areas were identified by the FAST group during public meetings in 2008 in which study sites were evaluated against criteria and then ranked in order of priority by using a set of criteria including population, escape routes, safe zones, fuels, degree of hazard, infrastructure, risks of ignition, and ecological sensitivity. The top four treatment areas were Palomar Mountain, Laguna East I-8 Corridor, Southeast County, and Greater Julian Area. The first priority area was treated under the previous tree removal grant (2004-2006). The second and third priority areas were rated high mostly due to the condition of the chaparral and potential shrub vegetation. The chaparral aspect is the reason that I-8 Laguna Fire Project Area received the higher ranking for vegetation treatment in the FAST ranking system. Initially, the project areas that are predominantly vegetated with shrub vegetation were passed over in this project that is for accepting a grant for the removal of dead trees only. For that reason, the projects identified by the FAST as second and third and fifth through eighth priority project areas were not planned for inclusion. However, the Descanso town, Guatay and Pine Valley within the I-8 – Laguna Fire project area contain a number of oaks that are dying due to the Gold spotted oak borer, and are logical extensions of the Greater Julian Area. Furthermore, the Cuyamaca portion of the Cuyamaca - Laguna Area also contain a number of newly dead trees that would be important for dead tree removal.

This proposed project is primarily to treat the Greater Julian Area, which is the fourth treatment priority area and next in line for treatment of forests and trees. However, if funds remain, portions of the Cuyamaca – Laguna and I-8 – Laguna Fire project areas would also be treated. The sixth ranked Rancho area contains the San Dieguito River which supports a number of non-native Eucalyptus trees may also be the subject of these funds if funding is available.

Rationale for Specific Treatment Areas

Reasons 500 feet was chosen

The primary areas of interest for the initial phases of this project are along State Route 79 and State Route 78. These are the only major thoroughfares into and out of the entire area. In this area, protection of emergency access and evacuation corridors is paramount. The properties along those roads will be treated first. As the project progresses and trees are cut, money may be left over from the initial phase. If money is available, additional locations within the Cuyamaca – Laguna Area in Descanso, Guatay and Pine Valley may be treated.

California Forest Practice Rules exempt removal of dead, dying and diseased trees from within 500 feet of roads and permitted structures and infrastructure facilities from the requirements to prepare a Timber Harvest Plan. The state considers this a reasonable exemption as a standard to be applied statewide. The project will be applying this exemption only for removal of dead and dying trees in the Greater Julian Area and Cuyamaca – Laguna area for the following reasons.

Topography – Much of San Diego County has steep topography. Trees that fall or burn and fall on steep slopes may roll, slide or fall a long way if the slope above the road is steep. This can easily occur within distances of 500 feet of roads and structures. Steep lands also have a strong effect on fires that burn from below. Fire fighters indicate that a safe zone is one that needs to be more than twice the flame height generated by a fire through a particular vegetation community. Forested areas during the fires in 2003 and 2007 generated flame heights that were up to and exceeded 300 feet. Fire fighting activities above those areas need to take into account the distance up hill that flames can carry and heat will project.

Fire fighting capabilities – As was described above, the importance of removal of dead, dying and diseased trees for fire fighting capabilities is critical. Experienced fire fighters with history of working on fire events in San Diego County forests and forests elsewhere indicate that dead trees generate embers at a higher rate than live trees. Dead trees are also ladder fuels because they are more readily ignited and carry fire up into the canopy. Dead trees also catch embers at a higher elevation off the ground and carry the fire into the canopy. If there is a multitude of dead snags, fire from the dead trees can be carried more rapidly into live trees and structures. Flame height is proportional to the height of vegetation. Dead tree vegetation can generate flame heights in the Greater Julian Area that are 300 feet. In addition, the National Incident Response Pocket Guide issued to all wildland fire fighters in the United States indicates that the safety zones for fire fighters should be four times the flame height. For 300 foot flame heights, the safety zone would be much larger than the treatment areas proposed here. Therefore, tree removal within the 500 feet area is a reasonable distance, particularly in areas that are up slope from steep terrain that contains dead and dying trees. Strong winds will also carry flames horizontally from dead trees across roads. Santa Ana winds from the northeast may reach speeds approaching 100 miles per hour in this region and may push flames across the road from trees that are burning.

The United States Forest Service Land Management Plan for California National Forests allows extensive treatment of vegetation. The USFS Plan allows a two zone approach, where the first 300 feet is rendered non-flammable from a fire protection perspective. The remainder of the vegetation is reduced out to 1500 feet to a significant level to allow effective fire control operations. In both zones, the goal is to reduce the fire intensity allowing all firefighters a chance for success and survival. Reducing the intensity brings the fire from the canopy back to a ground fire. This allows firefighters to work to take action on the fire safely. If the fire is not converted to a ground fire, firefighters will in most cases need to abandon structure protection or suppression activities due to unbearable heat measured in British Thermal Units (BTU's) (R. Hawkins Fire Chief Cleveland National Forest, retired, Personal Communication, 2010). Therefore, particularly on steep slope areas, removal of dead and dying trees up to 500 feet from roads and structures in forested or wooded areas appropriate.

Tree density too high – It is now relatively well recognized that tree density is higher in the forests of Southern California than they were before fire control measures were initiated (Keeley et al, 2004, Minnich 1995, Allen et al., 2002; Stephens et al, 2010). The density had doubled in parts of San Diego County between the mid 1930s when the Weislander vegetation program mapped the vegetation and the major fires of 2003 and 2007. When the density of trees is too high, the trees must compete for a limited amount of precipitation. This may create stress on them so that mortality due to insect pests and outright drought will kill large numbers of trees. When the trees have died, and remain standing, they create severe fire hazards for the forest as a whole and they insure that the forest will burn with a crown fire rather than a low ground fire, killing all of the trees rather than maintaining the health of the trees that are there. This problem extends throughout the forests and is not limited to areas near roads.

State Routes 78 and 79 are major evacuation corridors for the entire area. These roads are considered critical for safe escape during wildfires, and insuring that they are passable during those times is vital to save lives. The 500 foot distance is evaluated with the considerations listed above. If a parcel is partially included within the 500 foot distance, the homes and structures on those properties as well as the access roads and driveways to those properties are also included in the dead and dying tree removal project.

SR 78/79, Wynola Area

Much of this area burned in the 2003 fires, but additional die off of oaks has occurred as a result of the Gold spotted oak borer. The trees that would be removed are mostly very close to homes, their access driveways and roads and the SR 78/79 (these highways overlap here). Near Wynola near Riverwood Drive and Lakedale road, several parcels immediately adjacent to the road within 500 feet are included. However, many of the parcels in this area have not provided right of entry forms and are not included. This area has steep topography at the headwaters of the San Diego River. Chimney effects adjacent to the road on the down slope side warrant the 500 feet. Removal of dead trees will reduce dead fuel load that may create high flame height near the road. If a portion of a parcel with a house or permitted structure is partially included

within the 500 foot distance, the area near the house will be treated for the removal of dead trees as well. Parcels on the north side of the road upslope from Lakedale road have dead trees around homes as well as those that would fall down onto the road during a fire. In this general area, heavy snowfall in February of 2008 broke many branches of oaks leaving large amounts of downed dead wood near the road. In this area, the fire chief requested that the treatment include removal of downed wood within 100 feet of the road as well as the treatment of standing dead trees within 500 feet.

Near the intersection of SR 78/79 and Springview Road, several smaller parcels with structures would be treated. The trees are near the road and near the structures. In Wynola, the treatment area is reduced because parcels contain flatter terrain and orchards. Only parcels with trees immediately adjacent to the roads and with homes with trees are included here. Near Hoskings Ranch road, trees on the west side of the highway with homes are included adjacent to Hoskings Ranch Road. In the curve area of the highway near Farley Road and Oak Hill Lane, many parcels are not included because they have not indicated an intent to participate. Four small parcels on the north side of the highway at Farley Road and Newman way contain homes near the highway and access roads and are participating.

SR 78/79, Pine Hills Road area

A large area between Orinoco Road and Pine Hills Road is not included because few trees are growing adjacent to the road.

SR 78/79, Julian Area

West of town, the terrain is very steep. Immediately adjacent to SR 78/79, the dead trees would be removed because of the hazard that their falling on the road would pose. A subdivision with numerous small parcels including many with houses exists on the north side of the road. On the south side of the road, immediately adjacent to the road, dead trees in the down slope area creates a high fire risk for flame height encroaching onto the road. The very steep terrain and ponded areas in the canyon farther down and south of the road make it impractical to remove dead trees and this area has been eliminated from the treatment area. However, dead trees on the ridge within the same parcels that are adjacent to roads and homes have been included. Immediately to the north, on Pinezanita Lane, a trapezoidal shaped parcel is included for treatment around homes because the parcel is partially within the 500 foot distance.

The Julian town has been subjected to major wildfire threats in successive seasons. Treatment by removal of dead trees assists in its defense during periods of fire.
In the town center area, a number of very small lots with houses have indicated participation in the program.

SR 78, Banner Grade Area

Northeast of Julian, SR 78 proceeds down Banner Grade. Very steep slopes extend to the west of the road with heavy forest that includes dead trees. This area also includes summer camping facilities scattered over relatively large parcels mostly on the west side of the road. On the east side of the road, a number of small parcels in the midst of the forest are proposed to be treated. Further down the canyon, the slopes on both sides of the road are very steep and forested. Falling dead trees within 500 feet will pose sizeable risk to the only access down into the desert from the Julian area in the case of a fire. Further down the canyon, the up hill slope is very steep and forested, with high potential for dead trees falling down to the road. The downhill slope supports vegetation that would provide significant flame height if dead trees were burning.

In the northern portion, at the intersection of Banner Grade Road and Wynola road, the topography is extremely steep and dead trees are either down slope from the road posing a high flame risk or up slope from the road posing a risk of falling onto the road. To the south of that intersection, the situation is similar. In the area of Whispering Pines and Woodland road a number of small parcels with homes are to be treated near the highway. One circular treatment area just to the east of the parcels adjacent to the highway includes a house on a ridge and its access road because part of the parcel is within the 500 feet. On the west side of the road several large parcels are included. These are summer camp areas with numerous cabins, roads and habitable structures._

The situation is similar in the area of Hollow Glen Road.

SR 79, South of Julian

South of Julian, there are a few participating parcels very close to SR 79 but most have not provided consent forms. Numerous structures and access roads exist in this stretch of the treatment area. A few parcels in the vicinity of Old Cuyamaca Road and Oak Heights Road are also included because of their presence on steep up hill slopes on Old Cuyamaca Road and the slopes both above and down below the highway at Oak Heights Road.

SR 79, Leon Lane and Oakland Road Area

In this area, puzzle shaped parcels are within 500 feet of SR 79 and intermixed with local roads and very steep slopes. Dead and dying trees will be cut that could fall onto the local evacuation roads, homes and the main highway. On the east side of SR 79 in the vicinity of Lakewood Drive, several angular parcels are included because they have houses and lie within the 500 foot distance from the highway.

SR 79, Southern End of Imperial Drive on the East and Oakland Road on the West to Inspiration Point

Within this stretch, the terrain is sharp. West of the road is a very steep up hill slope with extensive forest vegetation extending up to approximately 600 feet from the road. The treatment would extend up to the 500 foot distance on this slope. This area would

be at great risk for trees to fall and slide or roll down onto the road. The vegetation on the east side of the road in some locations lies below the level of the road and would generate high flame heights, but is also sloping upward with potential for trees to fall onto the road surface. Portions of this area burned in 2003 but significant standing dead trees and additional trees affected by drought in the last 5 years pose substantial hazards. A few side roads to houses and clusters of houses also exist in this area that would be treated. Directly to the west of Inspiration Point there are several small parcels with houses and within 500 feet of the road located in a bowl shaped topographic feature that would also be treated.

SR 79, Inspiration Point and Area South to Julian Estates

Fewer trees exist in the area around Inspiration Point turn and to the south though the land is quite steep on both sides of the road. Trees in that area would have a greater opportunity for rolling and sliding onto the road because there is less obstruction to prevent them from rolling down to the road. At Hideaway Road, a large camp area contains a number of structures and camp center with scattered trees. This area would also be included. The majority of the trees on this parcel are located near the structures.

SR 79, Julian Estates Area

The lands near the Julian Estates area contain a significantly higher number of trees both those that may have survived the fire and those that were burned. The topography is varied in this location with the terrain steeper on both sides of the road creating greater opportunity for trees to fall, roll or slide down onto the road as well as flames to carry up slope. Parcels to be treated here include several directly adjacent to the highway and immediately north and south of Julian Estates Road. One large parcel extends from SR 79 along Julian Estates Road with a ranch complex at the southern portion of the property. The dead trees in the vicinity of the ranch complex would be treated in this project.

SR 79, Harrison Park Road to Cuyamaca Meadows Road

Near the turn off for Harrison Park Road and immediately north of it, there are a number of trees that were killed during the Cedar fire of 2003 that are in jeopardy of falling across the main road, on houses or on access evacuation corridors for those houses. While the topography is not especially steep, in some locations, there are significant numbers of dead trees killed in the fire of 2003 that remain standing and pose their own severe fire hazard in addition to their potential to fall or slide down onto the roadbed or adjacent structures. Additional mortality has occurred as a result of the Gold spotted oak borer. On the east side of the highway, several parcels with a few dead trees are also included. The dead trees are located near structures or the roads.

SR 79, Cuyamaca Meadows Road to Winn Ranch Road and Sunrise Highway (County Road S1) Intersection

The areas just to the north of the intersection between SR 79 and the Sunrise Highway are a combination of land adjacent to the main highway and nearby homes. There are a limited number of dead and dying trees within this area but those that are dead and dieing are specific hazards located near access roads to homes or the major highway.

SR 79, Cuyamaca Area

The parcels in the southern portion of the Greater Julian study area near Yaqi Drive and Engineers Road are the lower south slope of North Cuyamaca Peak. Here, the trees that are being removed are mostly a few significant sized tree skeletons on small parcels that were killed in the Cedar Fire of 2003 that are adjacent to houses and SR 79 as well as more recently killed oaks.

Additional Lands

The primary proposal is located within the Greater Julian Area along major escape route corridors along SR 78 and SR 79. However, in the event that the cost of the tree removal efforts in the Greater Julian area is less than the $7 million and there are funds remaining, those remaining funds would be use to remove dead and dying trees to the south along SR 79 in the area where the Gold spotted oakborer has caused extensive mortality to oak trees in the Cuyamaca Laguna area and the I-8 Laguna Fire Project Area. Under the Forest Area Safety Task Force ranking system, after the Palomar Mountain area, the next would be the I-8 Laguna Fire Project Area. The ranking for the I-8 Laguna Fire area is high mostly due to the age of the chaparral and shrub vegetation. The chaparral aspect is the reason that I-8 Laguna Fire Project Area received the higher ranking for vegetation treatment in the FAST ranking system. For that reason, that area was being passed over as the focal point for this grant that only applies to dead, dying and diseased trees. However, the Descanso town, Guatay and Pine Valley which contain a number of oaks that are dying due to the Gold spotted oak borer, are logical extensions of the Greater Julian and Cuyamaca Laguna Area for dead tree removal. Therefore, if money remains after treating the Greater Julian Area and the Cuyamaca - Laguna Project Area, it will be applied to the Descanso, Guatay and Pine Valley areas. Therefore, these areas are being included in this Negative Declaration.

The Southern Cuyamaca, Descanso, Guatay and Pine Valley areas has been heavily affected by the forces killing the oak trees in San Diego County. Those trees pose particular safety hazards near major evacuation routes and nearby residences because large branches may fall on structures, cars and homeowners after they have been weakened or killed by the insect. Historically, oak trees have been known to be hazards and susceptible to falling after death or being weakened by insect or other factors. The exact parcels in this area that would be treated have not been determined. If funds remain from the Julian and Cuyamaca areas described above, letters notifying property owners of the availability of this program will be sent. Property owners wishing to participate will then provide right of entry letters allowing the County to remove trees that are dead, dying and diseased. Portions of Descanso are being treated by the Fire

Safe Council. This program would apply to those properties that have not been treated under their program due to funding limitations.

SR 79, South End Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

The initial southern lands include areas where oak trees are located on rolling and steep lands. On the above side of the road, oak branches or trunks are likely to fall and slide down to the road location. On the lower side, the dead trees that initially survived the Cedar fire will provide fuel for fire safety hazards that could affect fire fighting activities. A large camping facility located on the east side of the road is interspersed with oak trees that have suffered mortality as well as a series of private dwellings on the west side of the road. The road proceeds to the south following a twisting path to become adjacent to a large ranch. Here, the trees are generally located in the lowland areas where moisture and cool air accumulate. They are adjacent to structures and roads and the main highway.

SR 79, Descanso

The situation is similar through a number of small parcels along the road as it enters into Descanso. There are a number of houses near the road in this area as well that are subject to impacts from dead trees falling. In the Descanso community and the area near the intersection of SR 79 and Old Highway 80 that are within the I-8 Laguna FAST priority area, the majority of the properties to be treated would be small parcels with houses.

Old Highway 80, Guatay

Proceeding eastward on Old Highway 80, areas to be treated because of oak deaths would be the eastern portions of Descanso and Guatay. These areas are similar in that there are a number of smaller parcels near the road with the larger land holdings consisting of public ownership. These smaller parcels would be treated to reduce the threat to homes and businesses. This program would apply to the private lands only. The majority of the dead and dying trees in this location are oaks.

Old Highway 80, Pine Valley

From the west, Pine Valley contains a number of larger parcels with wooded areas that are located next to the road as well as numerous small parcels with homes interspersed among the trees and adjacent to the Old Highway 80.

San Dieguito River

One other part of the program that may be funded by this grant if funding is available is the removal of dead Eucalyptus trees along the San Dieguito River (Figure 7). These trees were killed by insects or were burned in the fires of 2007. They are non-native

trees that will be removed in an effort to restore the natural habitats along the river below the Lake Hodges dam. Their removal is purely for restoring habitat, but would also provide a fire safety benefit.

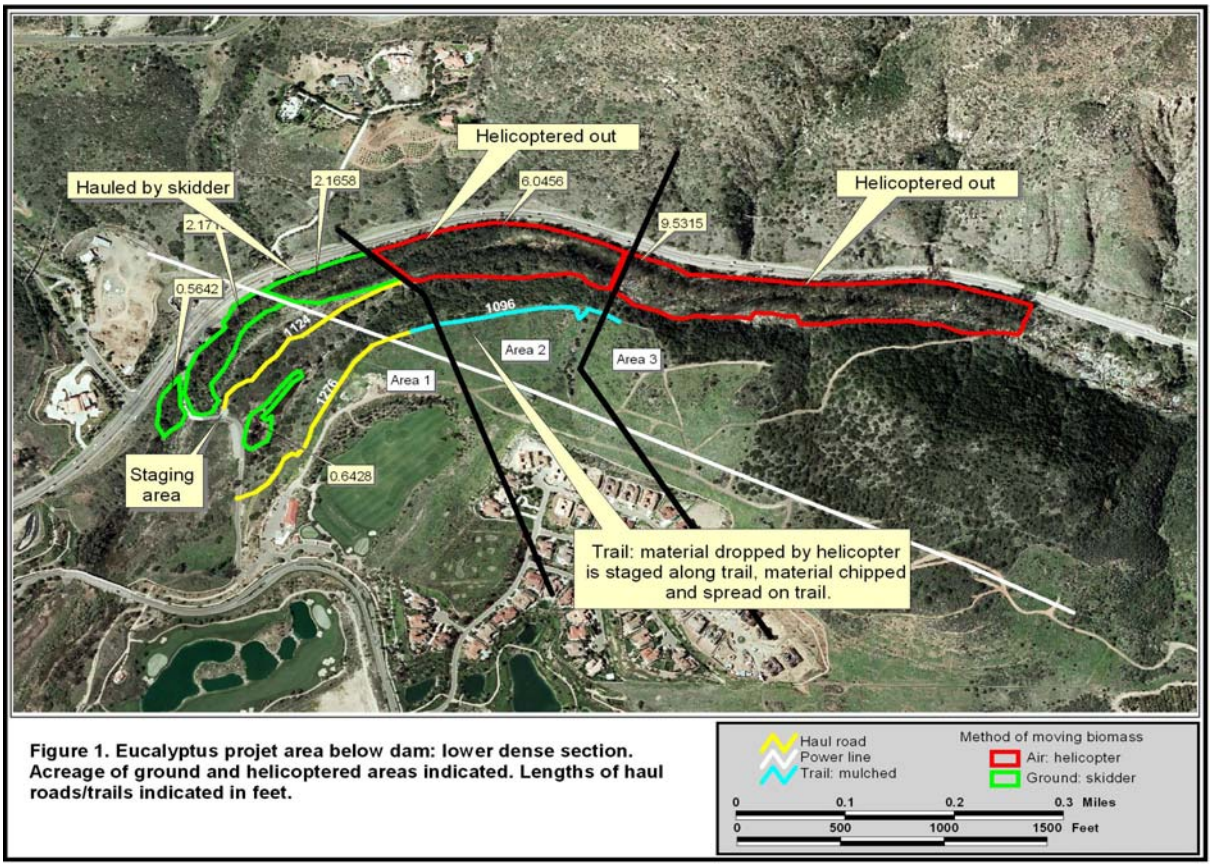

Figure 9. San Dieguito River Dead Eucalyptus Tree Treatment Area

This graphic depicts the proposed treatment area for removal of dead Eucalyptus trees below Lake Hodges Dam. The specific illustrated treatments are approximate and may need to be modified when field operations begin.

Biology and Archaeology Survey Details

The proposed project includes assurances that sensitive biological resources and significant archaeological and historic sites are not impacted. The proposed project involves the following procedures:

A. Biologists who are on the County's approved consultant list or working under the direct supervision of a biologist on the County list will conduct a biological resources assessment that will include the following tasks:

1. Create a list of special-status plant and animal species including characteristics of their habitats that have the potential to occur within the project area. Special status species are those that are listed in state, federal or County lists of sensitive species. The following documents will be used:
   - The California Department of Fish and Game's *California Natural Diversity Data Base* (CNDDB)
   - Special Animals List (CDFG 2009 or most recent),
   - State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California (CDFG 2010 or most recent list),
   - *The Status of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Animals of California 2000-2004* (CDFG 2005),
   - *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* (CNPS 2006),
   - *The Jepson Manual* (Hickman 1993), and various online resources (*e.g.*, CalFlora); and
   - The County's lists of sensitive plants and animals.

2. Evaluate Critical Habitat for potentially occurring federally listed species.

3. Since some plant species grow in specific soil types, determine the soil types on the parcels that will be surveyed by using the Natural Resource Conservation Service's *Web Soil Survey* (NRCS 2006).

4. After determining the potentially occurring species from a, b, and c, above, conduct on-foot reconnaissance level biological surveys of each operation area within the participating APNs. Field surveys will include:
   - Identifying and recording plant and animal species observed or detected on participating parcels;
   - Searching for sensitive plants;
   - Searching for reptiles and amphibians under rocks and woody debris;
   - Searching for animal signs (e.g., scat, tracks);
   - Searching for active nests (or nests as defined in section 895.1 of the California Forest Practice Act – i.e. certain raptor nests known to be occupied within the last five years);
   - Examining burrows and other special habitat features; and
   - Recording the locations of special status species with GPS and taking representative photographs of the sites.

5. All existing and newly identified locations of special status species will be mapped and documented. Appropriate documentation will be submitted to the CNPS/NDDB database.

B. Archaeologists on the County's approved list of consultants will conduct an assessment of cultural resources for the participating parcels. The assessment will include:

1. A record search for known cultural resources and previous reports at the South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University, local historical societies, and other repositories. Oral histories will also be procured. Aerial photos and historic maps will be reviewed to identify potentially historic structures and historic land uses.

2. A 100 percent pedestrian survey will be conducted of the operation areas within specified project parcels identified by Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN's). The surveys will be conducted by archaeologists on the County's approved consultant list, who will search for significant archaeological or historic sites as defined in section 895.1 of the California Forest Practice Act.

3. All existing and newly identified prehistoric and historic sites, features, structures, and isolates identified during the surveys will be mapped and documented. Appropriate documentation will be submitted to the South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University for assignment of permanent primary numbers and trinomials to the found resources.

C. All areas with sensitive species, active nest sites or archaeological sites will be marked on maps and deleted from the dead, dying and diseased tree treatment areas. California Forest Practice Rules will be followed regarding avoidance of stream courses.

D. The maps will reviewed by a County staff biologist, a County staff archaeologist, and a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If necessary, based on the review of the biologists and archaeologists, additional land may be removed from the treatment area in order to insure protection of sensitive species and/or cultural sites.

E. A subsequent field visit by the biological resources consultant, the cultural resources consultant and the RPF will take place to inspect each site and evaluate whether avoidance measures are needed to protect sensitive biological resources and significant cultural and historic sites. Areas to avoid may be marked with flagging or portable fencing, with avoidance information included in the final biological and cultural resources assessment reports submitted to the County.

F. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) will be provided the biological report prepared by the biological consultant for the treatment area. Wildlife agency staff will review the results and mapped areas where the proposed tree removal operations would take place. If necessary, the wildlife agency staff may request operational revisions to avoid adverse effects to specific species. Specific recommendations may be proposed such as limiting tree removal in an area with observed or high potential for rare and endangered species. Forest practice rules require avoidance of tree cutting within 500 feet of nesting rare or endangered bird

species. On site coordination between wildlife agency staff and the County RPF may be utilized to modify the areas to be treated. The operation boundary may then be adjusted in the GIS and on operations maps. If a specific high hazard tree is identified in a sensitive resource area, the wildlife agency staff, County archaeologist, and County RPF may nonetheless mutually agree to remove the tree, provided impacts to sensitive resources are avoided.

G. All sensitive biological and cultural resource areas will be noted in the County tree removal bid documents with a brief description of avoidance operational procedures the contractor will be required to follow.

H. The tree removal contractor will be directed to areas that have completed review for tree removal. If there is any potential for confusion with areas with protection sites, these areas will be viewed on the ground with the tree removal contractor prior to operations, consistent with the California Forest Practice Rules.

I. All tree removal work will be monitored by the RPF or their trained designee for whom they are responsible. The RPF will insure that the areas eliminated in order to avoid sensitive resources are not cut and that appropriate forest practice rules such as those for stream bed avoidance and erosion prevention are followed.

J. All tree removal work will follow California Forest Practice Rules including requirements for treatment of land. These rules include avoiding stream crossings and courses, and limitations on how trees are removed on steeper slopes.

K. If new cultural material is discovered during tree removal operations, all operations will stop and the archaeological consultant will be notified. Prior to resuming operations the County Archaeologist will schedule a field review and determine appropriate avoidance and protection measures.

L. The project will follow California Forest Practice Rules for restoration and rehabilitation of land where trees have been cut and removed. The areas that have been affected by dragging dead trees will be restored by smoothing out the soil and raking duff and natural materials over the disturbance. If necessary, erosion control measures will be applied where the tree tow-vehicle has passed. No new roads will be created for this project.

Tree Removal Procedures

A. All trees to be cut will be marked under the specific direction of a RPF.

B. When marking trees to be cut, the RPF will follow the definitions of dead, dying and diseased trees that exist within the California Forest Practice Rules. The only trees marked in this program are those that are obviously dying or already dead. Based on past experience, the number of dead trees marked and removed per acre ranges from one to 24. With the infestation of gold-spotted

oak borer causing high mortality in oaks in San Diego County, the number of trees that will be removed may increase.

C. Trees will be removed in a variety of ways. If the trees are not close to structures, they will be removed in typical logging fashion where they are cut from the base and directed to fall to a particular prepared landing bed. If the trees are close to structures, they can be cut in segments from the top down, either through the use of a crane, a truck with an extendable bucket, or cutting from the top down and lowered in pieces as the tree cutters work downward. Safety of the tree cutters is a primary factor in determining which method to use. Trees will be dragged out to a road or will be bundled and carried off in trucks, or lifted and flown with a helicopter.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):

Lands affected by these treatments and surroundings support a variety of mixed land uses. They range from rural residential landscapes with individual structures and houses placed on lots ranging from 4 to 20 acres and larger to higher density development located in the urban fringe of Julian. The vegetation in the surroundings ranges from mixed coniferous forest to oak woodlands, chaparral, grassland and meadows, and riparian habitats. Some of the land is rangeland for cattle while other is simply undisturbed natural lands. The tree removal operations are all located within 500 feet of existing evacuation corridors, or habitable structures. Topography ranges from relatively flat to steep lands that may exceed 25% slope. The main highways within the vicinity of the treatment area include State Routes 76, 78, 79 and County road S2.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

County of San Diego: Approval of funding and contracting

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project and involve at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or a "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology & Soils
☐ Hazards & Haz. Materials	☐ Hydrology & Water Quality	☐ Land Use & Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population & Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic
☐ Utilities & Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

X On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Signature	Date
	Land Use/Environmental Planner
Printed Name	Title

INSTRUCTIONS ON EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
The viewshed and visible components of the landscape within that viewshed, including the underlying landform and overlaying land cover, establish the visual environment for the scenic vista. The removal of dead, dying or diseased trees may result in a change to the visible view of a particular location. However, the trees that are being removed under this project will fall on their own accord and alter the visible view in the absence of this project.

The proposed project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees on privately held lands that have willing participants only. The project will have no grading and will not require cut and/or fill slopes. The project is compatible with the existing visual environment in terms of visual character and quality because it is only removing dead, dying and diseased trees that will fall on their own accord. The trees being removed will not result in a major change in the visible views because there will not be a change in the land use or vegetation type and the removal of dead and dying trees will give healthy trees a better chance of growing. Therefore, the proposed project will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.

The project will not result in cumulative impacts on a scenic vista because no other cumulative projects were identified in Section XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance. Therefore, the project will not result in adverse project or cumulative impacts on a scenic vista.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
State scenic highways refer to those highways that are officially designated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as scenic (Caltrans - California Scenic Highway Program). Generally, the area defined within a State scenic highway is the land adjacent to and visible from the vehicular right-of-way. The dimension of a scenic highway is usually identified using a motorist's line of vision, but a reasonable boundary is selected when the view extends to the distant horizon. The scenic highway corridor extends to the visual limits of the landscape abutting the scenic highway.

The viewshed and visible components of the landscape within the composite viewshed of the scenic highway, including the underlying landform and overlaying landcover, establish the visual environment. The visual environment of the subject scenic highway and resources extends along State Routes 76, 78, 79 and S2 and the visual composition consists of scenic views.

The proposed project is located near or visible within the composite viewshed of these State scenic highways, but the project only involves the removal of trees that are already dead, dying or diseased to the point that they will die in the near future. After they die, they would fall on their own accord if not removed under this program. The project is compatible with the existing visual environment in terms of visual character and quality because there will not be a change in the land use or vegetation type and the removal of dead and dying trees will give healthy trees a better chance of growing.

The project will not result in cumulative impacts on a State scenic highway because no other cumulative projects were identified in Section XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance. Therefore, the project will not result in adverse project or cumulative level effect on a scenic resource within a State scenic highway.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
Visual character is the objective composition of the visible landscape within a viewshed. Visual character is based on the organization of the pattern elements line, form, color, and texture. Visual character is commonly discussed in terms of dominance, scale, diversity and continuity. Visual quality is the viewer's perception of the visual environment and varies based on exposure, sensitivity and expectation of the viewers. The existing visual character and quality of the project site and surrounding can be characterized as varied with woodlands and forest as well as grasslands, meadows and chaparral covered slopes.

The proposed project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees. The project is compatible with the existing visual environment's visual character and quality for the following reasons: It will only involve removal of trees that are dead, dying or diseased and which will die in the future. After they die, they will fall on their own accord if not removed under this program. Furthermore, there will not be a change in the land use or vegetation type and the removal of dead and dying trees will give healthy trees a better chance of growing into a healthy forest.

The project will not result in cumulative impacts on a visual character or quality because no other cumulative projects were identified in Section XVII. Mandatory Findings of

Significance. Therefore, the project will not result in any adverse project or cumulative level effect on visual character or quality on-site or in the surrounding area.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not propose any use of outdoor lighting or building materials with highly reflective properties such as highly reflective glass or high-gloss surface colors. Therefore, the project will not create any new sources of light pollution that could contribute to skyglow, light trespass or glare and adversely affect day or nighttime views in area.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance (Important Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not involve any permanent impact to land or any agricultural resources, lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. Therefore, no agricultural resources including Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance will be converted to a non-agricultural use.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:

The project does not involve any permanent impact to land zoned agriculture or within a Williamson Act Contract. Therefore, the project does not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract.

c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Important Farmland or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not involve any permanent impact to land or any agricultural resources site and would not affect any active agricultural operations or lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. Therefore, no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, or active agricultural operations will be converted to a non-agricultural use.

III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
Operation of the project will not result in increase of criteria pollutant emissions compared to the existing use of the subject area that was anticipated by the RAQS. The project will not emit toxic air contaminants as identified by the California Air Resources Board. Therefore, the project will not conflict or obstruct with the implementation of the RAQS nor the SIP on a project or cumulative level.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation
- ☐ No Impact

Incorporated

Less Than Significant Impact:
In general, air quality impacts from land use projects are the result of emissions from motor vehicles, and from short-term construction activities associated with such projects. The San Diego County Land Use Environment Group (LUEG) has established guidelines for determining significance which incorporate the Air Pollution Control District's (SDAPCD) established screening-level criteria for all new source review (NSR) in APCD Rule 20.2. These screening-level criteria can be used as numeric methods to demonstrate that a project's total emissions (e.g. stationary and fugitive emissions, as well as emissions from mobile sources) would not result in a significant impact to air quality. Since APCD does not have screening-level criteria for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the use of the screening level for reactive organic compounds (ROC) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for the Coachella Valley (which are more appropriate for the San Diego Air Basin) are used.

The emissions from the proposed tree removal project would be minimal, temporary and localized, resulting in pollutant emissions below the screening-level criteria established by the LUEG guidelines for determining significance. In addition, the vehicle trips generated from the project will result in a total of a few hundred Average Daily Trips (ADTs) over a short term program. According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District CEQA Guidelines for Assessing the Air Quality Impacts of Projects and Plans, projects that generate less than 2,000 ADT are below the screening-level criteria established by the guidelines for criteria pollutants. As such, the project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
San Diego County is presently in non-attainment for the 1-hour concentrations under the California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) for Ozone (O_3). San Diego County is also presently in non-attainment for the annual geometric mean and for the 24-hour concentrations of Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM_{10}) under the CAAQS. O_3 is formed when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) react in the presence of sunlight. VOC sources include any source that burns fuels (e.g., gasoline, natural gas, wood, oil); solvents; petroleum processing and storage; and pesticides. Sources of PM_{10} in both urban and rural areas include: motor

vehicles, wood burning stoves and fireplaces, dust from construction, landfills, agriculture, wildfires, brush/waste burning, and industrial sources of windblown dust from open lands.

The proposed project will not have a construction phase. The project will generate minimal PM_{10}, NO_x and VOCs resulting from operational emissions associated with the increase of traffic to and from the project site. The vehicle trips generated from the project will result in a few hundred total Average Daily Trips (ADTs). According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District CEQA Guidelines for Assessing the Air Quality Impacts of Projects and Plans, projects that generate less than 2,000 ADT are below the screening-level criteria established by the LUEG guidelines for determining significance for VOCs and PM_{10}.

In addition, a list of past, present and future projects within the surrounding area were evaluated and none of these projects emit significant amounts of criteria pollutants. Refer to XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The proposed project as well as the past, present and future projects within the surrounding area, have emissions below the screening-level criteria, therefore, the operational emissions associated with the proposed project are not expected to create a cumulatively considerable impact nor a considerable net increase of PM10, or any O_3 precursors.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
Air quality regulators typically define sensitive receptors as schools (Preschool-12th Grade), hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. Based a evaluation of the participating properties, no schools, hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers have been identified within a quarter-mile (the radius determined by the SCAQMD in which the dilution of pollutants is typically significant) occur of the proposed project. Further, the proposed project will not generate significant levels of air pollutants. As such, the project will not expose sensitive populations to excessive levels of air pollutants.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
No potential sources of objectionable odors have been identified in association with the proposed project. As such, no impact from odors is anticipated.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
The project design feature that requires tree removal be excluded in areas with locations of sensitive species of plants and animals will keep impacts to less than significant. The program requires ground level surveys prior to implementing tree cutting operations by County-listed contract biologists and requires a County-contracted Registered Professional Forester and U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff review the biological surveys and finalize the determinations for areas to be excluded. These measures will insure that impacts to species and habitats are less than significant and that the program is in compliance with applicable regulations.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
The project design feature that requires tree removal be excluded in areas with locations of sensitive habitats and riparian areas will keep impacts to less than significant. The program requires ground level surveys prior to implementing tree

cutting operations by County-listed contract biologists and requires a County-contracted Registered Professional Forester and U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff review the biological surveys and finalize the determinations for areas to be excluded. These measures will insure that impacts to species and habitats are less than significant and that the program is in compliance with applicable regulations.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☑ No Impact

No Impact:
Based on Forest Practice rules, wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, must be avoided in order to prevent impacts to wetland habitats including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, stream, lake, river or water of the U.S., that could potentially be impacted through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, diversion or obstruction by the proposed development. Therefore, no impacts will occur to wetlands defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project is for dead, dying and diseased tree removal only. No structures or roads will be built that would obstruct wildlife movement or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites. The program requires ground level surveys prior to implementing tree cutting operations by County-listed contract biologists and requires a County-contracted Registered Professional Forester and U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff review the biological surveys and finalize the determinations for areas to be excluded, including waterways. Furthermore, subject trees will be inspected for nursery sites, and rejected if such sites are present. Migrating wildlife will not be affected because of the project's association with existing structures and limited impact area. These measures will insure that impacts to species and habitats are less than significant and that the program is in compliance with applicable regulations.

e) Conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
The proposed treatment area is not within any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan area or subarea. It is in the future East County Multiple Species Conservation Program plan subarea. While that plan is not approved, treatment of vegetation for providing vegetation health and fire safety measures is a part of adaptive management requirements for preserve lands.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
The project design feature that requires tree removal be excluded in areas with locations of significant historic resources will keep impacts to less than significant. The program requires ground level surveys prior to implementing tree cutting operations by County listed contract cultural resource specialists and requires a County contracted Registered Professional Forester and a County archaeologist review the cultural surveys and finalize the determinations for areas to be excluded. These measures will insure that impacts to historic sites are less than significant and that the program is in compliance with applicable regulations.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:

The project design feature that requires tree removal be excluded in areas with locations of significant archaeological resources will keep impacts to less than significant. The program requires ground level surveys prior to implementing tree cutting operations by County listed contract cultural resource specialists and requires a County contracted Registered Professional Forester and a County archaeologist review the cultural surveys and finalize the determinations for areas to be excluded. These measures will insure that impacts to archaeological resources are less than significant and that the program is in compliance with applicable regulations.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique geologic feature?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The program area does contain unique geologic features that are listed in the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Unique Geologic Resources. These are Stonewall Quartz Diorite that may occur on private land north of Cuyamaca Lake, Andalusite bearing schist in the area near the Sunrise Highway and Lake Cuyamaca,. However, the program will not have a direct or indirect impact on the area geology or on geologic features because it is a tree removal program and there will be minimal ground disturbance. Therefore, project impacts would be less than significant.

d) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
A review of the County's Paleontological Resources Maps and data on San Diego County's geologic formations indicates that the program area is located primarily on plutonic igneous rock which has no potential for producing fossil remains. However some areas have low and marginal potential to contain unique paleontological resources. Even these areas would not have potential for significant effects because the project will not result in excavation into undisturbed ground beneath the soil horizon. Therefore the program impacts would be less than significant.

e) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project design feature that requires tree removal be excluded in areas with significant cultural resources, including burial areas, will keep impacts to less than significant. The program requires ground level surveys prior to implementing tree cutting operations by County-listed contract cultural resource specialists and requires a County contracted Registered Professional Forester and a County archaeologist review the cultural surveys and finalize the determinations for areas to be excluded. These measures will insure that impacts will be less than significant.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☑ No Impact

No Impact: The project is a temporary activity to remove dead, dying and diseased trees and will not result in exposure of persons or structures to fault activity. None of the areas for treatment are located in a fault rupture hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Special Publication 42, Revised 1997, Fault-Rupture Hazards Zones in California, or located within any other area with substantial evidence of a known fault. Therefore, there will be no impact from the exposure of people or structures to adverse effects from a known fault-rupture hazard zone as a result of this project.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is a program to remove dead, dying and diseased trees. It will not result in exposure of structures or people to strong seismic ground shaking.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees. It will not result in exposure of structures or people to strong seismic ground failure or liquefaction.

iv. Landslides?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees. It will not result in exposure of structures or people to landslides.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project will not result in unprotected erodible soils; will not alter existing drainage patterns; is not located in a floodplain, wetland, or significant drainage feature; and will not develop steep slopes. Furthermore, the project is required to comply with the California Forest Practice Rules that require measures to insure that erosion does not take place through the activities of cutting trees. Due to these factors, it has been found that the project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

c) Will the project produce unstable geological conditions that will result in adverse impacts resulting from landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees. The project does not propose any grading or alteration of land. Therefore, the project will not produce unstable geological conditions.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees. It is a temporary activity and will not be carried out during periods of inclement weather that might cause soil expansion. It will not result in grading or soil disturbance to a level deep enough to affect the subsoil or geologic formations.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project is for removal of dead, dying and diseased trees. The project does not propose any septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems since no wastewater will be generated.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or wastes or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not propose the storage, use, transport, emission, or disposal of Hazardous Substances, nor are Hazardous Substances proposed or currently in use in the immediate vicinity. In addition, the project does not propose to demolish any existing structures onsite and therefore would not create a hazard related to the release of asbestos, lead based paint or other hazardous materials from demolition activities.

b) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not propose the emission, handling, storage, or transport of hazardous materials.

c) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or is otherwise known to have been subject to a release of hazardous substances and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The does not involve any contact with buildings or soil removal. Therefore, there will be no possible impact from hazardous substances or exposure to hazardous substances resulting on human occupancy.

d) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The program area is not located within an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), an Airport Influence Area, or a Federal Aviation Administration Height Notification Surface. Also, the project does not propose construction of any structure (equal to or greater than 150 feet in height, constituting a safety hazard to aircraft and/or operations from an airport or heliport). Therefore, the project will not constitute a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

e) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is not within one mile of a private airstrip and would not constitute a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ No Impact

The following sections summarize the project's consistency with applicable emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

i. OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY PLAN AND MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Operational Area Emergency Plan is a comprehensive emergency plan that defines responsibilities, establishes an emergency organization, defines lines of communications, and is designed to be part of the statewide Standardized Emergency Management System. The Operational Area Emergency Plan provides guidance for emergency planning and requires subsequent plans to be established by each jurisdiction that has responsibilities in a disaster situation. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan includes an overview of the risk assessment process, identifies hazards present in the jurisdiction, hazard profiles, and vulnerability assessments. The plan also identifies goals, objectives and actions for each jurisdiction in the County of San Diego, including all cities and the County unincorporated areas. The project will not interfere with this plan because it will not prohibit subsequent plans from being established or prevent the goals and objectives of existing plans from being carried out.

ii. SAN DIEGO COUNTY NUCLEAR POWER STATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

No Impact: The San Diego County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan will not be interfered with by the project due to the location of the project, plant and the specific requirements of the plan. The emergency plan for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating

Station includes an emergency planning zone within a 10-mile radius. All land area within 10 miles of the plant is not within the jurisdiction of the unincorporated County and as such a project in the unincorporated area is not expected to interfere with any response or evacuation.

iii. OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY ELEMENT

No Impact: The Oil Spill Contingency Element will not be interfered with because the project is not located along the coastal zone or coastline.

iv. EMERGENCY WATER CONTINGENCIES ANNEX AND ENERGY SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

No Impact: The Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Energy Shortage Response Plan will not be interfered with because the project does not propose altering major water or energy supply infrastructure, such as the California Aqueduct.

v. DAM EVACUATION PLAN

No Impact: The Dam Evacuation Plan will not be interfered with because the project is not located within a dam inundation zone.

g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact: The proposed project is adjacent to wildlands that have the potential to support wildland fires. However, the project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires because the project will comply with the regulations relating to emergency access, water supply, and defensible space specified in the California Forest Practice Rules. Furthermore, the proposed project is designed to reduce fire hazards near structures and along evacuation corridors.

h) Propose a use, or place residents adjacent to an existing or reasonably foreseeable use that would substantially increase current or future resident's exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies, which are capable of transmitting significant public health diseases or nuisances?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact: The project does not involve or support uses that allow water to stand for a period of 72 hours (3 days) or more (e.g. artificial lakes, agricultural irrigation ponds). Also, the project does not involve or support uses that will produce or collect animal waste, such as equestrian facilities, agricultural operations (chicken coops, dairies etc.), solid waste facility or other similar uses. The project is a temporary activity to remove dead, dying and diseased trees without soil or ground impacts. Therefore, the project will not substantially increase current or future resident's exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:

a) Violate any waste discharge requirements?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not propose waste discharges that require waste discharge requirement permits, NPDES permits, or water quality certification from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB). In addition, the project does not propose any known sources of polluted runoff or land use activities that would require special site design considerations, source control Best Management Practices (BMPs) or treatment control BMPs, under the San Diego Municipal Storm Water Permit (SDRWQCB Order No. 2001-01).

b) Is the project tributary to an already impaired water body, as listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list? If so, could the project result in an increase in any pollutant for which the water body is already impaired?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project is a program to remove dead, dying and diseased trees which would not pollute waterways. Furthermore, the project is required to comply with the California Forest Practice Rules that require measures to insure that erosion does not take place through the activities of cutting trees. Due to these factors, it has been found that the project will not result in substantial soil disturbance or discharge of any materials into watersheds.

c) Could the proposed project cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable surface or groundwater receiving water quality objectives or degradation of beneficial uses?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees which would not pollute surface or ground water quality. Furthermore, the project is required to comply with the California Forest Practice Rules that require measures to insure that erosion does not take place through the activities of cutting trees. Due to these factors, it has been found that the project will not result in substantial soil disturbance or discharge or transport of any materials into waterways or basins.

d) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project will keep several hundred gallons of water on hand as a safety measure and this water may come from a local source. However, it does not require any groundwater use for irrigation, domestic or commercial demands, nor does it involve operations that would interfere substantially with groundwater recharge including, but not limited to the following: the project does not involve regional diversion of water to another groundwater basin; or diversion or channelization of a stream course or waterway with impervious layers, such as concrete lining or culverts, for substantial distances (e.g. ¼ mile). Since none of the activities and operations that can substantially affect rates of groundwater recharge are associated with the project, no impact to groundwater resources is anticipated.

e) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation
- ☐ No Impact

Incorporated

Less than Significant Impact:
The project does not involve construction of new or expanded development that could alter the drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Furthermore, the project is required to comply with the California Forest Practice Rules that require measures to insure that erosion does not take place through the activities of cutting trees. The proposed project will not alter the existing natural topography, vegetation, or drainage courses on-site or off-site.

f) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project does not involve construction of new impervious surfaces, only removal of dead and dying or diseased trees. This program would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because it will not alter the existing natural topography, vegetation, or drainage courses on-site or off-site.

g) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
There are no existing storm water drainage systems in the vicinity of the tree removal area, nor are there any planned storm water drainage systems proposed by the project, nor does the project require such systems.

h) Provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project would not result in additional sources of polluted runoff because the project is required to comply with the California Forest Practice Rules that require measures to insure that erosion does not take place through the activities of cutting trees. In addition, the project is required to avoid any drainage areas and does not propose new storm water drainage facilities that would transport runoff off-site.

i) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, including County Floodplain Maps?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees and does not involve construction of housing.

j) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees and does not involve construction of any structures.

k) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not involve the construction of any type of structure in an area known to flood and does not involve an activity during periods of flooding that would expose people to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding. Furthermore, it is a program that would be funded over a period of time and would be suspended in inclement weather.

l) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project area site lies outside all mapped dam inundation area for major dam/reservoirs within San Diego County. In addition, the area is not located immediately downstream of known minor dams that could cause flooding during the program and expose people to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding.

m) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

i. SEICHE

No Impact: The project site is not located along the shoreline of a lake or reservoir; therefore, could not be inundated by a seiche.

ii. TSUNAMI

No Impact: The project site is located more than 30 miles from the coast; therefore, in the event of a tsunami, would not be inundated.

iii. MUDFLOW

No Impact: Mudflow is a type of landslide. The site is not located within a landslide susceptibility zone. The activities associated with the project are not conducted during rainy periods. Any area on which trees have been marked will be evaluated to insure the safety of the tree cutters. Therefore, the project will not expose people or property to inundation due to a mudflow.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING -- Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not propose the introduction of new infrastructure such as major roadways or water supply systems, or utilities to the area. Therefore, the proposed project will not significantly disrupt or divide the established community.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project will avoid sensitive species and archaeological resources by excluding areas with sensitive species and archaeological sites and avoiding impacts to streams and drainages by following the Forest Practice Rules for avoidance of impacts.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project site is within land classified by the California Department of Conservation – Division of Mines and Geology (Update of Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego Production-Consumption Region, 1997) as an area where geologic information indicates no significant mineral deposits are present (MRZ-1). Moreover, if the resources are not considered significant mineral deposits, loss of these resources cannot contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Furthermore, the project would not cause any permanent modification to soil or geologic formations.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposal is a temporary operation to remove dead trees and has no impact on land use, soil or geologic conditions. Therefore, no potentially significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource of locally important mineral resource recovery (extraction) site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan will occur as a result of this project.

XI. NOISE -- Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
Noise Ordinance – Section 36-410
The project will not generate construction noise that may exceed the standards of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36-410). Tree cutting operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36-410. Also, the project will not operate construction equipment in excess of an average sound level of 75dB measured at the property line of a participating parcel between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM.
Finally, the project's conformance to the County of San Diego General Plan (Noise Element, Policy 4b and County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36-404 and 36.410) ensures the project will not create cumulatively considerable noise impacts, because the project will not exceed the local noise standards for noise sensitive areas; and the project will not exceed the applicable noise level limits at the property line or construction noise limits, derived from State regulation to address human health and quality of life concerns. Therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable exposure of persons or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan, noise ordinance, and applicable standards of other agencies.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The area does not have any of the following land uses that can be impacted by groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

1. Buildings where low ambient vibration is essential for interior operation, including research and manufacturing facilities with special vibration constraints.
2. Civic and institutional land uses including schools, churches, libraries, other institutions, and quiet office where low ambient vibration is preferred.
3. Concert halls for symphonies or other special use facilities where low ambient vibration is preferred.

The amount of time required for tree removal will not be excessive and tree removal will not occur during normal sleeping hours. Also, the project does not propose any major, new or expanded infrastructure such as mass transit, highways or major roadways or intensive extractive industry that could generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels on-site or in the surrounding area.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project is for a temporary operation to remove dead and dying trees. Therefore, the project would not result in any permanent increase in existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Less Than Significant Impact:
The project does not involve any uses that may create substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity including but not limited to extractive industry; outdoor commercial or industrial uses that involve crushing, cutting, drilling, grinding, or blasting of raw materials; truck depots, transfer stations or delivery areas; or outdoor sound systems.

Also, general construction noise will not exceed the construction noise limits of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36-410), which are derived from State regulations to address human health and quality of life concerns. Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36-410. Also, the project will operate construction equipment at 75 dB or less over 8 hours

during a 24-hour period. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is not located within an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for airports or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, the project will not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive airport-related noise levels.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is not located within a one-mile vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, the project will not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive airport-related noise levels. In addition, there are no known new public airports projects in the vicinity that may extend the boundaries of the CNEL 60 dB noise contour or CLUP.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The proposed project will not induce substantial population growth in an area because the project does not propose any physical or regulatory change that would remove a

restriction to or encourage population growth in an area including, but limited to the following: new or extended infrastructure or public facilities; new commercial or industrial facilities; large-scale residential development; accelerated conversion of homes to commercial or multi-family use; or regulatory changes including General Plan amendments, specific plan amendments, zone reclassifications, sewer or water annexations; or LAFCO annexation actions.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project will not displace any existing housing because it will not involve construction or demolition. It may include removal of dead trees to reduce the potential for an existing house to be damaged by a falling tree.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project will not displace a substantial number of people since the project does not involve demolition or construction.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

i. Fire protection?
ii. Police protection?
iii. Schools?
iv. Parks?
v. Other public facilities?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project is a temporary tree removal program. It does not involve any permanent habitation or population establishment. The project does not necessitate any fire protection, sheriff, school, or park services or any other public services. Therefore, the project does not require new or altered governmental facilities that may have an adverse physical effect on the environment. However, the program to remove highly flammable trees in areas near homes and roads will result in a positive benefit for the community.

XIV. RECREATION

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project is a temporary tree removal program. It does not involve any permanent habitation or population establishment. The project does not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity or the need to build new recreational facilities.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project is a temporary tree removal program. The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities having an adverse physical effect on the environment.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☑	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project involves the temporary movement of trucks and equipment and employee and County staff trips which would total approximately 24 average daily traffic (ADT). These trips would occur on a particular series of access roads, all related to a particular tree removal site, and potentially over several days. Therefore, the proposed project would have no ongoing impact on the existing traffic load or the capacity of the street system.

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency and/or as identified by the County of San Diego Transportation Impact Fee Program for designated roads or highways?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☑	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project, which is a temporary program, would not result in any increase in traffic load or traffic capacity of any existing street. Therefore, the proposed project will have no direct or cumulative impact on the level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☑	No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is located outside of an Airport Influence Area and is not located within two miles of a public or public use airport; therefore, the project will not result in a change in air traffic patterns.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
The project, which is a temporary program, would not result in any increase in traffic load or traffic capacity of any existing street. Therefore, the proposed project will not alter traffic patterns, roadway design, place incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) on existing roadways, or create or place curves, slopes or walls which impedes adequate site distance on a road.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project is not served by a dead-end road that exceeds the maximum cumulative length permitted by the Consolidated Fire Code for the 17 Fire Protection Districts in San Diego County; therefore, the project has adequate emergency access.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
No on-site or off-site parking is required or proposed. The proposed project is a dead and dying tree removal project. Thus, parking will not result in an insufficient capacity on-site or off-site.

g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☑ No Impact

No Impact:

The proposed project is the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees in the Greater Julian area. The implementation will not result in any construction or new road design features; therefore, will not conflict with policies regarding alternative transportation.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not involve any uses that will discharge any wastewater to sanitary sewer or on-site wastewater systems (septic). Therefore, the project will not exceed any wastewater treatment requirements.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project does not include new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities. In addition, the project does not require the construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities.

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact: The project does not result in new or expanded storm water drainage facilities. Moreover, the project does not involve any landform modification or require any source, treatment or structural Best Management Practices for storm water, except to comply with the California Forest Practice Rules that require measures to insure that erosion does not take place through the activities of cutting

trees. Therefore, the project will not require any construction of new or expanded facilities, which could cause significant environmental effects.

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project does not involve or require water services from a water district. The project is a program to remove dead, dying and diseased trees in the Greater Julian area and does not rely on water service for any purpose other than to keep several hundred gallons in a mobile tank on site in case of emergency.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The proposed project is a program to remove dead, dying, and diseased trees in the Greater Julian area and no wastewater will be produced. Therefore the project will not interfere with any wastewater treatment providers service capacity. The workers will use mobile porta potties or portable facilities that are dropped on site..

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
The project is a program for removing dead and dying trees. As a requirement of the program none of the material resulting from the dead tree removal program is allowed to be sent to a landfill. Therefore, the project will not generate solid waste nor place any burden on the existing permitted capacity of any landfill or transfer station within San Diego County. The removed tree material will be recycled and none will be placed in landfills. Oak wood which is contaminated with gold spotted oak borers will be used as fuel in a cogeneration plant in the Imperial Valley. Conifer wood may be utilized in a

variety of ways including fuel wood for the cogeneration plant, or possibly landscape chipping material.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☑ No Impact

No Impact:
A requirement of the project is that no materials be placed into landfills. Therefore, compliance with any Federal, State, or local statutes or regulation related to solid waste is not applicable to this project.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☑ Less than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in sections IV and V of this form. In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the projects potential for significant cumulative effects. Through project design, areas with sensitive species or habitats or archaeological resources will be avoided following ground surveys to identify their locations. Stream crossings will be managed in a manner consistent with the California Forest Practice rules. There is no substantial evidence that there are biological or cultural resources that are affected or associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of

a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☑ No Impact

No Impact:
There are no projects in the vicinity of the proposal that would result in cumulative effects. The removal of dead, dying and diseased trees is dissimilar to any other project type in the vicinity because of its temporary nature and its regulation under the California Forest Practice Rules.

Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse cumulative effects were considered in the response to each question in sections I through XVI of this form. In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the projects potential for incremental effects that are cumulatively considerable. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that there are cumulative effects associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☑ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ No Impact

Less than Significant Impact:
In the evaluation of environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse direct or indirect impacts to human beings were considered in the response to certain questions in sections I. Aesthetics, III. Air Quality, VI. Geology and Soils, VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials, VIII Hydrology and Water Quality XI. Noise, XII. Population and Housing, and XV. Transportation and Traffic. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that there are adverse effects on human beings associated with this project. In addition, the activities associated with this project are intended to increase human safety be removing dead, dying and diseased trees that may fall and pose a hazard to people and property. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

XVIII. REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

All references to Federal, State and local regulation are available on the Internet. For Federal regulations refer to http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/. For State regulation refer to www.leginfo.ca.gov. For County regulation refer to www.amlegal.com. All other references are available upon request.

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3833 South Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705