Appendix L

Comments on Draft Environmental Assessment

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 27, 2016

FEMA Region IX EHP
NTFPD Draft EA
1111 Broadway, Ste. 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052
fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov

Comments on NTFPD North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Project, PDMC-PJ-09-CA-2010-019

The North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) is proposing to conduct a fuels reduction project on up to 1,013 California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) owned "urban lot" parcels, totaling up to 238 acres, within and adjacent to subdivisions within their District boundary. Proposed fuels reduction measures would be implemented to reduce wildfire hazards for several communities on the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe in Placer County, California. The project would be accomplished using a "thin from below" method where smaller trees and brush are targeted for thinning and removal and larger trees are retained.

The fuels reduction treatments would involve reducing hazardous densities and patterns of vegetation in designated wildland-urban interface areas to mitigate the spread of wildfire towards homes and communities. Treatments would be implemented by hand crews supervised by the NTFPD and ongoing maintenance would be performed by the CTC, consistent with the Operations and Maintenance Plan for the North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Project.

This letter provides the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Lahontan Water Board) support for the North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Project. To assist the NTFPD and CTC with early project planning, Water Board staff would like to provide the following reminder:

I. Lahontan 2014 Timber Waiver

The Project tasks involving timber harvest and vegetation management activities described above will require coverage under the 2014 Timber Waiver. The 2014 Timber Waiver and all attachments may be found on our website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/waste_discharge_requirements/timber_harvest/timberwaiver.shtml

The 2014 Timber Waiver does provide a Water Code Section 13269 reference that allows the Lahontan Water Board to waive monitoring requirements for 2014 Timber Waiver Categories 1, 2, and 3 projects. Please note that Category 1 and 2 projects do not have any notification, application, or monitoring requirements. However, all Category 1, 2, and 3 projects must comply with all general conditions and category specific criteria listed in the 2014 Timber Waiver.

Please review the 2014 Timber Waiver criteria and conditions while developing specific resource protection measures and design features for the proposed project.

Thank you for providing Water Board staff the opportunity to provide comments on this Project. Please contact me at jim.carolan@waterboards.ca.gov or (530) 542-5477 with any questions.

James M Carolan

Jim Carolan, PG, CHG
Engineering Geologist

cc: Brian Hirt, Forester, California Tahoe Conservancy

JC/ma/T: NTFPD_CTC_North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction_Scoping Comments_jmc
File Under: ECM / Environmental Document/Review/Waterboard Review/Response

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
13760 Lincoln Way
AUBURN, CA 95603
(530) 889-0111
Website: www.fire.ca.gov

August 15, 2016

TO: FEMA Region IX EHP
NTFPD Draft EA
1111 Broadway, Ste. 1200
Oakland CA 94607-4052

RE: NTFPD Draft EA

CAL FIRE supports the California Tahoe Conservancy and North Tahoe Fire Protection District in their fuel reduction efforts within the Tahoe Basin. This work is critical to mitigating the ongoing wildland fire threat in California. Fuels treatment is the most important component to minimizing fire behavior and improving forest health.

The project exists within the North Tahoe Fire Protection District and will help the California Tahoe Conservancy meet their goals for increased forest health and adaptation to climate change.

If you require further clarification, please contact Forester Jeff Dowling at (530) 587-8926.

Sincerely,

George Morris III
CAL FIRE
Unit Chief

Jeff Dowling
Truckee Area Forester

jd

SHINGLE SPRINGS RANCHERIA
P.O. BOX 1340; SHINGLE SPRINGS, CA 95682
(530) 676-8010; FAX (530) 676-3582

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2016
BY:

August 2, 2016

FEMA Region IX
Environmental and Historic Preservation Office
Attn: Draft EA for PDMC-2010 CA-019 (NTFPD Draft EA)
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Notice of Availability Draft Environmental Assessment
NTFPD North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Project PDMC-PJ-09-CA-2010-019

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for your letter dated July 12, 2016 in regard to the above mentioned project. Based on the information provided, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians is not aware of any known cultural resources on this site. However, SSR would like to have continued consultation through updates, as the project progresses this will foster a greater communication between the Tribe and your agency.

SSR would also like to request any and all completed record searches and or surveys that were done in or around the project area up to and including environmental, archaeological and cultural reports.

If during the progress of the project new information or human remains are found we would like to be able to go over our process with you that we currently have in place to protect such important and sacred artifacts (especially near rivers and streams).

Please contact the following individuals if such finds are made:

Kara Perry, Cultural Outreach Coordinator (530) 488-4049 kperry@ssband.org

And copy all communications to:
Daniel Burnett, Lead Native American Inspector dburnett@ssband.org

Thank you for providing us with this notice and opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fonseca
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)
Most Likely Descendant (MLD)