MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions (2 minutes)
- Describe the Meeting’s Purpose (2 minutes)
- Provide a brief overview of the wildfire risks in Oakland (3 minutes)
- Summarize the Oakland Vegetation Management Plan’s goals and current status (3 minutes)
- Plan Discussion (60 minutes)
- General Comments/Open Forum (15 minutes)
- Present a summary of next steps (5 minutes)
- Adjourn
MEETING PURPOSE

- To identify stewardship and volunteer groups active at each project area/site.
- To understand what activities are being undertaken by these groups at each project area/site to ensure that work is coordinated with City efforts.
- To see how volunteer efforts can be leveraged in support of wildfire prevention.
- To obtain additional site-specific vegetation management recommendations at each parcel.
- Focus is on Chapters 9 through 11 of the Draft Plan.
The City of Oakland is designated as a Community at Risk of damage from wildfire.

Most of the Oakland hills fall within High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones:

- Hot and dry fall seasons
- High winds
- Dense flammable vegetation
- Steep and varied terrain
- Hill slope development
- Limited accessibility for emergency responders
OAKLAND WILDFIRE RISK

- More than 12 major wildfires since 1923
- Extensive damage, economic harm, and loss of life
- 1991 firestorm:
  - burned over 1,500 acres
  - Destroyed more than 3,000 homes
  - Caused the deaths of 25 people
  - Injured over 150 people
  - Caused significant post-fire erosion
Vegetation Management Plan Goals:

- Reduce fire hazard on City-owned land and along critical access/egress routes within the City’s designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone;
- Reduce the likelihood of ignitions and extreme fire behavior to enhance public and firefighter safety;
- Implement practices to avoid or minimize impacts to natural resources;
- Maintain an active role in regional efforts to reduce fire hazard in the Oakland Hills.
Project Status:

- The Consultant released the draft Plan for public review on May 11, 2018 and received approximately 165 comment letters. A variety of comments were received through the public review period and at a public meeting (held May 23, 2018). Some general themes were observed in the comments including that:
  - The Plan should include a description of the role of volunteers and stewardship groups that actively maintain vegetation at various City-managed parks/open space areas.
  - The Plan should include more site-specific vegetation management recommendations at each City-managed parcel.
  - The Plan should include cost estimates, or a range of potential costs, for the recommended treatments to assist the City for longer-term work budgeting and planning. The cost estimates and site-specific plans for City-managed parks would also help identify activities that volunteers can conduct.
  - As an outcome of the City’s Public Safety Committee meeting held on July 17, 2018, the City has asked the Consultant to revise the Draft VMP to address these issues and conduct two additional public meetings to receive public input on these topics.
Project Status:

- The results of these additional stakeholder meetings, will be included in the Plan as a “Comment Summary Matrix”.
- The consultant will also include cost estimates for treatments proposed.
- The Revised Draft Plan will be released in 2019.
DISCUSSION FORMAT & QUESTIONS

- 5-7 minutes per project area/site.
- Are there any organization or groups providing landscaping and maintenance work at project area/site on a voluntary basis?
- If so, please briefly summarize their work?
- Do you have any specific comments on the field assessment for this project area/site?
- Do you have any specific recommendations on vegetation management treatments at this project area/site?
- Do you have any suggestions on how volunteers can be used at this site?
Description

- Generally smaller than 1 acre in size and are distributed throughout the Plan Area. In some cases, multiple adjacent parcels are owned by the City.

- Urban and residential parcels are mapped as the following vegetation communities/land cover types: annual grassland (2.4 acres), closed-cone pine-cypress (10.9 acres), coastal oak woodland (21.2 acres), coastal scrub (3.8 acres), eucalyptus (15.6 acres), redwood (0.2 acres), and urban (12.3 acres).
GARBER PARK

Description

- 14.3 acres in size
- Coast oak woodland
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in no extreme fire behavior in Garber Park.

Recommendations

- Maintain the existing trail networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation;
- Manage vegetation along adjacent roadside (Claremont Avenue) and near trailheads/entry points to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet; and
- Manage vegetation within 10 feet of the south and west property boundary line to facilitate firefighter access.
DIMOND CANYON PARK

Description

- 75.1 acres in size and is situated along Sausal Creek
- Vegetation communities/land cover types: coast oak woodland (50.6 acres), coastal scrub (0.3 acres), eucalyptus (1.3 acres), redwood (5.5 acres), and urban (17.4 acres).
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in primarily surface fire throughout the property, although small pockets of active crown fire were modeled in the coastal oak woodland area along Park Boulevard with grass/shrub understory and in a few small areas within the drainage with high slope gradients.

Recommendations

- Maintain the existing trail networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation;
- Manage vegetation along adjacent roadsides (Park Boulevard, Monterey Boulevard, Leimert Boulevard, El Centro Avenue) and near trailheads(entry points to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet; and
- Manage vegetation within 10 feet of the south and west property boundary line to facilitate firefighter access.
Description

- 54.3 acres in size and is situated along Shepherd Creek in Shepherd Canyon, northeast of State Route 13.
- Vegetation communities/land cover types: annual grassland (2.0 acres), closed-cone pine-cypress (1.5 acres), coastal oak woodland (31.6 acres), eucalyptus (13.6 acres), and urban (5.7 acres).
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in active and passive crown fire concentrated along the western side of Shepherd Canyon Road where broom exists beneath eucalyptus tree canopies and surface fire throughout the remainder of the property.

Recommendations

- Maintain the existing trail networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation;
- Manage vegetation along adjacent roadsides (Shepherd Canyon Road and Escher Drive) to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet; and
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures.
LEONA HEIGHTS PARK

Description
- 42.3 acres in size and is situated along a drainage south of Redwood Road and Campus Drive and east of State Route 13.
- Vegetation communities/land cover types: annual grassland (0.3 acres), coastal oak woodland (25.7 acres), eucalyptus (2.1 acres), redwood (13.8 acres), and urban (0.5 acres).
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in active and passive crown fire in coastal oak woodlands in upland areas in the eastern and northern portions of the park and primarily surface fire within redwood stands along the drainage bottom. Some isolated active crown fire was modeled in areas with steep slope gradients and only surface fire was modeled in the managed eucalyptus and oak stands at the park’s western edge.

Recommendations
- Manage vegetation along adjacent roadside (Campus Drive) to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet; and
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures and within the current 9-acre management area.
RIDGETOP AREAS
Description

- 53.6 acres in size and is situated to the south of State Route 24 immediately south of the Caldecott tunnels.
- Vegetation communities/land cover types: coastal oak woodland (22.1 acres), coastal scrub (2.1 acres), eucalyptus (18.1 acres), urban (5.2 acres), and valley-foothill riparian (6.0 acres).
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in active crown fire throughout most of the property’s tree-dominated vegetation (eucalyptus and coastal oak woodland) and surface fire concentrated in managed areas along the property’s dirt access road and in the area between the sports field and the eucalyptus stand.

Recommendations

- Implement thinning recommendations in the property’s eucalyptus stand within 30 feet of the site’s dirt access road to compartmentalize fires and facilitate site access;
Recommendations - Continued

- Given the upper portion of the property’s ridgetop location and the potential for ember generation resulting from crown fire, implementing thinning recommendations in the property’s eucalyptus stand beyond 30 feet of the site’s dirt access is recommended when time and budgets allow;

- Remove eucalyptus trees and other invasive species from oak woodland and riparian vegetation communities, retaining native trees;

- Maintain the site’s dirt access road in a serviceable condition, improving roadside drainage where erosion and gullying have deteriorated access road;

- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the property’s dirt access road; and

- Maintain vegetation along adjacent roadside (Broadway) and the edges of all parking areas to minimize ignition potential. Treatment width should be based on field observations, but not to exceed 30 feet.
Description
- 69.1 acres in size and is situated along the southwest side of Grizzly Peak Boulevard, southeast of Marlborough Terrace
- Vegetation communities/land cover types: closed-cone pine-cypress (27.6 acres), coastal oak woodland (3.2 acres), coastal scrub (32.3 acres), eucalyptus (4.3 acres), and urban (1.6 acres).
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in torching of tree canopies along the upper, northeastern portion of the property and active crown fire along the lower, southwestern portion of property in pine and eucalyptus stands.

Recommendations
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures, within 30 feet of Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Tunnel Road, and within 30 feet of known human congregation areas along Grizzly Peak Boulevard;
- Implement thinning recommendations in the property’s eucalyptus and pine stands in areas exhibiting extreme fire behavior and within 300 feet of structures;
Recommendations - Continued

- Given the upper portion of the property’s ridgetop location and potential for ember generation resulting from crown fire, implement thinning recommendations in the property’s eucalyptus stand beyond 30 feet of the site’s dirt access road when time and budgets allow; and

- Remove eucalyptus trees and other invasive species from oak woodlands, retaining native trees.
CITY STABLES

Description
- 7.4 acres, is located along Skyline Boulevard, is dominated by grassland fuels, and is largely within 10 feet from existing structures.
- One of the City’s remote automated weather stations is situated in the property.
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in no extreme fire behavior on the City Stables property.
- The property is currently leased to a private contractor who retains responsibility for vegetation management.

Recommendations
- If the current lease expires within the timeframe of this VMP and the City regains management responsibility, it is recommended to resume management of vegetation on the entire property.
SHEFFIELD VILLAGE OPEN SPACE

Description

- 455.4 acres in size and is situated at the southeastern-most portion of the Plan Area, at the southern end of Golf Links Road and at the northwestern end of Lake Chabot.
- The property includes the Lake Chabot Golf Course; however, given the low fire hazard condition of the golf course, no management recommendations are provided for that portion of the property.
- Vegetation communities/land cover types: annual grassland (59.4 acres), closed-cone pine-cypress (5.9 acres), coastal oak woodland (143.9 acres), coastal scrub (59.3 acres), eucalyptus (27.9 acres), perennial grassland (0.8 acres), and urban (158.1 acres).
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in active crown fire in coastal scrub (where overstory trees are present), oak stands with a heavy shrub understory, and isolated areas within oak woodlands with grass understory where slope gradients are high and surface fire only throughout the remainder of the property.
Recommendations

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures;
- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of on-site structures in the Dunsmuir Estates portion of the property;
- Maintain the existing trail/road networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation; and
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads.
KNOWLAND PARK AND ARBORETUM

Description

- 473.5 acres in size and is situated in the southeastern portion of the Plan Area.
- The property includes the Oakland Zoo and Arboretum at the southwestern edge and a newly constructed gondola between the zoo and a hilltop near the center of the property.
- Vegetation communities/land cover types: annual grassland (104.6 acres), chamise-redshank chaparral (8.1 acres), closed-cone pine-cypress (9.1 acres), coastal oak woodland (162.0 acres), coastal scrub (61.8 acres), eucalyptus (12.1 acres), freshwater emergent wetland (0.2 acres), perennial grassland (10.8 acres), redwood (0.2 acres), and urban (104.9 acres).

Recommendations

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures, within 30 feet of Golf Links Road, and within 30 feet of known human congregation/activity areas along Skyline Boulevard;
Recommendations – Continued

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of on-site structures in the zoo portion of the property and within 100 feet of the zoo/open space interface to minimize ignition potential and modify potential fire behavior near this developed portion of the property;
- Maintain the existing trail/road networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation;
- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the property’s dirt access roads; and
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads.
Joaquin Miller Park

Description

- 457.1 acres in size and is situated in the southeastern portion of the Plan Area.
- The CSSC and the associated pallid manzanita restoration site is located partially on and off site but adjacent to the park’s northern property boundary.
- Joaquin Miller Park is mapped as the following vegetation communities/land cover types: annual grassland (16.9 acres), closed-cone pine-cypress (114.4 acres), coastal oak woodland (106.5 acres), coastal scrub (5.8 acres), eucalyptus (38.6 acres), redwood (121.0 acres), urban (42.2 acres), urban (acacia) (7.2 acres), urban (mixed tree stand) (3.7 acres), and valley/foothill riparian (0.8 acres).
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in active and passive crown fire within the northern and central portions of the park within non-managed oak, pine, eucalyptus, and acacia stands. Active and passive crown fire also modeled within the acacia and mixed tree stands within the southern (lower) portions of the park and only surface fire modeled within redwood stands and throughout the lower, developed and managed portions of the park (except acacia and mixed tree stands).
Recommendations

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures, within 30 feet of Joaquin Miller Road and Skyline Boulevard, and within 30 feet of known human congregation/activity areas along Skyline Boulevard and the top of Woodside Glen Court;

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of on-site structures, including the historic Joaquin Miller House;

- Implement thinning recommendations in the park’s eucalyptus, pine, acacia, and mixed tree stands in areas exhibiting extreme fire behavior and within 300 feet of structures;

- Maintain the existing fire trail/dirt road network to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation;

- Avoid treatment within the pallid manzanita restoration area adjacent to the CSSC;

- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the park’s dirt access roads; and

- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads.
KING ESTATES

Description

- 97.1 acres in size and is situated southwest of Interstate 580, south of 82nd Avenue, and bisected by Fontaine Street.
- Vegetation communities/land cover types: annual grassland (64.0 acres), coastal oak woodland (12.4 acres), coastal scrub (4.3 acres), eucalyptus (1.3 acres), and urban (15.1 acres).
- Fire behavior modeling resulted in isolated active crown fire only in coastal scrub where overstory trees are present and surface fire only throughout the remainder of the property.

Recommendations

- Manage vegetation within 100 feet of structures and within 30 feet of Fontaine Street and Crest Avenue;
- Maintain the existing trail/road networks to facilitate access and to create breaks in surface vegetation;
- Implement measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the property’s dirt access roads;
- Continue to manage vegetation via grazing throughout the remainder of the park to maintain fuel loads and minimize ignition potential, particularly prior to the 4th of July holiday.
OTHER OPEN SPACE AREAS
OTHER OPEN SPACE AREAS

Description

- Current management practices include roadside treatment through the use of hand labor or mechanical techniques, and hand labor treatment, mechanical treatment, or grazing throughout each area to reduce ladder fuels, control invasive species, and reduce and maintain surface fuel loads.

- Continued management of these areas is recommended according to the standards outlined in the Plan.
Description

- Other City-owned properties in the Plan Area that are not otherwise classified above include fire stations (nos. 21 and 25), City facilities (parking lots, police stations), and developed parks and playgrounds (e.g., Montclair Park).

- This classification includes 12 properties encompassing 22.3 total acres. These properties are mapped as urban land cover types, fall entirely or largely within the 100-foot buffer from existing structures, and present a low fire risk as they are developed with irrigated and maintained landscaping.

- No current vegetation management activities are conducted on these parcels.

Recommendations

- No additional management recommendations are identified for these City-owned parcels; however, should conditions change (e.g., property abandoned and landscape vegetation dies) and hazardous conditions observed during annual field assessments, treatment should be conducted as identified for urban and residential parcels.
Description

- Roadside treatment areas include the area of land within 30 feet of the roadside edge (edge of pavement) for all roads in the Plan Area.
- The length of all roads in the Plan Area totals 308 miles. A portion of these are considered priority access/egress routes, which total 30 miles. Medians are similar to roadside treatment areas in that they are located adjacent to roads in the Plan Area. However, they differ in that they are distinct parcels owned by the City. In the Plan Area, there are 32 parcels classified as medians, which total 17.9 acres. Annually, vegetation management is conducted along all priority access/egress routes and within all medians.

Recommendations

- Priority roadsides (30 miles) and all medians are considered Priority 1 treatment areas. The remaining roadside areas (278 miles) are considered Priority 2 treatment areas. It is recommended that these areas and parcels continue to be managed according to the standards outlined in the Plan.
SUMMARY OF NEXT STEPS

- Second meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at Oakland City Hall.
- The Project Team will review all input received at these meetings, as well as feedback received during the public comments period in order to make revisions/updates to the Draft Plan.
- The revised Draft Plan will include a comments matrix, and preliminary/basic cost estimates for plan implementation.
- Once the Draft Plan has been revised, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process will begin.
- The revised Draft Plan will be released along with the Plan’s Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in 2019.
- There will be another comment period for the Draft Plan and EIR.
- The Draft Plan and Draft EIR will be further reviewed/revised based on public input received.
- The process will move toward a Final EIR.
- Once the Final Draft Plan and EIR have been prepared and vetted, Oakland City Council can vote to approve the Plan and certify the EIR.
WHERE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
ATTN: Ken Schwarz, Principal
266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210
Oakland, CA 94610

-OR-

VMPComments@oaklandvegmanagement.org
STAY CONNECTED

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