

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Chino Valley Independent Fire District**  
**Fire Mitigation**  
**PDMC-PJ-09-CA-2005-122**


The Chino Valley Independent Fire District (Fire District) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program grant to implement a vegetation management project in the Carbon Canyon area of Chino Hills, California. Carbon Canyon area is an urban/wildland interface that has been affected by numerous destructive fires in recent history. Since 1978, 11 major fires have passed through Chino Hills, burning a total of 44,635 acres. The 1990 Carbon Canyon Fire destroyed 17 homes and one business, damaged 12 other properties, and resulted in \$4.8 million in damages and \$600,000 in emergency response costs. The Fire District's PDM Program grant application seeks FEMA funding to reduce future wildfire risks to the Chino Hills area.

Under the Proposed Action, the Fire District would conduct vegetation management activities in strategic locations around Carbon Canyon over a 3-year period, completing approximately one-third of the work annually. The project area encompasses 158.5 acres of vegetation to be thinned by a combination of hand treatment and mastication. A masticator mounted to a loader-type vehicle would be applied to 33.3 acres of the project area. In mastication areas, brush and small vegetation would be cut down to the roots and short stems. Islands of brush would be left remaining over approximately 20 percent of the mastication area to create a less visually-dramatic change to the treatment area. Live trees would be left standing and mastication would take place around them. Hand treatment would take place over 125.2 acres. In this area, grasses would be cut to no less than 6 inches. For brush higher than 4 feet and small trees, all branches would be removed from the lower third of the plant. On trees with a trunk diameter greater than 5-inches, all branches would be removed up to 6 feet. All hand-cut and masticated materials would be left in place as mulch. Twelve staging areas would be used throughout implementation of the Proposed Action.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Fire Mitigation project (March 2008) to evaluate the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on the environment. The SEA tiers from the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Typical Recurring Actions Resulting from Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Rain, and Wind Disasters in California (December 2003) as proposed by FEMA. The PEA and SEA are available online at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm>.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the PEA and SEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12989 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there would be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the proposed action. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027. No action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.

 3/18/08  
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Alessandro Amaglio Date  
Region IX Environmental Officer