

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING  
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
 VEGETATION AND BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) will prepare a tiered program environmental impact report (TPEIR) for its draft Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan (VBMP). The TPEIR will evaluate the impacts and alternatives for the proposed draft VBMP, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments on the scope of issues for the TPEIR to address.

The MCOSD has acquired nearly 16,000 acres of land located within 34 open space preserves, which support both natural resource protection and recreation uses. Most of the MCOSD preserves are located in or near population centers, reflecting their importance in connecting many of the county's communities with open space. The draft VBMP includes strategies and tools for addressing invasive weeds, reducing fire fuel loads, and preserving native species and habitats. Its primary purpose is to provide comprehensive, long-term guidance for vegetation management that will (1) protect the natural biodiversity, (2) maintain patrol, emergency, and public access, and (3) manage fire fuel loads. The goals of the draft VBMP are as follows:

- Work with adjacent public landowners and partner agencies to create a consistent approach to vegetation management issues; establish, prioritize, and standardize vegetation management actions.
- Manage vegetation for the preservation and protection of native habitats and native species. Ensure that open space lands can withstand environmental changes over time.
- Coordinate vegetation and fire management actions to reduce or eliminate priority weed infestations; increase public safety; protect native habitats and native species; and reduce wildfire risk.
- Provide the public with opportunities to engage in stewardship of the MCOSD lands through participation in volunteer vegetation management activities.
- Ensure the funding, support, and capacity necessary for the achievement of these goals.

Pursuant to state and local guidelines implementing CEQA, the MCOSD is the lead agency for the project and has determined that the project requires a TPEIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3), the MCOSD has prepared an initial study to focus the TPEIR on the following topical issues.

|                                  |                                 |                              |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Air Quality                   | 5) Hazards & Hazardous Material | 9) Public Services           |
| 2) Biological Resources          | 6) Hydrology & Water Quality    | 10) Transportation & Traffic |
| 3) Cultural & Historic Resources | 7) Land Use & Planning          |                              |
| 4) Geology & Soils               | 8) Noise                        |                              |

A copy of the initial study is available at <http://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/our-work/os-main-projects/vmp>. To ensure that the TPEIR for this project is thorough and adequate, fully addresses public concerns, and meets the needs of all agencies reviewing it, we are soliciting comments on specific issues to be included in the environmental review. Please submit your written comments to James Raives, Senior Open Space Planner, Marin County Parks, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, California 94903-4157, **NO LATER THAN 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 21, 2014**. Interested parties can also send comments via e-mail to [jraives@marincounty.org](mailto:jraives@marincounty.org) or fax to Marin County Parks at (415) 473-3795 to the attention of James Raives, Senior Open Space Planner.

Please note that the MCOSD will hold a **scoping session for public agencies on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the Marin County Parks administrative office, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, California. In addition, the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission will hold a **public meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** in the Planning Commission Chambers, Civic Center, Room 328, San Rafael, California. Please contact James Raives at (415) 473-3745 or [jraives@marincounty.org](mailto:jraives@marincounty.org) for more information.

Linda Dahl, General Manager  
 Marin County Open Space District

All public meetings and events sponsored or conducted by the County of Marin are held in accessible sites. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-4381 (Voice/TTY/CRS dial 711) or by e-mail at [disabilityaccess@marincounty.org](mailto:disabilityaccess@marincounty.org) at least four work days in advance. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon written request.