

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

**APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE  
PROTECTION'S (CDF) HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES PROJECT**

As Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, I have the authority to approve the Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project (Project). The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Project (State Clearinghouse Number 99021015), hereby approves the Project based on the following:

**PROJECT**

The Project would approve the Draft Management Plan for CDF's Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites (Plan). The Plan proposes to protect and manage the Department's significant heritage resources, which include both historic buildings and known prehistoric and historic archaeological sites located on lands owned or managed by CDF. The Plan identifies 86 historically significant CDF buildings, and proposes a list of 29 of these buildings for preservation. The criteria for selection of buildings to be preserved were formulated during the course of plan development, and are consistent with the Department's long-term goals for historical resource protection. 78 of the 86 CDF historic buildings have been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The remaining eight CDF historic buildings were inventoried, but formal eligibility for listing in the NRHP and the CRHR has yet to be determined.

The Plan also includes management and preservation strategies for 166 known archaeological sites located on lands owned or managed by CDF. Overall, the Plan would require CDF to continue its current archaeological site procedures. Archaeological sites are fully recorded, and most are protected by complete avoidance. However, there are a few known sites which are located in existing roadbeds, and are continuously impacted through usage. These impacts will be mitigated to the extent feasible during project-level analysis. There are also some instances, such as fire station construction, when complete avoidance is also not possible and excavation is done where feasible. These actions have been, and will continue to be covered by a project-level CEQA analysis for each individual capital improvement activity.

The Plan provides information, direction, management options and review procedures for CDF's heritage resources to ensure that they will be given full consideration in all of CDF's land use and capital outlay decisions. The Plan specifies that, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), CDF will review the Plan in the year 2010 and every ten years thereafter. This process will enable CDF to update the Plan, and make changes that may become necessary over time.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The proposed CDF management plan would cover historic buildings and archaeological sites located throughout the State of California.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the whole record before it, including the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the Final EIR, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Findings, and the Statement of Overriding Considerations prior to approving the Project.

The Draft EIR, prepared in compliance with CEQA, assessed the Project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the whole record before it, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has determined that the Project would result in six significant or potentially significant effects on the environment in the area of cultural resources. Mitigation measures are required to be made a condition of the approval of the Project. Six mitigation measures corresponding to each of the six significant or potentially significant effects are described in the EIR and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Of these six mitigation measures, two reduce the corresponding significant effect of the Project to a level of less than significant. Four of the mitigation measures lessen the adverse effect, but despite the mitigation, significant effects remain. The Department has made the Findings in compliance with CEQA Section 21081 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines. Based on the Findings, and in compliance with Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Department has made a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

## **PROJECT ALTERNATIVES**

As part of the project planning and development process leading to the environmental document, a range of alternatives was developed and evaluated against the Project Goals. Four feasible alternatives that to the Project were developed and analyzed in the EIR: Alternative 1 (Full Preservation), Alternative 2 (Representative Sample), Alternative 3 (Lookouts Only), and Alternative 4 (No Project). The EIR analyzed the environmental effects of the alternatives to the proposed Project, and provided an evaluation and comparison. The Department rejected the four alternatives as specified in the Findings, despite the identification of Alternative 1 as the environmentally superior alternative. Alternative 1 fails to meet most of the Project Goals, and would be cost prohibitive to the Department, requiring the diversion of scarce resources and impairing the ability of CDF to implement its infrastructure improvement program needed to provide for the operational needs of the Department.

As specified in the Findings, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection hereby designates the Project as the environmentally superior action over Alternative 1 (Full Preservation), Alternative 2 (Representative Sample), Alternative 3 (Lookouts Only), and Alternative 4 (No Project).

## **FINDINGS**

In compliance with Section 15091 of CEQA Guidelines, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has made written Findings, which is attached. The Findings enumerates the significant environmental effects of the Project, and explains the finding for each, that mitigation measures contained in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program will avoid or reduce each significant environmental effect to a level of less than significant.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has determined that, based on the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and the Findings and Facts, that a Statement of Overriding Considerations is required to be adopted for this Project.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection hereby adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Pipeline Project.

The Department hereby approves the Findings and Facts for the Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project EIR.

#### **LOCATION AND CUSTODIAN OF RECORD OF APPROVAL**

The Environmental Impact Report for the Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project, the Final EIR Certification, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Findings and Facts, and record of approval may be examined at the Department of General Services, Real Estate Services Division, 1102 Q Street, Suite 5100, Sacramento, California.

#### **PROJECT APPROVAL**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection hereby approves the Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project and specifies the following:

1. The Findings and Facts (attached) are hereby adopted in compliance with CEQA Section 21081 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines.
2. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (attached) is hereby adopted in compliance with CEQA Section 21081.6(a) of the Public Resources Code.
3. The Statement of Overriding Considerations (attached) is hereby adopted in compliance with Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines.
4. The Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project is hereby approved.
5. The Department staff is hereby directed to implement the Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project.
6. The Department staff is hereby directed to ensure that within five working days following Project Approval, the Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, which shall post the NOD for a period of at least 30 days.
7. In compliance with Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code, a Certificate of Fee Exemption is attached, certifying that the Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project will not have an adverse effect on wildlife resources.

Andrea E Tuttle  
Andrea E. Tuttle, Director  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

10/12/01  
Date