



Finance Department
General Services Division

Proposal For Services

Due: 8/27/2026 – 05:00 p.m.

The City of Berkeley Fire Department seeks competitive written proposals for Vegetation Management, Risk Reduction and Reforestation.

The work to be done includes:

Scope of Services

The Contractor shall perform only City-authorized vegetation management, fuel reduction, hazardous-tree removal, debris processing, erosion control, and revegetation within mapped work areas in the Berkeley Hills High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones all on private property, adjacent to private dwellings. The work shall consist of the removal of 26 trees of varying diameter in the drainage bordered by the terminus of Buena Vista Way to the West (generally above 3090 Buena Vista), W. Parnassus Ct to the East, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab to the south. All work shall comply with Exhibit A and applicable laws. If Exhibit A relies on Public Resources Code section 21080.49(c), work shall be limited to defensible-space establishment or enhancement within 200 feet of a legal structure unless the City issues separate written environmental authorization. Each site shall be authorized by a written Task Order identifying the location, treatment limits, quantities, tree-removal authorization, and environmental requirements. No work outside those limits or additional work is compensable without prior written City approval. The Contractor shall promptly report differing site conditions and protect the site pending written direction.

Contractor Responsibility

The Contractor and its subcontractors shall maintain all licenses, permits, and qualifications required for assigned work. Tree work shall be directed by qualified personnel, and the Contractor remains responsible for the work of any and all subcontractors. Contractor is responsible for contacting property owners, securing access and written permission. Volunteers may participate only under a City-approved plan and may not perform tree felling, chainsaw, climbing, rigging, utility-line, traffic-control, or herbicide work unless qualified, licensed where required, supervised, and properly covered.

Tree and Vegetation Treatment

Trees may be removed only when previously established in writing and approved of by the Berkeley Fire Department. The Contractor shall record each removed tree's species, diameter, location, and material disposition and shall protect retained vegetation, structures, utilities, drainage features, and adjacent property. Wood, chips, slash, and invasive plant material shall be handled as directed by the City. Combustible mulch shall not be placed against structures, over drainage facilities, around root crowns, or where it increases erosion or fire risk. Disposal and weight tickets shall be retained.

Safety and Fire Prevention

The Contractor shall comply with applicable Cal/OSHA requirements; conduct daily job briefings; establish exclusion zones; provide required personal protective equipment; and implement traffic, pedestrian, and utility controls. Each crew shall maintain appropriate fire extinguishers and suppression tools, use required spark arresters, and manage fueling safely. Spark-producing or other high-risk work shall stop during a Red Flag Warning or whenever directed by the Berkeley Fire Department. The City may suspend work for fire weather, unsafe conditions, rain, or saturated soils.

Reporting and Acceptance

In a consolidated quarterly report, the Contractor shall identify locations and dates worked; acres and linear feet treated; trees removed by species and diameter; chip volumes, hauled weights, and disposal locations; erosion controls; plantings and maintenance; approved herbicide use; incidents; schedule status; and expenditures by authorized line item. Reports shall include treatment maps or GIS data, dated before-and-after photographs, and disposal or weight tickets. The City may verify quantities, inspect the work, require correction, and withhold payment for work that is unauthorized, incomplete, nonconforming, or inadequately documented.

Environmental Compliance

Work shall comply with Exhibit A, permits, and applicable federal, state, and local requirements. Work shall occur outside the nesting-bird avoidance period stated in Exhibit A whenever feasible. If work during that period is authorized, a City-approved qualified biologist shall conduct required surveys, establish buffers, and direct monitoring. The Contractor shall stop work and notify the City upon discovery of an active nest, special-status species, cultural resource, or other protected resource. No protected native, heritage, street, or landmark tree may be removed or materially damaged without written City authorization. Herbicides may be used only when specifically approved by the City and applied by appropriately licensed personnel in accordance with the label and applicable law.

Ecological Restoration and Fire-Smart Landscape Management

Following vegetation removal, the Contractor shall implement the site-specific restoration measures in the approved Task Order or restoration plan. Measures shall stabilize disturbed soils, support native recovery, and reduce re-establishment of hazardous surface and ladder fuels

without creating continuous flashy grass or shrub fuels. Substitutions require prior written City approval.

1. Erosion Control and Soil Stabilization

The Contractor shall install and maintain erosion and sediment controls suited to the slope, soil, weather, and disturbance. Measures may include certified weed-free wattles, coir logs, silt fencing, biodegradable matting, approved mulch, and native seeding. Controls shall be inspected after significant rain and repaired promptly. Plastic netting shall not be used. Mulch shall not block drainage, bury root crowns, suppress desired native recruitment, or create a combustible fuel bed.

2. Native Species Replanting and Habitat Enhancement

Revegetation shall follow a City-approved planting plan using native, regionally appropriate species suited to site conditions and maintenance capacity. Species and layout shall limit dead material and horizontal and vertical fuel continuity while supporting soil stability and habitat. The Contractor shall provide required establishment watering and maintenance. Unless the Task Order states otherwise, at least 80 percent of installed woody plants shall be alive and in acceptable condition at 12 and 24 months; failures caused by improper installation or required maintenance shall be replaced at no additional cost.

3. Invasive-Species Suppression and Maintenance

The Contractor shall monitor treatment areas for at least two growing seasons for resprouting and recruitment of designated invasive or hazardous species, including Eucalyptus globulus, French broom, Italian thistle, and Himalayan blackberry. Follow-up treatment shall occur before seed set using the least-disruptive effective method. During this two year period, the contractor shall monitor and mitigate the above conditions, monitor and mitigate erosions, and establish a Long-Term Fuel-Resilient Design.

4. Long-Term Fuel-Resilient Design

Restoration shall support a durable, lower-maintenance fuel profile through appropriate perennial vegetation, interruption of surface-to-canopy and canopy-to-canopy fuel continuity, and retention of soil cover and moisture. Treatment shall avoid excessive thinning that promotes continuous annual grass or broom recruitment. The City retains final approval of vegetation density, canopy arrangement, and maintenance frequency.

DATE SENT TO VENDORS: 8/17/2026

Instructions to vendors:

On company letterhead, submit a signed, firm, lump sum proposal to accomplish the project described in the quote, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

For questions related to the project contact CArnold@berkeleyca.gov

City of Berkeley, Finance Department, General Services Division
2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor
purchasing@berkeleyca.gov

Proposals are due **08/27/2026 – 05:00 p.m.** via email to CArnold@berkeleyca.gov **cc:** purchasing@berkeleyca.gov

City terms: Net 30

Do you offer an early payment discount? If yes, _____

Do you offer a discount for early payment using a credit card? If yes _____ %

Is your firm based in Berkeley? _____

Is your firm an MBE? _____

Is your firm a WBE? _____

See the City's Purchase Order Terms and Conditions

Exhibit A



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

StartOver

Save

AC RECEIPT #: 3864246

RECEIPT NUMBER:

01 — 09/29/2025 — 383

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY

CITY OF BERKELEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

LEAD AGENCY EMAIL

DATE

09/29/2025

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING

ALAMEDA

DOCUMENT NUMBER

25 - 383

PROJECT TITLE

STRATEGIC FUEL REDUCTION INITIATIVE -- HAZARDOUS EUCALYPTUS TREE REMOVAL PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME

DAVID SPRAGUE

PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER

(510) 981-3473

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS

2100 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WAY, 2ND FLOOR

CITY

BERKELEY

STATE

CA

ZIP CODE

94704

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)



Local Public Agency



School District



Other Special District



State Agency



Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:



Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

\$4,123.50

\$

0.00



Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)

\$2,968.75

\$

0.00



Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW

\$1,401.25

\$

0.00



Exempt from fee



Notice of Exemption (attach)



CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)



Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)



Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)

\$850.00

\$

0.00



County documentary handling fee

\$

50.00



Other

\$

PAYMENT METHOD:



Cash



Credit



Check



Other

TOTAL RECEIVED

\$

50.00

SIGNATURE

X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

A. MORAN, DEPUTY CLERK

*ENVIRONMENTAL DECLARATION

(CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME CODE SECTION 711.4)

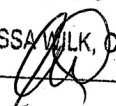
LEAD AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS

City of Berkeley
Attn: Fire Department
2100 MLK Jr Way, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, Ca 94704

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

FILED
ALAMEDA COUNTY

SEP 29 2025

MELISSA WILK, County Clerk
By  Deputy

FILE NO: _____

25-383

CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:

(PLEASE MARK ONLY ONE CLASSIFICATION)

1. NOTICE OF EXEMPTION / STATEMENT OF EXEMPTION

☒ A - STATUTORILY OR CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT

\$ 50.00 - COUNTY CLERK HANDLING FEE

2. NOTICE OF DETERMINATION (NOD)

☐ A - NEGATIVE DECLARATION (OR MITIGATED NEG. DEC.)

\$ 2,968.75 - STATE FILING FEE

\$ 50.00 - COUNTY CLERK HANDLING FEE

☐ B - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

\$ 4,123.50 - STATE FILING FEE

\$ 50.00 - COUNTY CLERK HANDLING FEE

3. OTHER: _____

A COPY OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITH EACH COPY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL DECLARATION BEING FILED WITH THE ALAMEDA COUNTY CLERK.

BY MAIL FILINGS:

PLEASE INCLUDE FIVE (5) COPIES OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TWO (2) SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES.

IN PERSON FILINGS:

PLEASE INCLUDE FIVE (5) COPIES OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND ONE (1) SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES.

ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING.

FEES ARE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALAMEDA COUNTY CLERK

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Alameda

From: (Public Agency): City of Berkeley Fire Department
2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, Ca 94704

(Address)

FILED
ALAMEDA COUNTY

SEP 29 2025

MELISSA WILK, County Clerk
By [Signature] Deputy

Project Title: Strategic Fuel Reduction Initiative -- Hazardous Eucalyptus Tree Removal Project

Project Applicant: City of Berkeley Fire Department, Fire Chief David Sprague

Project Location - Specific:

City of Berkeley areas within the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Project Location - City: Berkeley Project Location - County: Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Removal of eucalyptus trees in High and Very High Fire Hazard Zones within 200 feet of homes including along wildfire entry pathways to reduce hazardous fuel loads, enhance defensible space, and disrupt the spread of fast-moving fires. See attached for additional.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Berkeley

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Fire Chief Dave Sprague

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: PRC Sec. 21080.49(c)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project involves minor vegetation management, specifically removal of eucalyptus trees some of which have trunks greater than 12" in diameter, to reduce hazardous fuels within 200 ft of structures in High and Very High Fire Hazard Zones. The project complies with all applicable laws, ordinances and zoning requirements. Therefore, it is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to PRC Section 21080.49(c).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: David Sprague

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 510-981-3473

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 09/29/2025

Title: Fire Chief

☐ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF POSTING. Pub. Res. 21152: I certify that a copy of this document was posted at the Recorder's Office, Oakland, CA. for the period prescribed by law.

Executed at
Oakland, CA

COUNTY CLERK

Revised 2011

Date 10-31-2025 By [Signature]

Deputy

**NOE Form Inserts – for Strategic Fuel Reduction Initiative – Hazardous
Eucalyptus Tree Removal Project**

Project Location

City of Berkeley, Alameda County, California. Specific project sites are in the Berkeley Hills within designated Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see map below).

Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone

High Fire Hazard Severity Zone

Description of Project

The City of Berkeley proposes a fuel reduction project ("Project") targeting eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*) many of which are greater than 12 inches in diameter. The Project focuses on removing this flammable non-native vegetation to reduce wildfire fuel loads and create defensible space around homes and neighborhoods. This project is anticipated to continue through December of 2031.

Eucalyptus trees are located on private property, city-managed lands and public rights-of-way. Removal on private property will only occur with the express written consent of property owners. Eucalyptus trees are well-documented as a fire hazard due to their high oil content and shedding bark and litter. Dead bark strips ignite readily and can carry fire into the treetops, while dry, oily eucalyptus leaf litter is *especially* flammable, causing fire to spread quickly through eucalyptus groves¹. During extreme fire weather, wildfires burn *furiously* through eucalyptus canopies; the trees' gummy, volatile oils and peeling bark can produce long flame lengths and embers that travel over a mile downwind². By removing these hazardous fuel sources, the project will diminish the likelihood of fires and wind-driven ember storms in Berkeley's wildland-urban interface (WUI).

Only eucalyptus trees within 200 feet of residential structures will be removed as part of this Project. Further, the Project will only take place in the City's Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and the High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Many of these trees are also within strategic wildfire entry pathways identified in the Berkeley Hills.

The XyloPlan "Alameda Fire Pathways Risk Assessment" (Feb. 28, 2025) identified a number of wildfire "fire pathways" through the Berkeley Hills (see below map) where wind and terrain channel fast-moving wildfires toward the city³. In particular, the study mapped "Entry Points" – locations where a wildfire could transition from wildland vegetation into densely built neighborhoods, potentially igniting an urban conflagration. Many of the targeted eucalyptus trees lie within these critical pathway corridors (for example, along canyon draws and ridge areas adjacent to Tilden Regional Park and Grizzly Peak Blvd). Treating fuels at these entry points is a key mitigation strategy for the City: by eliminating flammable eucalyptus in those zones, the project helps interrupt the fire's path and prevents the transition of wildfire from vegetation to structures at the community edge. This work directly aligns with defensible space and wildfire risk reduction best practices recommended in the XyloPlan study.⁴

¹ https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/nature/upload/firemanagement_fireeducation_newsletter_eucalyptus.pdf#:~:text=basis%20of%20their%20bark,and%20debris%E2%80%94that%20is%20especially%20flammable

² <https://daily.jstor.org/how-eucalyptus-trees-stoke-wildfires/>

³ <https://berkeley.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=3c5e1686ebc543ffbdd1eb8698b51fe2>

⁴ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1crJTSRVfK3PIT9m1iqOyCp-hG4N3kl2G/view>

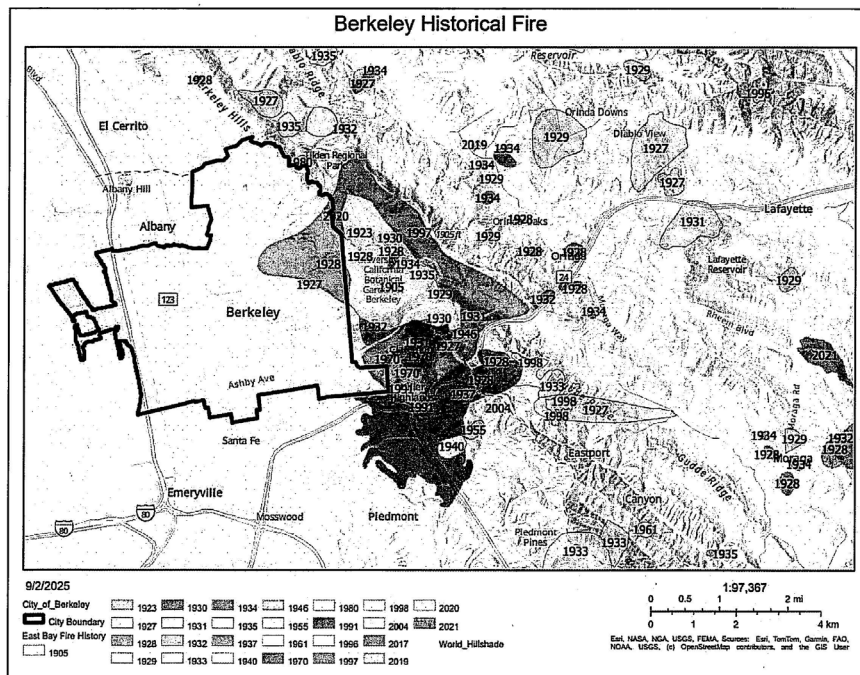
By proactively removing these high-hazard fuels in a strategic manner, the project will create a safer wildland-urban interface, enhance defensible space around homes and neighborhoods, and establish fuel breaks along critical wildfire pathways – thereby significantly mitigating the city's wildfire risk.

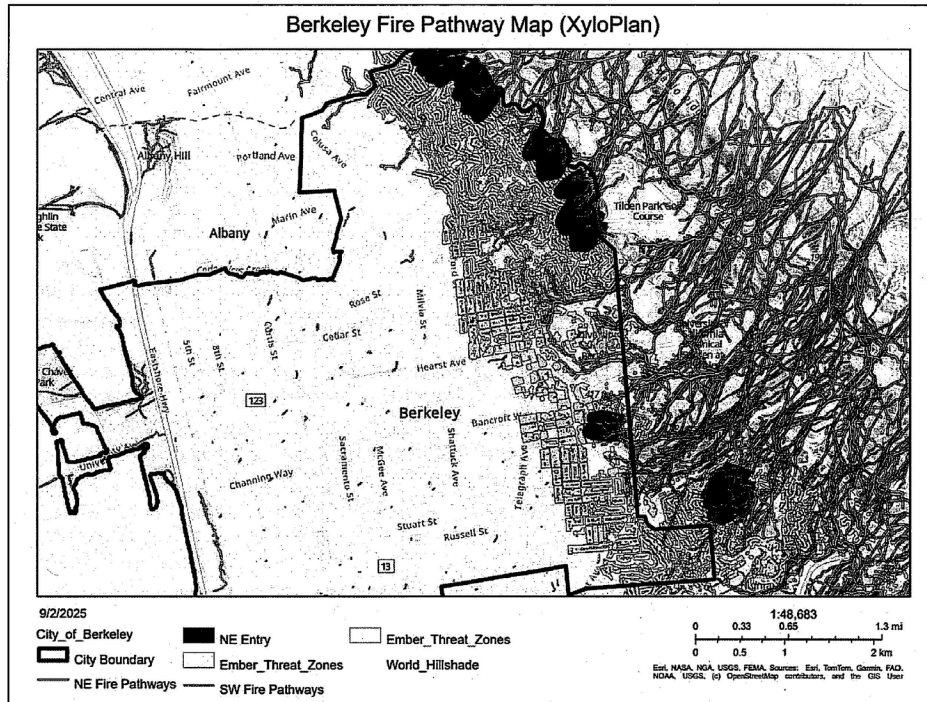
Exempt Status

- Statutory Exemptions: Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 21080.49(c)

Reasons Why Project is Exempt

- PRC §21080.49(c) – Statutory Exemption for Defensible Space: In 2025, the California Legislature enacted Senate Bill 131, enacting PRC §21080.49 which statutorily exempts certain wildfire risk reduction projects from CEQA. Under subdivision (c) of that statute, *“the establishment or enhancement of defensible space for wildfire risk reduction within 200 feet of a legal structure located in a high or very high wildfire hazard zone”* is exempt from CEQA. This Strategic Fuel Reduction Initiative directly falls under that description. The project will create and improve defensible space within 200 feet of homes and other structures throughout Berkeley's designated high and very high fire hazard zones. By clearing flammable eucalyptus in those zones, the project enhances the safety buffer around structures, consistent with Cal Fire defensible space guidelines and Berkeley's Fire Code requirements. SB 131 recognizes the urgent need to expedite wildfire safety work such as the Project.





All tree removal will be managed by the City of Berkeley and its government and non-profit community wildfire safety groups, including local Firewise USA® neighborhood groups and regional Fire Safe Councils using qualified vegetation management contractors. Project activities involve felling the eucalyptus trees and removing or chipping the debris – some debris may be left in place. No ground-disturbing grading is proposed beyond what is necessary for safe tree removals, and removals will be scheduled in the dry season whenever possible and control measures (e.g. - silt fences, wattles, mulching, seeding, replanting, and/or mats) will be installed as necessary to reduce soil erosion, disturbance, and transport of sediment on the hillsides. The project will avoid removal of any protected native or landmark trees, focusing solely on the invasive eucalyptus. All work will occur outside of bird nesting season or will include biological monitoring to avoid impacts to nesting birds and other sensitive wildlife.

Further, the Project will comply with all other applicable laws, ordinances, and zoning requirements. The City will either contract with qualified vegetation management contractors to perform this work directly or will provide direct reimbursement to property owners, government and non-profit community wildfire safety groups, including local Firewise USA® neighborhood groups and regional Fire Safe Councils who pay for work directly. However, any work conducted by one of the aforementioned parties must be pre-approved by the City to be eligible for reimbursement.

In summary, this Strategic Fuel Reduction Initiative is exempt from CEQA. It squarely fits the new statutory exemption for defensible space projects within 200 feet of structures in high and very high fire-risk zones. For all of these reasons, the project is exempt from CEQA review, and a Notice of Exemption is filed accordingly.