

Notice of Impending Development: Rancho Rico Community Fuels Treatment Project

The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) will be holding a public hearing to approve the Rancho Rico Community Fuels Treatment Project Specific Analysis as part of the Monterey County Forest Health and Fire Resilience Public Works Plan (PWP). The PSA is available on the RCDMC website here:

<https://www.rcdmonterey.org/public-notices-alerts>

The Rancho Rico Community Fuels Treatment Project is necessitated by suboptimal forest conditions due to decades of buildup of unnatural vegetation densities, including dense, overstocked stands and an accumulation of dead and dying vegetation, often as a result of historic fire suppression practices. Multiple large wildfires have impacted the Big Sur region over the past several decades, with the periodicity, intensity and scale of wildfires increasing on an annual basis. The Rancho Rico Community Fuels Treatment Project will thus enhance community wildfire safety and restore forest health (for mixed-conifer, oak woodland and coastal redwood forest habitats) through targeted fuel reduction around community infrastructure, as well as ecologically-appropriate vegetation management, including the removal of invasive French broom.

The draft PSA local public hearing will take place at the RCDMC Board of Director's Meeting scheduled for May 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84751632029?pwd=b1VPYUxOV1BBeVphbDJ4YlIwblhZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 5163 2029

Passcode: 121287

The meeting agenda will be posted to the hearing, and can be found on the RCDMC's website here:

<https://www.rcdmonterey.org/meeting-minutes-agendas>

Questions or comments regarding the Draft PSA can be directed to jtlewis@rcdmonterey.org or 831-975-7784.

About the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC): The RCDMC is a non-regulatory special district that helps people protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through information, education, and technical assistance. The RCDMC provides ecological, engineering, soil science and other expertise to work with a range of partners including farming and ranching operations, landowners and managers, and federal, state and local government agencies. For more information on the RCDMC can be found here:

<https://www.rcdmonterey.org/>

About Public Works Plans (PWP): A PWP is a land use planning document that plans for and sets a framework for implementing a specific public works project or array of public works-related activities. A PWP provides a land use planning alternative to Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) for obtaining approval of large or phased public works projects, as well as any development proposed by a special district, and remains under the authority of the Coastal Commission irrespective of coastal permit jurisdictional boundaries. A PWP is an alternative to project-by-project review for public works, which would otherwise require multiple coastal development permits for different components of the public works project. For more information contact the Coastal Commission at statewideplanning@coastal.ca.gov.