



## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR PILOT PROJECT SELECTION**

The intent of the Diablo Fire Safe Council 's Pilot Fuel Reduction Program is to assist the communities of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire. To that end, we will fund two pilot fuel reduction projects that meet the following guidelines. Projects could include: thinning, pruning, fuel break or landscape modifications that help to make our communities more fire safe. Projects must be coordinated with the community's assistance.

- Projects/ applicants will be identified through local Fire Prevention Specialists, DFSC members and other Alameda and Contra Costa agencies.
- The funding source has earmarked \$10,000 for direct costs for the two projects.
- Projects must be located within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Projects must be completed prior to October 30, 2004.
- Applicants are required to supply DFSC with a completed application and the supporting materials, including 2 competitive cost estimates for contractor related services, as listed on the application.

Successful project applicants will be expected to:

- Provide a project manager to coordinate the project with the DFSC Executive Coordinator.
- Secure relevant permission and liability releases by owner(s) of project site.
- Record all in-kind hours and services provided by the applicant on forms supplied by DFSC.
- DFSC sponsorship shall be noted on all publicity events.



## 2004 PILOT FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS APPLICATION

Project Title: Shepherd Canyon Vegetation Management

Project Location: Oakland, CA Montclair District Oakland, CA County: Alameda

Organization / individual applying: Shepherd Canyon Homeowner's Association (SCHA)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (510) 435-2892 Fax: (510) 622-9014 email: mpetouho@ch2m.com

Name and title of contact person: Mike Petouhoff, President SCHA and Lois Trostle, Board Member, SCHA

One sentence summary of proposal: Support for a Shepherd Corridor Fire Safety Plan, including reusable signs for volunteers who work on public land, signs and extra green waste dumpsters to promote private yard clearance, a fire clearance access trail, a fire demonstration garden, a defined eucalyptus management plan, small weed wrench purchase and the next steps for a Shepherd Canyon (or Corridor) Vegetation Management Plan

Estimated Project Budget: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Matching Funds: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Mike Petouhoff and Lois Trostle

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### In addition to this application form, submit the following on separate pages:

- 1) Detailed description of the project and how funds will be used. Include the following:
  - Outcome of project (# of acres treated, # of structures/ residents/ values protected)
  - If the project fits into a larger program or is part of an adopted fuel reduction plan
  - Any necessary follow up treatments. How will the project work be maintained?:
- 2) Project schedule.
- 3) Project budget and matching fund amount(s) and source(s).
- 4) List of individuals responsible for performing or overseeing the project. Include 2 cost estimates/competitive bids for any anticipated contracted services.
- 5) Statement describing the status of local, state and federal permit approvals (if required) and written permission from the landowner to perform the project.

Organizations may submit only 1 application per group.

**Please send completed applications to:**  
Diablo FireSafe Council c/o 2004 Pilot Fuel Reduction Projects  
Franklin Street #300 Oakland, CA 94612-3210.

## 1. Reusable Sign to Attract Vegetation Management Volunteers for SCHA “Eco-Pullers”

This item would be for a sign to advertise for people to join the Shepherd Canyon Eco-Pullers to do vegetation management. The sign would be a 4' wide by 3' tall sandwich board hinged at the top and visible from two sides. It could have the logos of Shepherd Canyon Homeowner's Association, Diablo Fire Safe Council and as well as the Oakland Fire Department (with their consent). It would have generic wording saying "Meet This Saturday at 8:30", that could be reused. The sign would be placed along side the road the week prior to volunteer events. While e-mail notifications are used now, it is somewhat "preaching to the choir" of those who already responded to prior solicitations. This method would ensure continual outreach and renewal of efforts. Eco Pullers are a volunteer arm of the Shepherd Canyon Homeowner's Association who practice sustainable methods of vegetation management on Public Land in Shepherd Canyon, such as the 34 Acre Open Space Resource Conservation Area called Shepherd Canyon Park. Their work is done with the support of the Oakland Fire Department and in coordination with other government funded efforts.

The EcoPullers genesis was at Earth Day events in partnership with the Oakland Fire Department. In Oakland, neighborhood earth day events are typically clean up events sponsored with the Public Works Department. In Shepherd Canyon, a partnership was formed between the fire department, and neighborhood volunteers to focus on vegetation management during earth days. Events included the fire inspection staff, fire cadets,



and, in 2004, even volunteer contractors. Neighbors then extended the effort to be year round, to provide more ongoing effort, and also to take advantage of the fall and winter rainy months to be able to plant. The name EcoPullers stems from their commitment to sustainable approaches such as using a weed wrench to **pull** French broom out by the roots so it won't come back instead of just cutting it to have it grow back. They also take on challenges such as pulling thistle before it goes to seed, and pulling ivy. Coordination with other resources include use of tools such as the weed wrenches from the public lending library funded by a previous grant, and coordination with a volunteer native plant nursery. Several hundred work years of volunteer labor are added to the other ongoing efforts. The signs are a one time expense with price to be established by competitive bidding. Recruiting is the biggest challenge and these signs can help!



**2. Signs and Extra Green Waste Dumpsters for Resident's Yard Cleanups.** While SCHA EcoPullers are volunteers focusing on public land, SCHA Eco-neighbors help private residents to clear their yards. Shepherd Canyon was one of the neighborhoods spared during the 1991 Firestorm. While this results in somewhat lesser awareness, it also results in a much greater fuel load than areas that did burn in 1991. Extra fuel load translates into huge amounts of green waste when



neighbors clear their yard. Yard waste dumpsters help with the challenge of disposal. In 2004, for example, one dumpster was coordinated by the fire department for earth day and two others were used for neighborhood clearance days to help meet the fire departments

June 15<sup>th</sup> clearance milestone. Judging from the speed in which they were filled, many more could be used. But no addition dumpsters are available from the city. Dumpster days also provide for a visible encouragement for neighbors to tend to their yards. This item provides funding for reusable signs and extra Green Waste Dumpsters from Waste Management. Two types of signs would be used. First a large lightweight 4' x 8' sign to hang on the dumpster to visibly instruct on proper use of the dumpster- greenwaste, but no plastic bags, no dumping and green waste to be cut and reduced to efficiently use the space. Secondly, a reversible hinged 3' tall by 4' wide sandwich board to be placed by the roadside to notify people a greenwaste dumpster to be here "this weekend". The reversible sign would be turned to the opposite side after the dumpster was removed or filled to indicate "No Dumping Here". The signs could have the logos of Shepherd Canyon Homeowner's Association, Diablo Fire Safe Council and as well as the Oakland Fire Department (with their consent). Existing signs are flimsy, they blow over, and time consuming to create and keep in place.

The price of 30 cu yard dumpsters from Waste Management of Alameda County is \$812.75. Shepherd Canyon could use one more in 2004 and two additional dumpsters in future years. The signs are a one-time expense with price to be established by competitive bidding. This would serve the approximately 2,000 homes in Shepherd Canyon, and stimulate several hundred person-hours of resident time each year.



**3. Trail for Fire Clearance Access Below Fire Station 24.** This item provides for a fire clearance access trail for a very densely wooded steep terrain below the City of Oakland's Fire Station 24. This land is part of Shepherd Canyon Park. Most of it is owned by the city of Oakland, though a major portion is actually owned by the East Bay Regional Park District. This arrangement stems for a 1975 Shepherd Corridor Plan and Environmental Impact Report. At the time, much of the canyon had been owned by CALTRANS and set aside a route for Highway 77. However, due to citizen's input and desire for preservation, the highway was canceled and the land became excess to CLATrans. Before the sale of the land for development, the City of Oakland, in a far-sighted move, created the Shepherd Corridor Plan and an EIR under CEQA was conducted. One of major results was that 34 acres were set aside a resource conservation area and the area below the fire station was designated a scenic creek area to preserve Shepherd Creek free flowing in this are below the fire station. At the time, the plan also called for a creekside trail. Due to citizen concerns of residents that live on Scout Road, the routing of the trail was designated in the EIR to be in the northern side of the creek, under the area where Fire Station 24 was later built. Though other trails designated in the 1975 EIR and Land Use Map were built



this one was not funded. Though the vegetation management of Shepherd Canyon Park has taken major leaps forward in the last several years, this section of the Canyon remains with very wild with heavy undergrowth, and is very difficult to access. A trail would provide pedestrian access to clearance crews to more easily access this area, to bring in tools and to carry out cleared brush. Other funds from creek protection and restoration projects may be able to be leveraged as well. The City of Oakland has set aside \$10M of Measure DD funds for creek restoration, and this Shepherd Creek route among the projects eligible and being considered for funding.

**4.Fire Safety Demonstration Garden.** As an outgrowth of recent efforts at Park Master Planning, the need for a fire demonstration garden in Shepherd Canyon Park has been identified. The intent would be less of a memorial and more of a demonstration site for fire safe landscaping. A site between Fire Station 24 and the heavily used soccer field along Shepherd Canyon Road provides the symbolic impact of the Fire Station, as well as frequent use of the area by park users, soccer families, and the visibility to passers by on Shepherd Canyon Road. The area immediately adjacent to the Fire Station (in picture above from previous section) provides a very steep hill to demonstrate fire safe, erosion controlling, deer resistant hillside ground cover- a very important aspect for hill dwellers trying to maintain defensible space. This steep area is adjacent to the entrance to the proposed trail mentioned in item 3. In addition, parking improvements already planned for the park would compliment this area as a fire demonstration garden. The city of Oakland has committed \$100K to parking improvements for Shepherd Canyon Park, and an additional \$150K is being pursued through Prop 40. One of the improvements would allow citizens

to park in the city parking lot across the street, with some minor trail improvements for access. The trail improvements would take people directly through the flat portion of the garden area, to have up close pedestrian visibility of any plants and educational signage. Another area of the park, called the upper meadow or Escher Meadow, is currently planned for replanting. The City of Oakland has designated \$8,000 from Measure DD to buy new plants for this area after it is regarded later this summer. Irrigation is a concern as well. The primary purpose of this



effort is restoration of a creekside meadow after city employees used the meadow for dumping in the past, however it also has important fire safety implications. The area provides an important fire break and experience shows that it will be quickly overgrown by French broom if not maintained. Potential resources from Diablo Fire Safe Council could be expertise in planning these areas, funding for professional services to create a detailed plan, and funding for plants and irrigation supplies to implement.

**5.Eucalyptus Removal next to City Corporation Yard Along Shepherd Canyon Road.** This was identified on a recent hike with the SCHA "Eco planners" along with representatives from the Steering Committee of the new Oakland Fire Assessment District. A stand of eucalyptus trees and saplings along Shepherd Canyon Road creates not only a fire hazard in terms of fuel load, but even more importantly, also presents the risk that tall unstable trees could fall across the road during a fire creating both a hazard for residents trying to evacuate, as an obstacle for fire personnel from Fire Station 24, who depend on the Shepherd Canyon Road to meet their response time requirements for thousands of homes. This project would provide for the

gradual removal of these eucalyptus trees, and replacement with more fire safe and hill side holding trees such as Oaks. The proposal is not to eradicate all of the eucalyptus at one time. Rather, it is for a multiyear effort, accompanied by replanting. This could be a visible demonstration area for replacing Eucalyptus with viable and more sustainable and fire safe growth. Expertise from the Diablo Fire Safe Council, The Citizens Steering Committee of Oakland Fire Assessment District, and the Friends of Sausal Creek would all be invited to create a sustainable plan. This could be a demonstration area for a new proposed Oakland Ordinance for the selective use of herbicide, in this case around the edge of the newly cut stumps. Sapling management would take ongoing effort and would be an opportunity for volunteer involvement. Replacement trees could include Oaks sprouted from acorns and planted in place to create a transition area for the Eucalyptus being removed. Resources from PG&E, who has a major power line adjacent to this area may be able to help as well. Already, Eucalyptus trees on the other (east) side of the street are planned for removal by the fire department and as part of the planned and funded parking improvements. This project would provide for removal on the west side of Shepherd Canyon Road. It would be envisioned to span a 5 year timeframe.



**6. Purchase of Smaller Weed Wrenches for the tool lending Library** Shepherd Canyon is one of many active users of the tool lending library which supplies vegetation management tools such as the weed wrench free of charge. However many residents have complained of the weight of the existing wrenches and have asked for a smaller version which is available for small plants and use on steep hill sides. This item would provide for the purchase of 5 small weed wrenches to be put into the library for the use of all residents in Montclair.

### **7. Completion of the Shepherd Canyon Vegetation Management Plan**

The city of Oakland General Plan (OSCAR Element Action 1.1.2) requires a master plan to be prepared for many of its wildland open spaces. The Shepherd Canyon plan prepared in partial fulfillment of this requirement can be accessed in its current form at:

<http://www.shepherdcanon.org/docs/VegetationSurvey.doc>

The plan is the primary focus of the SCHA "EcoPlanners." Originally, it was expected to be about a \$20K effort to be funded as part of a \$75K Federal Fire Safety Grant. However police overtime overruns in the City of Oakland force use of some of the grant funds to be used for annual clearance, a legitimate use, but one that displaced moving forward with full funding for a vegetation study which would lead to more optimal use of annual clearance funds. So the existing effort, was funded out of citizen donations through SCHA and conducted with local expertise. It is largely a survey of existing vegetation as a precursor to more specific recommendations. The next steps are envisioned to include recommendations for sustainable actions by species, locations, time of year, that could result in workplans that could be used in implementation as contract scopes of work, as grant application scopes, and as guides for citizen volunteer labor. It would also look exhaustively at methods where economically driven

harvesting of species such as Acacia, Pine and Eucalyptus might create low or no cost removals. Replanting would be evaluated as well. Conflicts between preservation and fire safety would be resolved up front. The result would be not only improved fire safety in the interim, but also a vegetative landscape that is more fire safe and more cost effective to maintain at the end of 10 years.

This item, though proposed for Shepherd Canyon, would be integrated with many other efforts. The expertise of the Oakland Fire Department, the Diablo Fire Safe Council, the Citizens Steering Committee of the Oakland Wildfire Safety Assessment District, and the Friends of Sausal Creek would be solicited and utilized. The Oakland General Plan (OSCAR Element Figure 14) shows several "Potential Wildfire Corridors". Shepherd Canyon is located on one of these Corridors, upwind from Sausal Creek, which shares the same Corridor with Shepherd Canyon. The organization Friends of Sausal Creek, has significant expertise in vegetation management and restoration. FOSC has been invited to join this process, both to contribute expertise and potentially to collaborate on a vegetation management plan for the entire corridor. FOSC representatives joined a recent Shepherd Canyon Fire Safety Hike, and expressed an interest in working together as well.

The existing Shepherd Canyon Vegetation survey focuses of course on Shepherd Canyon, but the underlying base maps are done in GIS and could easily be overlaid onto other maps for a corridor wide plan or even as part of a city or regional plan. If funds were available, plans could be developed for all publicly owned land in the Oakland Wildfire district. Or as a more modest initial effort, a plan for Shepherd Canyon, or the Shepherd Canyon-Sausal Creek Fire Corridor could be developed as an initial step, with lessons learned exported to other efforts at a later time. This grant request solicits the expertise of Diablo Fire Safe Council in this effort as well as their help to identify funding for professional services to complete this plan with appropriate input.