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Marin Municipal Water District adopts a plan for vegetation management on Mt. Tamalpais watershed to reduce wildfire risk

The Board of Directors for the Marin Municipal Water District unanimously adopted a plan that will expand vegetation management throughout its Mt. Tamalpais watershed using no herbicides, with an adaptive management approach that will benefit from the latest science and research. The Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) was approved after years of environmental reviews on the state and local levels, and an extensive series of public hearings, meetings and comment periods.

"The BFFIP has been more than a decade in the making and is a testament to the diligence of the many individuals and groups in the MMWD community who helped shape it," said Board President Larry Bragman. "The plan demonstrates MMWD's leadership in its stewardship of the Mt. Tam watershed and is an accomplishment we can all be proud of."

The Board gave the BFFIP the green light during its meeting Tuesday, after listening to testimony during a public hearing. The BFFIP describes the actions the district will take over many years to minimize fire hazards and maximize ecological health on the district's watershed. It is designed to guide the methods the agency will use to reduce wildfire risk, while preserving and enhancing the existing biological resources on Mt. Tam—all of which protect water quality.

"Our role as water providers and stewards of the watershed is to collect data, look at the research and review the most effective methods of vegetation management," said MMWD General Manager Ben Horenstein. "This plan represents that body of work."

In addition to detailed planning and monitoring, the BFFIP's approach to vegetation management includes reducing potential fire fuel, removing invasive species that threaten the health of the ecosystem, and restoring ecosystem resiliency through prescribed burning, grazing, and removal of invasive broom in fuelbreaks. The plan includes annual reviews and updates, and is available at MarinWater.org/BFFIP.

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