

# **Action 21: Encourage Public Agencies to Recognize the Ecological Significance of the Caldecott Corridor and Local Fire Risks & Mitigation Needs in General Plans/Master Plans; Encourage Maintenance of Existing Land Use Designations**

## **Description:**

Urge public agencies to recognize the ecological significance of the Caldecott Corridor and the fire history of the Oakland/Berkeley Hills area in new editions of county, city, or public agency general plans or master plans to help maintain awareness of this issue over the long term. Recommend that new developments approved for the area include adequate on-site defensible space for firefighting as a condition of approval (see also Action 14 regarding Foam Systems). Recommend that individuals purchasing homes in the area be advised clearly and in writing of its fire history.

Encourage counties and cities to maintain and enforce the existing land use designations and zoning in the Caldecott Corridor. The current policies appear adequate to maintain the open space necessary for the wildlife movement, to allow fire risks to be managed, and to protect the interests of property owners.

## **Implementation:**

Relevant agencies will be notified of this recommendation. Additional public processes would be required for each agency when they adopt new General Plans/Master Plans.

## **Fiscal Impacts:**

Short term personnel and public notification costs to local agencies. Financial burden of increased fire mitigation following new development placed on new development rather than on neighboring land owners.

## **Anticipated results:**

Improve awareness of the Caldecott Corridor and the fire history of the area; benefit long-term protection of wildlife corridor function; improve fire safety of new developments and reduce future needs for new fire mitigation actions (and the impacts and costs of these actions) on adjacent public and private land and landowners; protect property owner interests; and maintain a land use pattern which can be effective for multiple objectives both now and in the future.

## **Cautions:**

The above is only a recommendation. Any actual land use decisions must be made by land planning agencies through the processes established by state law.