

Fountaingrove II Open Space Management Plan (Section IV)

Objectives and Fire and Fuel Management

A. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of open space management for Fountaingrove II include the following:

- 1) To retain a maximum of the natural values embodied in the site's existing vegetation and associated wildlife.
- 2) To preserve existing resource features of concern and restore or enhance selected communities and habitats.
- 3) To preserve the visual quality of the natural landscape in open space areas considering views from offsite as well as onsite.
- 4) To minimize the potential fire hazard associated with the open space/development interface.
- 5) To control erosion in areas where it occurs currently and to minimize the potential for future erosion.
- 6) To provide for certain recreational uses such as hiking consistent with the other natural resource protection and management objectives.

IV. D OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT Plan

8. FIRE AND FUEL MANAGEMENT

A significant concern regarding open space management involves managing the fire hazard associated with the residential development/open space interface. The site's vegetation types are all capable of carrying a fire. The woodland and chaparral areas in particular are capable of carrying a significant fire due to their fuel loading structure. Additionally, topography contributes to the potential fire hazard. The open space areas include steep slopes which can assist in rapidly spreading a fire uphill.

The goal with respect to fire and fuel management is to provide a reasonably fire-safe environment along the residential development/open space interface to insure that residential structures can be protected from a fire originating in the open space area.

The principal means to achieve this goal will involve the creation and maintenance of the 100 foot minimum fuel management zone along the residential development/open space interface as shown on Figure 9. Within this fuel management zone, vegetation in woodland areas will be kept thinned out using primarily hand methods with the removed material being disposed of offsite, piled and burned locally if considered a safe measure and approval is obtained by the appropriate local and regional agencies, or chipped and spread over the ground surface to a depth of no more than three (3) inches, and kept away from native plants that should not be mulched. Chaparral areas within the fuel management zone will be extensively thinned and cleared using a combination of mechanical and hand methods and will be converted to a low growing fuelbreak dominated by the sensitive subshrubs (Rincon ceanothus and Rincon manzanita) and supplemented with native grasses. Tall mature chaparral will not be maintained within or immediately adjacent to the fuel management zone except as small, isolated islands for wildlife. The open space trail system will be maintained for accessibility by four wheel drive vehicles for both open space maintenance and fire access. The entire fire safety situation including open space fuel loading, fuelbreaks, and access will be reviewed annually prior to the fire season to determine the need for any remedial actions. The annual review of the fuel loading of vegetation in the fuel management zones will include the fire threat of all plant species, dead or alive, including trees. As noted above in section D1 - Habitat Enhancement, the small sensitive indigenous Rincon Ceanothus and Rincon Manzanita plants are considered acceptable in the fuel management zones.