

Regional Parks Department
Jeffrey R. Leatherman, Director



Divisions
Administration
Golf
Leisure Services
Maintenance
Rangers
Therapeutic Recreation Services

County of Sacramento

January 17, 2014

Members of the Community,

In November of 2013, the Department of Regional Parks presented a proposed firebreak plan for the Cal Expo and Woodlake areas of the American River Parkway in three public meetings (American River Parkway Coalition, the American River Parkway Advisory Committee, and the Recreation and Park Commission). The intent of the proposed firebreak plan was to better protect our important riparian forests and other sensitive resources on the Parkway from wildfire. The proposed plan was formulated with collaboration and consultation with Sacramento City Fire Department and Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District.

The plan described improving existing maintenance roads, by clearing the roadsides of non-native, tall, herbaceous vegetation (e.g. poison hemlock, yellow star thistle). Clearing would allow adequate access and space for fire vehicles and for fire personnel to safely respond to wildfires in the Parkway, as well as provide a wider vegetation fire break. The width of the proposed roads with cleared firebreaks would be a total of 20 to 30 feet, narrowing where necessary to avoid damaging trees and shrubs. Part of this plan was to utilize Metro Fire District's dozer equipment to scrape weedy vegetation from the roadways.

Over the past few days, some members of our Parkway community have expressed concern on the use of Metropolitan Fire District's dozer equipment in the Parkway. It is our understanding that this equipment will be down for maintenance until March.

Due to the dry drought conditions and the continued high risk of Parkway wildfire, I have directed our maintenance division to mobilize our light equipment to initiate our firebreak maintenance plans. We will be using our light tractor and firebreak mower typically used in the Parkway for these projects. After Metropolitan Fire's equipment is available we will reassess the progress made by the Department and continue our efforts to protect the Parkway and the surrounding community.

Should you have any questions please contact Mary Maret, Senior Natural Resource Specialist at 916-875-4918.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Leatherman".

Jeff Leatherman,
Director