



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOLO COUNTY AND CITY OF DAVIS PARTNER FOR NORTH FORK PUTAH CREEK WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PROJECT; WORK STARTS SEPTEMBER 12

September 8, 2022 – The City of Davis and Yolo County announced a partnership today to thin vegetation in the North Fork Putah Creek Wildfire Risk Reduction Project located along the Putah Creek Pathway between Drummond Avenue and Mace Boulevard. The project date is set for September 12-13, 2022, and includes land on both County and City property. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) will implement this project at no cost to the County or City.

This project is happening under order from City of Davis Fire Marshal Patrick Sandholdt who said, “It is prudent to thin the area of vegetation near to homes to reduce the risk of wildfire.”

Both entities will take every precaution to mitigate impact on wildlife. The project team has trained wildlife spotters, who monitor trees and the work area for animal habitat, to assist the effort. The City of Davis wildlife specialist will also perform an inspection of the area, and the project work is occurring outside of nesting season for birds.

The project area is located on the southern boundary of the City of Davis's Willowcreek subdivision, just north of the Willowbank and Old Willowbank subdivisions in unincorporated Yolo County. The public may experience a few minor impacts during the work hours of the project, such as noise from machinery and temporary, limited access to the bike path. Work hours are 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The existing drainage channel is a remnant of the Putah Creek system, which was realigned to divert floodwaters into the South Fork of Putah Creek in the late 19th century. The North Fork of Putah Creek ("NFPC") is currently used by the City of Davis for storm water conveyance, though most of the project area is on County-owned property. This project will reduce the risk of wildfire to the adjacent residential subdivisions (Willowcreek, Willowbank and Old Willowbank) between Drummond Avenue on the west and Mace Boulevard on the east. The project area is approximately nine acres in size.

The scope of the project is to remove wildfire fuels such as dead trees/vegetation, downed woody debris, ladder fuels and dense, dry stands of shrubbery. Mature, healthy trees will not be affected by this project. All reasonable efforts will be made to prune trees and preserve their overall health and integrity. The County will provide a chipper for the project so that the vegetation removed can be chipped and placed along the channel banks as ground cover. Yolo County and City of Davis staff have worked together with the City of Davis Fire Marshal to mark the subject vegetation with color-coded non-toxic, washable paint to identify which vegetation should be removed and what should be left as is.

Project web page:

<https://www.yolocounty.org/government/general-government-departments/community-services/natural-resources/north-fork-putah-creek-fuel-reduction-project-5032>

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Attachment: Image of Putah Creek Wildfire Risk Reduction Project

