

# 1 INTRODUCTION OF SPR CHAP/CSS-1

The following Standard Project Requirement (SPR) incorporates the requirements for and limitations of chaparral and coastal sage scrub treatment, as described in the Court's Writ of Mandate and its Exhibit A (dated November 14, 2025) in Case No. 37-2020-00005203-CU-TT-CT. The SPR is provided for use by proponents on applicable projects. The SPR can be applied to projects relying on the 2019 CalVTP Program EIR for CEQA compliance and approved after the date of the appellate court decision requiring the writ, May 30, 2025. SPR CHAP/CSS-1 may be replaced by one or more SPRs in the CalVTP Update Subsequent Program EIR for projects approved after its certification.

## 2 SPR CHAP/CSS-1: CHAPARRAL AND COASTAL SAGE SCRUB

To be consistent with the Writ of Mandate and its Exhibit A (dated November 14, 2025) in Case No. 37-2020-00005203-CU-TT-CT, for the purposes of this SPR only, the following definitions and treatment activity limitations are incorporated into the proposed project.

### 2.1 DEFINITIONS

Chaparral and coastal sage scrub are defined as follows:

#### 2.1.1 Chaparral

Dominated by evergreen, drought-tolerant shrubs that are typically 1.5–3 meters tall (Barbour, Keeler-Wolf, and Schoenherr 2007) with stiff branches, and sclerophyllous (i.e., hard leaved) leaves.

- ▶ Chaparral alliances are listed in level 1, 2 of the Key to Shrublands in the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer et al. 2009). This definition does not include alliances dominated by coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*).
- ▶ Dominant plant species may include manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), redshank (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*), sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*), scrub oak species (e.g., *Quercus berberidifolia*, *Q. dumosa*, *Q. durata*), Mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and evergreen buckthorn (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*).

#### 2.1.2 Coastal sage scrub

Dominated by drought-tolerant, deciduous, lower-growing (typically 1–1.5 meters tall) (Barbour, Keeler-Wolf, and Schoenherr 2007), shallow-rooted, aromatic shrubs with soft, flexible branches, and soft, deciduous leaves that drop off in response to drought.

- ▶ Coastal sage scrub alliances are listed in level 15 and 15' under 1, 2', 12', 13', 14 of the Key to Shrublands in the CNPS Manual of California Vegetation. This definition does not include alliances dominated by

coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) or nonnative species (e.g., broom [*Genista monspessulana*, *Cytisus scoparius*], *Cotoneaster* spp.).

- ▶ Dominant or diagnostic plant species may include: California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), California brittle bush (*Encelia californica*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), monkey flower (*Diplacus* spp.), and stands with other species dominant to co-dominant listed in level 15' under 1, 2', 12', 13', 14.
- ▶ A stand of chaparral or coastal sage scrub is defined as a spatially continuous unit of shrub vegetation composed of chaparral and/or coastal sage scrub alliances. A chaparral and/or coastal sage scrub stand may be surrounded by forest, grassland, or woodland vegetation.

All references to the CNPS Manual of California Vegetation are to the most current online edition, available at <https://vegetation.cnps.org/>.

## 2.2 TREATMENT ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS

As required in Exhibit A of the Writ of Mandate, treatments in chaparral and coastal sage scrub will be limited to activities listed below:

- ▶ New linear, accessible strategic fuel breaks located along ridgelines, roadsides, and in other critical defensive locations determined by responsible fire agencies, provided that long-term maintenance of flammable nonnative vegetation is included. Such fuel break treatments shall be the minimum width necessary to provide for firefighter safety, operational procedures, and back firing operations, and shall not exceed 300 feet in width;
- ▶ Maintenance of existing fuel breaks and prior treatment areas to control flammable, nonnative invasive plants;
- ▶ Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) fuel reduction treatment located within 1,000 feet of the Interface layer mapped in the CAL FIRE WUI layer (WUI25 1) (available at: <https://hub-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/maps/ab3148666b084efcbe3bec0bf6af7441/explore?location=36.998595%2C-121.992016%2C13>), provided that long-term maintenance of flammable, non-native vegetation is included, with a preference for hand thinning.
- ▶ Ecological restoration treatments consisting of removal of flammable, non-native vegetation; and/or
- ▶ Treatments where the stand of chaparral or coastal sage scrub has a state rarity rank of S4 (apparently secure) or S5 (demonstrably secure) according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (available at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities#lists>), and has generated following a fire within the last 15 years in an area previously characterized by woodland or forest before the fire, as evidenced by satellite imagery and as defined in accordance with the Key to Main Vegetation Categories in the CNPS Manual of California Vegetation.

## 3 REFERENCES

- Barbour, M. G., T. Keeler-Wolf, and A. A. Schoenherr. 2007. *Terrestrial Vegetation of California*. Third edition. University of California Press. Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA, and London, England.
- Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J. M. Evens. 2009. *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Second Edition). California Native Plant Society and California Department of Fish and Game.