Agenda Item #13.11
For Council Meeting of: September 30, 2025

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: GABE OSBURN, DIRECTOR, PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE COST RECOVERY LIEN AGAINST THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1810 GUERNEVILLE RD

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Economic Development Department recommends that the Council, by resolution, approve the administrative cost recovery lien in the amount of $9,087.73 against the property located at 1810 Guerneville Rd for violations of the City Code which remain uncorrected by the responsible party, 4J Investments, Joshua T. Wagle and Julieta Leal-Weiss, and authorize the recordation of a lien and placement of a special assessment on the property tax roll for collection. This item has no impact on current fiscal year budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Chapter 1-30 of the Santa Rosa City Code, a Hearing Officer conducts administrative hearings to determine whether or not violations of the City Code exist on a specific property. If violations exist, and associated administrative costs are not paid in full within 30 days, an administrative cost recovery lien may be placed on the property. In this case, the Hearing Officer found that violations existed on the property at 1810 Guerneville Rd, and that the violations have remained uncorrected by the responsible party, 4J Investments, Joshua T. Wagle and Julieta Leal-Weiss, who did not appear at the Administrative Hearing held on May 14, 2025. The unpaid lien amount of $9,087.73 consists of administrative costs of $6,343.92 assessed by the Administrative Hearing Officer, and actual costs of $2,743.81 in Administrative Hearing Officer fees and cost for hearing preparation, conducting the hearing, review of evidence and preparation and service of the Administrative Enforcement Order.

GOAL

This item relates to Council Goal #1 - Achieve and Maintain Budgeting Excellence and Fiscal Stability and maintain fiscal sustainability and budgeting excellence by recovering staff costs.

BACKGROUND/PRIOR COUNCIL REVIEW

On March 25, 2024, a formal complaint was issued to the Code Enforcement Department regarding “Homeless camping, trash, overgrowth of vegetation and unmaintained fencing”, at 1810 Guerneville Rd. A Notice of Violation was mailed to the Responsible Party at 2329 Carson St, Santa Rosa CA 95403 and to 336 Los Robles Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101. The violation was not cleared and a Second Notice of Violation was mailed to the Responsible Party.

An Administrative Notice and Order was mailed to the Responsible Party by certified and regular mail on March 6, 2025. The timely noticed Administrative Hearing was held on May 14, 2025. The Responsible Party did not appear and administrative costs totaling $9,087.73 were ordered to the City, pursuant to the Enforcement Order.

ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Chapter 1-30 of the Santa Rosa City Code, a Hearing Officer conducts administrative hearings to determine whether or not violations of the City Code exist on a specific property. Since May 2004, hearings have been scheduled twice a month. Per these procedures, when one or more violations are identified, the responsible party or parties are notified and given a reasonable time to make corrections. If the corrections are not accomplished by a specific date, the party or parties are required to appear before the Administrative Hearing Officer to determine whether or not the violations exist. Where administrative costs of the enforcement process were incurred and proven at the hearing, such costs are also assessed against the responsible party or parties. At the hearing, the responsible party or parties are advised that if the administrative costs remain unpaid, the City retains the option to either place an administrative cost recovery lien against the property where violations occurred, or to create a personal obligation against the responsible party.

If the responsible party has not paid the administrative costs in full within 30 days, the Code Enforcement Officer shall request, by placing on the City Council consent agenda, an item to confirm that an administrative cost recovery lien be added to the next regular bill levied against the parcel.

The County Auditor and the County Tax Collector require that the City Council act by resolution to create an administrative cost recovery lien. The resolution must identify the parcel by address, if available, by its recorded location in the Official Records of Sonoma County, and by the parcel number. It must also provide the dollar amount of the lien, and, when the lien amount is in excess of $2,500, the number of equal annual installment payments but not exceeding five in number. The resolution also authorizes and empowers the officers of the City, including the City Clerk and the Chief Financial Officer, to do all things as may be necessary, including but not limited to notifications to the Sonoma County Auditor and Tax Collector, to carry out the foregoing.

FISCAL IMPACT

Collection of the costs of code enforcement activities will be applied to the administrative hearing fund and supports cost recovery for staff time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, the recommended action is not a “project” subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not have a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. In the alternative, the recommended action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(4) and (5) because the action is a creation of a governmental funding mechanism and an administrative activity that does not involve a commitment to, or authorization of, any physical development or construction that may cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment..

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Property owner is provided notice of this action a minimum of 10 days prior to the Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Administrative Enforcement Order
- Attachment 2 – Case File Photographs
- Attachment 3 – Vicinity Map
- Resolution

PRESENTER(S)

Lou Kirk
Assistant Chief Building Official