

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: PAUL LOWENTHAL, ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE DEPARTMENT
SHELLEY MCCLURE, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL WEED
ABATEMENT PROGRAM REPORT- PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council, by resolution, ratify and confirm the itemized report of the Fire Department of the cost of weed and rubbish abatement as provided for in Sections 9-08.020, 9-08-080, and 9-08.090 of the Santa Rosa City Code.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Santa Rosa requires that residents comply with Ordinance #3681, to abate and maintain their parcels throughout the declared fire season.

BACKGROUND

Santa Rosa City Code section Chapter 9.08 requires a public hearing to hear objections to the cost of weeds and/or rubbish abatement. The City Council grants or overrules such protests.

The City Council, by resolution, may confirm the itemized report of the costs of abatement.

The City Council authorizes the Santa Rosa Fire Department, County Auditor and Tax Collector to enact a special assessment as a lien upon respective parcels subject to the weed and rubbish abatement program.

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PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

NOT APPLICABLE

ANALYSIS

The Santa Rosa City Code requires the abatement of weeds and rubbish as a public nuisance.

The Santa Rosa Fire Department, as directed by the City Council, has abated weeds and rubbish within the City of Santa Rosa. In the 2015 season, 211 parcels were found to be in violation. Of those violations, 55 parcels were not initially abated by the property owners after being notified by the Fire Department. Of those parcels 41 required abatement by the Fire Department while 14 were abated by the property owners after being in violation. As of June 30, 2016, there are 116 parcels which have unpaid balances for Fire Department related expenses, including violation notices, additional inspections and physical abatement work.

The total unpaid balance is \$35,292.40

Program recovery and physical abatement charges are billed to property owners that fail to abate their property by the abatement notice due date. Program costs, based on an hourly rate of \$129.00 for FY15/16 include the direct cost for the contractor's abatement, inspections, responding to complaints, and notification of the contractor to perform physical abatement and program support costs.

Following the public hearing and upon confirmation of the itemized report of the costs of abatement by council, any charges left unpaid will automatically become a lien upon the respective parcels. An administrative charge of \$2.00 plus 1.02% of the assessment amount are included in the lien. The administrative fee is to offset the cost of processing the lien and the 1.02% covers the lost revenue on City funds unavailable for investment until the Assessor forwards payment to the City.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fees invoiced by the Weed Abatement program will be added to the County tax roll. All fees, including an additional Administration fee, will be reimbursed to the City.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NOT APPLICABLE

NOTIFICATION

NOT APPLICABLE

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1 – CONTRACT FOR SERVICE FEASIBILITY STUDY

CONTACT

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Attachments:

- Attachment 1, Santa Rosa Fire Dept.
- Attachment 2, Council Report
- Attachment 3, Resolution 28608 2/24/2015
- Attachment 4, Resolution 28675 8/4/2015