

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

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

AGENDA ACTION: HEARING

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Santa Rosa Fire Department that the Council, by resolution, confirm the itemized report of the Fire Department of the cost of weed and rubbish abatement pursuant to Section 9-08-080 of the Santa Rosa City Code.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chapter 9-08 of the Santa Rosa City Code provides procedures for the abatement of weeds and rubbish declared to be nuisances by the City Council and to thereafter recover the cost of abatement of weeds and rubbish by the Santa Rosa Fire Department.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 9.08 of the Santa Rosa City Code states that the Santa Rosa Fire Chief keep an account of the cost of abating a nuisance for each lot or parcel where the work is done and thereafter render an itemized report in writing to the City Council showing the cost of abating weeds and rubbish on each separate lot or parcel.

Section 9-08.080 of the City Code states that at the time fixed for receiving and considering the report, the City Council must hear the same, together with any objections which may be raised by any of the property owners liable to be assessed for the work of abating such nuisance and thereupon make such modifications in the report as they deem necessary, after which, by motion or resolution, confirm the report.

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Section 9-08.090 of the City Code states that the cost of abating nuisances on various lots or parcels and confirmed by the Council constitute liens on the property for the amount of the respective assessments.

After confirmation of the report by the City Council, a copy will be provided to the Assessor and the Tax Collector for placement of the assessments on the tax roll.

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 2016 season, 313 parcels were found to be in violation. Of those parcels, 32 required abatement by the Fire Department. As of June 30, 2017, there are 85 parcels which have unpaid balances for Fire Department related expenses, including violation notices, additional inspections and physical abatement work.

The total unpaid balance without Administrative fees is \$27,984.25.

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 \$132.00 for FY16/17 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 – SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPT
ATTACHMENT 2 – COUNCIL REPORT
ATTACHMENT 3 – RESOLUTION # FOR 2/28/2017
ATTACHMENT 4 – RESOLUTION # FOR 8/16/2016

CONTACT

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