



# **ESTABLISHING PRIVATE FIRE DEBRIS CLEANUP DEADLINE**

City Council Meeting  
February 13, 2018

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# BACKGROUND

- The October wildfires destroyed approximately 3,000 homes and numerous commercial structures within Santa Rosa.
- Ash and debris contains hazardous and toxic materials left from burned building materials, vehicles, electronics, paint, cleaning solutions, and other common household products.
- To protect public health and the environment, the debris must be cleared, transported and disposed in compliance with all local, state and federal requirements.
- Time is critical given the risks of potential migration and contamination of adjacent properties, waterways, and the City's stormwater and wastewater systems as well as the risk of airborne toxins.

# CURRENT STATUS

- Property owners were offered two options for clean-up and removal of ash and fire debris
- Consolidated Debris Removal Program
  - Funded by government and insurance
  - Performed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”)
  - Cleared to identified health and environmental standards
- Private debris removal:
  - At property owner’s expense
  - Must be performed by qualified contractor
  - Requires prior City approval of Santa Rosa Fire Clean-up Application and Work Plan
  - Must meet essentially the same standards as USACE

# CURRENT STATUS

- Consolidated Debris Removal Program expected to be completed by late March or sooner
- Private debris removals are underway or scheduled on many properties
- More than 300 properties still to be cleared through private debris removal

# RECOMMENDATION

Given the urgency of clearing hazardous materials, the Fire Department and City Attorney recommend that Council, by resolution, establish a deadline of April 9, 2018 for removal of all fire debris from residential and commercial properties affected by the Tubbs and Nuns Canyon Fires.

QUESTIONS?