



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 08/04/2020

ITEM NO: 14

DATE: July 29, 2020
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Open and Close a Public Hearing to Consider Objections to the 2020 Weed Abatement Program Assessment Report and Adopt a Resolution Confirming the Report and Authorizing Collection of the Assessment Charges

RECOMMENDATION:

Open and close a public hearing to consider objections to the 2020 Weed Abatement Program Assessment Report (Attachment 1) and adopt a resolution (Attachment 2) confirming the report and authorizing collection of the assessment charges.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Weed Abatement program is to prevent fire hazards posed by vegetative growth and the accumulation of combustible materials, as defined in the Town Code, Chapter 11, Article II, Section 11.20.010. This is a monitoring program and the primary objective is to mitigate the spread of fire via voluntary compliance.

Typically, a property is placed in the program after a County inspector identifies a potential fire hazard on the premises. Fire Departments, Code Enforcement, Public Works and other public agencies also submit complaints to the County's Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency - Weed Abatement Program (County). Once a parcel is placed in the program, it will remain until it displays compliance for three consecutive years, at which point it will be removed.

The Program is administered by the County on behalf of the Town and is funded from fees charged to residents. Every year while in the program, the property owners are charged the inspection fee, and abatement fees if performed by the County.

PREPARED BY: Stefanie Hockemeyer
Executive Assistant, Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, Finance Director, and Director of Parks and Public Works

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BACKGROUND (continued):

On December 3, 2019, the Town Council passed Resolution 2019-060 (Attachment 3) declaring hazardous vegetation (weeds) a public nuisance, providing for their abatement, and set January 21, 2020 as a public hearing date for the annual program.

The County mailed property owners a notice of the January 21, 2020 Public Hearing for the Los Gatos jurisdiction and guidelines on the Los Gatos Weed Abatement Program.

DISCUSSION:

The 2020 Weed Abatement Assessment Report list includes assessment charges for inspection fees and for performing weed abatement. The attached resolution affirms these costs and acknowledges the costs will be assessed by the County Tax Collector against the respective properties.

The Town of Los Gatos mailed property owners a notice of the August 4, 2020 Public Hearing for the Los Gatos jurisdiction, along with the assessment charges. This public hearing is an opportunity for residents who received an assessment to object to that assessment.

CONCLUSION:

Open and close a public hearing to consider objections to the 2020 Weed Abatement Program Assessment Report and adopt a resolution confirming the report and authorizing collection of the assessment charges.

COORDINATION:

This program has been coordinated with the County's Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency - Weed Abatement Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds allocated in the adopted Operating Budget cover the cost of publishing the legal notices for the program. The County's cost to administer and carry out the program are recovered through the tax roll assessment charges levied against the affected properties.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

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Attachments:

1. 2020 Weed Abatement Program Assessment Report.
2. Resolution 2020-XX Confirming the Report and Authorizing Collection of the Assessment Charges.
3. Resolution 2019-060 Declaring Hazardous Vegetation (Weeds) a Public Nuisance and Providing for their Abatement.