



CITY OF MILPITAS AGENDA REPORT (AR)

Item Title:	Adopt a Resolution Declaring Weeds on Certain Properties to be a Public Nuisance and Setting a Public Hearing for March 3, 2020 to Hear Objections
Category:	Consent Calendar-Public Safety
Meeting Date:	2/4/2020
Staff Contact:	Albert Zamora, Deputy Fire Chief / Fire Marshal, (408) 586-3371
Recommendation:	Adopt a resolution declaring weeds on specific properties to be public nuisances and set a public hearing on March 3, 2020.

Background:

On February 2, 1976, an Agreement was established and approved to abate weeds by the County of Santa Clara for the City of Milpitas. The purpose of the Agreement is to promote the efficiency and economy of operations in the abatement of weeds by the City and the County.

The major procedural functions to be performed by the County and / or City shall include but not limited to the following.

1. The County shall prepare the list of parcels requiring abatement of weeds in the City and transmit the said list to the City for review and approval for processing.
2. The County shall prepare the notice of weed abatement and cause such notice to be mailed to the owners of the parcels requiring weed abatement.
3. The City Council shall conduct public hearings on the proposed removal of weeds pursuant to the provisions of the City Ordinance when the City Fire Marshal presents such appropriate resolutions for adoption. The City Council may by resolution declare the weeds on the respective parcels of the land as nuisance, and make the determination to proceed with the abatement of weeds, and authorize the performance of the service to remove the weeds in accordance with the aforementioned Agreement.
4. Upon proper authorization by the City, the County shall remove the weeds on the designated properties.
5. The County shall render to the City an itemized assessment report for the cost of the weed abatement services performed per the respective parcels.
6. The City Council, after a public hearing, shall require the County Assessor's Office to include the costs of the weed abatement services performed for the City for the current year, as a special assessment on bills for taxes levied against the affected parcels. Such special assessments shall be liens on the respective properties.
7. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code 14915, a copy of the report, as confirmed, shall be turned over to the auditor of the county, on or before the tenth day of August following such confirmation, and the auditor shall enter the amounts of the assessments against the respective parcels of land as they appear on the current assessment roll, (Amended by Stats. 1939, Ch. 354).

Analysis:

The County of Santa Clara Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency- Weed Abatement Program has notified the City of Milpitas that it is commencing its Hazardous Vegetation Abatement (weed abatement) Program for the 2020 season.

In order for the County to proceed with its annual abatement process, the City must adopt a resolution declaring weeds to be a public nuisance and to schedule a public hearing to hear objections to the proposed destruction and/or removal of weeds. The Milpitas City Council public hearing is scheduled for March 3, 2020.

Policy Alternative:

There are no policy alternatives other than what is outlined under the Recommendations section. Pursuant to the February 2, 1976 Agreement, the County under the provisions of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California and its ordinance has the authority to enforce the abatement of weeds. Likewise, the City under the California Fire Code and Milpitas Municipal Code, Title V, Chapter 202 has the authority to enforce the abatement of weeds.

The County and City will apply their respective standard operating procedures as well as best management practices that is afforded to each agency, and to the extent that ensures public safety with respect to the abatement of weeds.

Fiscal Impact:

At the first City Council meeting in August of each year during a public hearing, the City's municipal code provides that the City Council hear the assessment report for the list of weeds abated within the City, together with any objections of the property owners liable to be assessed, and to make such modifications on the proposed assessment as it deems necessary. Following adoption by the City Council, the resolution will be recorded and charges thereon become a lien on the land involved to be collected in the same manner as property taxes.

California Environmental Quality Act: This project is exempt from CEQA.

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution declaring weeds on specific properties to be public nuisances and setting the public hearing date on March 3, 2020.

Attachment:

Resolution with attached Exhibit A - 2020 Weed Abatement Program Commencement Report (list of parcels) for the City of Milpitas