



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 6.9

DATE: March 23, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Aaron Lacey, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Resolution declaring parcels within the City which contain weeds, refuse, rubbish, and/or dirt a public nuisance requiring abatement, directing staff to proceed with the annual Fire Hazard Abatement Program, and set a public hearing date of April 27, 2026, to receive protests and direct staff to proceed with field abatement work.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution declaring parcels within the City which contain weeds, refuse, rubbish, and/or dirt a public nuisance requiring abatement, direct staff to proceed with the annual Fire Hazard Abatement Program, and set a public hearing date of April 27, 2026, to receive protests and direct staff to proceed with field abatement work.

DECISION TYPE

Legislative

SUMMARY

The Fire Department will be the lead agency for following the Government Code Section 39560 et seq. for fire hazard abatement. Staff will start notification to property owners upon adoption of the resolution. This will afford property owners the maximum amount of time to abate the hazards created by weed growth. Abatement not completed by property owners prior to May 31, 2026, will be targeted for enforcement by the city contractor.

DISCUSSION

The fire hazard abatement program is a critical fire prevention program. The properties listed in the attachment have the potential to pose a fire hazard by having an overgrowth of weeds and dead and dying combustible vegetation, which create a fire hazard and a public nuisance. The Fire Department will provide written notice by mail to property owners requesting abatement. Should the property owner not complete the abatement, the city contractor will perform all necessary weed abatement. Staff will provide a schedule to all property owners including abatement timelines, type(s) of work needed based on parcel type, size, and location. A brief overview of the process is as follows:

1. The Fire Department receives and reviews a list of vacant properties annually.
2. If the Resolution for this agenda item is approved, the Fire Department will provide written notice to property owners declaring non-complying parcels a nuisance.
3. At a future City Council meeting, the Council will have the opportunity to hear any objections by property owners and direct staff to abate fire hazards caused by overgrown weeds and dead and/or dying vegetation from the parcels.
4. For properties where abatement has not been completed by the deadline, the Fire Department will send notice to property owners declaring noncompliance with weed abatement standards.
5. The Fire Department will direct the City contractor to conduct the work.
6. Fire Department staff will then audit all fieldwork and process paperwork for City abated parcels including billing, processing of payments and processing non-payer information for addition to property tax rolls.
7. If required, at a third City Council meeting, a hearing will be held to receive private parcel owners' protests of costs associated with fire hazard abatement and to direct the City Clerk to file special assessments on parcels with the Alameda County Tax Collector.

The Fire Department will remain proactive in fire prevention and public safety regarding fire hazard abatement. This program affords the City a method to keep potential fire loss and injury to a minimum as a result of natural cover fires.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

The fire hazard abatement costs are fully recoverable. Property owners are invoiced for all work performed as well as an administrative charge. Last year the total cost of work was \$3,679 which included the administrative costs incurred by the City in accordance with Section 39572 of the government code. The Finance Department files abatement costs with the Alameda County Tax Collector on any unpaid invoices for abatement work as a special assessment to the tax roll.

COMMUNITY PILLAR

1: A Safe Community that Thrives

GOAL

5: Ensure effective fire suppression, prevention, emergency medical and disaster services to meet the evolving needs of our communities and other changing conditions.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. Exhibit A - List of Parcels & Property Owners

Prepared by: Shiffon Smith
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



Marianna A. Burch
City Manager

Fiscal Review by:



Tina Olson
Administrative Services Director