LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT **ITEM NO. 7.2**

DATE: September 14, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Aaron Lacey, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Hearing to receive and consider protests related to the annual fire hazard abatement program and confirm the 2026 Weed Abatement Program assessments for collection on the County Assessor tax roll.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Consider all protests, and adopt a resolution overruling protests and confirming the 2026 weed abatement assessments; and
2. Direct staff to file a certified copy of the assessment report with the County Auditor.

SUMMARY

The Fire Department requests City Council approval to fund the clearance of hazardous vegetation on non-compliant private properties and to recover these costs through assessments on the Alameda County Assessor's tax roll, in accordance with Resolution No. 2026-056. This annual program mitigates urgent fire hazards to protect public safety, with all affected parcels detailed in Exhibit A of the resolution.

DISCUSSION

The Weed Abatement Program is a critical public safety initiative designed to reduce fire hazards by ensuring that overgrown, hazardous vegetation on undeveloped private properties is properly cleared. The program operates on a strict timeline, beginning in April and May when the City notifies owners of their responsibilities and sets a voluntary compliance deadline of May 31st. If a property remains uncleared on June 1st, the City issues an official Notice of Violation with photo evidence, follows up with a Final Notice on June 15th if the property is still noncompliant, and ultimately authorizes a city contractor to clear the hazard at the owner’s expense starting July 1st. This structured approach balances proactive community outreach with definitive enforcement deadlines, ensuring that hazardous fuels are successfully mitigated before the peak of the fire season. Each affected property owner is then sent an invoice covering the contractor's abatement fee and an administrative fee, as set by the City's Master Fee Schedule. Property owners are advised that payment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 14, 2026, to avoid having the charges placed on the property tax roll.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

The total cost of weed abatement work was $9,339.00, which includes administrative costs incurred by the City based on Resolution No. 2026-056, which authorized the Fire Department to proceed with the Fire Hazard Abatement Program. The total cost of work is fully recoverable and becomes a special assessment on the property owner's tax bill. Administrative costs include staff time to continue monitoring weed and debris hazards, preparation of parcel lists, publication of notices, mailing of letters, and invoices for the work performed. Also included is the cost of updating the parcel databases.

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 - 2026 Weed Abatement Assessments

Prepared by: Shiffon Smith
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Approved by:

Marianna A. Burch
City Manager

Fiscal Review by:

Kristen Hilton
Acting Administrative Services Director