



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Regarding Weed Abatement Charges for FY 2019-2020

(1) Resolution Confirming Weed Abatement Charges

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Public Hearing

Approved for August 4, 2020 **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

Silvio Lanzas, Fire Chief

Prepared by:

Jeffrey Ragusa, Fire Marshal

Reviewed by:

Michele Flynn, Director of Finance

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., Assistant City Manager

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Approved by:

Yasmin K. Beers, City Manager

RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully requested that the City Council approve the attached resolution confirming Weed Abatement Charges for FY 19-20 as described on the attached County of Los Angeles Weed Abatement Charge List dated July 7, 2020

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The City has a Weed Abatement Agreement with the County of Los Angeles, which was renewed in 2017 for a five - year period. Under this agreement, the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner is the agent of the City authorized to carry out removal of noxious and dangerous weed growth. The Fire Department, along with Agricultural Commissioner inspectors, conducts inspections to determine if a hazard exists and requests the Commissioner to carry out abatement.

The Commissioner recovers the cost of abatement through assessment as permitted under Article II, Chapter 13, Part II, Division 3, Title 4 of Government Code of the State of California. As part of our communication program, the Commissioner has been notifying the Fire Marshal of planned and completed work assignments. For the past several years, the Agricultural Commissioner has been contracting with private vendors to keep the costs of weed abatement as low as possible.

The FY 2019-2020 Weed Abatement Charges Report was submitted by the Agricultural Commissioner on July 8, 2020 for the period covering July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The Commissioner has provided a copy of the report, describing the cost of abatement on all properties, to be posted setting the date of August 4, 2020 as the date the report will be submitted to the City Council for confirmation of charges. Once approved, the charges will be forwarded to the County Auditor to enter the amounts on the current property tax assessment roll. The public hearing held on February 25, 2019 approved the County's Declaration List of properties constituting a public nuisance, which then allowed the Commissioner to abate the identified hazards.

Property owners are sent letters (in advance of the actual abatement) when charges are estimated to exceed \$750. While this notification letter is not a requirement, it is provided as a courtesy to property owners. Of the 601 vacant parcels on the Charge List, 582 (96%) were cleared by the owners and were not assessed abatement costs by the Los Angeles County Weed Abatement Division. Of the nineteen parcels cleared by the County, ten cost less than \$750, seven cost between \$751 and \$1,499.99 and two properties cost more than \$1,500 to abate. A breakdown of the charges is noted on the following page.

Charge Amount Inspection Fee only	Number of Parcels	Percentage of Total Parcels (601)
\$44.65	582	96.8%
\$44.65 to 749.99	10	1.7%
\$750.00 to 1,499.99	7	1.2%
\$1500.00 and up	2	0.3%
TOTAL	601	100.0%

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no direct costs for this program that are borne by the City of Glendale; there are minimal indirect costs related to City staff administering the contract with the County. These amounts were budgeted in FY 2019-2020 in the General Fund under the Fire Prevention Section (1010-GFD-4003). The Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner's office conducts all elements of the program including notification, inspection, hazard abatement and cost recovery. All costs are charged to property owners and become a part of their tax liability.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: City Council may approve the Resolution confirming Weed Abatement Charges as described on the attached County of Los Angeles Weed Abatement Charge List.

Alternative 2: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

EXHIBIT(S)

Exhibit 1: LA County transmittal including cover letter

Exhibit 2: Weed Abatement Charges list