



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Public Hearing for the 2021 Annual Weed Abatement Program

1) Motion to approve Abatement order directing the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to abate the nuisance on each declared parcel.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Public Hearing

Approved for March 2, 2021 **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

Silvio Lanzas, Fire Chief

Prepared by:

Jeff Ragusa, Fire Battalion Chief

Reviewed by:

Michele Flynn, Director of Finance

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Approved by:

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

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully requests that following the public hearing and after consideration of public input, City Council approve the abatement order directing the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to abate the nuisance on each declared parcel.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the City Council meeting of February 16, 2021, the Council set the date of March 2, 2021 for a public hearing regarding the list of unimproved vacant parcels in the city containing noxious weeds and brush, as determined by the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner. Attached as an Exhibit are those properties which the Council declared to be a public nuisance on February 16, 2021. Notification of the hearing was provided by the County, verified by a sworn statement signed by Deputy Director of the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner of Weights and Measures Bureau. Any and all property owners having any objections to the proposed abatement of the declared public nuisance may appear before the Council and show cause why said public nuisance should not be removed.

The "Annual Weed Abatement Notice" sent by the County serves a dual purpose: 1) to notify property owners of the public hearing date and 2) to notify property owners that the County crews may begin clearing on April 1, 2021 on those properties not cleared by the owner. No secondary notice is either required or provided unless the County estimates cost of the clearing will exceed \$750.00. In those cases, a letter is sent to the property owner with the estimate and a notice to abate the hazards in two weeks.

Property owners may attend the hearing in order to express their concerns about being placed on the declaration list. Fire department staff have been able to meet with many property owners personally and resolve most of their concerns without the need to speak at the hearing (most involve change of property ownership or the cost of clearing from the previous year). Also, a tear-off portion of the notice can be returned to the County if the property owner has any remarks to make or intends to complete the abatement themselves. Responses can also be submitted using the County's website at <https://acwm.lacounty.gov/weed-abatement-response/>. The LA County ACWM Hazard Abatement Program telephone number is included on the notices to encourage property owners to call with their concerns. The hearing provides the public an opportunity to address the City Council if necessary.

Since property tax bills are mailed in November of each year, some property owners may use this hearing as an opportunity to express their concerns about the billing process or the charges incurred for work performed in prior years. There is a separate hearing specifically for this purpose scheduled in July of each year, whereby the City passes a resolution confirming the Weed Abatement Charge List generated by the County during the fiscal year ending June 30. Concerns about this portion of the program should be addressed at the July hearing.

Properties on the list are unimproved vacant lots within the City of Glendale. Each property placed on the list will incur an annual inspection fee (approximately \$45.00).

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 are already budgeted for FY 2020-2021 and will be absorbed in the General Fund under the Fire Prevention Section 1010-GFD-4003-P0000-T0000-F0000. 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 can approve private hazard abatement vendors be contracted by the City of Glendale to provide the aforementioned services. This alternative would require the City to assume the lead role in key program tasks including notification, inspection and cost recovery, thereby increasing the direct cost for the City.

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

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Not Applicable

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Declaration List

Exhibit 2: Resolution

Exhibit 3: Correspondence from the County of Los Angeles