



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Public Hearing for the 2023 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 28, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual public hearing follows the approval on March 21, 2023 by the City Council of the resolution declaring noxious weeds on unimproved properties can constitute a public nuisance. Property owners having any objections to the proposed abatement of the declared public nuisance may appear before the Council at this time to show cause why said public nuisance should not be removed. The Fire Department Vegetation Management Program includes 9,559 parcels within the very high fire hazard area that receive an annual inspection. Of those, 616 are unimproved, vacant properties. The City has an agreement with Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner for weed abatement services on those unimproved properties.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

N/A.

RECOMMENDATION

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

At the City Council meeting of March 21, 2023, the Council set the date of March 28, 2023 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 March 21, 2023. 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, 2023 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.

ANALYSIS

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).

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

The stakeholders include the owners of the 616 properties identified in the attached declaration list. A notice has been mailed to the property owners informing them of the program.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

N/A

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Private hazard abatement vendors may be contracted with 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

Foster McLean, Fire Marshal

Approved by:

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

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1: 2023 Glendale Dec List