

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: June 17, 2025

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To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Division Chief Dave Bray
Subject: Weed Abatement Public Hearing

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council conduct the public hearing regarding weed abatement and adopt the attached resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City's weed abatement program exists to address safety issues pertaining to overgrown. Owners of vacant parcels are notified of their responsibility to remove overgrown weeds in a timely manner. This program plays a crucial role in maintaining the City's health and safety by mitigating the spread of potential fires and by enhancing the community's aesthetic appeal.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

At the May 20, 2025 City Council Meeting, the Council adopted a Resolution declaring weeds a public nuisance and set a date for Public Hearing of June 17, 2025 in order to provide property owners a means of protesting the removal of weeds on their property.

If after hearing any and all objections from property owners identified for abatement, the City may conduct onsite assessment and remove any parcels it deems appropriate from the weed abatement program.

After those properties are removed, if any, then the attached Resolution may be acted upon. This Resolution empowers City Staff to enter upon identified properties and abate weeds/fire hazards and invoice the property owners for the cost of abatement plus administrative costs.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

With the ongoing threat of vegetation fires and pursuant to Sebastopol Municipal Code Chapter 8.56, staff recommend the continuation of the City's Weed Abatement Program.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to schedule meeting date. The property owners have been notified.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact with this item tonight, however, if the property owner fails to abate their lots, a contractor hired by the Fire Department will abate the lots and the property owner will be billed for the cost of abatement plus administrative costs.

OPTIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Exhibit A

APPROVALS:

Department Head Responsible for Agenda Item:

Dave Bray

Approval Date: 6-10-2025

CEQA Determination (Community Development/Planning):

Emi Theriault

Approval Date: 6-10-2025

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it is exempt under the General Rule pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

Administrative Services (Financial):

Ana Kwong

Approval Date: June 6, 2025

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

City Attorney Approval

Alex Mog

Approval Date: 6-10-2025

City Manager Approval:

Mary Gourley

Approval Date: 6-10-2205

RESOLUTION # _____

RESOLUTION DECLARING WEEDS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC
NUISANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE #647

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief has reported that certain owners of properties have not abated and removed weeds and other fire hazards from their property, and

WHEREAS, Sebastopol Municipal Code Chapter 8.56 provides for an abatement procedure and hearing,

WHEREAS, the City Council conducted a duly noticed public hearing on June 17, 2025, at which time they heard comments and protests from all interested property owners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the weeds on properties listed on the attached Exhibit "A" are hereby declared to be a Public Nuisance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if a property owner fails to abate or destroy such nuisance weeds, the Fire Chief is hereby ordered to abate or cause to be abated such nuisance weeds pursuant to Sebastopol Municipal Code Chapter 8.56, and that the expense thereof shall be assessed upon the lot or lands from which such weeds shall have been destroyed or removed.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted at a meeting by the City Council on the 17th day of June, 2025 by the following vote:

VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

APPROVED: _____

Mayor Stephen Zollman

ATTEST: _____

Mary Gourley, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM: _____

Alex Mog, City Attorney

ATTACHMENT 2: Exhibit A

<u>Parcel Number</u>	<u>Street</u>
004-350-024-000	7950 Bodega Avenue
004-370-017-000	7951 Bodega Avenue
004-350-076-000	8086 Bodega Avenue
004-281-021-000	7816 Brookside Avenue
004-052-001-000	6828 Depot Street
004-470-066-000	1208 Enos Avenue
004-320-005-000	7154 Fircrest Avenue
004-340-020-000	1020 First Street
004-490-046-000	215 Golden Ridge Avenue
004-420-030-000	220 Golden Ridge Avenue
004-102-027-000	778 Gravenstein Hwy South
004-390-003-000	955 Gravenstein Hwy South
004-390-009-000	995 Gravenstein Hwy South
060-261-026-000	1011 Gravenstein Hwy North
060-261-028-000	1009 Gravenstein Hwy North
060-261-029-000	1003 Gravenstein Hwy North
004-660-031-000	Giusti Court
004-660-032-000	Giusti Court
004-660-033-000	Giusti Court
004-312-027-000	586 Harrison Street
004-390-011-000	7005 Hazel Cotter Court
004-470-042-000	1209 Jean Drive
004-470-043-000	1213 Jean Drive
004-340-025-000	950 McFarlane Avenue
004-291-043-000	385 Murphy Avenue
004-272-052-000	Springdale Street
004-272-053-000	Springdale Street
004-272-054-000	Springdale Street
004-161-029-000	530 Swain Woods Terrace
004-083-025-000	6732 Walker Avenue
060-120-003-000	6733 Walker Avenue
004-272-057-000	7836 Washington Avenue
004-272-055-000	7850 Washington Avenue
004-272-060-000	7854 Washington Avenue
060-240-052-000	7870 Washington Avenue