

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: May 20, 2025

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To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Dave Bray, Division Chief, Gold Ridge Fire District
Subject: Resolution Declaring Weeds a Public Nuisance

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopts the attached Resolution Setting the Public Hearing in order to proceed with the City’s Weed Abatement Program.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This item is to request the City Council to approve the attached Resolution declaring weeds growing upon private properties within the City a fire hazard and a public nuisance and set a public hearing date on June 17, 2025 for those who object to the proposed removal of weeds from their lots.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Every year a number of private properties are declared to be a fire hazard, therefore a public nuisance and in need of abatement. The resolution is passed and adopted, and a date set for a public hearing for those owners who object to this resolution. The hearing date will provide us sufficient time to legally notice all of the affected property owners of the public hearing. This is an annual program for weed abatement in the City. Sebastopol Municipal Code Chapter 8.56 provides for an abatement procedure and hearings.

The attached Resolution signifies the beginning of the City’s Annual Weed Abatement Program. The Resolution declares weeds a public nuisance and sets a date for a public hearing to provide property owners with a means of protesting the removal of weeds on their property.

The parcels of land listed on Exhibit “A” (attached) historically have weeds thereon. This list is adjusted as parcels are developed or we are notified of repeat locations. These weeds have the potential to become a fire hazard in the very near future as summer weather patterns cause the weeds to become dry and combustible. If the weeds on these parcels are not removed by July 30th, 2025, the City will abate the fire hazards and bill the property owners for the cost of abatement plus administrative costs.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

In recognition of National Wildfire Awareness Month, the ongoing threat of vegetation fires, and pursuant to City Sebastopol Municipal Code Chapter 8.56, staff recommends continuing the City’s Weed Abatement Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, staff has not received any public comments. If staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting.

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 the scheduled meeting date. The City has also used social media to promote and advertise the City Council Meeting Agenda Items.

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.

RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopts the attached Resolution Setting the Public Hearing in order to proceed with the City's Weed Abatement Program.

OPTIONS:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Exhibit A

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: Bray Approval Date: 5/5/2025

CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: 5/5/2025

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Administrative Services (Financial)

Approval Date: 5/1/2025

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

Account Code (f applicable)

City Attorney Approval:

Approval Date: 5-5-2025

City Manager Approval:

Approval Date: 5-5-2025

ATTACHMENT 1: Resolution

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, Ordinance #647 provides for an abatement procedure and hearing,

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a hearing is hereby set for 6:00 p.m., June 17th, 2025 to hear any objections to the proposed destruction and removal of said Weeds and Fire Hazards; 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 20th day of May 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