



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2019

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FROM: MEGAN HUNTER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

BY: JESSICA NG, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST

THROUGH: LORENZO SANCHEZ, CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGER

TITLE: 2018 WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve the attached resolution approving the 2018 Weed Abatement charges and collect the unpaid charges from the property owners.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Council approve the proposed resolution approving charges for the abatement of weeds on three properties within the City of Salinas, as listed in Exhibit A, and direct the Finance Director to collect the charges from the property owners.

BACKGROUND:

Section 14-28 of the City Code requires a public hearing to review the Weed Abatement Program and the work performed. The Weed Abatement program provides a vital community service that eliminates dangerous conditions, enhances public safety, and eliminates visual blight in neighborhoods at a very reasonable cost to the City, as well as to property owners. The hearing allows Council to consider all protests and objections from property owners whose properties were cleared of weeds by the City.

DISCUSSION

During the weed abatement season, 140 owners were ordered to clear potential fire hazards from their properties. All but five property owners complied with the City's request. The City abated weeds on the five (5) parcels listed in the attached Exhibit A, and abatement costs in the amount of \$3,300.00 have been paid from the General Fund. Two (2) of the five (5) property owners have paid all of their charges. Those property owners who have not paid have been notified of their total charges, which include a 25% administrative fee and outstanding fines and fees, as outlined in

Exhibit A and summarized in the table below. Property owners were also notified 30 days in advance of this public hearing.

	Charges	Paid	Outstanding
Abatement Amount	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 2,050.00
25% Admin. Fee	\$ 825.00	\$ 312.50	\$ 512.50
Citations Issued	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 690.00	\$ 1,610.00
Total	\$ 6,425.00	\$ 2,252.50	\$ 4,172.50

This year, the number of Weed Abatement cases opened decreased 23%, from 185 to 142 properties, and abatements decreased from nine to five. These numbers are on par with cases opened and abatements conducted back in 2016 after an increase in 2017.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Implementation of this program and assessment of the charges is a collaborative effort among the Community Development Department (Code Enforcement Division), Fire Department, Finance Department, and City Attorney's Office.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The Weed Abatement Program promotes the City Council's initiative of promoting a "Safe, Livable Community" and "Quality of Life" by increasing public safety through elimination of hazardous conditions, and by preventing and eliminating visual blight in neighborhoods.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Upon approval of this report, the Finance Director will provide notice to the tax collector that the special assessment of the unpaid balance should be imposed against each of the properties with outstanding fines at the same time and in the same manner as ordinary municipal taxes. Adoption of the Resolution directs the Finance Director to assess the subject properties in July of each fiscal year, and reimbursement will close these cases in their entirety.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Exhibit A – Weed Abatement Charges for 2018
Public Hearing Notices to Property Owners (3)