



Council Agenda Report

From: Paul Patti, Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal

Subject: Approval of Resolution Confirming the Existence of Weeds or Noxious Growth Creating a Potential Fire Hazard and Ordering their Abatement

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.

Date: June 17, 2025

Facts

1. On June 3, 2025, the City Council approved Resolution 25-059, declaring weeds or noxious growth on 334 specific properties within the City to be a nuisance.
2. "Notice to Abate" letters were mailed to each affected property owner, outlining the violations and steps required for compliance.
3. The 334 property owners were also notified of this public hearing and invited to show cause why the conditions should not be declared a nuisance and why the City should not proceed with abatement.
4. An updated exhibit of properties still in violation will be provided at the 6 p.m. City Council meeting on June 17, 2025.
5. Under Paso Robles Municipal Code Ordinance No. 1068 N.S., the City Council has the authority to direct the Fire Chief to abate the nuisance by removing weeds, rubbish, refuse, and dirt.

Options

1. Take no action.
2. Declare a public nuisance relating to weed abatement and order the Fire Chief to abate the weeds and noxious growth on those properties that are non-compliant as of June 17, 2025.
3. Amend or modify the Resolution as submitted.
4. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

Paso Robles Fire and Emergency Services takes a proactive approach to fire prevention through enforcement of the City's Weed Abatement Ordinance (Ordinance No. 1068 N.S.). As part of this effort, more than 11,700 properties were inspected. Following public outreach, inspection, and formal notifications, 161 properties, as listed in Exhibit A, remain in violation and require abatement.

Declaring these properties as a public nuisance and authorizing abatement is a necessary step to mitigate fire hazards and ensure public safety. The Fire Marshal will serve as the enforcement superintendent, overseeing the removal of hazardous vegetation and debris.

Upon Council approval of the resolution, the Fire Marshal will coordinate abatement efforts through a private contractor retained by the City. The contractor is scheduled to begin clearing weeds, rubbish, and noxious growth immediately following the public hearing.

Property owners who bring their parcels into full compliance before the contractor arrives will not be charged for abatement. This provides a final opportunity for owners to avoid the costs associated with forced compliance.

All abatement work is expected to be completed by June 30, 2025, ahead of the region's peak fire season.

The full cost of abatement, including all administrative and operational expenses, will be billed to each non-compliant property owner. If payment is not received, the City will recover the costs through a special tax assessment lien, recorded against the property and collected via the San Luis Obispo County Tax Assessor's annual property tax billing. The lien remains in effect until the full amount is repaid to the City.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the City for this action. The full cost of abatement, including administrative costs, will be recovered through billing and special assessments placed on the affected properties. However, costs associated with notifying properties that ultimately complied with Ordinance 1068 N.S. will not be recouped.

CEQA

The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.

Recommendation

Approve Resolution 25-XXX, confirming the existence of public nuisance(s) described in Exhibit A and ordering the abatement of weeds or noxious growth to abate the nuisance.

Attachments

1. Resolution 25-XXX – Public Nuisance Abatement
 - a. Exhibit A – Assessor's Parcel Number, address, and owner