
MENLO PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

MEETING DATE: May 20, 2025

FROM: Fire Marshal Gage Schlice

PREPARED BY: Youngmin Song

APPROVED BY: Gage Schlice

ITEM: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF TO UNDERTAKE THE REMOVAL OF WEEDS AND ABATEMENT OF PUBLIC NUISANCES FOLLOWING A PUBLIC HEARING ON OBJECTIONS AND PROTESTS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors:

1. Accept the report as presented; and
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to abate the public nuisances by the removal of seasonal weeds.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the action taken at last month's Board meeting, letters were sent to property owners of parcels with weeds (flammable vegetation) that were visible from the street. The property owners are given until June 1, 2025, to abate the fire hazard, by cutting down, mowing, discing, plowing or any other safe means of removing the weeds.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 14898, time is to be allowed at this meeting for owners of parcels who received a "Notice to Destroy Weeds" letter, to come before the Board during the public hearing and provide any testimony or public objections regarding the proposed removal of weeds. The Board, after conducting the public hearing, may allow or overrule any or all objections from property owners. Once the Board acts, its decision is final. Upon approval of the resolution, the Fire District will be authorized to proceed with actions that will abate the public nuisance and reduce the fire hazard created by the seasonal weeds, if the property owner has not already done so by June 1, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Fire District. If the Fire District is required to abate the public nuisance for the property owner, the Fire District will pass the actual cost of the weed abatement contractor on to the property owner plus an administrative fee for code enforcement that is in accordance with the District's fee schedule. Property owners are only charged if the Fire District must correct the public nuisance. Cost recovery is provided through a property tax lien and collected through the San Mateo County Tax Assessor's Office.

ATTACHMENT

A. Resolution