

Weed Abatement Program

Fire Department
Deputy Chief Jenn Panko

Code Enforcement
Planning Manager Lesley Xavier


County Weed Abatement Program Manager
Garik Iosilevsky

Item # 6 RTC 26-172
March 24, 2026

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Weed Program Summary

- Since 1976, the City of Santa Clara has partnered with County of Santa Clara to abate weeds within city limits.
- By managing vegetation and debris, the program reduces fire risk, supports a healthier environment, improves neighborhood appearance, and raises quality of life.
- The City's Code Enforcement Division responds to overgrown vegetation complaints. Inspectors visit properties and if they are not compliant, property owners are given a 30-day warning notice. If properties have three or more violations within a 36-month period, they are referred to the County for remediation and will be added to the County program.
- County Weed Program Inspections begin in the City of Santa Clara on **April 15 and continue through October 31.**



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County of Santa Clara Weed Abatement Program

March 24, 2026

Presented to City of Santa Clara City Council

By County of Santa Clara Weed Abatement Program Manager,
Garik Iosilevsky

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Overview

- Weed Abatement Program Process
- Collaborative Efforts with Stakeholders
- New Fee Schedule

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Weed Abatement Program Process

- Actions required by the Santa Clara City Council
 - Hold three meetings per year
 - 1) Adopt a resolution declaring weeds brush and rubbish a public nuisance (2/10/26)
 - 2) Hold a public hearing, approve the list of properties, commence work (3/24/26)
 - 3) Hold a public hearing, approve the list of fees for special assessments (TBD—July 2026)
- Actions required by the Weed Abatement Program
 - Send notices annually to property owners on the list
 - Inspect properties on the list at least once per year
 - Perform abatement work on properties that remain non-compliant
 - Recover costs for inspections and abatement through fees

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Inspection and Abatement Process

Three scenarios when inspecting a property:

1. Property passes the inspection
2. Property without a structure fails the inspection
3. Property with a structure fails the inspection
 - a) Property owner gives County consent to abate
 - b) Property owner does not give County consent to abate

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1) Property passes the inspection

- Inspection takes place and property meets Minimum Fire Safety Standards (MFSS):

Property is charged a single inspection fee for the year.

- When a property passes the inspection for three consecutive years, the property is automatically removed from the Weed Abatement Program list.

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2) Property with **no structure** fails the inspection

Property does not meet MFSS:

- Courtesy notice sent to owner with 2-week correction deadline
- Property is re-inspected
- If still out of compliance a work order is sent to the County's contractor
- Property is abated

Owner is charged 2 inspection fees, a non-compliant parcel fee, cost of abatement, and an administrative fee.

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3.A) Property with a structure fails the inspection – Consent Given

- Property does not meet MFSS:
- Consent notice sent to owner with 2-week correction deadline
 - Property is re-inspected
 - If still out of compliance and consent is given a work order is sent to the County's contractor
 - Property is abated

Owner is charged 2 inspection fees, a non-compliant parcel fee, cost of abatement, and an administrative fee.

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3.B) Property with a structure fails the inspection – Consent Not Given

- Property does not meet MFSS:
- Consent notice sent to owner with 2-week correction deadline
- Property is re-inspected
- If still out of compliance and consent is **NOT** given the **County will seek a warrant** from the court
- A work order is sent to the County's contractor
- Property is abated

Owner is charged 2 inspection fees, a non-compliant parcel fee, cost of abatement, an administrative fee, and a warrant fee.

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Warning Letters

- When a property is out of compliance with MFSS, but is not on the Weed Abatement Program List
 - a) County receives a complaint
 - b) Inspector sees a property while driving around
- Warning letter is sent to the owner giving them 2 weeks to correct the violation
- Property owner may send proof of corrective actions, or an inspector may re-inspect
- If property is still out of compliance after 2 weeks, they will be added to the next year's list

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Collaborative Efforts with Stakeholders

Quarterly Weed Abatement Task Group Meetings

- Discuss status of program and upcoming projects/tasks
- Increased transparency with partner jurisdictions

Increased collaboration with property owners

- New ways for property owners to interact with us through an extended opportunity for voluntary compliance

Outreach and Education

- In-person outreach events
- Updated brochure
- Updated website

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New fee schedule for 2026

Fees approved by County Board of Supervisors 1/13/26

Fee Name	Fee Amount
Inspection Fee	\$296
Non-Compliant Parcel Fee	\$953
Administrative Fee	\$1,383
Warrant Fee	\$3,006

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Code Enforcement Inspections

- During the week of March 16, 2026, City Code Enforcement visited the twenty (20) new properties that were added to the County Commencement Report this year.
- Photos were taken of each property to demonstrate their current state.
- Based on the City's re-inspections, Code Enforcement is recommending that four (4) of the new properties be removed from the Commencement Report due to demonstrating recent compliance.

187 Avenida del Carmen
1037 Harrison Street

2598 Dixon Drive
676 Malarin Avenue

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Avenues for Assistance

- Property owners may reach out to the County of Santa Clara Weed Abatement Program at: Phone: (408) 282-3145, Email: scc.weedabatement@cep.sccgov.org
- Overgrown vegetation complaints may be filed directly with the County Program: <https://weedabatement.santaclaracounty.gov/report-overgrown-vegetation-fire-hazard>
- Or the City of Santa Clara: <https://www.santaclaraca.gov/services/make-a-service-request/submit-a-request-online>
- Senior Assist Program in the City of Santa Clara: <https://www.santaclarafirefighters.org/in-your-community/our-programs/senior-assist>

Recommended Action

- Determine the proposed actions are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.
- Accept the recommendation from the City's Code Enforcement for the removal of the four (4) properties who have demonstrated compliance from the County's 2026 Commencement Report;
- Adopt a Resolution Ordering the Abatement of a Nuisance Consisting of Growing Weeds in the City of Santa Clara on the Identified Parcels in Accordance with City Code Chapter 8.15 and in Association with the County Weed Abatement Program.

Questions?

Available for Questions:

Fire Department

Deputy Chief Jenn Panko & Fire Marshal Jake Tomlin

Code Enforcement

Planning Manager Lesley Xavier

County Weed Abatement

Program Manager Garik Iosilevsky



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