


**City Council Hearing
Item #5**

**Public Hearing: Adoption
of a Resolution Confirming
the Weed Abatement
Report and Ordering the
Cost of Abatement to be a
Special Assessment on
the Respective Properties
Described Therein**

July 16, 2024

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**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Weed Abatement Program

Contract Agency

- The City has contracted with Santa Clara County for Weed Abatement services since 1976.
 - The County of Santa Clara’s Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency, is currently in charge of the Weed Abatement Program.
- The City benefits greatly from Economies of Scale.
 - Participating agencies include Campbell, Milpitas, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, undeveloped parcel in San Jose, and unincorporated County areas.

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Weed Abatement Program

Community Benefits

- Weed Abatement programs create safer, more attractive, and healthier communities:
 - **Enhanced Property Aesthetics:** Well-maintained properties are more attractive to residents and businesses, foster investment, and prevent blight.
 - **Pest Prevention:** Weeds can provide a habitat for pests such as rodents and insects, which can lead to infestations in nearby homes and businesses.
 - **Enhanced Accessibility and Safety:** Overgrown weeds can obstruct pathways and walkways, posing a risk to pedestrians and vehicles.
 - **Fire Hazard Reduction:** Mitigated properties significantly reduce fire hazard potential.

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Weed Abatement Program

Assessment Report

- This evening, the City Council will address the final steps in the annual Weed Abatement program:
 - **Public Hearing:** Adoption of a Resolution Confirming the Weed Abatement Report and Ordering the Cost of Abatement to be a Special Assessment on the Respective Properties Described in the Assessment Report.
 - Step 1, Declaring Weeds a Nuisance – Completed January 30, 2024
 - Step 2, Ordering the Abatement of Hazards – Completed February 20, 2024

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Weed Abatement Program

Staff Action Items

- At the February 20, 2024 Public Hearing, the City Council directed staff to undertake the following actions:
 - Survey the cities that do not participate in the County Weed Abatement Program and evaluate options for programmatic improvements for next year.
 - Conduct a thorough review of property owner appeals, ensuring all contested cases are carefully examined.

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Weed Abatement Program

Survey and Programmatic Analysis Update

- Staff Outreach
 - Utilized questionnaires and conducted interviews with non-participating city personnel
- Data Analysis
 - Recommendations regarding programmatic options are being developed
 - Presentation to the City Council will be scheduled for later this year

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Weed Abatement Program

Appeals

- Certified letters were sent to the fifteen (15) contesting property owners requesting the following information:
 - Documentation of inclusion in the County program;
 - Justification for non-compliance; and
 - Current photographs demonstrating compliance with County standards.
- Six properties were removed from the 2024 Commencement Report.
- All property owners were notified by certified mail of the status of their appeal.

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Weed Abatement Program

2024 Assessment Report Data

- 205 parcels or lots of land at a cost to Property Owners of \$57,398.06
 - 160 parcels/lots received Inspection Only fee totaling \$15,360.00
 - 41 parcels/lots failed a subsequent inspection and received additional penalties totaling \$26,322.00
 - 4 parcels/lots were abated totaling \$15,716.06

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Weed Abatement Program

Conclusion

- 205 Parcels or Lots of Land on the 2024 Assessment Report
- Staff recommends adoption of a Resolution Confirming the Weed Abatement Report and Ordering the Cost of Abatement to be a Special Assessment on the Respective Properties
- County Weed Abatement Program and Fire Department staff are available for questions