



Incorporated October 22, 1956

CITY OF SARATOGA

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June 8, 2018

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██████████
Saratoga, CA 95070

Subject: Weed Abatement Program Notice of Non-Compliance - ██████████ / APN ██████████
Nuisance Declaration & Abatement Order - June 20, 2018

Dear Property Owner,

You are receiving this letter, because your property is currently listed on the Weed Abatement Program inspection list and was found non-compliant with Weed Abatement Program requirements after the compliance deadline specified in the City's February 28, 2018 notice to you regarding weed abatement. Specifically, your property was non-compliant due to tall weeds, grass, or hazardous vegetation. You are required to abate these conditions by July 8, 2018.

This letter explains the process what will be used by the City and the County Weed Abatement Program in the coming months to ensure proper weed removal before the start of the fire season and also explains steps you can take to comply with remaining program requirements, fees that apply, as well as opportunities to object to the finding of non-compliance. This information provided here is the same as described in the February 28, 2018 notice.

This letter describes the 2018 inspection and abatement process, program fees, and includes several key dates you should know about. Please read it carefully.

PUBLIC NUISANCE DECLARATION & ABATEMENT ORDER - JUNE 20, 2018:

On June 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Theater, the City Council will consider a resolution to declare properties that failed to meet Weed Abatement Program requirements by the compliance deadline as a public nuisance and authorizing the Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture to abate the nuisance or remove hazardous vegetation following the abatement deadline specified above.

Property owners may raise objections to the declaration by writing to the City Council in advance of the meeting or speaking during the meeting.

Properties declared a public nuisance and included in the abatement order will be subject to the following fees established by the County of Santa Clara:

- \$90 Initial Inspection Fee
- \$583 Failed Inspection Fee

NUISANCE ABATEMENT:

After the abatement deadline specified above, a contractor hired by the County Department of Agriculture will perform necessary work to bring properties on the nuisance declaration and abatement order into compliance with Weed Abatement Program requirements.

If work is performed by the County contractor, property owners will be responsible for the following fees established by the County of Santa Clara:

- \$576 Contract Work Fee
- Actual Cost of Work (prices may vary depending on amount and type of work, such as disc work, hand work, debris removal, etc.)

If the property is compliant with Weed Abatement Program requirements when the County contractor arrives to perform work, the property owner will not be subject to the \$576 Contract Work Fee or Actual Cost of Work.

WEED ABATEMENT BILLS - AUGUST 2018:

In August, the City will issue itemized bills to property owners that did not comply with Weed Abatement Program requirements for:

- \$90 Initial Inspection Fee
- \$583 Failed Inspection Fee
- \$576 Contract Work Fee (if applicable)
- Actual Cost of Work (if applicable)

ASSESSMENT HEARING - OCTOBER 17, 2018:

On October 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Theater, the City Council will receive an itemized report of unpaid bills for Weed Abatement Program expenses. The City Council will also be asked to consider a resolution confirming assessments on these properties.

Property owners may raise objections to proposed assessments by writing to the City Council in advance of the meeting or speaking during the meeting.

Following the hearing, approved assessments will be submitted to the County Tax Assessor to be applied to the 2019 property tax roll.

ABOUT WEED ABATEMENT:

In Saratoga, there are two programs that help prevent wildfire by reducing the amount of flammable vegetation and debris. These programs are:

- Weed Abatement Program managed by the City of Saratoga in partnership with the County of Santa Clara via contract
- Brush Abatement Program (Wildland Urban Interface Preparedness Inspection) managed by the Santa Clara County Fire Department

All properties in Saratoga are subject to the requirements of the Weed Abatement Program. The Brush Abatement Program only affects those properties in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area of the City, which is the part of the City at the greatest risk for wildfire. Requirements for Brush Abatement are slightly different than the Weed Abatement Program. However, properties that comply with Weed Abatement requirements generally also comply with Brush Abatement requirements.

For information about the requirements for the two programs, visit the City's Weed and Brush Abatement page at www.saratoga.ca.us/weed_brush.

If you have any questions, please feel free contact me at 408.868.1269 or cbothelio@saratoga.ca.us.

Sincerely,
Crystal Bothelio, Deputy City Manager
City of Saratoga