



MEETING DATE: 8/2/04

ITEM NO. 20

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JULY 13, 2004
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: DEBRA J. FIGONE, TOWN MANAGER

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SUBJECT: ABATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS VEGETATION (BRUSH)
A. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL (AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE) ON THE ABATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS VEGETATION (BRUSH) FOR THE 2003-2004 SEASON
B. TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Conduct public hearing to consider the report of the County Fire Marshal (available in the Town Clerk's office) on the abatement of hazardous vegetation (brush) for the 2003-2004 season.
2. Take no further action.

BACKGROUND:

Hazardous vegetation (brush) poses a serious fire danger during the summer months and should be controlled by individual property owners. To ensure that hazardous vegetation (brush) is eliminated, the Town Council established a Hazardous Vegetation (Brush) Abatement Program in cooperation with the Santa Clara County Fire Marshal's office. The program, which is similar to those in neighboring jurisdictions, is modeled after the Town's nuisance abatement process. It begins each year in late spring with the adoption of a resolution declaring hazardous vegetation (brush) to be a public nuisance, and ends the following summer with a public hearing to confirm charges against properties on which brush was abated by the County's contractor.

[Handwritten signature: John E. Curtis]
JOHN E. CURTIS
Director of Parks and Public Works

PREPARED BY:

Reviewed by: PSS Assistant Town Manager [initials] Attorney [initials] Clerk Finance
Community Development Revised: 7/13/04 7:57 am

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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

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DISCUSSION:

Earlier this year, the County Fire Marshal inspected properties in the Town and notified the owners of those on which hazardous vegetation (brush) was observed to remove the brush in accordance with fire safety standards.

Staff is pleased to report that 100 percent of the identified properties achieved voluntary compliance. Therefore staff recommends that no further action be taken on this item.

CONCLUSION:

The fact that full compliance was achieved voluntarily speaks well for the cooperative efforts between the citizens and the County Fire Marshal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None for the Town. The County costs to administer and carry out the program are recovered via charges levied against the properties served by the program.

Distribution:

Dirk Mattern, Central Fire District, 14700 Winchester Boulevard, Los Gatos, CA 95030
Debbie Craver, Program Coordinator, Hazardous Vegetation Management, Office of the Santa Clara County Fire Marshal, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110