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**RESOLUTION No. 12-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE LOS ALTOS HILLS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT TO PROCEED WITH ABATEMENT OF WEEDS, BRUSH & RUBBISH**

**WHEREAS**, after a duly noticed public hearing, weeds, brush and/or rubbish constituting a public nuisance have been found to exist on those properties described in Exhibit A, attached hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District, that the County Fire Marshal is directed to cause the abatement of the aforementioned nuisance.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

**APPROVED:**

David Bergman, President

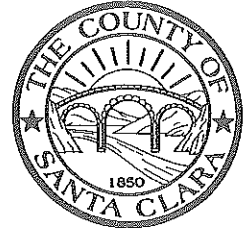
**ATTEST:**

Jeanne Evilsizer, Clerk

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# County of Santa Clara

Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management  
Weed Abatement Division



1553 Berger Drive  
Building 1  
San Jose, CA 95112  
(408) 282-3145  
Fax (408) 286-2460

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November 10, 2011

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ABATE WEEDS

Dear Property Owner:

To protect your property and the surrounding area from possible fire, your jurisdiction contracts with the County of Santa Clara to operate a Weed Abatement Program. The County is providing this notice and information packet to you as part of the Program. Please read the information carefully, and call us for clarification or additional information.

Your jurisdiction has or will adopt a resolution declaring your property as one that may contain potential fire hazards from weeds or other debris. In addition, your jurisdiction will be conducting a public hearing to consider an abatement order requiring you to remove any hazardous vegetation or combustible debris. The public hearing will be held on the date and at the place stated in the attached notice to destroy weeds. The public hearing provides an opportunity for you to raise any objections and/or concerns to the requirement that you remove fire-hazardous vegetation and/or debris from your property prior to the deadline provided in the attached abatement schedule.

The Weed Abatement Program works in coordination with parcel owners if their property is habitat to protected species of plants and/or animals. If you believe your parcel includes an environmentally sensitive habitat, please check the box and explain this on the reply form to assist us in determining the best approach to weed abatement at your property.

If after the public hearing the Weed Abatement Program is approved for your property, the County is authorized by its contract with the cities and by state law to perform an inspection of your property to determine whether the property has been cleared of hazards according to Minimum Fire Safety Standards (see enclosed brochure). Inspections will begin after the abatement deadline for your jurisdiction. This notice does not relieve you of your responsibility to complete the necessary work prior to the deadline for your jurisdiction.

If this is your first year in the Weed Abatement Program, you will be responsible for a fee of \$41.00 per parcel to cover the cost of creating and maintaining a file in our database.

If you fail to complete the abatement work prior to the County inspection of your property, you will be responsible for an inspection fee of \$250 per parcel and your property will be scheduled for abatement by the County contractor. If you complete the abatement work before the County contractor, you will not incur further charges. Should the abatement work be completed by a County contractor, you will be assessed the contractor's charges plus a County administrative fee of \$169 per parcel.

The County will use the least costly method of abatement considering the physical characteristics of your property and environmental concerns. Fees are detailed in the attached price list. The total amount will be included as a special assessment on your property tax bill following confirmation of the charges by

your jurisdiction. Notice of the date of that meeting will be posted at a location prescribed by your jurisdiction (typically at the Civic Center) at least three days prior to the meeting.

You can avoid all costs, other than the first year fee, by completing the abatement work yourself according to Minimum Fire Safety Standards (see enclosed brochure) prior to the abatement deadline for your jurisdiction and maintaining the Minimum Fire Safety Standards for the duration of fire season, which typically runs through October. Parcels will be removed from the program after three (3) consecutive years of voluntary compliance (work completed prior to the deadline).

In preparation for this program, please complete and return the enclosed Reply Form so that we are aware of your intentions regarding the maintenance of your property.

If you designate in your reply that you intend to abate the weeds yourself, you are expected to complete the abatement before the deadline listed on the abatement schedule and maintain fire safe conditions for the duration of the fire season. Responding that you intend to provide maintenance yourself does not release you from this responsibility to have the maintenance *completed* before your deadline and *repeated* as necessary to maintain Minimum Fire Safe Standards. County contractors will proceed to abate hazardous vegetation as necessary after the deadline for your jurisdiction.

Enclosed you will find the following information:

- √ A Reply Form specific to your property. Please complete and return promptly.
- √ A Notice to Destroy Weeds informing you of an upcoming public meeting that you must attend if you have any objections to the proposed removal of hazardous vegetation or debris from your property.
- √ A Weed Abatement Program Schedule for your city and a current County price list.
- √ A Brochure about the Santa Clara County Weed Abatement Program.

Please be aware that any abatement performed by the County contractor must be in compliance with all applicable environmental protection regulations. If your property falls within an area designated as possible habitat for burrowing owls or any other protected species of bird or animal, the methods used to remove vegetation may be regulated by specific laws or local ordinances.

If you are no longer the owner of the property identified by this mailing, please notify the County immediately. If you sell your property after the date of this letter, it is your responsibility to notify the new owner and to include the obligation to pay any abatement costs in your agreement of sale. Without taking this action, you will be responsible for all hazard abatement charges assessed to the property.

Our goal is voluntary compliance with the Minimum Fire Safety Standards, and it is our objective to ensure that all properties remain safe from fire. If you have any questions about your property or need on-site advice to help you achieve compliance with the Minimum Fire Standards, please call the Santa Clara County Weed Abatement Program at (408) 282-3145.

Sincerely,



Kevin O'Day, Director  
Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management