

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors

AGENDA NO. **5.C.**

FROM: John F Weigold IV, General Manager
William Hollingsworth, Fire Chief

Meeting Date: April 15, 2021 Subject: Consideration of Adoption of Resolution 10-2021 Declaring a Public Nuisance for the Annual Fire Hazard Fuel Reduction Program

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Adopt Resolution 10-2021 declaring weeds and other hazardous wildland fuels a public nuisance within the Cambria Community Services District (CCSD).
2. Direct staff to proceed with mailing notices to abate and remove hazardous wildland fuels, in order to maintain community defensible space.
3. Direct staff to proceed with issuing a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) to contractors to abate and remove the fuels and vegetation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

All costs are billed directly to the property owners via the San Luis Obispo County property tax rolls.

DISCUSSION:

Each year the Fire Department conducts a Fire Hazard Fuel Reduction Program (FHFRP) to abate vegetation and hazardous wildland fire fuels.

The FHFRP is carried out pursuant to the authority contained in Government Code Sections 61100(d) and (t) and Health and Safety Code Sections 14875 et seq. and is initiated by the Board’s adoption of a resolution declaring the vegetation and hazardous wildland fire fuels on the identified properties to be a public nuisance. In this respect it should be noted that the definition of “weeds” in Health and Safety Code Section 14875 includes, “Dry grass, stubble, brush, litter, or other flammable material which endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard.”

There are approximately 1,861 vacant parcels within the CCSD that Fire Department staff has identified for inclusion in the 2021 FHFRP. Notices are then sent to those property owners whose properties require abatement. The abatement deadline is July 15, 2021. In accordance with the procedures in the Health and Safety Code, a public hearing is being scheduled to be held on August 12, 2021. Thereafter, all parcels that were inspected and found to be either not cleared or non-compliant after the July 15, 2021 deadline are placed on a contract list and are abated by the CCSD’s contractor. The number of properties requiring annual clearance by the CCSD’s contractor typically varies from 50 to 150 parcels.

