



CITY OF MENIFEE

SUBJECT: Conduct Public Hearing and Adopt a Resolution Confirming Special Assessments for Delinquent Weed Abatement Accounts

MEETING DATE: August 2, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: David Gutierrez, Police Captain

REVIEWED BY: Pat Walsh, Police Chief

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Conduct the Public Hearing to accept public testimony regarding Delinquent Collection Accounts for Weed Abatement to be applied to the Fiscal Year 2023/24 County of Riverside property Tax Roll for collection; and
2. Adopt a Resolution confirming special assessments and authorizing collection of delinquent weed abatement accounts on the annual property tax roll.

DISCUSSION

Working with the Finance Department, Code Enforcement has notified 128 property owners regarding delinquent weed abatement accounts. This notification was mailed on July 3, 2023, informing the property owners of the scheduled public hearing on August 2, 2023, in City Hall Council Chambers. These delinquent accounts are from property owners who were found to be in violation of Riverside County Ordinance No. 695, as adopted by the City of Meniffee, to remove hazardous vegetation from their property. Upon initial calculation, there was \$129,005.41 of delinquent weed abatement accounts cumulating from July 2011 to September 2022. After public notice, \$6,931.74 was collected from taxpayers and the new collectible balance stands at \$122,073.67.

Each year in early spring, the City's Code Enforcement Unit identifies vacant parcels within the City's boundaries and sends each landowner written notification that they are required by Municipal Code to abate their property of hazardous vegetation. This letter informs the owner(s) they have approximately 30-days to comply with the notification. At the expiration of the notice, Code Enforcement Officers will begin to inspect these properties to verify if they are in compliance. If the property is out of compliance, Code Enforcement will send a Failure to Comply Letter and

issue a \$100 Administrative Citation to the landowner giving them 14-days to comply with the stated ordinance. At the expiration of the Failure to Comply Letter, Code Enforcement will re-inspect the vacant parcel. If the property is still found to be out of compliance, a \$200.00 Administrative Citation is issued, and Code Enforcement will schedule to have the property abated at the owner's expense and place a Notice of Pendency on the parcel.

Staff is recommending City Council conduct a Public Hearing to take public comment from landowners of delinquent weed abatement accounts. At the conclusion of the public hearing, staff recommends City Council approve a resolution authorizing staff to process cost recovery actions with Riverside County's Auditor-Controller's office, by levying special assessments on property tax bills for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Tax Year for the outstanding weed abatement charges.

All delinquent accounts were individually noticed by letter and the public hearing was properly noticed in the Press Enterprise ten days prior to the public hearing date. A list of the delinquent accounts that are subject to the cost recovery is available at City Hall for review.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

Safe and Vibrant Community

FISCAL IMPACT

This special assessment found that the City had the right to recover approximately \$129,005.41 of delinquent Weed Abatement charges and staff time. With payments made since the public notice, the current amount collectible is \$122,073.67. The City initially paid for the cost of the abatement and staff time and can only recover those costs once the parcel owner pays the outstanding weed abatement costs.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. Exhibit A - Delinquency List