

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Matthew Fertal

From: David Barlag

Dept: City Manager

Dept: Fire

Subject: SPRING WEED/RUBBISH ABATEMENT

Date: February 26, 2008

OBJECTIVE

Staff is requesting that City Council adopt the attached Resolution regarding weed and rubbish abatement, authorizing the Spring 2008 Weed Abatement Program as provided for under Government Code Section 39500 et. seq.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Department administers the Weed Abatement Program for the City of Garden Grove, providing for the abatement of weeds, rubbish, and debris from vacant parcels of land within the city. The process is repeated twice a year, designated as a Fall and Spring Weed Abatement Program. The objective of the program is the removal of weeds, dirt, rubbish, and debris from vacant lots, since these represent a potential fire hazard to adjacent and surrounding properties and the community. At this time, staff is in the process of organizing the Spring 2008 Weed and Rubbish Abatement Program and has thoroughly surveyed the city, compiling an inventory of those vacant lots that qualify for the Spring 2008 Weed Abatement Program.

DISCUSSION

Under State Law as a city thereof, a resolution is required that provides a determination by the Council that a nuisance exists on a subject property, and which describes the parcel(s) that need to be abated. The "Declaration of Public Nuisance" Resolution is attached herewith for your review. As a required part of the Resolution, a description of qualifying parcels and information regarding the ownership of each parcel is included as "Exhibit A, Weed Notice-Spring 2008". Upon adoption of this resolution, all property owners listed on Exhibit A, will be notified that March 26, 2008, will be the final day to have their property cleared, after which an inspection by the City, for compliance on their part, will take place.

The Weed Abatement Official and the City's Contractor will again survey the City on March 31, 2008, making on-site inspections as to whether the listed parcel sites have been cleared. The initial Exhibit A, list of parcels, will then be updated, retaining those properties still found to be a public nuisance. This list will be distributed to non-compliant property owners prior to the April 22, 2008, City Council Meeting, notifying them of the meeting and Public Hearing during which

protests, if any, will be heard from subject property owners. Prior to this meeting, the City Council will receive another staff report, including an updated Exhibit A, and further requests for City Council action regarding the Weed Abatement Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Action taken, as requested by the Fire Department, will not adversely impact the City financially, since program costs and the staff time required to administer the Weed Abatement Program have been included in the Fire Department's budget for the current fiscal year. It is anticipated that costs will be recaptured through future invoicing of non-compliant property owners, as well as the attachment and subsequent satisfaction of property liens, (in the case of non-payment), as required.

COMMUNITY VISION IMPLEMENTATION

An active weed abatement program supports the community vision that Garden Grove will be a "safe, attractive city".

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution and proceed with the weed abatement process as required under Government Code Section 39500 et. seq., which also requires mailing of written Weed Abatement Notices to property owners, as listed in the last Equalized Assessment Roll and as officially identified in Exhibit A, dated February 26, 2008.

David Barlag
Interim Fire Chief

By: SABRINA SOLTIS
Weed Abatement Official

Attachments: Resolution with Exhibit A—Spring 2008