

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors

AGENDA NO. **5.F.**

FROM: Jerry Gruber, General Manager
William Hollingsworth, Fire Chief

Meeting Date: April 19, 2018 Subject: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION
OF RESOLUTION 07-2018
DECLARING A PUBLIC NUISANCE
FOR THE ANNUAL FIRE HAZARD
FUEL REDUCTION PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Adopt Resolution 07-2018 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. Exercise the option to extend the 2017 Fire Hazard Fuel Reduction Program Agreement with Mike Rice Forest Yard & Garden through September, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT:

All costs are billed directly to the property owners via the San Luis Obispo County 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 1,994 vacant parcels within the CCSD that Fire Department staff has identified for inclusion in the 2018 FHFRP. Notices are then sent to those property owners whose properties require abatement. In accordance with the procedures in the Health and Safety Code, a public hearing is being scheduled to be held on July 26, 2018. Thereafter, all parcels that were inspected and found to be either not cleared or non-compliant after the July 15, 2018 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.

Based upon the procedure previously approved by the Board, non-compliant parcels cleared by the CCSD's contractor will be billed by the CCSD for the actual cost of clearance, plus a \$100 administrative fee if paid after being billed by the District. Billing not collected by December 17, 2018 will be collected by placement on the 2019 County tax roll and assessed the entire \$200 administrative fee that is provided for in the District's User Fee Schedule.

In addition, each year as part of the annual FHFRP the CCSD contracts to provide for the removal of dangerous fuels and vegetation that have not been timely abated by property owners. A Request for Proposals ("RFP") is issued seeking proposals from contractors to abate and remove the fuels and vegetation. In 2017, the District awarded the annual FHFRP Agreement (the "Agreement") to Mike Rice Forest Yard & Garden. The Agreement provides that if the Contractor's work is satisfactory, at the discretion of the CCSD, the Agreement may be extended through September 2018. Staff has determined that the Contractor did a thorough job in completing the required work and is recommending that the Board authorize extending the Agreement. Additionally, this will save staff the administrative time required to go through the RFP process. Pursuant to the Agreement, if it is extended the Contractor will be given an updated FHFRP Schedule for 2018, and all the terms governing the Agreement will otherwise remain in effect.

Attachments: Resolution 07-2018
 Exhibit "A" to Resolution 07-2018
 2018 FHFR Program Schedule
 2018 Notice to Property Owners

BOARD ACTION: Date _____ Approved: _____ Denied : _____

UNANIMOUS: ___ RICE ___ BAHRINGER ___ FARMER ___ WHARTON ___ PIERSON___