



NOTICE TO CLEAN PREMISES



(Please Note: This is not a notice to grade your property)

April 20, 2017

Notice is given that any weeds, grasses, dead trees, dead palm fronds or pine tree limbs within six (6) feet of the ground upon the lot(s) or parcel(s) of land in the City of Vista and the Vista Fire Protection District, California, as described on the address label by County Tax Assessor's Number, and in the street, sidewalk and parkway adjacent thereto, are public nuisances in that they are a **fire hazard** or in all probability will become a fire hazard. Any rubbish, rubble, discarded asphalt, concrete, auto bodies and parts, or other waste material thereon that might interfere with the abatement of the aforementioned public nuisance are also a public nuisance.

Said public nuisances are required to be abated before **June 1, 2017**. If not abated by this date, the Fire Marshal will authorize abatement, and the cost thereof will be assessed against the land and collected through routine property tax billing. An administrative fee of six hundred ninety five dollars (\$695.00) per parcel cleared shall be added to said costs, regardless of the size of parcel. An additional fee of one hundred sixty dollars (\$160.00) shall be added if an administrative warrant is required to clear the parcel. Due to increased fire danger, no extensions will be granted.

The owner of said land, or authorized agent thereof, may appeal to the City Council of the City of Vista or the Board of Directors of the Vista Fire Protection District and show cause if any there be, why the public nuisance should not be abated. Such appeal shall be filed in writing with the City Clerk of Vista, 200 Civic Center Dr., Vista, California, 92084, or the Secretary of the Board of the Vista Fire Protection District at 955 Vale Terrace Dr. Suite A Vista, CA 92084 within ten (10) days from the date of this notice.

This notice is given pursuant to the provisions of Title 8, Chapter 8.60 of the Municipal Code of the City of Vista, California, City of Vista Ordinance No. 21, or the Vista Fire Protection District Ordinance No. 18 and 23.

Dated and Posted: **April 21, 2017**

By order of the Vista Fire Department Fire Marshal

CONTACT:

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU 760.643.5352

Information on vegetation management, an independent contractors list, or the Endangered Species Act, is available online at CityofVista.com/Fire.



WEED ABATEMENT POLICY

This policy applies to both improved and unimproved land subject to weed and brush abatement in the City of Vista and the Vista Fire Protection District.

Property owners of land which has not been cleared of vegetation recently (1991 or more recently) or has not been cleared consistently, annually or biannually, are advised to consult the Endangered Species Act statement that can be located online at www.cityofvista.com.

GENERAL POLICY (Note: This is not a grading permit)

In general, parcels should only be mowed (per fire department standards). The Fire Chief or his agents may specify the method of clearance for any specific parcel.

Mowing

Mowing is the preferred method of clearing. All standing weeds and annual grasses shall be cut to within two inches (2") of the finished soil surface with an approved mechanical mower. Mowing shall sever vegetation from its roots, not simply lay it over. **When mowing is the method of clearing, a second mowing later in the season may be necessary.**

All parcels 5 acres or less shall be **completely mowed**.

For parcels *over five* (5) acres please contact the fire department for guidance at (760) 643-5352.

Weed/annual grass removal is to be done as close to sidewalks, fences curbs, streets, and obstructions as is possible and practical. Hand work (weed whacker, whip, string trimmer, etc.) may be required to complete the task on slopes, banks or around obstacles.

Determination of whether the standard has been achieved rests with the Fire Marshal or his designee, with the Fire Chief acting as the final point of appeal.

Disking and grading is not permitted under this policy.

Property subject to weed abatement **NOTICE TO CLEAN PREMISES** which is not cleared to the above standards by June 1, 2017, the deadline established in the posting, will be cleared by the city or district contractor. Attempt to contact the property owner will be made prior to parcels going to forced abatement. This contact will either be by phone, an in person meeting, posting a notice on the property, or by certified mail.

If you are clearing a parcel yourself or are using your own contractor, you must complete the clearing prior to June 1, 2017, the deadline established in the posting. Due to increased fire danger, no extensions will be granted. Those parcels cleared by owners will be re-inspected beginning June 1, 2017, and the property owner will be notified of any deficiency in meeting the above policy. If you take no further action within ten (10) days after you are notified of a deficiency, the property will be cleared by the city or district contractor and appropriate fees charged, including the established administrative charge.

All property owners and contractors are required to comply with State and Federal regulations regarding native vegetation, including the **Endangered Species Act**.

For more information or to view the complete Fire Safety and Vegetation Management guidelines, please check online at CityofVista.com/Fire. To obtain a hard copy of this document, contact the Vista Fire Department at (760) 643-2801.