



## City of Petaluma

11 English Street, Petaluma, California 94952

Fire Marshal's Office (707) 778-4389 Fax (707) 206-6036

Re: Parcel #«APN»  
«Num» «Street»

### WEED ABATEMENT SEASON APPROACHING

As fire season quickly approaches, the potential for fires this summer and fall are of great concern to the City of Petaluma. Brush and weed abatement to reduce fuel loads is a proactive fire prevention measure that will stop, slow, or confine the spread of fire; allow time for fire suppression personnel to respond and extinguish a threatening fire; and reduce the fire threat from properties that adjoin the city limits. Please help keep Petaluma fire-safe by abating weeds and grasses on your property throughout the entire fire season. See Abatement details on back page.

### NOTICE OF HEARING

- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2023, the City Council of Petaluma, California passed Resolution #2023-42, declaring that weeds constitute a fire hazard in the City of Petaluma and must be abated. A copy of the resolution can be found by contacting the City Clerk at (707) 778-4360.
- All property owners having any objection to the proposed removal of such weeds are hereby notified to attend a Public Hearing of the Petaluma City Council, to be held on the **17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023**, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 11 English Street, Petaluma, California, beginning at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, when objections will be heard and given due consideration. If you plan on removing the weeds yourself or by a contractor of your choice, you do not need to attend this hearing. **Only attend the meeting if you object to the Fire Marshal clearing your property if you fail to do it yourself**
- If the property identified on this notice is **not cleared of weeds by May 31, 2023**, it will be cleared by a City contractor, and the cost of removal will be assessed against the property, including a \$240.00 administrative fee. Failure to remit fees due will result in a special assessment placed on a secured property tax roll. Please note that the fee rates of the private contractor hired by the City have increased this year. Rates can be found at <https://cityofpetaluma.org/weed-abatement/>
- All parcels must be maintained free of brush/weeds that pose a fire hazard throughout the season – May through October – or until the first major rains in Fall.** Even if your property is abated early, re-growth shall be abated. If at any time your property is determined to be a hazard, it may be abated by the City without additional notice.
- For a copy of the Weed Abatement Guidelines, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau our website at <https://cityofpetaluma.org/documents/weed-abatement-guidelines-updated-2020/>.
- If you have a **special circumstance or no longer own this property**, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (707) 778-4389 or [firemarshal@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:firemarshal@cityofpetaluma.org) at your earliest convenience.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (707) 778-4360 (voice) or (707) 778-4480 (TDD). Translators, American Sign Language interpreters, and/or assistive listening devices for individuals with hearing disabilities will be available upon request. A minimum of 48 hours is needed to ensure the availability of translation services. In consideration of those with multiple chemical sensitivities or other environmental illness, it is requested that you refrain from wearing scented products.

«CURRENT\_OWNER»  
«dba»  
«OWNERS\_ADDRESS»  
«City» «Zip» «ZIP\_4»

**Creating defensible space is an essential part of preparing for fire season in California. Providing proper defensible space minimizes fire damage by providing a space and/or fuel break where firefighters can defend against fire.**

It is important to know that inspections are conducted throughout the dry season, and the property must be maintained in order to remain in compliance. Even if a property owner abates their property early in the season, there is potential for re-growth and it must be abated. Due to the continued rainy weather this year, the abatement deadline has been moved to May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Weeds, grass, vines or other growth that are capable of endangering property shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the premises. Vegetation clearance requirements in the wildland-urban interface areas shall be in accordance with CFC Chapter 49, CFC: Vegetation and Title 19, Division 1§307(b): Clearances.

**Here's how to comply with the requirements by May 31<sup>st</sup>:**

Parcels five (5) acres or less must have all combustible growth cut or removed. Weeds shall be cut to 4" or less in height.

Larger parcels shall maintain a minimum 30' perimeter of abatement around the property. Additional fuel breaks may be required on larger properties to divide the property into smaller areas that would separate large amounts of fuel. The abatement trail should be a minimum of 30' wide.

A defensible space of 30'-100', depending on grade and other factors, around all structures, either man-made or natural, in which material is capable of allowing fire to spread unchecked, must be cleared, treated or modified to slow the rate and intensity of an approaching fire.

Roadways, driveways and Fire Department access roads shall be cleared of combustible vegetation equal to the width of the road plus ten feet (10') on both sides.

Property owners who notice the existence of rare, threatened or endangered plants or wildlife on a noticed property must notify the Department of Fish and Game (or appropriate agency) at least ten (10) days in advance of undertaking the vegetation clearance. If the landowner is aware of any State or Federally-listed species on the property, then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game should be notified prior to the abatement. If a State or Federal candidate or listed species is killed, injured or captured, the landowner shall report this information to the Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, respectfully.

When mowing weeds, it is imperative it be done safely: One small spark from a mower blade hitting a rock can result in a big fire. All mowing should be done as early in the morning as possible, while temperatures are low, humidity is high, grasses are still damp with dew and not on windy days. When mowing always have a water press and pointed shovel handy. Mow early and often.