



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dustin Gardner

Fire Chief

2400 Conejo Spectrum St, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

July 23, 2024

Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT:

Approval of Ventura County Fire Protection District's Fire Hazard Reduction Program 2024 Account of Expenses for Parcels Abated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Receive, consider, and confirm the Ventura County Fire Protection District's Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP) 2024 Account of Expenses for the abatement of fire hazards and maintenance of defensible space (Exhibit 1).
2. Direct the Fire Chief or his designee to transmit the FHRP 2024 Account of Expenses, as confirmed, to the Auditor-Controller to enter as a special assessment against the properties.

FISCAL IMPACTS/MANDATES:

Mandatory: Yes

Source of Funding: Non-compliant Property Owners, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Fire District (Unit 2711, Account 9411 – Weed Abatement)

Funding Match Required: None

Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenue and Costs:

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Revenue: Property Tax Billing	\$ 96,037	\$ 33,927
Costs: Contractor Fees + Administrative Fees		
Direct	\$ 96,037	\$ 33,927
Indirect-Agency/Dept.	0	0
Indirect-County CAP	0	0
Total Costs	\$ 96,037	\$ 33,927
Net Cost:	\$ 0	\$ 0

Current FY 2024-25 Budget Projection for the Fire District – Unit 2711				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	5,772,298	5,772,298	5,772,298	---
Revenue	5,659,277	5,659,277	5,659,277	---
Net Cost	113,021	113,021	113,021	---

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item contributes to the Board of Supervisors 2024-2027 strategic priority to invest in *Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities*. The Fire Protection District will ensure the appropriate implementation, control, monitoring, and review of Fire Protection and Life Safety systems are operating as designed for the safety of the community.

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to your Board's objective for the Fire District to recoup its enforcement costs for abating fire nuisances on non-compliant parcels, property owners are billed both an administrative fee and the actual cost of abating the weeds on their property. The \$1,633 fee per parcel abated covered the cost of coordination of code enforcement in calendar year 2023. A fee of \$1,744, approved by your Board, was instituted on January 1, 2024, and remains in effect for calendar year 2024.

California Health & Safety Code §§ 14905-14915 and Fire District Ordinance No. 32 require that (1) an annual Account of Expenses of the FHRP be filed with your Board for review, consideration, and after hearing any objections, confirmation, and (2) your Board deliver the account, as confirmed, to the County Auditor-Controller for placement on the secured tax roll. Any non-compliant parcel abated after this report will be included in the 2025 Account of Expenses report.

As part of the 2024 FHRP, on April 20, 2024, the Fire District notified approximately 18,910 owners of properties in the urban/wildland interface of seasonal and recurrent fire hazards existing on their properties. Your Board approved this list of properties on May 14, 2024. The cooperation of the citizens of Ventura County has been outstanding. The number of non-compliant parcels abated during the 2024 FHRP as of this report was (6). There were thirteen (13) parcels abated in 2023 after the 2023 FHRP report of expenses confirmed by your Board on July 25, 2023, and are included in the 2024 FHRP report. That brought the total parcels abated during 2023 FHRP to eighteen (18) from the July 25, 2023, report of five (5).

The Fire District recommends that your Board approve its FHRP 2024 Account of Expenses for calendar year 2024 and direct its transmittal to the Auditor-Controller.

The County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller's Office have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact me at (805) 389-9704 or Fire Marshal Joe Morelli at (805) 389-9729.

July 23, 2024

Page 3

Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Gardner', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DG/JM/TK/LW: mm

Attachment: Exhibit 1 –FHRP 2024 Account of Expenses