



July 25, 2023

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 2023 Account of Expenses for Parcels Abated.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Receive, consider and confirm the Ventura County Fire Protection District's (Fire District) Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP) 2023 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 2023 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 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>
Revenue: Property Tax Billing	\$ 10,980	\$ 22,265
Costs: Contractor Fees + Administrative Fees		
Direct	\$ 10,980	\$ 22,265
Indirect-Agency/Dept.	0	0
Indirect-County CAP	0	0
Total Costs	<u>\$ 10,980</u>	<u>\$ 22,265</u>
Net Cost:	\$ 0	\$ 0

<b>Current FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for the Fire District – Unit 2711</b>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	5,656,284	5,656,284	5,656,284	---
Revenue	5,902,613	5,902,613	5,902,613	---
Net Cost	(246,329)	(246,329)	(246,329)	---

**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 \$1,785 fee per parcel abated covered the cost of coordination of code enforcement in calendar year 2022. A fee of \$1,633, approved by your Board, was instituted on January 1, 2023, and remains in effect for calendar year 2023.

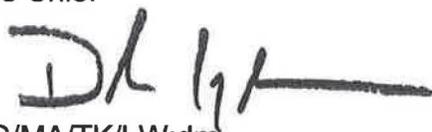
California Health & Safety Code §§ 14905-14915 and Fire District Ordinance No. 32 require that (1) an annual Account of Expenses of the FHRP be filed with your Board for review, consideration, and after hearing any objections, confirmation, and (2) your Board deliver the account, as confirmed, to the County Auditor-Controller for placement on the secured tax roll. Any non-compliant parcel abated after this report will be included in the 2024 Account of Expenses report.

As part of the 2023 FHRP, on April 20, 2022, the Fire District notified approximately 18,844 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 16, 2023. The cooperation of the citizens of Ventura County has been outstanding. The number of non-compliant parcels abated during the 2023 FHRP as of this report was five (5). There were three (3) parcels abated in 2022 after the 2022 FHRP report of expenses confirmed by your Board on July 29, 2022 and are included in the 2023 FHRP report. That brought the total parcels abated during 2022 FHRP to eight (8) from the July 26, 2022 report of five (5).

The Fire District recommends that your Board approve its FHRP 2023 Account of Expenses for calendar year 2023 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 Massoud Araghi at (805) 389-9729.

Dustin Gardner  
Fire Chief



DG/MA/TK/LW:dm

Attachment: Exhibit 1 –FHRP 2023 Account of Expenses