



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief
165 Durley Avenue, Camarillo, CA 93010-8586

July 26, 2022

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 2022 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) 2022 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 2022 Account of Expenses, as confirmed, to the Auditor-Controller to enter as a special assessment against the property.

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 2021-22</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>
Revenue:	\$ 12,341	\$ 19,699
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 12,341	\$ 19,699
Indirect-Agency/Dept.	0	0
Indirect-County CAP	0	0
Total Costs	\$ 12,341	\$ 19,699
Net Cost:	\$ 0	\$ 0

Current FY 2022-23 Budget Projection for the Fire District – Unit 2711				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	5,717,400	5,717,400	5,717,400	---
Revenue	6,335,402	6,335,402	6,335,402	---
Net Cost	(618,002)	(618,002)	(618,002)	---

DISCUSSION:

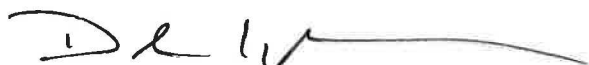
Pursuant to your Board's objective for the Fire District to recoup its enforcement costs for abating fire nuisances on non-compliant parcels, property owners are billed both an administrative fee and the actual cost of abating the weeds on their property. The \$1,864 fee per parcel abated covered the cost of coordination of code enforcement in calendar year 2021. A fee of \$1,785, approved by your Board, was instituted on January 1, 2022, and remains in effect for calendar year 2022.

California Health & Safety Code §§ 14905-14915 and Fire District Ordinance No. 31 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 2023 Account of Expenses report.

As part of the 2022 FHRP, on April 20, 2022, the Fire District notified approximately 18,777 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 2, 2022. The cooperation of the citizens of Ventura County has been outstanding: the number of non-compliant parcels abated during the 2022 FHRP was four (4).

The Fire District recommends that your Board approve its FHRP 2022 Account of Expenses for calendar year 2022 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 2022 Account of Expenses