



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001183

MEETING DATE: 06/23/2026

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: OC Public Works

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Kevin Onuma, 714-647-3939
Jose Arriaga, 714-955-0101

SUBJECT: Adopt FY 2025-26 Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Cost Report by Property

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
Concur	Approve resolution to form	PUBLIC HEARINGS 3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: N/A	Current Year Cost: N/A	Annual Cost: N/A
----------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------

Staffing Impact: No

Sole Source: N/A

Current Fiscal Year Revenue: See Financial Impact Section	Funding Source: See Financial Impact Section	County Audit in Last 3 years: No
---	---	--

Levine Act Review

Completed? N/A

Prior Board Action: 4/14/2026 #45, 2/24/2026 #16, 6/24/2025 #82, 4/8/2025 #27

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Conduct the Public Hearing.
2. Adopt the Resolution, which receives and confirms the FY 2025-2026 Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Cost Report by Property and authorizes the OC Agricultural Commissioner to reimburse or cancel assessments that were duplicative or by mistake, in accordance with Health and Safety Codes Section 14920.
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of the Resolution for confirmation to the OC Clerk-Recorder for recording pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 14912.
4. Direct that the cost of abating the nuisance in front of, or upon, the various parcels of land specified in the FY 2025-2026 Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Cost Report by Property shall constitute special assessments against the respective parcels of land, or portions thereof and shall constitute liens on the respective parcels, or portions thereof, for the amount of the respective assessment upon recordation of a certified copy of the Resolution with the OC Clerk-Recorder.
5. Direct the Clerk of the Board to provide the Orange County Auditor-Controller a certified copy of the Resolution by August 10, 2026, which shall include the Recorder's book, page number and date of recordation, together with a copy of the FY 2025-2026 Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Cost Report by Property and direct the Auditor-Controller to enter the amounts of the respective assessments against the respective parcels, or portions thereof, of land as they appear on the current tax assessment roll pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 14915.

6. Direct the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of the Resolution to the OC Agricultural Commissioner by August 10, 2026.
7. Direct the Treasurer-Tax Collector to include the amount of the respective assessments on bills for taxes levied against respective lots and parcels of land, or portions thereof.
8. Direct the Treasurer-Tax Collector to issue, at their discretion, separate bills for such special assessments and separate receipts for collection.

SUMMARY:

Adoption of the Weed Abatement Resolution confirming the FY 2025-26 Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Cost Report by Property provides a means to recover County of Orange costs to abate weeds and combustible vegetation on private properties in unincorporated areas of Orange County and provides the necessary mechanism to address serious fire safety concerns and public nuisances.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The OC Agricultural Commissioner abates weeds and combustible vegetation on private properties located in the unincorporated areas of Orange County only when property owners (Owners), after being notified as required by law, fail to remove weeds and vegetation that constitute a public nuisance. On average, greater than 95 percent of the approximately 6,000 affected Owners voluntarily remove weeds and fire hazards from their properties, demonstrating a consistently high level of community participation in the Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Program (Program). These actions also help prevent blight and support ongoing neighborhood preservation efforts.

If necessary, Owners can request a reasonable postponement to the deadline for their property. Owners are advised that if work is not completed by the specified date, the County of Orange (County) will abate those properties by contract, and the applicable costs will be added to the Owner's tax bill as directed by Board of Supervisors (Board) Resolution.

For those Owners who fail to remove weeds and vegetation after being notified, the OC Agricultural Commissioner uses contract services to clear parcels under the direction of a County Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Program Inspector (Inspector).

Costs related to the Program are detailed by parcel number in the FY 2025-2026 Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Cost Report by Property (Cost Report), which the Board approves via adoption of the attached Resolution. The Cost Report includes contractor costs, inspection costs and weed abatement administrative costs. An inspection assessment charge of \$54.90 is recommended for inspection of parcels on the County Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement List (Abatement List). This assessment applies to all parcels on the Abatement List, including those where parcel owners abated their own weeds, and is authorized under Health & Safety Code Section 14902. If the County abates weeds on a parcel, Owners will be assessed: 1) the inspection assessment of \$54.90; 2) a recommended administrative abatement assessment of \$934; and 3) the actual contractor costs required to abate the weeds. All costs will be added to the Owner's tax bill as directed by Board Resolution and are authorized under Health and Safety Code Section 14912.

Prior Board Actions are summarized in the table below.

Board Date	Action
6/10/1978	Board adopted Resolution 78-946 directing County agencies and departments to achieve full cost recovery for weed abatement.
2/25/2025	Board adopted Resolution 25-020 initiating the 2025 Program.

4/8/2025	Board adopted Resolution 25-046 authorizing the OC Agricultural Commissioner to abate weeds and combustible vegetation, ordered the OC Agricultural Commissioner to keep an accounting of costs for weed abatement that took place between July 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, and present the accounting of costs at the last Board meeting in June 2026.
6/24/2025	Board adopted Resolution 25-084 approving FY 2024-25 Weed Abatement Cost Report and special assessments on identified properties.
2/24/2026	Board adopted Resolution 26-008 authorizing the mailing of weed abatement notices to all affected Owners instructing them to remove weeds and combustible vegetation identified as a public nuisance and fire hazard.
4/14/2026	Board, after a public hearing, adopted Resolution 26-022 authorizing the OC Agricultural Commissioner to abate weeds and combustible vegetation using contract services on private properties located in the unincorporated areas of Orange County, directed the OC Agricultural Commissioner to keep an accounting of costs for weed abatement that took place between April 14, 2026, and June 30, 2026, and present the accounting of costs at the June 23, 2026, Board meeting.

The accounting of costs for the FY 2025–26 Program is directed across two Board actions: Resolution 25-046 covers expenses incurred from July 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, and Resolution 26-022 authorizes and tracks the remaining costs from April 14, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

Health and Safety Code Section 14910 authorizes the Board to receive and consider the Cost Report and hear any objections of Owners liable to be assessed for the cost of abatement.

Proposition 26: The charges being approved by the Board are charges that will cover the County costs in providing fire hazard reduction weed abatement services, a specific government service being provided directly to the property owner that is not provided to those not charged and does not exceed the reasonable costs to the County of providing the fire hazard reduction weed abatement services. These charges are thus exempt from the requirement that the charge be approved by a vote of the electorate pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII C, Section 1 (e) (2).

Compliance with CEQA: The proposed project was previously determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15304 (Class 4) of the CEQA Guidelines, on February 24, 2026, when it was originally approved because it involves fuel management activities through the adoption of the 2026 Program to abate weeds and other combustible vegetation, which will not result in the taking of endangered, rare or threatened plant or animal species and significant erosion or sedimentation of surface waters. Additionally, the proposed project involves fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions. The proposed project is still consistent with this determination.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Appropriations for the private contractor to conduct weed abatement are included in Budget Control 080, OC Public Works, FY 2025-26 Budget. The County will be reimbursed for clearing vegetation, litter and/or other debris, including an inspection assessment of \$54.90 and an administrative abatement assessment of \$934, which will be added to the parcel owner’s property tax bill.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - FY 2025-26 Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Cost Report by Property

Attachment B - Draft Resolution

Attachment C - Health and Safety Code 14875-14931

Attachment D - Affidavit of Mailing

Attachment E - FY 2025-26 Weed Abatement Inspection Fee Checklist

Attachment F - FY 2025-26 Weed Abatement Administrative Fee Checklist

Attachment G - California Constitution Article XIII C, Section 1 (e) (2)