



Agenda Date: 8/28/2007  
Agenda Placement: 6A

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Gabrielle Avina for Loveless, Ernie - Fire Chief  
County Fire Department  
**REPORT BY:** Stacie McCambridge, Staff Services Analyst, 707-967-1417  
**SUBJECT:** Professional Service Contract for Weed Abatement Program

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Fire Chief requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with Joaquin's Landscaping Service for a maximum of \$50,000 for the term August 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 to provide defensible space for properties that do not comply with the weed abatement ordinance.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

With the adoption of the Napa County Weed Abatement Ordinance, the County Fire Department is contracting with three private contractors to complete the necessary abatements. The County has worked with Joaquin's Landscaping Service in the past and present on different projects and we are requesting his services on this project.

The Napa County Weed Abatement Ordinance will be using Joaquin's Landscaping Service to reduce potential fire hazard and to abate properties that do not comply with the defensible space requirement.

Property owners requiring compliance will be billed for the cost of the abatement and the cost of the fire department staff time at \$151 per hour. Non payment will be turned over to the County Auditor as an assessment against the parties tax bill.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

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Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	County Fire Department
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	The Professional Services Agreement is necessary to implement the Napa County Weed Abatement Ordinance. The County has used this vendor previously and is using him currently for other projects such as maintenance of the Napa River Ecological Reserve.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	If the Weed Abatement program is continued into next year the need to budget money to accommodate the program will be needed.  Property owners will be billed for the cost of the contractor and the cost of the fire department staff time for the abatement. Non payment will be turned over to the County Auditor as an assessment against the affected parcel of land.
Consequences if not approved:	The Napa County Fire Department will not be able to fully implement the County Weed Abatement Ordinance.
Additional Information:	

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

On June 22, 2007 the county adopted the Napa County Weed Abatement Ordinance. This Professional Services Agreement is one of the three agreements that the County is entering into to complete the necessary abatements.

Staff from Cal Fire/Napa County Fire Department have been inspecting properties for compliance with the Weed Abatement Ordinance throughout the county focusing on high risk communities and responding to neighbor and community concerns. Properties that are not in compliance with the defensible space requirements are issued a "Notice to Abate Fire Hazard". After twenty-one days, if the property is still not in compliance, the County will use a private contractor to reduce the fire hazard and the property owner will be billed for the cost of the contractor and the cost of the fire department staff time for the abatement. Non payment will be turned over to the county auditor as an assessment against the affected parcel of land.

The County Fire Department is contracting with three private contractors to complete the necessary abatements. The County has worked with Joaquin's Landscaping Service in the past and present on different projects and we are requesting his services on this project.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi