



CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
2600 FRESNO STREET, ROOM 3070
FRESNO, CA 93721
(559) 621-8400, FAX (559) 488-1078
www.fresno.gov

Table with 2 columns: Property identifiers (OWN, ADR) and Parcel numbers (APN1-30). Includes date: February 11, 2015.

Subject: Notice of Weed Abatement Inspection Deadline – April 15, 2015

Dear Property Owner:

This is your official notice of the 2015 Spring/Summer, city-wide, Weed Abatement Inspection program. This inspection program will begin on April 15, 2015. According to the Fresno Municipal Code, Section 10-605, all vacant and unimproved lots are required to be free from public nuisance violations throughout the year. The standards and requirements are as described on the reverse side of this notice.

There will be no further notice. Courtesy Notices are no longer used. During fire season (April 15 - September 15) if your property contains any of the violations which are listed on the reverse of this notice, you will be issued a citation for the violations(s). Citations can range from \$200 to \$800. In addition, the City may hire a contractor to abate the violations. You will then be billed for the cost of this cleanup plus the City's administration fee of \$100 per hour minimum. These costs average between \$500 to \$1000 per incident.

If you receive an invoice from the City for the code violation related cleanup and/or citation you will have 30 days from the date of issuance to pay the invoice. If you are unable to pay the invoice within 30 days, you will need to contact our Billing Section at (559) 621- 8316 to make payment arrangements. If payment is not received, the unpaid amounts may be sent to a collection agency, added to your property taxes as a special assessment, or a lien may be placed against your property.

If you have any questions regarding this notice or if you need more information, please call the Code Enforcement Office at (559) 621-8400 to leave a message. Please provide your name, contact telephone number, and the Case and Parcel numbers (shown on the top right hand section of this letter). You may also view Weed Abatement information, a listing of parcels and other pertinent information on the City's web site. If you are no longer the owner of this property please contact us at (559) 621- 8400 so that we may update our records.

Thank you in advance for being a responsible property owner.

Sincerely

Weed Abatement Team
Code Enforcement Division

## PROPERTY CODE VIOLATIONS and WEED ABATEMENT STANDARDS

### CODE VIOLATIONS

The following is a summary of the common code violations related to property maintenance.

- 10-605 (a)** Failure to remove rubbish and/or junk. This includes garbage, scrap metal or lumber, concrete, asphalt, tin cans, tires, and piles of earth.
- 10-605 (d)** Failure to remove weeds, sagebrush, puncture vines, tumbleweed, poison oak/ivy, and/or dry grasses from property.
- 10-605 (e)** Failure to remove dead, decayed or hazardous trees or residue from fire or demolition which constitute a public hazard. (this includes pruning trees 4-6 ft from the ground up to deter transient encampments and or rodent infestation).
- 10-605 (i)** Failure to maintain yard landscaping such that it can create a fire hazard or provide obstructions to traffic or a blight to the neighborhood.

### WEED ABATEMENT STANDARDS/GUIDELINES

The following are minimum abatement standards for vacant and unimproved lots. The City of Fresno may require additional or more stringent abatement on some properties because of problems with terrain, land use, growth, location, or the fire history of the property. These standards apply to all rubbish, weeds, grass, or other vegetation that is likely to become dry during the year, particularly in the summer.

#### All Properties

The following areas are also to be included in the abatement program: alleys, sidewalks, park strips, or unimproved easements abutting the property. For all of the areas on or abutting the property you are required to:

- Remove all rubbish, trash, trimmings, litter, tires and combustible waste material,
- Disc all weeds, grass, brush, or other combustible vegetation according to the discing standards provided below.
- Remove all grass and other cuttings after mowing, hoeing or cutting.
- Remove all sagebrush, chaparral, tumbleweeds, and other brush or weeds which, when dry can pose a fire hazard.
- Remove all tumbleweeds (completely disced under or removed by hand) from the property on a year-round basis.

#### Discing Standards

All discing work shall be completed so that all weeds, grass, crops or other vegetation or organic material that could be expected to burn shall be substantially turned over so that there is insufficient fuel to sustain or allow the spread of fire. Handwork, including mowing, weed-eating or hoeing, may be utilized for the removal of weeds along fence lines where discing may not be possible, so that these areas are free and clear of growth and dead vegetation. For parcels over 5 acres, in lieu of discing the entire parcel, firebreaks may be provided in such a manner that no single fire area shall exceed five (5) acres. **Firebreaks shall be a continuous strip of land which is clear of all combustible weeds, grass, stubble, rubbish, or other material which would allow the travel of fire.** Firebreaks may include fire-resistive vegetation, such as irrigated crops, ice plant, green ivy, and other live plants recognized by the City of Fresno as being fire resistant. The following are additional firebreak requirements:

- Provide 30 foot wide firebreaks around all combustible structures and storage.
- Provide 30 foot wide firebreaks along each side of all roads accessible to the public and around all brush areas.
- Provide 15 foot wide firebreaks along each side of all fence (property) lines, ditches and creeks. Any parcel which is adjacent to developed property must have 30 foot wide firebreaks along the fence (property) lines.
- Graded fire roads (not less than 15 feet in width) may be done in lieu of 15 feet of width of disced firebreaks where specifically approved by the City of Fresno.
- Abandoned orchards, vineyards, etc. shall be completely abated.
- Non-irrigated pasture land being used for grazing must have 30 foot wide firebreaks with substantial cross-discing.