

County of Santa Clara  
Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency



100131

**DATE:** February 11, 2020

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jo Zientek, Director, Consumer/Environmental Protection Agency

**SUBJECT:** Add Full-Time Weed Abatement Inspector Position

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Adoption of Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.20.83 amending Santa Clara County Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.20 relating to compensation of employees adding one Weed Abatement Inspector position in the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management.

- Introduce, waive reading, and preliminarily adopt on February 11, 2020.
- Adopt (Final) on February 25, 2020.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost to implement the recommended action is approximately \$15,819 for Fiscal Year 2020 and will be absorbed within the Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency's (CEPA) existing appropriation. The annualized/ongoing cost is approximately \$100,629 and will be fully offset with Weed Abatement fee revenue.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The recommended action will add one full-time Weed Abatement Inspector position to CEPA. This position is needed to support the increased number of properties being reported to the Program for site assessment. Staff has been utilizing extra-help and has determined that this will be an ongoing need. In 2019, the Program received 401 total service requests, up from 278 in 2018. Of these 401, 103 resulted in additions to the program. It is predicted that, with the current public focus on wildfires in urban areas, this demand will increase in the coming years as the impact of the wildfires is felt in the urban areas.

**CHILD IMPACT**

The recommended action impacts the **Safe and Stable Families** indicator by maintaining minimum fire safety standards to keep children and youth safe from fire dangers.

**SENIOR IMPACT**

The recommended action will have a positive impact on seniors by maintaining minimum fire safety standards to help keep seniors safe from fire dangers.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Weed Abatement Program reduces the risk of spreading fire from wildland or rubbish fires to structures. Sustainability implications associated with this program include improved air quality, reduced resources used to rebuild homes, and native plant species and habitats protected and water conserved when fires are prevented and homes are protected.

## **BACKGROUND**

On December 18, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved the Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency's recommended program fees, which included revenue to cover the cost of adding this position.

The Employee Services Agency supports the recommended action.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommended action will not align the work needed with the appropriate staff resources for weed abatement program oversight.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is requested to notify Nidia Aguirre in the Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency.

## **LINKS:**

- **Linked To: 93926** : Approve recommendation from the Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency to modify Weed Abatement Program fees changing the Annual Inspection fee from \$90 to \$80; the Second Inspection fee from \$583 to \$495; and the Contract Work fee from \$576 to \$806.
- **Linked To: 99653** : Approve Agreement with Imhof Tractor Service, Inc., relating to providing weed abatement services in an amount not to exceed \$1,345,239 for period March 1, 2020 through February 29, 2023 with two one-year extension options, that has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form and legality.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- NS-5.20.83 – AEM – Add one Weed Abatement Inspector position (PDF)