



Information and General Services Department

Facilities Management
10014 N. Bloomfield Road
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: 530-470-2635
Fax: 530-265-7087

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: April 26, 2016

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Steve Monaghan – IGS – Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Introduction of an Ordinance amending the “Hazardous Vegetation Abatement” Section of the Nevada County General Code.

RECOMMENDATION: Introduce and waive further reading of the attached Ordinance amending Article 7 of the Nevada County General Code regarding “Hazardous Vegetation Abatement.”

FUNDING: Not Required.

BACKGROUND: As part of the past and current Nevada County Board Objectives –the Board of Supervisors has continued to “Prioritize the implementation of existing County policies and programs to reduce the risk of wildfire and the effects of wildfire on life, property and the environment.”

To support this objective the Board of Supervisors approved on May 13, 2014, Ordinance 2380 adding Article 7 to Chapter IV of the Nevada County General Code regarding Hazardous Vegetation Abatement that became operative on June 12, 2014. This Ordinance provides mechanisms for inspections, notices, enforcement, and abatement as well as recovery of abatement costs.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors approved on June 10, 2014, Ordinance 2381, an amendment that addressed (1) the appeals process; and (2) cost sharing between home owners.

Per the Board of Supervisors direction and input from Nevada County Code Enforcement and Local Fire Officials, this proposed amendment in addition to numerous administrative updates, principally addresses (1) the clearance of combustible vegetation along roadways; (2) all parcels, regardless of size or improvement must comply with the requirements of Article 7 Chapter IV of the General Code; (3) addressing the requirements of a 50 foot wide fuel modification on certain parcels; (4) the authority for the Local Fire Official to mandate additional fuels management; (5) delineating the responsibilities of both the Local Fire Official and Code Compliance throughout the enforcement and abatement processes.

Item Initiated by: Vic Ferrera

Approved by: Steve Monaghan