

In Reference: <APN>
Assessor's Parcel No.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Weed Abatement Program
222 E. Bristol Lane
Orange, CA 92865-2714
INFO: 714.955.0111
FAX: 714.921.2713

<owner name>
<owner address>
<owner city>, <owner state> <owner zip>

March 14, 2023

Dear Property Owner:

****** NOTICE TO DESTROY WEEDS ON REVERSE SIDE ******
THIS IS THE ONLY NOTIFICATION YOU WILL RECEIVE.

Removal of Fire Hazards. Orange County Public Works will be conducting its annual fire hazard reduction weed abatement inspection and clearing after **April 11, 2023** throughout the year, on the property described by the above-referenced Assessor's Parcel Number. This inspection is to ensure proper compliance with the applicable provisions set forth regarding the Abatement of Hazardous Weeds in Sections 14875 through 14922 of the California Health and Safety Code. As owner of the above referenced property, you are responsible for its condition and maintenance. This notice should also serve as a reminder to inspect and maintain the condition of your property throughout the year.

You are hereby notified by this letter to remove any vegetation, litter, or other flammable material (this includes dead palm fronds) from the above-mentioned property. If the Property is not cleared of the hazardous weeds and vegetation, the Board of Supervisors may order the weeds and vegetation to be cleared by the County. Property with hazardous weeds and vegetation that are not cleared and maintained will be subject to clearing by the County-contracted crews commencing after **April 11, 2023**. If you are no longer the owner of this property, please disclose the contents of this notice to the new owner.

Properties receiving this notice are subject to a special assessment, even if the property owners abate their own weeds, for the costs in enforcing abatement, including investigation, boundary determination, measurement, clerical, and other related costs. If the County-contracted crews are required to abate the hazardous weeds on the Property, the Property will also be assessed clearing charges. *The clearing charges for vegetation, litter, and/or other debris will include clearing charges billed per square foot, and costs in enforcing abatement, including investigation, boundary determination, measurement, clerical, and other related costs.* These special assessments will be added to the owner's property tax bill.

Maintaining Your Property:

1. **Regrowth** of vegetation due to late rainfall may result in the property needing multiple clearings throughout the year, so the property must be maintained all year long. Property not maintained in a safe condition will be cleared by the County without further notice. The enclosed information will provide further details, as well as assist you in identifying hazards and provide locations of waste facilities.
2. With fire season coming, maintaining weeds at ground level will help prevent the spread of fire. Please call the Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Program at **(714) 955-0111** if you have unique vegetation, topographical, or weather conditions for your property.
3. Prior to the use of a tractor, bulldozer, or backhoe to remove weeds, please contact OC Development Services at (714) 667-8888 to determine if any permits are required.

For further information, you may write or call the Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Program at the above listed contact information Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please have your Assessor's Parcel Number ready when calling.

Sincerely,
Jose Arriaga
Agricultural Commissioner

NOTICE TO DESTROY WEEDS

Notice is hereby given that on the 14th day of March 2023, the Board of Supervisors of Orange County passed a Resolution declaring that noxious or dangerous weeds were growing upon or in front of the property on, or nearest to certain streets (or roads) in Orange County, and more particularly described in said Resolution that these weeds constitute a public nuisance, which must be abated by removal of said noxious or dangerous weeds, otherwise they will be removed and the nuisance will be abated by the County authorities, in which case the cost of such removal shall be assessed upon the lots and lands from which or in front of which such weeds are removed, and such costs will constitute a lien upon such lots or lands until paid. **NOTE: PROPERTY OWNERS WITH SPECIAL CLEARING PROBLEMS MUST CONTACT THE COUNTY WEED ABATEMENT OFFICE AT (714) 955-0111 PRIOR TO APRIL 11, 2023.** Reference is hereby made to the above-mentioned resolution for further particulars.

Public Hearings

All property owners having any objection to the removal of such weeds are hereby notified to attend the public hearing of the Board of Supervisors on April 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., at the Board Hearing Room, First Floor, Hall of Administration Building, 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, County of Orange, California 92701-4017, when their objections will be heard and given due consideration.

On July 25, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., a public hearing is scheduled by the County of Orange Board of Supervisors to consider the Weed Abatement Cost Report. This report will be posted for one week prior to the hearing. Objections may be heard at this public hearing.

Dated this 14th day of March 2023

Jose Arriaga
Agricultural Commissioner

About This Notice:

You received this notice because you were identified as the owner of the parcel referenced by the APN on the accompanying annual weed abatement notice. Your name and address were obtained as they appeared on the current equalized tax assessment roll.

Your parcel (property) was included on the County of Orange Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement List No. 1 of 2023 for one of the following reasons:

- It is located within a CALFIRE designated Fire Hazard Severity Zone.
- Hazardous weeds, brush, or neglected vegetation are, or could grow to be, close enough to a house or other structure to pose a public health or fire hazard.
- Hazardous weeds, brush, or neglected vegetation are close enough to a road to jeopardize use of the road in the event of a fire.
- It is an undeveloped (vacant) parcel within unincorporated Orange County, where hazardous weeds, vegetation, accumulated piles of rubbish, refuse, trash, litter, or other hazardous and/or flammable material may be on the property creating a public health or fire hazard, or some other public nuisance condition.

Owner Responsibilities:

You are expected to maintain your property hazard free year-round. Dry weeds, brush, or neglected vegetation **within 150 – 200 feet** from a home or other structure, or **within 10 feet** of a road, are considered a hazard. Please contact us if you are not sure how much you are expected to clear or if you have any questions.

If your undeveloped (vacant) parcel is not within 150 – 200 feet of a home or other structure, it has been included on the List because of the potential for hazardous weeds, vegetation, accumulated piles of rubbish, refuse, trash, litter, or other hazardous and/or flammable material.

Weed Abatement (Clearance) Timeline:

Regrowth of vegetation due to late rainfall may result in the property needing multiple clearings throughout the year, so the property must be maintained all year long. If you're not sure or feel you may need an extension, please contact the Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Program at **(714) 955-0111**, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please have your Assessor's Parcel Number ready when calling. The Assessor's Parcel Number can be found in the upper left portion of the accompanying letter.

Contact Information:

Orange County Fire Hazard Reduction Weed Abatement Program
222 E. Bristol Lane
Orange, CA 92865-2
Phone: 714.955.0111 or FAX: 714.921.2713



Weed & Vegetation Abatement Program

Removal of combustible vegetation & hazardous conditions will help prevent wildfires.

To view photos of native vegetation and noxious weeds, please visit our website:

<http://www.ocagcomm.com/abatement/weeds>

1. **Grass, noxious weeds, palm fronds, trash, rubbish, and other flammable material** needs to be cut and removed from improved property, vacant lots, yards, courtyards, parkways, and other locations. These types of vegetation, when dry, become a fire hazard. Properties must be maintained year-round.
2. **Trees and branches** – Remove any portion of a tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any roof, chimney, or stovepipe.
3. **Native brush and chaparral** near any improved property (structures) needs to be cleared or thinned (remove dead and dying portions) and all ground litter removed from vacant lots, yards, courtyards, parkways, and other locations.
4. **All cleared, thinned, or cut materials** must be removed from the property and taken to an approved county landfill site or green waste facility for proper disposal (please see reverse side).
5. **Methods of cleaning properties** used by the County include tractor discing and/or hand labor (weed eaters).
6. **Open burning of vegetation or rubbish is prohibited** by regulations of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
7. **Eucalyptus Trees** – Remove all fallen leaves, limbs, litter, debris and loose bark from the ground. Dead trees should be removed if they are close to structures.
8. **Artichoke Thistle**, *Cynara cardunculus*, is a state-listed, aggressive noxious weed that infests much of Orange County. It has caused widespread damage to native plant communities and ecosystems and has rendered rangeland useless. It should be removed whenever possible to prevent further infestations. The plant can grow up to 5 feet tall and produces large purple flowers.
9. **Castor bean**, *Ricinus communis*, is a highly toxic invasive weed. Its leaves are broad and green to reddish. It is easily identifiable by its large seeds. The plant is usually bunched with seeds about the size of a nickel. The plant will typically grow from 10 to 15 feet in height. **Keep in mind that the seeds and beans are extremely poisonous!** Keep children and pets away as ingestion can be fatal.
10. **Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB)**, *Agilus auroguttatus*, is an invasive pest that was accidentally introduced to San Diego County on firewood. It has already killed tens of thousands of oak trees and has the potential to kill oak trees throughout California. It has also been found in isolated areas of Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties. GSOB affects Coastal Live Oak, Canyon Live Oak, and California Black Oak as well. Please keep firewood local and visit www.gsob.org and www.don'tmovefirewood.org for more information regarding the spread of the GSOB.
11. **Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)**, *Euwallacea sp*, is a small invasive beetle identified attacking a large number of hosts in Southern California. PSHB attacks and vectors a pathogenic fungal disease called **Fusarium Dieback**. Dieback and death of the trees is due to destruction of the nutrient and water conducting tissue of the trees.