

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA
REQUIRING THE ABATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS VEGETATION AND
COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) of the County of Sonoma (“County”) will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 8:30 am, or as soon thereafter as this matter may be heard, in the hearing room at the Board of Supervisors, located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, California, to consider whether to adopt an ordinance requiring the abatement of hazardous vegetation and combustible materials.

The proposed ordinance establishes a hazardous vegetation and combustible materials abatement program that provides a process to identify and abate hazardous vegetation and combustible materials on improved and unimproved parcels of less than five acres in the unincorporated area pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 14930. The ordinance allows the Board to compel the owner or person in control of any improved or unimproved parcel of land under five acres to abate all hazardous vegetation and combustible materials that constitute a fire hazard on the land. The ordinance provides that the County Fire Chief may enter and inspect any real property whenever there is a reasonable cause to believe that hazardous vegetation or combustible materials exist on the real property in violation of the ordinance. Should a violation of the ordinance be determined, the County Fire Chief will issue a Notice of Violation and Order to Abate to the owner or person in control of the land. The ordinance provides for any person adversely affected by the Notice/Order to appeal the determination to a County hearing officer.

In the absence of timely compliance with the original Notice/Order or as set forth in an order issued by the Board after a request for hearing, the ordinance authorizes the County Fire Chief to order the removal of the combustible material or hazardous vegetation by County fire officials or a private contractor. The owner and any person in control of the affected real property will be jointly and severally liable for all abatement costs incurred by the County without further hearing. If such costs are not paid upon demand, the ordinance allows for the Board to make the expense a lien upon the real property in accordance with Government Code section 25845. The ordinance provides for additional civil and criminal remedies for violation of the ordinance.

Further information about the proposed ordinance is available during regular business hours at 2300 County Center Drive, Suite 220B, Santa Rosa, California, or can be obtained by contacting County Fire Marshal, James Williams, at 707-565-1152. Copies of the ordinance are available at the County Administrator’s Office, located at 575 Administration Drive, Suite 104A, Santa Rosa, California and are also available on-line at www.sonoma-county.org.

**ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE HEREBY INVITED TO BE PRESENT
AND HEARD ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.**

By: Roxanne Epstein, Clerk of the Board