

MEMORANDUM

TO: VISTA FIRE DISTRICT RESIDENTS
FROM: GERARD WASHINGTON, FIRE CHIEF
SUBJECT: WEED ABATEMENT CLARIFICATION
DATE: September 4, 2024



The Vista Fire Department/Vista Fire Protection District understands that getting a non-compliance letter can be distressing, as well as frustrating. So, we want to clarify our intent behind the expansion of the weed abatement program this year. As you are aware, the largest threat to our community is wildland fire and the best protection to save lives and property has been to institute fuel reduction strategies to protect the community.

In order to achieve a safer community, we are asking all homeowners and vacant lot owners that live or have property in the medium and high wildland fire threat areas to remove vegetation in their yards in accordance with Ordinance 2024-01 [2024.01-FINAL.pdf \(vistafireprotectiondistrict.org\)](#).

It is not the intent of the Fire Department to force-abate property. In the rare cases we had to force-abate property, there was no communication from the property owner to the Department, or there was no assurance that the property owner would work collaboratively on a plan to gain compliance. If it is not clear as to what needs to be mitigated, please reach out to our office and we will be happy to have an inspector contact you or meet you at the property to clarify the inspection and assist you with understanding what needs to be done to achieve compliance.

Thank you.