

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CAMERON PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
AMENDING THE "WEED AND RUBBISH ABATEMENT" ORDINANCES NO. 2016.03.16,  
2018.03.2, and 2020.03.18 WITHIN CAMERON PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CAMERON PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

The "WEED AND RUBBISH ABATEMENT" ORDINANCES NO. 2016.03.16, 2018.03.21, and  
2020.03.18 are hereby amended as follows, and shall hereafter be designated as CAMERON PARK  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

Sections:

- Section 1: FINDINGS
- Section 2: DEFINITIONS
- Section 3: LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR DISTRICT ORDINANCE
- Section 4: PROHIBITED CONDUCT
- Section 5: DUTY TO REMOVE AND ABATE HAZARDOUS VEGETATION AND RUBBISH
- Section 6: ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS
- Section 7: REQUIREMENTS
- Section 8: INSPECTION
- Section 9: ENFORCEMENT
- Section 10: APPEALS
- Section 11: SEASONAL DESIGNATION
- Section 12: REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS VEGETATION AND RUBBISH
- Section 13: COLLECTION OF ABATEMENT COSTS
- Section 14: LEVYING OF ABATEMENT COSTS AGAINST PROPERTY
- Section 15: VIOLATIONS
- Section 16: PENALTY - MISDEMEANOR
- Section 17: DELINQUENT FEES
- Section 18: SEVERABILITY
- Section 19: EFFECTIVE DATE AND PUBLICATION

Section 1: FINDINGS

- A. The Board of Directors of the Cameron Park Community Services District (hereinafter "District") finds and declares that the uncontrolled growth and/or accumulation of hazardous vegetation and rubbish is a public nuisance, in that it creates a fire hazard.
- B. It is the intent of the District that this Ordinance shall apply to the abatement of the accumulation of hazardous vegetation and rubbish on all improved parcels and all unimproved parcels within the District, and the maintenance of those parcels to prevent vegetation from growing back and rubbish from accumulating.

- C. Cameron Park is located in a wildland urban interface where homes are intermingled with or adjacent to highly flammable native and non-native plant species, within the jurisdictional boundaries. Each year the District experiences periods of high temperatures, accompanied by low humidity, and seasonal high wind. These conditions contribute to significant wildfires resulting in catastrophic fire losses to life, property, and the environment.
- D. The District has a diverse and complex landscape which includes mountains and other brush covered wildlands, which are home to many rare and sensitive plant and animal species.
- E. Of paramount importance to the District Board of Directors, is the protection of life and property from the threat of fire, and the safety of fire and law enforcement personnel during wildfires. The proper establishment of defensible space benefits property owners, public safety personnel and all residents of Cameron Park by dramatically increasing the likelihood that structures will survive a wildfire, provides for firefighter safety during a firestorm and generally aids in the protection of lives.
- F. It is the purpose of this Ordinance to establish a hazardous vegetation and rubbish abatement program that protects the lives and property of the citizens of the District.

Section 2: DEFINITIONS

- A. Abatement- The removal of hazardous vegetation and rubbish from property, to mitigate a public nuisance.
- B. Abatement costs- Any and all costs incurred by the District to enforce this Ordinance and to abate the hazardous vegetation and rubbish on any property, including inspection, physical abatement costs, administration and clerical fees and any additional actual costs incurred for the abatement proceeding(s), including attorney's fees, if applicable.
- C. Accumulation- Allowing the growth of hazardous vegetation and allowing rubbish to collect and remain as defined below.
- D. Defensible Space- Described in Public Resources Code 4291, and under "requirements" in this Ordinance, the area around a structure where hazardous vegetation, and rubbish have been cleared or reduced, to slow the spread of fire, to and from the structure.
- E. Enforcement Officials- A Fire Chief of the Cameron Park Community Services District Fire Department or his/her authorized representative.
- F. Fixed Flammable Items- Combustible fencing or other combustible materials that are attached to a structure.
- G. Hazardous Vegetation- Vegetation that is flammable and endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard, including but not limited to seasonal and recurrent weeds, chaparral, manzanita, brush, dead trees, dead leaves, needles, and tumbleweeds.



- H. Improved Parcel- A portion of land of any size, the area of which is determined by the Assessor's maps and records and may be identified by an Assessor's Parcel Number, upon which a structure is located.
- I. Outbuilding- Buildings or structures that are less than one hundred twenty square feet (120 sq. ft.) in size and not used for human habitation.
- I. Rubbish - Includes all the following, but is not limited to, paper, cardboard, wood chips, bedding, rubber tires, construction waste, garbage, trash, and other combustible material.
- J. Structure - Anything constructed that is designed or intended to shelter or protect persons, animals, or property, including houses, whether inhabited or not, barns, storage sheds, etc.
- K. Unimproved Parcel - A portion of land of any size, the area of which is determined by the Assessor's maps and records and may be identified by an Assessor's Parcel Number, upon which no structure is located.
- L. Weeds - Includes any of the following:
  - 1) Vegetation that bears seeds of a downy or wingy nature.
  - 2) Vegetation that is not pruned or is otherwise neglected so as to attain such large growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent property.
  - 3) Vegetation that is otherwise noxious or dangerous.
  - 4) Poison oak and poison ivy, when the conditions of growth are such as to constitute a menace to the public health.
  - 5) Dry grass, stubble, brush, litter, or other flammable material which endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard.

### Section 3: LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR DISTRICT ORDINANCE

The District has the legal authority to adopt the provisions contained in this Ordinance as specified below:

- A. **Government Code** Section 61100(t) which provides the District the authority to abate weeds and rubbish pursuant to the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code at Section 14875 et seq.
- B. **Government Code** Section 61069 which provides the District the authority to enter private property to: (1) inspect and determine the presence of public nuisances including fire hazards that the District has the authority to abate; and (2) abate public nuisances, including public nuisances constituting fire hazards such as excessive growth of weeds, grasses, hazardous vegetation and other combustible material by giving notice to the property owner to abate such public nuisance; and (3) enter upon private property to determine if a notice to abate a public nuisance including a fire hazard has been complied with by the property owner; and, if not, exercise its power to abate such public nuisance after failure to act by the responsible property owner.

- C. The **California Health and Safety Code**, Part 5, Section 13871, which provides that any person who refuses to correct or eliminate a fire hazard, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- D. The **California Health and Safety Code**, Part 5, Sections 14875-14930, which provides that an accumulation of weeds, grasses, hazardous vegetation and other combustible material constitutes a public nuisance, providing guidelines for enforcement and abatement by the District of such fire hazards, and payment of such abatement costs incurred by the District to remove such hazardous vegetation and combustible material and provides for penalties for violations of this Ordinance by property owners.
- E. The **California Fire Code** Title 24, Part 9, Chapter 3, Section 304.1 prohibits combustible waste material creating a fire hazard on vacant lots or open space, which California Fire Code has been adopted by this District.
- F. The **California Code of Regulations Code** 14, C.C.R., Sections 1270.01-1276.03. Which establishes minimum wildfire protection standards in conjunction with building, construction and development in the SRA.
- G. The **California Code of Regulations Code** 14, C.C.R., Sections 1299.03. Which establishes defensible space requirements.
- H. The **California Public Resources Code** Section 4291 Which requires a person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material, to maintain defensible space at least 100 feet from each side of the structure, and which provides for required fuel modification so as to ensure that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure on the property.
- I. **Government Code** Section 25845 regarding enforcement mechanisms available for the District to ensure that the costs incurred by the District in abating the nuisance consisting of accumulation of hazardous vegetation and rubbish are recovered from the property owner who fails to abate such nuisance after notice from the District to do so.
- J. **Government Code** Section 61115 which provides the District the authority to levy charges against property owners within the District for all the costs incurred by the District in abating nuisances created by accumulation of weeds, grasses, hazardous vegetation and other combustible materials. The District may provide that any charges and penalties maybe collected on the tax roll in the same manner as property taxes. To recover such charges and penalties by recording in the office of the County Recorder a lien declaring the amount of the charges and penalties due, the lien to be incurred against all real property owned by the delinquent property owner within El Dorado County. Such special tax assessments are to be collected in the same manner and method as real property taxes are collected by the county.



#### Section 4: PROHIBITED CONDUCT

A person shall not dump, nor permit the dumping of hazardous vegetation and rubbish, nor shall a person permit the accumulation of hazardous vegetation and rubbish, on that person's property or on any other property, so as to constitute a fire hazard.

#### Section 5: DUTY TO REMOVE AND ABATE HAZARADOUS VEGETATION AND RUBBISH

It shall be the duty of every owner, occupant, and person in control of any parcel of land or interest therein, which is located within the District, to abate all hazardous vegetation and rubbish, which constitutes a fire hazard, which may endanger or damage neighboring property.

By May 1, of each year, the owner of parcels within the District shall remove, from such property and adjacent streets, all hazardous vegetation and rubbish, growing or accumulated thereon, in accordance with the procedures and methods prescribed in this Ordinance and by the enforcement official.

#### Section 6: ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

The enforcement official shall have authority to enforce this chapter and issue citations for violations. For purposes of this chapter, the "enforcement official" is the Fire Chief of the District's Fire Department, or his/her designee.

#### Section 7: REQUIREMENTS

A. All **Unimproved** parcels within the District shall comply with the following requirements:

- (1) Any Unimproved parcel of less than two acres (2 ac.) shall be cleared of all hazardous vegetation and rubbish. Weeds, non-cultivated pastures, or other hazardous vegetation shall be mowed and cut to a maximum height of four inches (4 in.), so as to not constitute a fire hazard throughout the year.
- (2) Any Unimproved parcel, or multiple contiguous parcels under the same ownership, consisting of more than two acres (2 ac.) shall be cleared of all rubbish and shall **either** be cleared of all hazardous vegetation and mowed and cut to a maximum height of four inches (4 in.), **or** shall construct and maintain a minimum thirty-foot wide firebreak around the perimeter of the property. Firebreaks will be disked, and can also be scraped, provided that the scraped material is removed or spread evenly over the remaining property.
- (3) Remove tree limbs six feet (6ft) from the ground.
- (4) The District's enforcement official or his/her designee may require a firebreak to a maximum of one hundred feet (100ft) in width, if the determination is that the property or adjoining structure(s) will be at risk from an approaching fire. These factors shall include fuel type(s), topography, and the environment where the property or adjoining structure(s) is located.

- (5) Dry leaves or wood chips located on parcels must be disked or turned under or evenly broadcast over the parcel area. If leaves or wood chips are being retained for the purpose of mulch or compost, they must be placed in a container so as to not constitute a fire hazard.

B. All **Improved** parcels within the district shall comply with the current California Public Resource Code 4291 Zone requirements: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace/>

The enforcement official, or his/her designee may enter upon private or public property, whenever necessary, to enforce or administer the provisions of this chapter; provided, however, that this right of entry and inspection shall not be construed to grant the right to enter into any dwelling or structure which may be located on the land. Should the District determine that there is a reasonable expectation of privacy of the property owner with respect to the dwelling unit to be inspected, the District may request an inspection warrant pursuant to the provisions of California Civil Code Section 1822.50 et seq., which warrant shall state the location which it covers and state the purposes of the inspection. When there is no reasonable expectation of privacy, such as with respect to an abandoned dwelling or building, the District's designated enforcement official may enter onto that property without a warrant in order to inspect the property for the purposes of determining whether the provisions of this Ordinance have been violated....

A. Initial inspections will occur during April of each year.

- (1) Should inspections reveal violations of this Ordinance, the enforcement officer will mail a notice of non-compliance to parcel owners,

B. Second inspections will occur during May of each year.

- (1) Should second inspections reveal violations of this Ordinance, the enforcement process will begin,

## Section 9: ENFORCEMENT

Violations of this Ordinance may be enforced pursuant to the legal authorities specified in Section 3 of this Ordinance, following the procedures and timelines specified in this Ordinance.

As an alternative to enforcement procedures, the enforcement official retains the discretion to meet and confer with property owners, who are in violation of this Ordinance, to attempt a mutually acceptable method for abating the hazardous vegetation and rubbish. Nothing shall prohibit the enforcement official from issuing a hazard abatement notice to a property owner and following the enforcement procedure with respect to property owners who do not agree to a mutually acceptable abatement method after discussions with the enforcement official.

A. If the meet and confer process does not occur or does not result in the abatement of hazardous vegetation and rubbish, the enforcement official may commence proceedings to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance, when a violation is identified due to:

- (1) The failure of an owner of a parcel to abate all hazardous vegetation and rubbish on or before May 1.
- (2) The failure of an owner of a parcel to abate all hazardous vegetation and rubbish within the time specified in the Notice.

B. Enforcement proceedings are commenced by the mailing of a Hazard Abatement Notice in the manner prescribed as follows:



- (1) The enforcement official shall mail the Hazard Abatement Notice to each person that has an ownership interest in the parcel to which the violation pertains.
- (2) Ownership interest shall be determined based on the last equalized assessment roll available on the date of mailing of the Hazard Abatement Notice.
- (3) Notification may also be accomplished by posting the Hazard Abatement Notice on the property, if the owner's mailing address is not available or not current. Such Hazard Abatement Notice also will be sent by mail to the property owner of such parcel as his or her name appears on the last equalized assessment roll and to the address shown on such assessment roll.
- (4) Notices which are posted, shall be conspicuously posted in front of the property, or if the property has no frontage upon a road or street, then upon a portion of the property nearest to a road or a street most likely to give actual notice to the owner. Notices shall be posted not more than 100 feet in distance apart upon property with more than 200 feet of frontage, and at least one notice shall be posted on each parcel with 200 or less feet of frontage.

C. The contents of the Hazard Abatement Notice shall include the following:

- (1) A description of the property by reference to the assessor's parcel number as used in the records of the county assessor, and by reference to the common name of a street or road upon which the property abuts, if the property abuts upon a road or street;
- (2) A statement that there are hazardous vegetation and rubbish upon the property;
- (3) A request that such hazardous vegetation and rubbish be abated by June 1, which shall not be less than 15 calendar days following the mailing or posting of the notice;
- (4) A statement that if such hazardous vegetation and rubbish are not abated by the property owner by June 1, that such materials may be removed under authority of the District, and the costs of such abatement may be made a legal charge against the owner or owners of the property, a lien imposed on and recorded against the property in the amount of such costs, and such costs referred to the County Tax Collector for collection together with property taxes on such property pursuant to the provisions of Health and Safety Code Sections 14875 through 14931, and Government Code Sections 25845 and 61115;
- (5) A statement referencing the right of the property owner to appeal the issuance of the Hazard Abatement Notice pursuant to Section 10 hereof and;
- (6) With respect to notices which are posted, a title which reads "Notice to Remove Hazardous Vegetation and Rubbish" the letters of the foregoing title to be not less than one inch in height.

## Section 10: APPEALS

Process: Any person, who is adversely affected by the Hazard Abatement Notice specified in



Section 9, may appeal such Hazard Abatement Notice to the Board of Directors within fifteen (15) calendar days of the postmark on the Hazard Abatement Notice by filing a written appeal with the enforcement official. Timely appeal shall stay any further action for abatement until the date set for hearing, unless the hazardous vegetation and rubbish at issue presents an imminent fire hazard within 100 feet of any structure. The enforcement official shall set the matter for hearing before the Board of Directors. The enforcement official shall notify the Appellant by certified mail of the date and time set for such hearing, at least fifteen (15) days prior to said date. If the Appellant resides outside the District, such Notice of Hearing shall be mailed to the Appellant at least twenty (20) days prior to the date set for the hearing. The Appellant shall have the right to appear in person or by agent, designated in writing, at the hearing, and present oral, written, and/or photographic evidence. The Board of Directors shall issue its order denying or granting the appeal, which shall be in writing and be issued within fifteen (15) days of the date of the hearing. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

#### Section 11: SEASONAL DESIGNATION

In the case of a parcel containing a fire hazard where it has been necessary for the District to abate the nuisance in two (2) consecutive years, and the fire hazard is seasonal or recurring, it shall be the decision of the Board of Directors to declare the lot a seasonal public nuisance and the fire hazards may be abated thereafter without the necessity of further hearing.

#### Section 12: REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS VEGETATION AND RUBBISH

If, by June 1 of any year as specified in the original Hazard Abatement Notice, or as extended in cases of appeal, or as specified by the Board of Directors, compliance with this Ordinance has not been accomplished, the enforcement official or his designee may order that hazardous vegetation and rubbish, located on the property be removed by public officers and/or employees of the District, or may cause such removal to be carried out by a private contractor selected by the District.

#### Section 13: COLLECTION OF ABATEMENT COSTS

- A. When proceedings under this chapter result in the abatement of hazardous vegetation and rubbish from property by the District or its agents or contractors due to the refusal of a property owner to comply with this Ordinance, all costs incurred by the District in performing such abatement may be assessed against the property. Such costs shall include the costs of labor, materials and equipment furnished by the District in abating such hazardous vegetation and rubbish; the costs incurred by the District for payments to an independent contractor to abate such hazardous vegetation and rubbish from the property; all administrative costs incurred by the District in abating such hazardous vegetation and rubbish, including actual costs of investigation, property inspection, boundary determination, measurement, clerical costs, related attorney's fees, and administrative overhead costs for supervision, insurance, costs of publication, mailing and posting of notices, preparation of contracts with independent contractors to perform the abatement work, review of bids by contractors, administration of contracts for abatement activities, and other budgeted overhead items.
- B. If hazardous vegetation and rubbish are ultimately abated by the property owner,

subsequent to the deadline for abatement specified in any Hazard Abatement Notice issued by the District, the District shall be entitled under this Ordinance to assess against the property all such costs incurred securing such compliance with this Ordinance by the property owner up to and including the final date of compliance.

- C. The enforcement official shall keep an account of such administrative and costs of abatement and shall submit to the District Board of Directors for confirmation an itemized written report showing such unpaid costs and their proposed assessment to the respective properties subject to the Hazard Abatement Notice. The report shall be filed with the General Manager not less than 15 calendar days in advance of the confirmation hearing required below.
- D. Upon receipt of the report, a public hearing shall be scheduled in June to receive any protests and to confirm the cost report. A statement of the proposed costs and notice of the time, date and place of the hearing, together with reference to the report on file with the clerk, shall be mailed to the owner or owners of each parcel of property proposed to be assessed as shown on the last equalized assessment roll available on the date of mailing of the notice shall be mailed not less than 15 calendar days in advance of the hearing.
- C. Notice of the time, date and place of the public hearing by the Board shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation published within the District. The notice shall show the name or names of the owner, the assessor's parcel number, the street address of the property if the property has an address and the address is known to the enforcement official, the name of the street or road upon which such property abuts, the amount of the proposed assessment and reference to the report on file with the enforcement official. Such publication shall be made not less than 15 calendar days in advance of the hearing.
- D. At the time fixed for receiving and considering the report, the District Board of Directors shall conduct a public hearing and shall receive and consider any objections from members of the general public or property owners liable to be assessed for the costs of abatement. The District Board of Directors may continue the hearing and delegate to the General Manager or his or her designee the responsibility of hearing individual protests and submitting a recommendation with respect thereto; provided, that the District Board of Directors provides an opportunity for individual consideration of each property upon which abatement activities have been conducted by the District upon receipt of a recommendation by the General Manager. The District Board of Directors may modify the report if it is deemed necessary. The District Board of Directors shall then confirm the report by motion or resolution.

#### Section 14: LEVYING OF ABATEMENT COSTS AGAINST PROPERTY

- A. The abatement costs incurred by the District may be levied against the parcel of land



subject to abatement activities by the District as a real property assessment in accordance with Health and Safety Code Division 12, Part 5, Chapter 4, Article 3 commencing with 14912 and 14915-14919 and Government Code Section 25845. Any assessment imposed on real property pursuant to this Section may be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ordinary real property taxes are collected by the County of El Dorado and shall be subject to the same penalties and the same procedure and sale in case of delinquency as is provided for ordinary real property taxes. Notice of any assessment that is levied on real property pursuant to this Section shall be given to the property owner by certified mail from District and shall contain the information set forth in Health and Safety Code Division 12, Part 5, Chapter 4, Article 3 commencing with 14912 and 14915-14919 and Section 5845 of the Government Code. The District shall transmit the notice of such assessment levied on real property pursuant to this Section to the County Auditor-Controller of El Dorado County with instructions to collect the assessment on the real property tax rolls for the ensuing fiscal year. Such notice shall be transmitted to the County Auditor-Controller prior to August 10 in any fiscal year.

#### Section 15: VIOLATIONS

The owner or occupant of any parcel within the District who violates this Ordinance or permits a violation of this Ordinance upon any parcel owned, occupied or controlled by him/her, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor (H&S 13871). Violation of this Ordinance shall consist of the following:

- A. Every person who fails or refuses to correct or eliminate a fire hazard after written order of a district board or its authorized representative, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

#### Section 16: PENALTY - MISDEMEANOR

- A. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of this Ordinance, violation of any provisions of this chapter or failure to comply with any of the regulatory requirements of this chapter, is a misdemeanor.
- B. Every violation of this Chapter is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail, not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or both.

#### Section 17: DELINQUENT FEES

The following shall apply to any delinquent fee due.

- A. A penalty of ten percent (10%) shall be added to any delinquent fines on the last day of each month more than 15 days after the due date.
- B. In addition to penalties, delinquent fees will accrue interest of one percent (1%) per month, from the due date.

#### Section 18: SEVERABILITY

If any Ordinance, article, subsection or subdivision thereof, provision, sentence, clause or phrase of this code, or any application thereof, is for any reason held to be invalid by a court of

competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining provisions of this code, which can be given effect without the invalid portions and, therefore, such invalid portions are declared to be severable. The District hereby declares that it would have enacted this Ordinance and each of its articles, sections, subsections, or subdivisions thereof, provisions, sentences, clauses or phrases irrespective of the fact that one or more of them is declared invalid.

Section 19: EFFECTIVE DATE AND PUBLICATION

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption. The Cameron Park Board Secretary is directed to publish this Ordinance as adopted in a newspaper of general circulation in the District. In lieu of publication of the full text of the Ordinance within fifteen (15) days after its passage, a summary of the Ordinance may be published at least five (5) days prior to and fifteen (15) days after adoption by the District Board and a certified copy shall be posted in the office of the District, and Cameron Park Fire Department Office, pursuant to Government Code Sections 25120 through 25132.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Cameron Park Community Services District at a regularly scheduled meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 by the following vote of said Board:

AYES: 5


NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0



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Director Sidney Bazett, Board President



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André Pichly, General Manager