



# City of Clearlake

14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, California 95422  
(707) 994-8201 Fax (707) 995-2653

## **PRESS RELEASE** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Greg Folsom, City Manager, 707-994-8201

### **Overgrown Weeds and Vegetation**

**Clearlake, CA – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Each year from May 15 to November 1 there is an increased fire danger throughout Northern California due to excessive weeds and brush. As the citizens of Lake County know only too well, dry, overgrown vegetation are excellent fuel for fires and can be a threat to people, structures, and animals. Last year's Clayton Fire, and before that the Valley, Jerusalem, and Rocky fires have increased awareness of the danger of overgrown weeds and vegetation. The City of Clearlake was extremely lucky not to have suffered the devastating damage that so many of our neighbors have.

In February, the Clearlake City Council adopted a Strategic Plan for improving the City of Clearlake. One of the primary adopted goals was to *Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City* and one of the identified objectives was to eliminate weeds city-wide. With the very wet winter that the county has experienced, the weeds and vegetation are especially great this year and Code Enforcement staff are currently notifying property owners to remove the overgrown weeds and vegetation.

It is the responsibility of property owners to keep their properties free of overgrown weeds and vegetation. Not only is it unsightly and contributing to neighborhood blight, but it also can be a fire hazard. The City of Clearlake is teaming up with the Lake County Fire Protection District to enforce ordinances designed to reduce blight and reduce fire hazards. Failure to remove overgrown weeds and vegetation after notification by the city's Code Enforcement staff can lead to significant fines.

City Manager, Greg Folsom, stated "We are going into the tourism season and the City of Clearlake is working on a number of programs to reduce visual blight and make Clearlake a visibly cleaner city. Keeping your property free of weeds and overgrown vegetation will not only improve the image of Clearlake as a wonderful vacation spot, but it will also improve the image of your neighborhood and improve your property value."

Clearlake Finance Director, Chris Becnel, who oversees Code Enforcement said, "The City is expending tremendous efforts in code enforcement to clean up garbage throughout the city and eliminating abandoned vehicles. Property owners need to help by cutting down the overgrown vegetation on their property. So avoid fines and do your part. But more importantly, make Clearlake a nice looking place for all of us and our visitors by cutting down your weeds."

Clearlake Waste Solutions (CWS) is the City of Clearlake's franchise waste hauler. CWS provides containers for landscape green waste, as well as normal trash and recycling. South Lake Refuse and Recycling operates the Quackenbush Mountain Compost Facility for larger loads needing disposal. Quackenbush Mountain is located at 16520 Davis Street, Clearlake.

###