

Santa Margarita Fire Protection District  
22375 El Camino Real  
Santa Margarita, CA 93453  
805-438-3185

Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

5:00 PM at the Fire Station

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Reading/Approval of previous Minutes
3. Action Items:
  - A. Weed Abatement Policy
  - B. New Fee Policy for Services
  - C. Vote on Proposed 2024-25 Budget
  - D. Approval of sale of Engine 7852
  - E. Proposed New Station Status
4. Chief's Report
5. Public Comment
6. Adjournment

**Santa Margarita Fire Protection District**  
**22375 El Camino Real**  
**Santa Margarita, CA 93453**  
**805-438-3185**

SMFPD Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

**MINUTES:**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 5:11PM Present: Chief Bob Murach; Directors: Joel Switzer; Beth Gorrill Absent: John Wilkins, Deputy Chief Bobby Guy

2. Warrants and expenditures were reviewed and approved

3. The April Minutes were read and approved

4. Action Items:

A: The draft of updated Weed Abatement Policy received no public comments. Joel moved to approve, Beth seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 2 ayes, no nays. Board Resolution #2024-0508.

B. The new Fee Policy for Services discussion was tabled until May.

C. The proposed Budget received no public comment. One minor change was needed as County water cost increased and trash service decreased. Beth moved to approve the proposed Budget, Joel seconded and the motion carries with 2 ayes and 0 nays.

D: We received a full asking price offer of \$12,500.00 for Engine 7852. Joel moved to approved the sale and Beth seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 2 ayes, no nays. Funds will go into donations account.

E. The station project is receiving support from Congressman Salud Carbajal who has proposed us for a grant up to \$1.5 million dollars.

5. Chief's Report: The Annual Dispatch by SLO County ECC amounted to 102 calls and the charges amounted to \$6,603.48

A new state regulation AB2188 prohibits employers from discrimination in hiring, firing or disciplinary measures against employees in use of cannabis use off the job and away from the workplace.

Crews are doing wildland training and will be taking pack tests this week.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:43PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 5:00 PM at the Fire Station.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth Gorrill".

Beth Gorrill, Board Secretary

Santa Margarita Fire Protection District  
Board of Directors

**Resolution No: 2024-0508**

**Adoption of Updated Weed Abatement Policy**

**Whereas**, the Santa Margarita Fire Protection District (SMFPD) is obligated to protect and defend the town of Santa Margarita from wildland fire ignition and spread to and from neighboring properties; and

**Whereas**, Santa Margarita Volunteer Fire Department is tasked with, and obligated to perform fire prevention, inspections and mitigation enforcement, and

**Whereas**, in an effort to provide clear and concise guidelines to its businesses and residents; and to align with neighboring city and county weed abatement plans, SMFPD staff, revised the District's Weed Abatement plan and

**Whereas**, the draft of the revised Weed Abatement plan has been posted for public review for at least 30 days, and no public comment has been received to date;

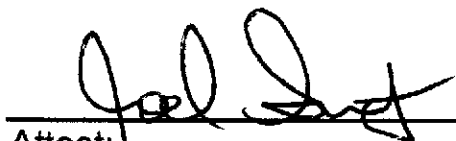
**Now, therefore, let it be resolved**, that the Board of Directors of the Santa Margarita Fire Protection District approves and adopts this resolution to adopt the updated Weed Abatement Policy at a regular monthly board meeting on May 8, 2024 by the following vote:

Ayes: Gorrill and Switzer

Noes:

Absent: Wilkins

Abstain:



Attest:



Beth Gorrill, Board Secretary

5-8-2024

Joel Switzer, Director

# **2024 WEED ABATEMENT**

## **Weed abatement MUST be maintained, From May 15th through November 30th**

It's weed abatement time! Please begin your abatement measures now. This is particularly important since there has been a significant amount of rainfall this year. Santa Margarita Fire District recommends that you cut and/or spray your property now, so it will be more manageable in late spring. Many large bushes and trees are still stressed from drought in prior years. Dead materials need to be removed as part of the abatement process.

Trimming the hedges, cutting the grass, and clearing the fields to make Santa Margarita fire safe is what weed abatement is all about. To assist you in complying with the Santa Margarita Fire District Weed Abatement Ordinance, the following are minimum acceptable standards.

### **MOW BEFORE 10 A.M. – MUST BE BELOW 80 DEGREES!**

Your mower height must be set at a maximum height of three inches unless conditions require a greater height that shall be determined by the Fire Chief. All equipment used for weed abatement work shall be equipped with proper spark arresters, mufflers, etc. A fire extinguisher of pressurized-water or back-pump sprayer type shall be required on equipment for immediate accessibility and use.

#### **Possible Fines.**

The Santa Margarita Fire District is authorized to assess fines for non-compliance. The fine for residential properties start at no less than \$100.00. The fine for commercial properties shall be no less than \$1000.00. The fine is in addition to District administration costs and the costs for contractors mowing the weeds.

### **PLEASE NOTE PROPERTY OWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WEEDS FROM THE CENTER LINE OF THE PUBLIC ROAD AND THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE PROPERTY!**

#### **Important Dates:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| May 15 <sup>th</sup>                    | All lots to be in compliance with the above requirements.                      |
| May 20 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> | Properties inspected for non-compliance.                                       |
| June 12 <sup>th</sup>                   | SMFD Board holds a public meeting for non-compliant lots.                      |
| June 24 <sup>th</sup>                   | Contractor authorized to clear non-compliant lots at property owners' expense. |

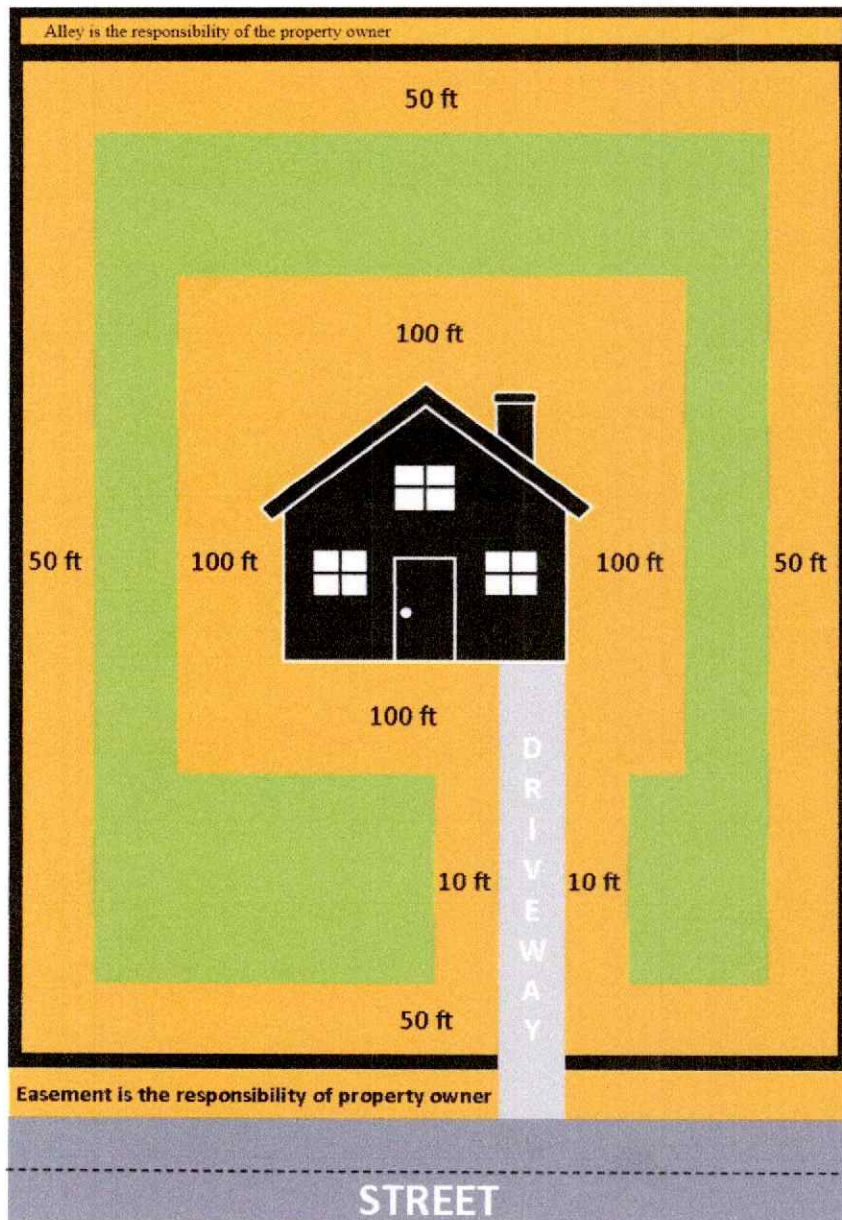


# 2024 WEED ABATEMENT




Weed abatement **MUST** be maintained,  
From May 15th through November 30th

Santa Margarita Fire District

## WEED ABATEMENT CUTTING GUIDE



### Clearance Guide

-  = area to be cut
-  = vegetation
-  = property line

### Minimum Clearances

Property Line = 50 feet

Around Home = 100 feet

Driveway = 10 feet on  
both sides

Easement = Property line  
to street