

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

912



**FROM:** FIRE

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
May 1, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Establish Standardized Flat Rates for Weed Abatement Services throughout Riverside County.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board:

1. Authorize Riverside County Fire Department to establish Standardized Flat Rates for Weed Abatement Service; and
2. Approve Central Purchasing to award contracts to vendors for Weed Abatement Service up to annual aggregate of \$1,000,000.

**BACKGROUND:** The Riverside County Fire Department administers Weed Abatement services (disking, flail mowing, and hand cleaning), which are required to comply with Riverside County Ordinance No. 695. Fire and Central Purchasing have made two attempts to competitively bid weed abatement services with no success. Fire has analyzed surrounding counties and cities weed abatement programs to establish Standardized Flat Rates.

(Continued on Page 2)

*Craig E. Anthony*  
Craig E. Anthony, County Fire Chief

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 1,000,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> 100% Weed Abatement Administrative Fees	<b>Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Requires 4/5 Vote</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**  
*[Signature]*

**County Executive Office Signature**

FISCAL PROCEDURES APPROVED  
ROBERT E. BYRD, Auditor-Controller  
BY *[Signature]* Deputy  
Department Concurrence

Purchasing: *[Signature]* Assistant Director

Consent     Policy  
 Dept's Recomm.:     Policy  
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:**

**District:** All

**Agenda Number:**

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TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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SUBJECT: Establish a Flat Rate for  
Weed Abatement Services

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**BACKGROUND (continued):**

Two agencies using standardized flat rates are the City of Beaumont and Orange County Department of Agriculture. The City of Beaumont uses a flat rate of \$100/per acre and Orange County Department of Agriculture uses a flat rate of \$135/per half acre and \$225/per acre. Based on this information as well as flat rates from other local agencies the County Fire Department would like to establish the following Standardized Flat Rates:

Disking/Mowing  
\$60/per half acre  
\$120/per acre

Hand Cleaning based on actual square feet of work completed  
\$0.02/sq.ft (Light = Grass)  
\$0.04/sq.ft (Medium=Brush 4ft. & under)  
\$0.06/sq.ft (Heavy=Brush over 4ft.)

**PRICE REASONABLENESS:** Standardized Flat Rates should reduce requests by contractors for annual cost increases, since all rates are the same throughout the County and competitive with other agencies that require similar services. Standardized Flat Rates also allow the County more control over the Weed Abatement Program, avoids price manipulation and establishes an industry average and fair market pricing for this service. By accepting Standardized Flat Rates, the contractor is required to remove all debris and no additional fee can be charged.

Also under the current program, all properties abated by the Riverside County Fire Department are rounded up to the full or next acre for the benefit of the contractor. This includes a small lot or parcel under a quarter acre that is currently charged a full acre fee. By implementing Standardized Flat Rates, the flat rate will be applied to the nearest half acre to the benefit of the small property owner yet still provides incentive to the contractor to provide the service even if it is a small job.