

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



**ITEM: 3.28  
(ID # 30520)**

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, June 02, 2026

**FROM :** FIRE DEPARTMENT

**SUBJECT:** FIRE DEPARTMENT: Setting the Public Hearing of Resolution No. 2026-080: Ordering the Confirmation of Special Assessments and Liens Against Parcels of Land Located in the County of Riverside for Costs of the Abatement and Removal of Hazardous Vegetation for calendar year 2025, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 14912 and County Ordinance No. 772 Requiring the Abatement and Removal of Abandoned or Neglected Orchards, Groves or Vineyards, and Ancillary Weeds and Debris; All Districts [\$158,189 Total Revenue; 100% Property Owner Special Assessment to Reimburse the General Fund] (Set for Public Hearing on July 14, 2026)

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Clerk of the Board to set a public hearing for July 14, 2026, for the list of parcels listed in the attached Resolution No. 2026-080 Attachment A upon which the cost of removal and abatement of hazardous vegetation associated with abandoned and neglected orchards, groves and vineyards will become a special assessment.

**ACTION:**

  
Geoff Pemberton, Chief Deputy County Fire

5/14/2026

  
Robert Fish, Fire Department Chief

5/15/2026

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Medina, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended and is set for public hearing on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: June 2, 2026  
xc: Fire, COB/AG

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board

By:   
Deputy

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<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 158,189	\$ 0	\$ 158,189	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS: Property Owner Assessment to Reimburse the General Fund - 100%</b>			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b>	No
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b>	26/27

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

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

Riverside County Ordinance No. 772 Abatement of Abandoned or Neglected Orchards, Groves, or Vineyards, and Ancillary Weeds and Debris establishes the methodology to declare a fire hazard and force the abatement of conditions including abandoned or neglected orchards, groves or vineyards, and ancillary weeds and debris. The purpose of this ordinance is to reduce or eliminate hazardous conditions on real property that increase the risk of fire, environmental degradation, or other public safety concerns within the unincorporated areas of the County of Riverside.

Enforcement of Ordinance No. 772 is conducted on a complaint-driven basis. Complaints may be received from the public, partner agencies, or through internal referrals. Upon receipt of a complaint, Fire Department personnel conduct an inspection of the subject property to determine whether a nuisance condition exists as defined by Ordinance No. 772.

If a violation is identified, a Notice to Remove is issued to the property owner of record. The notice outlines the specific nuisance conditions and provides a defined timeframe for the property owner to bring the property into compliance. If, upon reinspection, the property remains non-compliant, the County may cause the abatement to be performed by County personnel or authorized contractors in accordance with Ordinance No. 772. Upon completion of the abatement, an invoice is issued to the property owner for the full cost of abatement, including administrative, inspection, and contractor costs.

If the invoice remains unpaid, the County may recover abatement costs through the placement of a special assessment and lien against the subject property. These costs are then collected through the property tax roll in accordance with Ordinance No. 772. The properties subject to assessment are identified in Attachment A to the Resolution. The Resolution and Attachment A will be presented at the public hearing on July 14, 2026. Adoption of the Resolution confirming the assessments and liens constitutes the final step required under Ordinance No. 772 to recover unpaid abatement costs.

Property owners are provided with the opportunity to appeal a Notice and Order to Abate in accordance with the procedures established in Ordinance No. 772. In addition, if a property owner has concerns regarding an invoice issued following County-performed abatement, they may contact the Fire Department for administrative review. This review process includes

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verification of the abatement work performed, confirmation of property location, and correction of any identified errors through coordination with Fire Department supervisory staff.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

Abatements pursuant to Ordinance No. 772 are designed to protect life, property, and the environment by addressing hazardous conditions that increase fire risk and other public safety concerns. Conducted by personnel from the Hazard Reduction program, inspections prioritize voluntary compliance and is initiated based on identified complaints. Property owners are provided with notice and a reasonable opportunity to correct violations prior to County intervention. Property owners are also given the opportunity to reimburse the County for the cost of abatement prior to the lien process being initiated.

**Additional Fiscal Information**

The abatement charges for any work performed by the contractor and the County administrative fee will be included in the property owner's property tax statement as a special assessment. The Board of Supervisors approved the administrative fee of \$254 by Resolution No. 2011-080 with a public hearing on June 28, 2011. The current total parcels are 4 and the total amount to be assessed is \$158,189. The assessments will reimburse the department costs, which are included in the Department's budget and funded by the General Fund.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution No. 2026-080 Ordering Confirmation of Special Assessments and Liens  
Attachment A to Resolution No. 2026-080  
Letter of Compliance with Proposition 218

  
Rebecca S Cortez, Principal Management Analyst 5/27/2026

  
Aaron Gettis, Chief Deputy County Counsel 5/18/2026