

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: July 7, 2020

TITLE: Resolution Affirming the Report of Public Nuisance Abatement Costs and Placing Them on the Tax Roll

Prepared by: Webb Municipal Finance, LLC, Tax Admin. Consultant

Reviewed by: Geoffrey Buchheim, Finance Director

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Staff Report;
- 2) Entertain questions of Staff from the City Council;
- 3) Open the Public Hearing;
- 4) Take public testimony;
- 5) Close the Public Hearing; and
- 6) City Council discussion and questions to Staff; and
- 7) Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs, State of California Ordering Confirmation of the Special Assessments Against Parcels of Land within the Public Nuisance Abatement Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Desert Hot Springs has been administering nuisance abatement for properties in non-compliance with the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code. The City contracts with local specialists to bring parcels with these conditions into compliance. The owners of these parcels are billed by the City to recover the costs, plus incidental expenses. If the owners do not respond to the billing request, the City is required to place a lien on the property to recover the costs. Staff is requesting Council approval of a Resolution to allow the City to accomplish the foregoing for Fiscal Year 2020-21. If the Resolution is approved, staff will forward the adopted Resolution for placement with the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

The lien process requires that a public hearing be held before the City Council to take comments from the property owners with respect to the costs proposed to be assessed against their properties and to confirm those costs. Following the public hearing, the Council must adopt a resolution for the Fiscal Year which:

- Confirms the cost incurred by the City in performing the nuisance abatement duties.
- Provides that the actual abatement costs will become a lien upon the properties, and upon recordation, in the amount of the costs shown on the attached Exhibit "A".
- Provides that the Resolution will be transmitted to the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector, so the amounts of the assessment can be entered upon the parcels as they appear on the assessment rolls and the costs will be collected on the property tax bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recording of these liens will enable the City to recover abatement costs through the County's property tax collection system. The City will recover the line item budgeted amounts paid out for the nuisance abatements, including incidental expenses for each parcel. The City is projected to recover **\$121,024.14** for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year. Code Enforcement staff will continue to resolve cases through August 10, so the final number and amount of assessments needing to be processed will be less than the preliminary listing shown in Exhibit "A."

EXHIBIT(S):

- 1) Resolution-Ordering Confirmation of the Special Assessments for Nuisance Abatement Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-21
- 2) "Exhibit A" Public Nuisance Abatement Costs for the Fiscal Year 2020-21
- 3) Sample Notice to Property Owners
- 4) Desert Sun Publication