



**City of Lompoc**  
*Fire Department- Community Risk Reduction*  
115 South G Street, Lompoc, CA. 93436  
(805) 875-8063



## **NOTICE TO DESTROY WEEDS and REMOVE RUBBISH, REFUSE AND DIRT**

Business 101  
1234 Main St.  
LOMPOC, CA 93436

April 15, 2020

APN: 000-000-000  
SITE ADDRESS: 1234 Main St.

Dear Property Owner:

The annual weed abatement deadline for the City of Lompoc is May 14, 2020. Please consider this your official notice to clear all combustible weeds and/or debris from your property by the May 14, 2020 deadline. Thank you for your assistance in advance. This year the re-growth is a major concern with the late rains, so if you have mowed, you may need to re-mow through the end of the year or until we have a significant rain producing storm this coming winter. We appreciate your assistance with attending to this matter and for continuing to monitor the property even if you have mowed already.

The Fire Department requests that you check the property as described in the assessor's parcel number (APN) by your name. If there are combustibles that constitute a fire hazard, please have them removed by May 14, 2020. The following are guidelines to help you comply:

- Clear empty lots by mowing (to 3-inches high or less), disking or scraping. This includes any vegetation that may be green now but dries later. Remove cuttings.
- Clear dead leaves, weeds, brush, trees and tree limbs. All hillsides included.
- Remove excess trash, wood or other combustibles from the property.

Your parcel may have weeds, trash, and/or debris upon it, which require removal. In past years, the word trash has confused some land owners. Trash and debris are actually created when some of the lots have brush or tall grass cut down, which requires removal. Trash and combustible materials are also sometimes dumped and/or left on parcels without the owner's knowledge. You have until May 14, 2020 to cut and remove the weed growth, trash, and/or debris from your parcel without incurring fees or penalties relating to weed abatement. Parcels not cleared prior to

May 14, 2020 will have an Order to Abate issued by City Council. Further, a Misdemeanor Citation may be issued to property owners who do not comply by the deadline after reasonable attempts have been made to work with them to clear their property.

**Background:**

The weeds and grass growth are considered light and flashy fuels, which are the first fuels to dry out and cause an increased risk of fire within our city. These light and flashy fuels are also the most vulnerable to ignition sources. Fire brands which are tiny pieces of brush or trees actively burning travel over a mile ahead of a fire and can ignite these islands of fuel within our city's limits. The threat to our city from wildfire has been demonstrated for the last few years. We have experienced the Rucker Fire in 2017, the Canyon Fire in 2016, the Mesa Fire in 2015 and the Miguelito Fire in 2014. This trend is something we cannot eliminate, but we can take appropriate mitigating efforts now to maximize our resiliency to remain operable should a wildfire threaten our city this year. Weed abatement is a proactive effort that is consistent with reducing our risk.

On a special note, after the Thomas Fire we all have seen the powerful effects that water can have after all the vegetation has burned off. Please take a moment and assess if your parcel has any slope to it, you may wish to consider making sure you are ready for any other disasters as well.

**Comments/Concerns:**

If you no longer own this property, if you have any questions, or believe you have received this notice in error, please call or email Fire Marshal Dena Paschke at (805) 875-8063. Once you have had your property cleared, please call and leave a message notifying our office that the work has been completed. You may also email your results to [d\\_paschke@ci.lompoc.ca.us](mailto:d_paschke@ci.lompoc.ca.us) and include a picture if at all possible. We appreciate your assistance with our community risk reduction and fire hazards that exist due to vegetation.

Sincerely,

**Dena Paschke**

Dena Paschke  
Battalion Chief / Fire Marshal