

April 18, 2012

To: Fountaingrove II Homeowners

From: Board of Directors, Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association

Subject: Weed Abatement Schedule Year 2012 and Other Reminders

The City of Santa Rosa Fire Department set May 1, 2012 as the date it will start inspections for compliance to the Santa Rosa Weed Abatement Ordinance. The City may extend this deadline to June 1st, if weather conditions dictate such action. **Fountaingrove is located within a Very High Fire Severity Hazard Zone, and it is governed by local, state and federal laws that regulate fuel management by all homeowners, including weed abating 100' from the rear of your residence, if it is this deep. In addition to weeds and grasses, homeowners need to reduce the concentration of highly flammable plants, such as broom.**

Because of its superior past performance and unique issues, OSMA operates its annual weed abatement program with a stand-alone plan approved by the Fire Department. OSMA will start its first pass for weed abatement on May 7th, and has a target completion date for it of May 31st. OSMA's second pass for weed abatement treatment of Open Space is targeted to start June 20th, and to be completed by July 13th. The City Fire Department has continually praised OSMA for its excellent practices, and holds OSMA as their ideal example of how to manage a comprehensive Fuel Management Plan.

To make OSMA's efforts pay dividends, we need each homeowner in FGII to do their part. Please perform your weed abatement by the April 30th, or any extended date that might be announced by the Fire Department. Weed and Trash Abatement compliance starts on its initial compliance date and continues until the end of the Fire Season, which is usually the end of October.

OSMA continues to do fuel reduction. It has now fuel reduced 84 acres (42%) of its 201.7 acres of Wildlands, as compared to the 71.6 acres which existed last year. Most of FGII's fuel reduced acreage will be weed abated twice this year. Marizco Landscape Management Inc. was awarded the contract again by the Board.

A few reminders to help keep FGII Fire Safe and in compliance with its regulated Management Plan:

1. Only OSMA is authorized to do pruning, tree work, and maintenance of any kind on its Open Space.
2. Traffic/Usage of Open Space is restricted to passive recreation, such as hiking, to prevent erosion or damage to the Open Space and its habitat. This protects the delicate Open Space, and ensures it will be a value for current and future generations of homeowners and wildlife and plants to utilize and enjoy. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on Open Space without written consent from the OSMA.
3. OSMA operates under a strictly regulated Management Plan to maintain a healthy forest environment.
4. The governing documents stipulate no tree in Open Space will be cut, topped or pruned to enhance views.
5. OSMA strictly follows its governing polices and rules, and levies fines on homeowners guilty of trespassing onto Open Space to alter anything that exists, whether it be living, or not.
6. On the 1st of February, OSMA must submit an Annual Report to the City for a review of its actions.

OSMA monitors its Open Space to its best ability, but it needs your help to keep it safe, proper habitat for animals and plants, and a scenic treasure that makes FGII a desirable place to live.

Please report any violations in Open Space (illegal access, dumping, pruning or topping trees, or other damaging activities such as vehicles, including bicycles) to Leslie Cohen at Focus Real Estate and Investments at 544-9443, focusre@sonic.net. Or you may contact the Board through Dennis Searles at 528-6636, dennis@bpfinance.com or Kim Nielsen-Glynn at 544-7871, glynn@sonic.net.

Related Issues to Weed Abatement and Litter Ordinance

Broom:

Broom (the general term for several non-native shrubs that are easily spotted now along roadways and hillsides with their bright yellow blooms) is not only a highly invasive species that invades and crowds out native plants, but it provides minimal value to the animals as habitat, and is extremely fire hazardous. OSMA has an ongoing program to reduce and eliminate broom on Open Space. Please do your part in eliminating this plant from our community and your yards.

Dog Feces:

Please be a considerate neighbor and pick up the waste from your dogs. The Open Space (both irrigated and wild) and adjacent sidewalks, are not to be littered with animal or other waste.

Sidewalks:

A few years ago, the City adopted an Ordinance to require owners to be responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalks adjacent to their property. This includes making them safe, free of litter, and to prune their plants so they do not interfere with pedestrian usage of the sidewalk. The City used a model ordinance that was adopted by San Jose, and legally tested in the courts - so you should comply with this policy.

You can learn more about the above subjects from OSMA's website located at www.FountaingroveII.com.