

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Matt Peters, Director of Community Development

DATE: February 24, 2026

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution to Conduct Proactive Fire Prevention and Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Sites Identified by CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Consistent With State Proclamations

PREPARED BY: Matt Peters, Director of Community Development
Chief Crater, CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council adopt a resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TEMECULA TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL PROACTIVE FIRE
PREVENTION AND HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON
SITES IDENTIFIED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION/RIVERSIDE COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSISTENT WITH MULTIPLE
GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND EMERGENCY
PROCLAMATIONS

BACKGROUND: On May 22, 1990, shortly after the City's incorporation, the Temecula City Council adopted Resolution 90-55 which implemented a hazard-reduction program within City limits. The program has been operated annually since that time, focusing on the removal of hazardous weeds and vegetation to reduce the likelihood and severity of wildfires. These efforts complement the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Riverside County Fire Department's (CAL FIRE/Riv. Co. Fire) fire-suppression operations when incidents occur.

In January 2025, the Palisades and Eaton Fires burned approximately 38,000 acres and destroyed more than 16,000 structures, according to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). In response, Governor Newsom issued an Emergency Proclamation in March 2025, suspending certain regulations and expediting critical fuel-reduction projects. Additional direction was provided through Executive Order N-35-25 on October 29, 2025, and Executive Order

N-38-25 on December 31, 2025, both of which reiterated, extended, and expanded opportunities to accelerate hazardous-fuel reduction efforts through the suspension of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as well as the streamlining of other administrative regulations until, May 1, 2026.

On March 24, 2025, the State Fire Marshall published updated Fire Severity Zone Maps. The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2025-08, adopting these maps, as required. These maps show material increases in the number of areas within and around the City that are located within a Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

The City of Temecula has experienced multiple wildfire incidents within and near its boundaries over the past three years.

Incidents Near the City of Temecula (past three years)

Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department Incident Name	Start Date	Acres
MADERA FIRE	7/10/2025	19
VAIL FIRE	8/23/2025	55
TORNADO FIRE	9/10/2025	12
PAUBA FIRE	7/12/2024	101
MORGAN FIRE	6/7/2024	14.4
AVOCADO FIRE	7/12/2023	10
FROG FIRE	7/6/2023	33

Incidents Within the City of Temecula (past three years)

Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department Incident Name	Start Date	Acres
JEFFERSON AV / SANBORN AV	12/26/2025	0.01
I 15 S/ RANCHO CALIFORNIA RD OFRP RANCH	12/10/2025	0.01
VIA NORTE TEM	12/6/2025	0.01
DE PORTOLA RD TEM	10/29/2025	0.01
CALLE ARAGON TEM	10/26/2025	0.01
MADERA	8/22/2025	0.01
VIA INDUSTRIA TEM	8/20/2025	19
SAMANTHA	8/5/2025	0.01
RANCHO	8/5/2025	4
HUMBER DR / LONG VALLEY DR	8/1/2025	0.01
RANCHO	7/13/2025	0.01
VIA	7/12/2025	0.01
WINCHESTER	7/9/2025	0.11
SYCAMORE	7/6/2025	0.02
	1/21/2025	0.06

JEFFERSON	1/16/2025	0.23
WESTERN	1/9/2025	1
OLD TOWN FRONT ST / WESTERN BYPASS	12/8/2024	0.06
ADOBE	11/8/2024	0.25
DEL RIO	10/21/2024	0.01
SERENA	10/19/2024	1.5
RANCHO	6/25/2024	0.02
PHELPS	6/24/2024	0.02
MORGAN	6/7/2024	14.4
I 15 S/ TEMECULA PY ONRP	12/14/2023	0.01
RIO	9/27/2023	0.06
PORTOLA	9/25/2023	0.5
TEMECULA PY / OLD TOWN FRONT ST	8/12/2023	0.02
I 15 S/ RANCHO CALIFORNIA RD OFRP	7/12/2023	0.01
FROGS	7/6/2023	33
MARGARITA	6/16/2023	0.02
WALCOTT	6/4/2023	0.5

Fortunately, due to the coordinated efforts of CAL FIRE/Riv. Co. Fire and the City, all of these incidents were contained before escalating into widespread catastrophic events. The City's proactive hazard-reduction work—along with efforts by Riverside County Flood Control, Caltrans, partner agencies, private property owners, and CAL FIRE/Riv. Co. Fire—has provided measurable benefits during multiple fire responses. The City's Community Wildfire Protection Program in the Pechanga Creek area is another successful initiative that reduced fuel loads and has helped protect the I-15 corridor from physical damage which may limit emergency response/evacuations as well as preventing severe economic harm to the region and nation.

With peak wildfire season approaching and given the demonstrated effectiveness of past fuel-reduction efforts, the City is preparing to undertake additional hazard-reduction projects. The attached maps illustrate City-owned parcels in relation to Very High, High, and Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zones. In addition, there are several City-owned properties with vegetation and high fuel loads adjacent to public facilities that would benefit from proactive hazard reduction work. One example of a critical fuel reduction project includes the hillside vegetation within the Ronald Reagan Sports Park below the Ronald H. Roberts Public Library (which also serves as a City Emergency Operations Center) and Fire Station 84. The primary objective would be the removal of hazardous vegetation and creation of fuel breaks or nonflammable gaps in vegetation to slow or stop the progress of a bushfire or wildfire. Gaps in the vegetation would provide defensible space for structures and allow firefighters to safely reach, monitor and suppress fires while providing a secondary purpose of trail access within the park. Consistent with the Governor's emergency proclamations and executive orders, these efforts will focus on areas

identified by CAL FIRE/Riv. Co. Fire as having critical fuel-reduction needs. The proposed projects will utilize funding from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Capital Improvement Sheet. A map of City owned parcels identified for proactive fire prevention and fuel reductions is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funds have been identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Capital Improvement Program budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Exhibit A- City Owned Parcels
3. Map of City Owned Parcels
4. Governor's Orders/Emergency Proclamations