

Hello board members,

I hear that there is a proposal on the agenda of Tuesday's Board to direct staff to draft a new abatement ordinance. Please do. I live rurally in the hills between Redwood Valley and Potter Valley. I've lived here for 20+ years, and we've had 3 wildland fires that I can remember. Please make sure your abatement ordinance addresses fire.

Many people in our neighborhood fail to maintain their properties in a way that could reduce the risk of fires. Some properties are not lived in year round, and owners do not think to visit to mow weeds, limb up trees, or clear brush. Some of these properties are rented to pot growers whose prime concern is maximizing their pot income, and they fail to do the same things the property owners fail to do - namely maintain the properties in a way to reduce fire risk.

I have neighbors who have been told by their home owner's insurance companies that their premiums are set to triple (!) because they live in a fire prone area. *My* insurance doubled between last year and this. I feel lucky that it didn't triple. Some of my neighbors are moving because they can't afford the insurance premiums.

Preventing fire is a neighborhood concern. It can't be done by individual home owners acting alone. It's one of those things that takes a village. We need incentives for property owners (and renters) to work together to prevent fires.

Thanks,  
Charlie Seltzer