California

PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

An Abatement District is used to pay the costs of preventing and controlling threats to public health and property.

What is an Abatement District?

Background:
An abatement district is created to finance the prevention, mitigation, abatement or control of some type of pest, nuisance or hazard. Two common types of abatement districts are discussed below. Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts are covered in a separate fact sheet which can be found at www.californiataxdata.com.

In addition to abatement districts, California law allows counties and cities to perform weed, rubbish and general nuisance abatement on individual properties at the owner's expense.

Mosquito Abatement Districts:
Mosquito Abatement Districts were created in response to the discovery that mosquitoes were carriers of disease in the late 1800's. A county may form a Mosquito Abatement District to control mosquitoes in a specific territory pursuant to California Health and Safety Code §2200 *et seq*. A district is initiated by a petition of 10% or more of the registered voters in the proposed area. A public hearing is held, and if the county board of supervisors determines that the abatement district is in the best interest of the public, they may approve it. Once approved, Mosquito Abatement Districts charge an annual service fee to all properties in the service area to pay for mosquito surveillance and control. The charge is set annually and is subject to public notice and hearing requirements. If approved, it is billed on the county property tax bill. Mosquito Abatement Districts may also form benefit assessment districts if a higher level of funding is needed to protect the health and maintain the standard of living of area residents.

Vector Control Districts:
Vectors are animals or insects such as rats, ticks, flies and mosquitoes that can transmit diseases to humans. A county may form a Vector Control District to control these pests in a specific territory pursuant to California Health and Safety Code §2200 *et seq*. A district is initiated by a petition of 10% or more of the registered voters in the proposed area. A public hearing is held, and if the county board of supervisors determines that the district is in the best interest of the public, they may approve it. Once approved, Vector Control Districts charge an annual service fee to all properties in the service area to pay for vector surveillance and control. The charge is set annually and is subject to public notice and hearing requirements. If approved, it is billed on the county property tax bill. Vector Control Districts may also form benefit assessment districts if a higher level of funding is needed to protect the health and maintain the standard of living of area residents.

Weed and Rubbish Abatement:
If not properly managed, weeds and rubbish can become fire hazards or threats to public safety. Weed and rubbish abatement is normally handled on an individual parcel basis, where property owners are responsible for keeping the area free from hazardous weeds and rubbish. If a county or city determines that a certain parcel, or group of parcels, present a hazard and require attention, a notice will be mailed to the owner or posted on the property (pursuant to Government Code §39501-39588). If the owner does not correct the problem, the city or county may clear the area at the owner's expense. A lien is created on the property, and the amount is charged on the next county property tax bill.

Nuisance Abatement:
A city or county may declare by ordinance what it considers a nuisance (for example, graffiti on private property). The agency must then provide notice to the property owner to correct the problem (pursuant to Government Code §38771-38775). If the owner does not respond, the agency may perform the work at the owner's expense. A lien is created on the property, and the amount is charged on the next county property tax bill.

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