

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the Los Angeles Fire Department's (LAFD) 2012 Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings Report.

Recommendation for Council action:

CONFIRM the 2012 Brush Clearance Assessments, substantially as recommended by the Board of Fire Commissioners at its meeting held August 6, 2013, and as contained in the 2012 Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings Report, proposed decisions, and recommendations (attached to the Council file).

Fiscal Impact Statement: The LAFD reports that property owners are assessed an administrative fee of \$938.00 and the cost of clearance to abate the hazard for failure to comply with brush clearance requirements. The average cost of clearance is \$500 to \$1,000. For the 2012 brush season, 48 property owners elected to appeal their assessments. Of the 48 appeals received, 17 were granted. The Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings estimated total revenue is \$60,048.00.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

In a report to the Mayor dated August 7, 2013 (attached to the Council file), the Board of Fire Commissioners presents LAFD's 2012 Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings Report. The Board approved the proposed brush clearance assessments, proposed decisions, and recommendations at its meeting held August 6, 2013. Following final Council action on this matter, the LAFD forwards unpaid assessment amounts to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector for placement on the Los Angeles County 2013 property tax rolls.

At its meeting held August 23, 2013, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with a representative of the LAFD. At that time, the Committee members considered a verbal appeal presented by one property owner. The Committee denied the appeal and upheld the decision of LAFD's Hearing Examiner, recommending that Council approve the 2012 Brush Clearance Assessments, as recommended by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
BONIN:	YES
O'FARRELL:	ABSENT
MARTINEZ:	YES