

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
James O'Tousa, Director

Roads & Transportation
Anitha Balan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

October 17, 2023

Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Adopt a Resolution Establishing the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Graffiti Abatement Policy; All Watershed Protection District Zones and All Supervisorial Districts.

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution establishing the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Graffiti Abatement Policy; all Watershed Protection District Zones and all Supervisorial Districts.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

This Board action has no fiscal impact.

Discussion:

The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) operates and maintains 216 miles of improved 'Red Line' channels in Ventura County which provide vital services for protecting life and property from flood risks. These channels often become visible hot spots for graffiti and trash, causing negative impacts on the community.

On July 13, 1993, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 4039, in which it declared graffiti to be a public nuisance which may be abated as such. Ordinance No. 4039 defines graffiti as; "any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, or design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, or painted on any public or private property located within the unincorporated area of the County visible to the public, including but not limited to, structures, sidewalks, signs, trees and vehicles."

The District prosecutes mission work using limited Benefit Assessment Zone funds. Community beautification efforts such as graffiti abatement are secondarily funded after the District's primary mission – which is ensuring stormwater conveyance.

The District regularly inspects its facilities to identify the presence of graffiti. Graffiti will be abated with District Zone funds for offensive graffiti which is publicly visible and offends sectors of our community perceived as inflammatory or inciting violence and/or hate.



Graffiti classified as offensive may include the following:

- Offensive language;
- Language of a politically, racially, religiously insulting, inciting nature;
- Hate statements;
- Graphically explicit images; and,
- Images which are visually/textually offensive.

The District at its discretion may coordinate graffiti removal for:

- General graffiti which is not considered offensive, such as tags or unauthorized murals/artwork visible to the public, may be covered by volunteers authorized to enter District facilities.

The District's Operations & Maintenance Division will be responsible for implementing the graffiti abatement policy. District graffiti abatement within its facilities may require coordination with cities, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, and local law enforcement agencies for site access and security requirements.

The District may also assist and coordinate with local volunteer groups for graffiti abatement training, supplies, and access permitting for graffiti abatement on District facilities.

This Policy will apply to all District facilities within the incorporated cities and unincorporated areas of the County.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact the undersigned at (805) 654-2040.

Sincerely,



Glenn Shephard, P.E.
Director,
Watershed Protection District

Attachment:
Resolution

