

Tree Brush Vegetation and Noxious Weed Committee Report 2013

Since 2012 Laura and the tree committee have been working on the noxious weed problem with the county for information and assistance. There are approximately 600 lots in Surfside with noxious weeds. Our covenants state that this is the homeowner's responsibility. (Covenant 5.4) Since 2011 when we lost our Compliance Officer and our General Manager it has been on a constant rise.

We have a complaint driven program, so the committee has not been able to begin any remediation of the problem. Being proactive and sending letters could create a major problem. Writing up properties would take a long time and could potentially affect property values during the process. Processing a complaint costs the association approximately \$20. That is \$12000 for 600 lots just for the first letter.

Treatment is not quick or simple. The seeds will remain active for as long as 70 years. The plants do not respond to treatment with the usual chemicals available to the home owner but require stronger chemicals that should be applied by a professional. The county will treat county property only.

The county's recommendation for treatment and disposal is very complicated and precise. Complete written instructions will be provided as soon as available.

My question for the board is "Will the board be willing to support this committee in a proactive program with the committee writing the complaints?" If not, then we may want to consider removing Covenant 5.4 and letting the county and state take care of this since it is also county/state laws that are being violated.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 360-665-2685.

Submitted by Chairman Larry J Raymer

December 30, 2013