

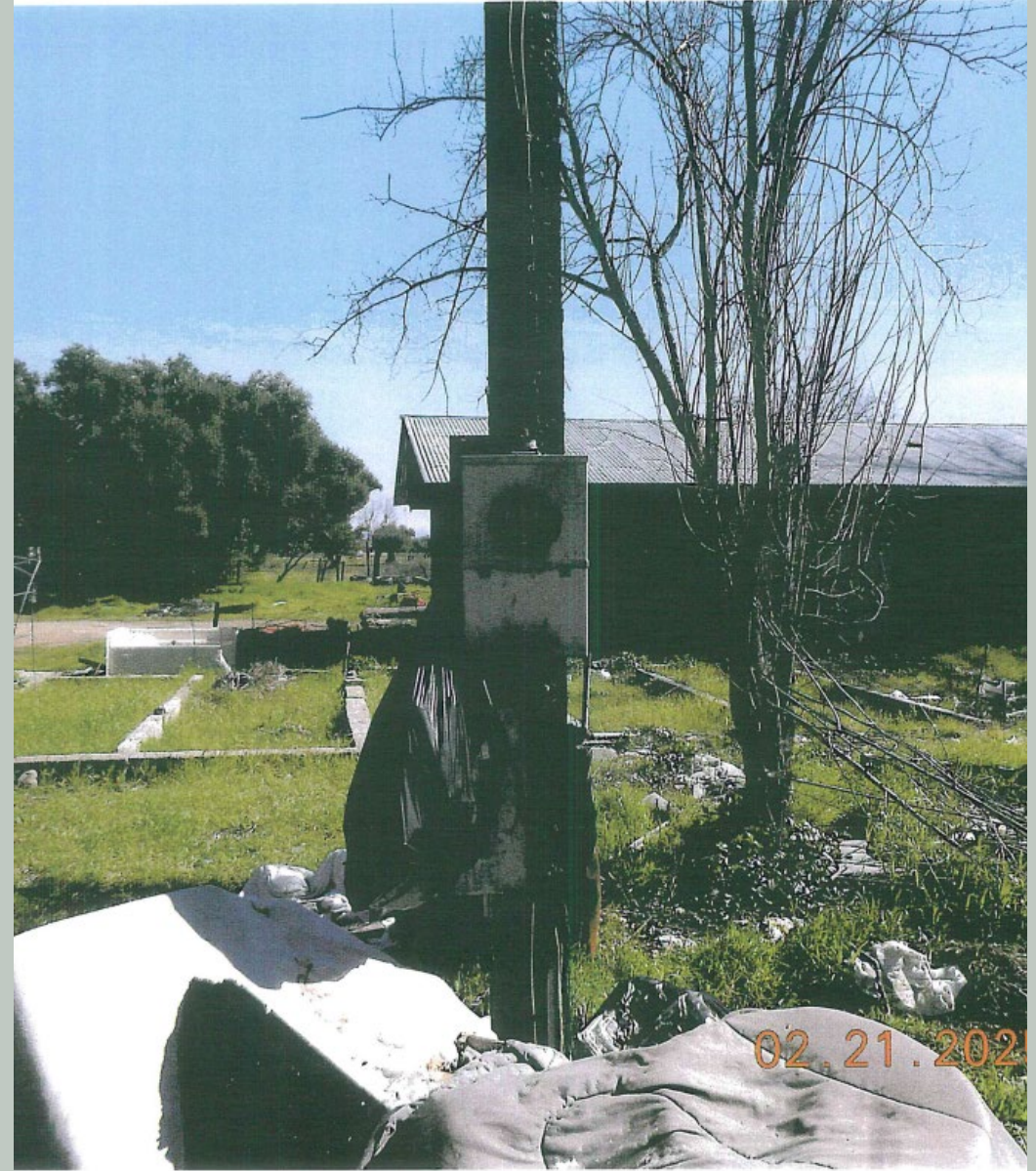
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# Unsafe and dangerous buildings abatement program proposal

TCEH/ Code Enforcement Director: Tia Branton

March 25th, 2025

Participating Departments: Sheriff: Dave Kain, District Attorney: Matt Rogers, Interim Building Official: Patrick Ewald, Public Administrator: Melani Kain



# 01

## Program Vision Statement:

The Tehama County Environmental Health and Code Enforcement Department, in partnership with the Building Department, Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, and Public Administrator, are dedicated to improving the safety, health, and quality of life for all residents by addressing unsafe buildings, blight, and imminent health hazards.

This collaborative initiative aims to abate properties that foster criminal activity, particularly those linked to gang and drug-related issues, while revitalizing the community. With the support of the Anti-Gang/Anti-Drug Board and a request for matching funds from the County, we seek to secure a total of \$50,000 to fund the cleanup and remediation of nuisance properties.

This funding, which will be self-sustaining through existing lien procedures, will allow Tehama County to remove environmental hazards, eliminate visual blight, and reduce criminal behavior, creating safer, healthier communities for all.

# 02 Objective

- Develop a program that aims to address the following:
  - Abate unsafe and dangerous buildings
  - Address imminent health and safety hazards
  - Eliminate visual blight throughout the County
  - Streamline process when it's a Public Administrator property



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## Facts:

- Hundreds of visually blighted private and public properties (varying degrees of severity).
  - Significant portion of said properties harbor criminal activities.
- At least 10 properties considered high risk with need for immediate abatement if funding is approved\*

\* Total number of unsafe building in the county eligible for abatement are much greater . The 10 discussed above are high on the priority risk due to criminal activities and public health dangers.

# 03 Scope of the problem

## Impacts of Unsafe buildings:

- Rise in crime ( drug use/sale/distribution, trespassing etc..)
- Unlawful occupation of private property
- Public Health danger ( spread of communicable and infectious diseases)
- Environmental health issues ( Mold, asbestos, rodent infestation/waste, vector infestation etc..)
- Environmental waste ( toxic chemicals, garbage, contaminated surface water, biological waste (human waste), sewage discharge etc..)
- Monetary losses ( devaluation of property value)
- Efficient work coordination among departments



Fig| Previous case: illegal septic disposal



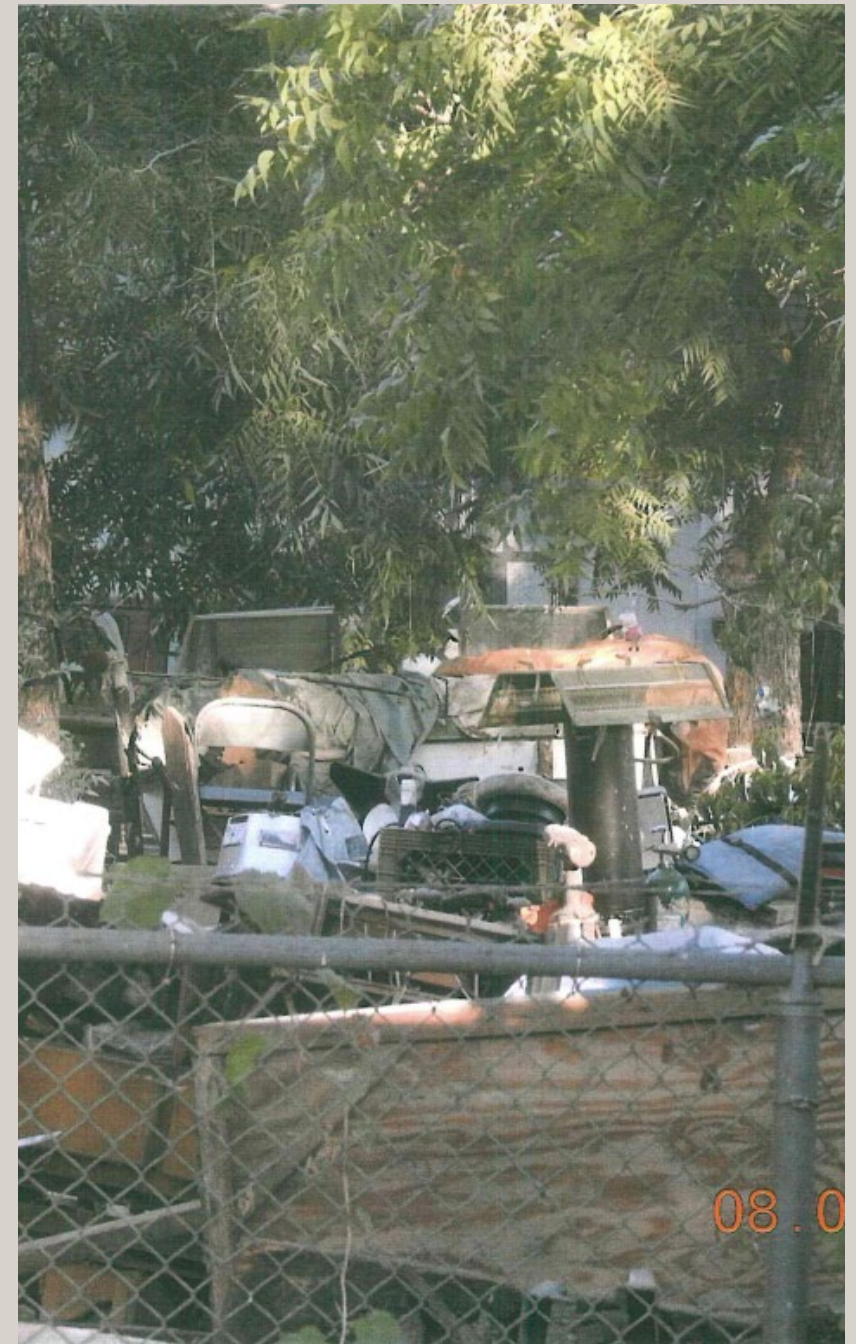
# Example Projects

Case study location	Year of reported incident(s)	# of Code Enforcement complaints	# of incidents/ logged Law Enforcement entries	Monetary Costs *
Case Study 1 (Red Bluff)	With C.E. : 2017 With L.E. :2019	Received ongoing complaints	46	\$ 23,779.62
Case Study 2 (Los Molinos)	With C.E. : 2019 With L.E. :2017	Received ongoing complaints	16	\$36,066.11
Case study 3 (Corning) * *	With C.E. : 2021 With L.E. :2019	Received ongoing complaints	123	undetermined

\*\* Two Locations on one parcel ( Dwelling fire with fatality, currently working with the Public Administrator and Sheriff's Department)

# Case Study 1: Red Bluff

2021 Cost of Abatement/Clean Up: \$23,779.62



Case Study 2: Los Molinos  
2023 Cost of Abatement/Clean Up: \$36,066.11





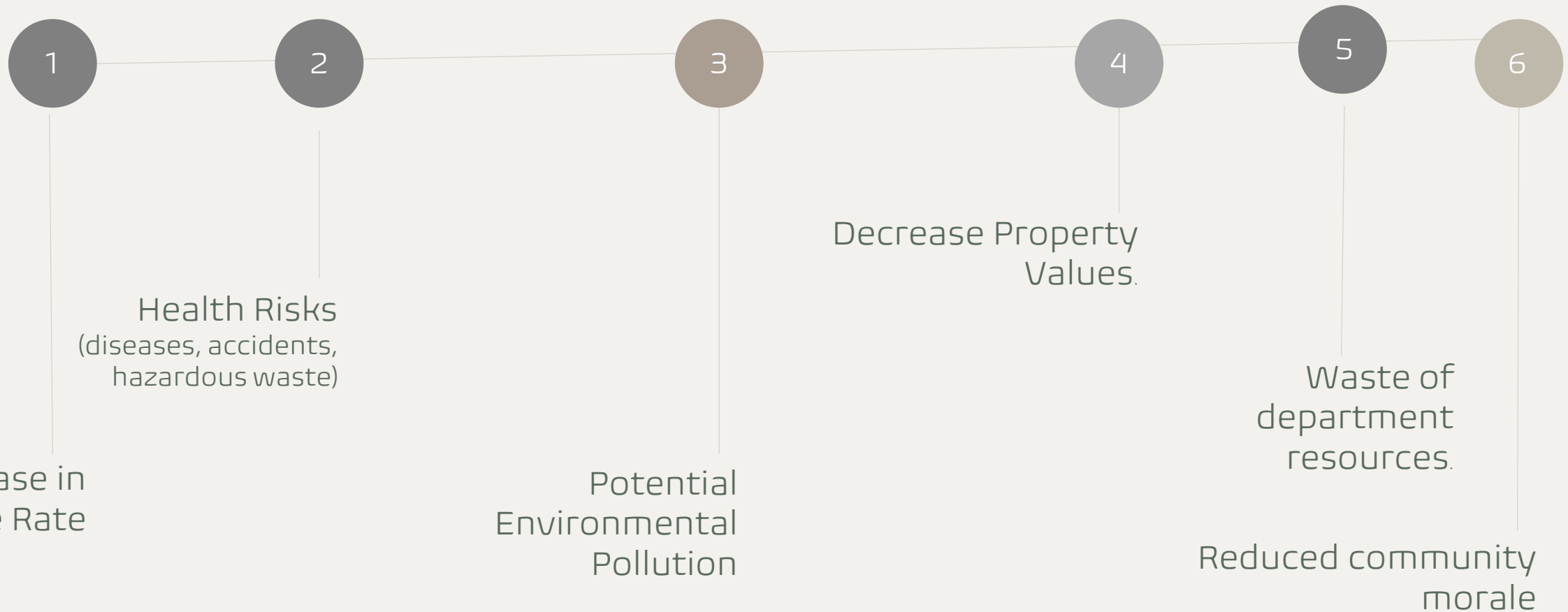
# Case Study 3: Corning

Cost of Abatement/Clean Up: Undetermined, estimations are in progress



Dwelling Fire With Fatality

# Consequences of Inaction:



# Benefits of Addressing the Problem

- Crime Reduction
- Health and Safety
- Economic Revitalization
- Community and Environmental Wellbeing
- Efficient workload distribution among County Depts.
- Long-Term Sustainability
- Cost savings



Credits: photo stock

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# Case Study 2: abatement clean up



Before clean up



Post clean up





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# Request for matching funds

## Requested matching Funds:

- \$25,000
- The Major Crime Board (Anti-gang/Anti-drug board) unanimously voted to allocate \$25,000 to Tehama County Environmental Health/ Code Enforcement to remediate parcels in violation of county codes that are associated with gang or drug activity.
- The funds will only be secured IF the Board of Supervisors provides an equal match of funds, \$25,000, to total \$50,000 of start up funds for the new multi departmental project.

## Program impact:

- Patrol resources can be diverted to other critical law enforcement activities
- Funds would accelerate clean ups
- Improve community health through clean up hazardous waste, environmental pollution, debris, reduction of infectious diseases, rodent infestation
- Overall cost saving for County Staff time

## Funding Sources:

- Funding will be self-sustaining through existing lien procedures once the program has been established
- If other funding can be secured, more projects can be completed

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# Community and Stakeholder Engagement



## Local Support

- Local community members/ County residents

## Stakeholder Collaboration

- Multi-departmental partnerships include:
  - Tehama County Environmental Health/ Code Enforcement
  - Sheriff
  - District Attorney
  - Buildings Department
  - Public Administrator

# 04 Closing

Thank you for your time and consideration for this funding.

QUESTIONS.....