

Enforcement Mechanisms:

Compliance mechanisms utilized during enforcement may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a. Abatement of Civil Nuisances - Lassen County Code Chapter 1.18 et seq (Public Nuisances) – An abatement hearing can be conducted to remove conditions on a property declared to be public nuisances. The Board of Supervisors appoints a hearing officer, who may order the property abated, and the costs to abate the property would then become a lien against the property.
- b. Notice of Noncompliance – Title to the property could be “clouded” through recordation of a notice of noncompliance, as provided for at section 12.24.035 of Lassen County Code. Said notice could hinder sale or transfer of the property.
- c. Administrative Citation (Lassen County Code Chapter 1.20 et seq) – Property owners or the “Responsible Party” are subject to a citation for violation of any section of the Lassen County Code. A citation can be issued every day that the violation(s) continues to exist. The first citation is \$100, the second citation is \$500, and the third citation is \$1,000. In accordance with subsection 1.20.030(g) of County Code and Government Code Section 54988, a lien against the property can be recorded with the County Recorder if the owner fails to pay the citations(s) within 45 days.
- d. Lassen County Code Chapter 1.19 (Abandoned Vehicles) – This chapter authorizes code enforcement staff to remove abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicles within the county if a property owner fails to do so after notice is given. Administrative costs to tow vehicles are charged against the landowner. If the landowner fails to pay, a lien may be recorded against the property.
- e. Misdemeanor – As stipulated by Government Code Section 25132, violation of a County Ordinance is a misdemeanor (unless it is made an infraction by ordinance). A property owner could be sentenced to up to six months in the County jail and also be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000. Section 19 of the Penal Code reads as follows:

“Except in cases where a different punishment is prescribed by any law of this state, every offense declared to be a misdemeanor is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both.”
- f. Civil Injunction (Section 731 of the Code of Civil Procedures) – County Counsel could seek an injunction to enforce County Ordinances.
- g. Temporary Restraining Order (Code of Civil Procedures Section 527 and California Rules of Court Section 3.1200 through 3.1207) – When there are significant public safety issues due to a code violation, the Department and County Counsel can seek a temporary restraining order.

- h. Receivership (Health and Safety Code Section 17980.7(c)) - A petition may be submitted to the Lassen County Superior Court, and the court may order that a receiver be appointed to take legal control of a property in order to correct conditions found to be substandard. After correcting the violation(s), the receiver will dispose of (sale) the property to recover their costs. Any proceeds remaining (if any) after the Receiver and County recover their costs are returned to the property owner.

- i. Notice to Vacate and Post “DO NOT ENTER – UNSAFE TO OCCUPY” In accordance with the Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings (which was adopted by Lassen County at section 12.25.010 of County Code), an order may be issued to vacate a building that is immediately dangerous.