



**Contra  
Costa  
County**

To: Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors  
 From: Lewis T. Broschard III, Chief, Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
 Date: March 21, 2023

Subject: Report on CAL FIRE Hazard Severity Zone Maps

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**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

ACCEPT a report on CAL FIRE Hazard Severity Zone Maps; and PROVIDE direction to staff regarding a response to CAL FIRE within the public comment period. (No fiscal impact)

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact.

**BACKGROUND:**

Public Resources Code 4201-4204 directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to map fire hazard within State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors present, including areas where winds have been identified by the department as a major cause of wildfire spread. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), classify a wildland zone as Moderate, High, or Very High fire hazard based on the average hazard across the area included in the zone.

These maps were last updated in 2007. Since that time, the wildland urban interface

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☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD  
COMMITTEE

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Action of Board On: **03/21/2023** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: John Gioia, Director  
 Candace Andersen, Director  
 Diane Burgis, Director  
 Ken Carlson, Director  
 Federal D. Glover, Director

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 21, 2023

Monica Nino, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Contact: Lewis T. Broschard III,  
Fire Chief (925) 941-3300

By: June McHuen, Deputy

cc:

environment has changed dramatically. Fifteen of California's top twenty most destructive fires have occurred since the maps were last updated.

## BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

Five of these top twenty most destructive fires occurred in the Nine Bay Area Region.

According to CAL FIRE, "Overall, the map shows increased fire hazard, reflecting California's increase in wildfire occurrence and severity because of many factors, including a changing climate. The map has been updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire, to help provide transparency for planning and preparedness efforts, and to provide communities a forecasting tool so that the public can take steps to prevent and prepare for wildfire. The hazard mapping process incorporates local climate data and changes in burn probability based on recent trends in fire occurrence."

These map designations will have impacts for building codes, land use, and planning decisions. What is currently up for review is only the State Responsibility Areas (SRA). SRA land almost always falls within the unincorporated areas of a County. Later this year, CAL FIRE will roll out new maps for the Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). The LRA areas are typically found within City limits of incorporated cities.

These maps were created by CAL FIRE without input from CCCFPD. They were first released to the public and local fire agencies in January 2023. CAL FIRE has been conducting public hearings throughout the state. CCCFPD and other local agencies have attended these hearings and offered public comment. The public comment period was recently extended to April 4, 2023. With this additional time, staff brings the matter forward for Board of Directors review, direction, and, possibly, additional public comment. A FAQ document and a map, provided by CAL FIRE, have been provided as attachments to this staff report.

## CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will move forward with this public hearing process with or without our input.

## CLERK'S ADDENDUM

**Speaker: Caller 1.**

## ATTACHMENTS

Fire Hazard Maps- Proposed

FHSZ FAQ's

Board FHSZ Presentation 3-21-23