



Report to City Council

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Jesse Park, Fire Chief

AGENDA DATE: April 15, 2025

TITLE: OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE TO LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP (REPORT OF: FIRE)

TITLE SUMMARY: Office of the State Fire Marshal Update to Local Responsibility Areas Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map Adoption Process

Recommendation(s)

That the City Council:

1. Receive and file the information only report.

SUMMARY

This report provides a receive and file overview of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) update to Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps (LRA FHSZ) and requirements for local adoption. The updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone map for all of southern California was released March 24, 2025.

DISCUSSION

Past wildfires led to the improvement of regulations in California (PRC 4201) beginning with State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zones established as a result of the 1980 Panorama Fire. Eleven years later the LRA FHSZ was established (AB 337) resulting from the impacts to Oakland's Tunnel Fire, which was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire on record.

Today, Government Code Sections 51177-51179 assign responsibility to the OSFM to designate areas that are moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zones statewide based on fuel loading slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors including areas where winders have been identified as a major cause of wildfire spread. The designations are represented on maps generated by the State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

Furthermore, local agencies are now required to:

1. Within 30 days of the release of the map, make the information available for public review and comment. The updated LRA FHSZ for Moreno Valley was made available to the public on April 3, 2025 and can be found at <https://moval.gov/departments/fire/HighFireMap-Review.html>.
2. Within 120 days of the release of the map, adopt the recommended map by local ordinance. The proposed ordinance will be introduced and submitted for adoption at the regular City Council meetings scheduled for June 3, 2025, and June 17, 2025, respectively.
3. Within 30 days of local ordinance adoptions submit the ordinance to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

It is important to note that while the public review and comment period is required by the State, the City of Moreno Valley has no authority to modify the designations established by the OSFM.

About the maps:

Specifically, the maps identify fire “hazard” not fire “risk.” Fire “hazard” is based on physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period without considering mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfires, or fuel reduction. Fire “risk” is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, accounting for any modifications such as fuel reduction, defensible space and ignition resistant building construction.

The maps show areas that are impacted by existing requirements as established by Chapter 7A of the California Building Code in relation to building standards for new construction; Fire Safe Regulations in relation to property development standards such as road widths, water supply and signage; Government code 51182 in relation to defensible space requirements; and natural hazard real estate disclosures.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Receive and file. This alternative is recommended by staff.
2. Do not receive and file. This alternative is not recommended by staff.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Moreno Valley.

PREPARATION OF STAFF REPORT

Prepared By:
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Department Head Approval:
Jesse Park
Fire Chief

Concurred By:
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Fire Marshal

CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Public Safety: Provide a safe and secure environment for people and property in the community, control the number and severity of fire and hazardous material incidents, and provide protection for citizens who live, work and visit the City of Moreno Valley.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1. Economic Development**
- 2. Public Safety**
- 3. Library**
- 4. Infrastructure**
- 5. Beautification, Community Engagement, and Quality of Life**
- 6. Youth Programs**

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	STAFFREPORT_FD_FIREHAZARDSEVERITYZONEMAPUPDATE (1).docx
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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Jesse Park was completed by assistant Shanna Palau

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