



# CITY OF CLEARLAKE

City Council

## STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and Consideration of Ordinance (281-2025),  
An Ordinance to Designate Fire Hazard Severity Zones  
in the Local Responsibility Area as Required by State  
Law

**MEETING DATE:** May 15, 2025

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alan D. Flora, City Manager

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** ☒ Information only ☒ Discussion ☐ Action Item

### WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

City Council to consider an ordinance to adopt Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps within the City.

### BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

For several years the state has mapped fire hazard severity zones. They have been primarily focused on areas of state responsibility, although the last round of mapping (around 2015) identified “recommended” very high fire hazard areas in some local responsibility areas. A portion of the City of Clearlake was one of approximately 12 in the state with around 1,000 acres.

Changes in state law now requires the State Fire Marshal’s Office to prepare statewide maps showing fire hazard severity. The Northern California maps, including the City of Clearlake, were released on February 10, 2025. These maps were reviewed by the City Council on February 20, 2025.

According to state law, the State Fire Marshal shall identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread.

Affected cities must do the following:

- Within 30 days of receiving the recommended maps, make the information, including the maps, available for public review and comment.
- Within 120 days of receiving the recommended maps, adopt the recommended map by local ordinance.
- Within 30 days of local ordinance adoption, submit the ordinance and other required documents to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

A local agency may only increase the level of fire hazard severity as identified by the state fire marshal for any area within their jurisdiction. Fire hazard severity cannot be decreased. Parcels with multiple zones shall be treated as being in the highest hazard classification. The map has been adjusted to reflect each parcel having a single designation based on the highest hazard classification.

More information on the process can be found here. <https://lakesheriff.com/1800/Local-Responsibility-Area-LRA-Fire-Hazar>

The maps are also available on the City's website for review.

<https://www.clearlake.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/2581/36x48-LRA-FIRE-BY-PARCEL-4-1-25?bidId=>

**It is important for the public to understand that these maps are created by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) under the direction of the State Fire Marshal. Local agencies, including the County of Lake and the Cities of Clearlake and Lakeport, do not control the creation of the maps but are required to ensure the community has the opportunity to review and provide feedback.**

#### **OPTIONS:**

1. Consideration of First Reading of Ordinance No. 281-2025, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Clearlake Designating Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area as Required by State Law
2. Direction to Staff.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

☒ None      ☐ \$ Budgeted Item? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Budget Adjustment Needed? ☐ Yes ☒ No      If yes, amount of appropriation increase: \$

Affected fund(s): ☐ General Fund ☐ Measure P Fund ☐ Measure V Fund ☒ Other:

Comments:

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT**

- ☐ Goal #1: Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City
- ☒ Goal #2: Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City
- ☐ Goal #3: Improve the Quality of Life in Clearlake with Improved Public Facilities
- ☐ Goal #4: Improve the Image of Clearlake
- ☐ Goal #5: Ensure Fiscal Sustainability of City
- ☒ Goal #6: Update Policies and Procedures to Current Government Standards
- ☐ Goal #7: Support Economic Development

#### ☒ **Attachments:**

1. **Ordinance 281-2025**
2. **City of Clearlake Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map – Adjusted Per Parcel**
3. **City of Clearlake Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map – From State Fire Marshal**

