



<b>STAFF REPORT</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Receive Update on Fire Hazard Mapping from the Office of the State Fire Marshal	<b>MEETING DATE:</b> Feb. 20, 2025
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Alan D. Flora, City Manager	
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Action Item	

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

City Council to receive an update on recent mapping released from the Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding fire hazard zones.

**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 state responsibility area (SRA) maps were completed last year. Local Responsibility Area (LRA) maps are underway now. While initially expected statewide on January 15<sup>th</sup> the state has reverted to a phased release. The northeast area of the state, including Lake County and Clearlake, was released earlier this week.

The mapping can be reviewed here. <https://fire-hazard-severity-zones-rollout-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/pages/access-map> A pdf of the Clearlake zones is attached.

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.

The City has been working with CalFire, local fire agencies, the City of Lakeport, and County of Lake to coordinate the required response. A shared webpage of information is hosted by the Lake County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services. This can be accessed here. <https://lakesheriff.com/1800/Local-Responsibility-Area-LRA-Fire-Hazar>

**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. Receive update.
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. City of Clearlake Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map**
- 2. League of Cities Informational Document**