



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Adoption of Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps as determined by Cal Fire

CEQA: Not a project

Recommendation: That Council holds first hearing of Ordinance 835, waive full reading and read by Title only, hereby designating the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps as recommended by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Government Code Section 51178,

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Manager

Council Meeting Date: 05/13 2025

Date Prepared: 05/01/2025

Agenda: Public Hearing

Background Information:

On March 11, 2025, the City Council received a detailed report and presentation regarding the new LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps prepared by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The City actively sought and incorporated public feedback through its website, emails, and in-person comments during the City Council meeting.

Ordinance 835 adopts the LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps in alignment with requirements for local agencies and will be submitted to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

This report outlines the requirements established under existing state law regarding the designation of fire hazard severity zones in LRA as mandated by OSFM.

According to Government Code Sections 51177 to 51179, the OSFM must prepare, and release recommended maps delineating fire hazard severity zones. Local agencies within the designated areas are obligated to follow specific procedures to ensure compliance and public involvement.

Requirements for Local Agencies

Upon receiving the recommended maps, local agencies must undertake the following actions:

- **Public Review and Comment (Within 30 Days)**

Local agencies are required to make the recommended maps available for public review and comment within 30 days of receipt. This ensures that community members have an opportunity to engage with and provide feedback on the fire hazard severity designations.

- **Adoption of Recommended Maps (Within 120 Days)**

Local agencies must adopt the recommended fire hazard severity map by local ordinance within 120 days. This process formalizes the designation and allows local governance to address fire safety measures appropriately.

- **Submission of Documents (Within 30 Days of Adoption)**

Following the adoption of the ordinance, local agencies must submit the ordinance and any other required documentation to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection within 30 days. This step is essential for maintaining state oversight and ensuring compliance with fire safety regulations.

Limitations on Fire Hazard Severity Designations

It is crucial to note that local agencies may only increase the level of fire hazard severity as identified by the OSFM. **They are prohibited from decreasing the severity level in any designated area.**

Criteria for Designation

The OSFM categorizes areas into moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on several factors, including:

- Fuel loading
- Slope
- Fire weather conditions
- Wind patterns identified as significant contributors to wildfire spread

The updated fire hazard severity zone mapping significantly expands the areas designated as high and very high fire hazard severity zones within the City compared to the 2008 mapping. Additionally, new areas have been identified and classified as high and moderate severity zones. These updates reflect changes in risk assessment due to factors such as evolving wildfire behavior, climate conditions, and urban growth.

Information on the new Local Responsibility Area maps and overview can be found at

www.cityofgrassvalley.com/post/fire-hazard-severity-zones-2025

Council Goals/Objectives: Exceptional Public Safety consistent with the City of Grass Valley Strategic Plan

Fiscal Impact: None

Funds Available: N/A

Account #:

Reviewed by:

Attachments: Ordinance 835, Grass Valley Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Map,
Grass valley High Fire hazard Severity Zones Map