



# City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

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**Title:** Review of Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps and Make Recommendations

**CEQA:** Not a project

**Recommendation:** That Council receive input and recommendations on the Office of State Fire Marshal Local Responsibility Area Fire Severity Zone Maps.

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Manager

**Council Meeting Date:** 03/11/ 2025

**Date Prepared:** 02/28/2025

**Agenda:** Administrative

**Background Information:**

This report outlines the requirements established under existing state law regarding the designation of fire hazard severity zones in Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) as mandated by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (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](http://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:** Grass Valley Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Map.