



Community Development Department
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532

For the Meeting of April 1, 2025

☐ Consent Item; ☒ Public Hearing Item

To: City Council

From: Kevin Caldwell, Community Development Director

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be "K Caldwell", enclosed in a circular flourish.

Through: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

Date: March 26, 2025

Subject: First Reading and Introduction of Ordinance No. 413-2025 establishing Chapter 8.45 of Title 8 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Fire Hazard Severity Zone map for the City of Rio Dell

Recommendation:

That the City Council:

1. Allow staff to introduce Ordinance No. 413-2025 establishing Chapter 8.45 of Title 8 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map for the City of Rio Dell; and
2. Open the public hearing, receive public input, and deliberate; and
3. Continue the second reading, approval and adoption of the Ordinance to the meeting of April 15, 2025.

Discussion

CalFire has been releasing maps identifying the level of fire hazard severity that cities across the State face as part of efforts to prepare for and prevent wildfires. The purpose of the map(s) is to 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 are 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.

According to CalFire, the maps evaluate hazard, or the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period which doesn't account for efforts to prevent wildfires, such as home hardening. Fire hazard severity zone maps are utilized for building standards and various property development standards, as well as planning for future development.

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. The City made the map available on the City's website on the day the map was released, February 24, 2025 for review and public comment. Cities are required to adopt the map(s) within 120 days of its release.

CEQA

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21065, a "project" is defined as a "whole action" subject to a public agency's discretionary funding or approval that has the potential to either (1) cause a direct physical change in the environment or (2) cause a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The adoption of the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps is therefore not subject to CEQA,

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Ordinance No. 413-2025

Attachment 2: Copy of the FHSZ map for Rio Dell.

ORDINANCE NO. 413-2025



**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL
ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 8.45 OF TITLE 8 OF THE RIO DELL MUNICIPAL CODE
(RDMC) FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY MAP FOR THE CITY OF RIO DELL.**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS the State Fire Marshal is required to 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; and

WHEREAS moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones are 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; and

WHEREAS 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; and

WHEREAS the City made the map available on the City's website on February 24, 2025 for review and public comment; and

WHEREAS to date the City has not received any public comment; and

WHEREAS 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Rio Dell does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1.

8.45.010 Adoption

(1) There is hereby adopted the Fire Hazard Severity Zones map for the City as recommended by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Government Code Section 51178. The map, approved by the City of Rio Dell is hereby incorporated by reference and is available at the City website, City Hall and <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>.

8.45.020 Short Title

This chapter shall be known and cited as the "Fire Hazard Severity Zones."

8.45.030 Purpose

(1) The purpose of the map(s) is to 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.

Section 2. Severability

If any provision of the ordinance is invalidated by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 3. Limitation of Actions

Any action to challenge the validity or legality of any provision of this ordinance on any grounds shall be brought by court action commenced within ninety (90) days of the date of adoption of this ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date

This ordinance becomes effective thirty (30) days after its approval and adoption.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing Ordinance was duly introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on April 1, 2025, and furthermore the forgoing Ordinance was passed, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, held on April 15, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

I, Karen Dunham, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 413-2025 which was passed, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, held on April 15, 2025.

Karen Dunham, City Clerk, City of Rio Dell