

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION****OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

P.O. Box 944246

SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460

(916) 568-3800

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

June 26, 2023

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal will begin an additional public comment period for the regulatory adoption process of the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) map. After carefully reviewing more than a thousand comments, adjustments were made to the map which resulted in just over 100,000 acres receiving an updated designation. Public comment on the updated zones is being accepted through August 9, 2023. This public comment period allows for communities to review the updated map and provide additional feedback. The public may submit written comment at the address below or through email at FHSZcomments@fire.ca.gov.

This extended comment period includes specific map changes made to the November 21, 2022, regulatory map from comments received during the public comment period from December 16, 2022, to April 4, 2023. Additionally, additional data sets have been posted online should the public wish to also review and comment on these. The data is available at osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ and consists of additional technical data, including intermediate modeling steps and approximately 22 spatial datasets, and several associated tables.

Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail to the following address:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
C/O: FHSZ Comments
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

CAL FIRE's fire scientists, and wildfire mitigation experts, developed the map using a science-based and field-tested model that assigns a hazard score based on the factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior. Many factors are considered, such as fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), predicted flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical fire weather for an area. These zones fall into the following classifications – moderate, high, and very high.

Overall, the map shows increased fire hazard, reflecting California's increase in wildfire severity as a result of many factors including a changing climate. The map has been updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire, to help provide transparency for planning and preparedness efforts, and to provide communities a forecasting tool so that the public can take steps to prevent and prepare for wildfire. The hazard mapping process incorporates local climate data and changes in burn probability based on recent trends in fire

occurrence. The model was reviewed and validated by members of the science community, as well as with outreach with various stakeholders including insurance, building, fire, and local agencies.

In order to help California residents better understand the FHSZ map and answer questions, CAL FIRE has created a public toolkit on its website to include new and easy to follow sections, including maps, frequently asked questions, and an automated “hotline” to contact for specific information. The new website also includes dates, times, and locations of FHSZ public hearings that will be held in the 56 Counties that have FHSZs within the SRA. For information about FHSZs, visit the program’s website at osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ. The public can also call an automated hotline at (916) 633-7655.

Following the adoption of the SRA FHSZ Map, CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal will begin providing local agencies updated FHSZ maps for Local Responsibility Areas. Under California Government Code 51178, the State Fire Marshal is required to provide local agencies with the areas within their jurisdiction that meet FHSZ criteria for their local adoption and implementation.

For information about FHSZs, visit the program’s website at osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact our Team at FHSZinformation@fire.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Daniel Berlant
Acting State Fire Marshal / Deputy Director
Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation
CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal