



Alameda County Fire Department

6363 Clark Avenue • Dublin, CA 94568 • fire.acgov.org
Tel (925) 833-3473 • (510) 632-3473 • Fax (925) 875-9387

AGENDA ____ May 13, 2025

April 28, 2025

WILLIAM L. McDONALD
Fire Chief

SERVING: Honorable Board of Directors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

City of Dublin

City of Emeryville

City of Newark

City of San Leandro

City of Union City

Lawrence Berkeley
National Laboratory

Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory

Unincorporated Areas
of Alameda County

Alameda County
Regional Emergency
Communications Center
"Accredited Center
of Excellence"

SUBJECT: Fire Severity Zone Map Ordinance Designating Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Dear Directors:

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt an ordinance as part of the Alameda County Fire Department's (ACFD) uncodified ordinance code to designate fire hazard severity zones within the ACFD fire protection district boundaries, as recommended by the State Fire Marshal, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

At the February 10, 2009 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 2009-4 designating those areas that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has determined, under Government Code Section 51179, are very high fire hazard severity zones.

Prior maps were only required to be adopted for Very High Fire Severity Zones. However, recent changes in state law – Senate Bill 63 (2021) and Assembly Bill 211 (2022) - have expanded CAL FIRE's responsibilities to include designations of moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones. In alignment with these changes, the State Fire Marshal released updated maps identifying all three categories on February 24, 2025. Pursuant to Government Code Section 51179, a local agency shall designate, by ordinance, moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones in its jurisdiction with 120 days of receiving recommendations from the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 51178.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 51179 and the release of revised maps on February 24, 2025, the Alameda County Fire Department must adopt a new ordinance to designate the fire severity zones set forth in the new maps within the Alameda County Fire Department's fire protection district boundaries.



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Upon receipt of the map, and in accordance with State law, local agency staff from the Alameda County Fire Department made the map of the severity zones within its jurisdiction available for public review on the Alameda County Fire Department's website, including a means for public comment. The department received two comments. One was from a person whose property was outside the fire district's boundaries and one person with a request for more defensible space information. While the ability to provide comment was provided, a local agency shall not decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency. Under the new maps, there are fewer areas within unincorporated Castro Valley that are designated as a Very High Hazard Severity Zone.

For properties in the Very High Fire Severity Areas, Fire Department staff will conduct the required annual inspections of the parcels, ensure enforcement of the applicable building standards codes, and conduct real estate transfer inspections as required by law. In High Fire Severity Zones staff will ensure enforcement of the applicable building standards codes and conduct the real estate transfer inspections. There are no requirements for the properties in moderate hazard areas. Fire staff will also continue to hold seminars to educate property owners and realtors within the community.

There is a separate board letter asking your Board to adopt an ordinance repealing the Fire Severity Map Ordinance, Chapter 6.05 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code, and enacting a replacement Fire Severity Map Ordinance, designating the Fire Hazard Severity Zones recommended by the State Fire Marshal, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as Chapter 6.05 of Title 6 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code.

FINANCING:

There is no impact on the County General Fund and no net cost to the County. The cost of implementing the proposed ordinance is part of the ongoing fire code administration services and included in the FY 2024-25 Approved Budget.

VISION 2036 GOALS:

The adoption of this ordinance meets the 10x goal pathways of **Community Readiness and Resilience** in support of our shared vision of a **Safe and Livable Communities**.



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Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

William L McDonald

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William L. McDonald

Fire Chief

**ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ORDINANCE NO. ____**

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

WHEREAS, Government Code section 51178 requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high severity fire zones based on consistent statewide criteria; and,

WHEREAS, the State Fire Marshal has released updated 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for Local Responsibility Areas across the state; and

WHEREAS, the map has been posted on the Alameda County Fire Department website for public review and comment; and

WHEREAS, notice regarding the location of the State Fire Marshal's map has been posted at the office of the county recorder, county assessor, and county planning agency; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Fire Department wishes to designate by ordinance the fire hazard severity zones as required by Government Code section 51179, as part of its uncoded ordinance code; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Fire Department ordains as follows:

SECTION I

The Alameda County Fire Department hereby designates the fire hazard severity zones within its fire protection district boundaries as recommended by the State Fire Marshal and reflected in the map labeled "Alameda County – Unincorporated LRA, Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones," dated February 24, 2025. That map, and all subsequent versions recommended by the State Fire Marshal (hereinafter collectively the "Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map"), are adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance. Subsequent versions of the map recommended by the State Fire Marshal shall become effective upon adoption by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Fire Department. The Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map shall be on file at the Alameda County Fire Department's Fire Administration Offices and on the Alameda County Fire Department website.

SECTION II

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after the date of its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage, this ordinance shall be published in the Inter-City Express, a newspaper published in the County of Alameda.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Fire Department, on this _____ day of _____, by the following called vote:

AYES:

NOES:

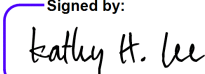
EXCUSED:

David Haubert
President of the Board of Directors
Alameda County Fire Department

ATTEST: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,
County of Alameda, State of California

BY: _____

Approved as to Form:
DONNA R. ZIEGLER, County Counsel

Signed by:
By:  _____
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Kathy Lee, Deputy County Counsel