



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__June 3, 2025

WILLIAM L. McDONALD
Fire Chief

April 28, 2025

SERVING:

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"

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: 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 AS CHAPTER 6.05 OF TITLE 6 OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE DESIGNATING THE FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES RECOMMENDED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 51178 FOR THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF ALAMEDA COUNTY.

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:

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.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

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 within the county limits that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection had determined, under Government Code Section 51179, as very high fire hazard severity zones. Pursuant to Government Code Section 51179 and the release of revised maps on February 24, 2025, the Board must adopt a new ordinance to designate the fire severity zones set forth in the new maps.

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 no later than 120 days after receiving the updated LRA maps.

There is a separate board letter asking your Board to 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.

FINANCING

There is no impact on the County General Fund and no net cost to the County.

VISION 2036 GOAL

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**.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
William L McDonald
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William L. McDonald
Fire Chief

ORDINANCE NO. O-2025-37

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 AS CHAPTER 6.05 OF TITLE 6 OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda adopted a Fire Severity Map Ordinance in 2009 to establish very high fire hazard severity zones; and

WHEREAS, current law requires that a local agency designate, by ordinance, not only very high fire hazard severity zones, but also moderate and high fire hazard severity zones in the local agency's jurisdiction; and

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 County of Alameda wishes to designate by ordinance the fire hazard severity zones as required by Government Code section 51179; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda wishes to repeal and replace Chapter 6.05 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code to effect this designation;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda ordains as follows:

SECTION I

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda hereby repeals Chapter 6.05 of Title 6 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code, adopted by Ordinance Number 2009-4.

SECTION II

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda hereby enacts as Chapter 6.05 of Title 6 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code the following:

6.05.010 - Title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Fire Severity Map Ordinance."

6.05.020 - Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to designate fire hazard severity zones that the State Fire Marshal has identified pursuant to Government Code Section 51178.

6.05.030 - Jurisdiction

This chapter shall apply to the unincorporated area of Alameda County, except for any area where a fire protection district has duly adopted a more stringent ordinance under Government Code Section 51179.

6.05.040 - Map.

The County of Alameda designates the fire hazard severity zones within the jurisdiction set forth in Section 6.05.030, 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 "Alameda County Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map"), are adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this chapter. Subsequent versions of the map recommended by the State Fire Marshal shall become the Alameda County Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map upon adoption by resolution of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The Alameda County 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 III

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 Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California, on this
17th day of June, 2025, by the following called vote:

AYES: Supervisors Fortunato Bas, Márquez, Miley, Tam & President Haubert - 5
NOES: None
EXCUSED: None



David Haubert
President of the Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, State of California

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

BY: _____



Deputy

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

Signed by:
By: Kathy H. Lee
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Kathy Lee, Deputy County Counsel