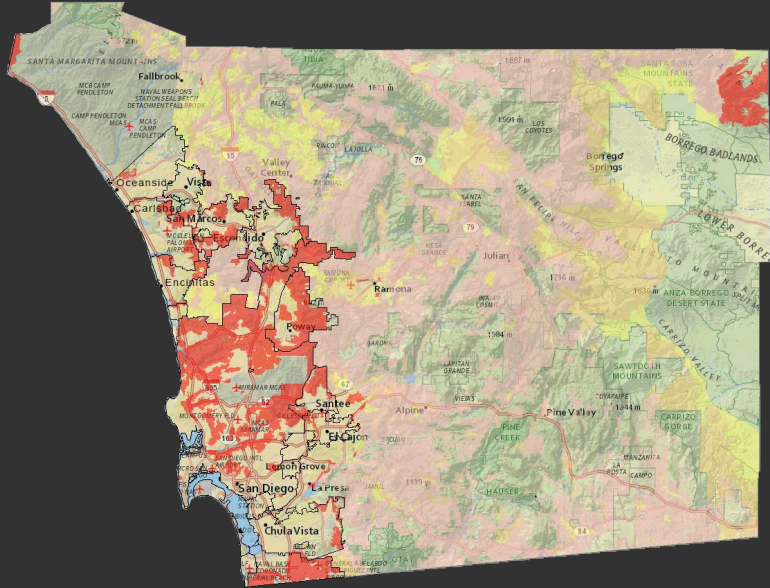


Fire Hazard Severity Zones



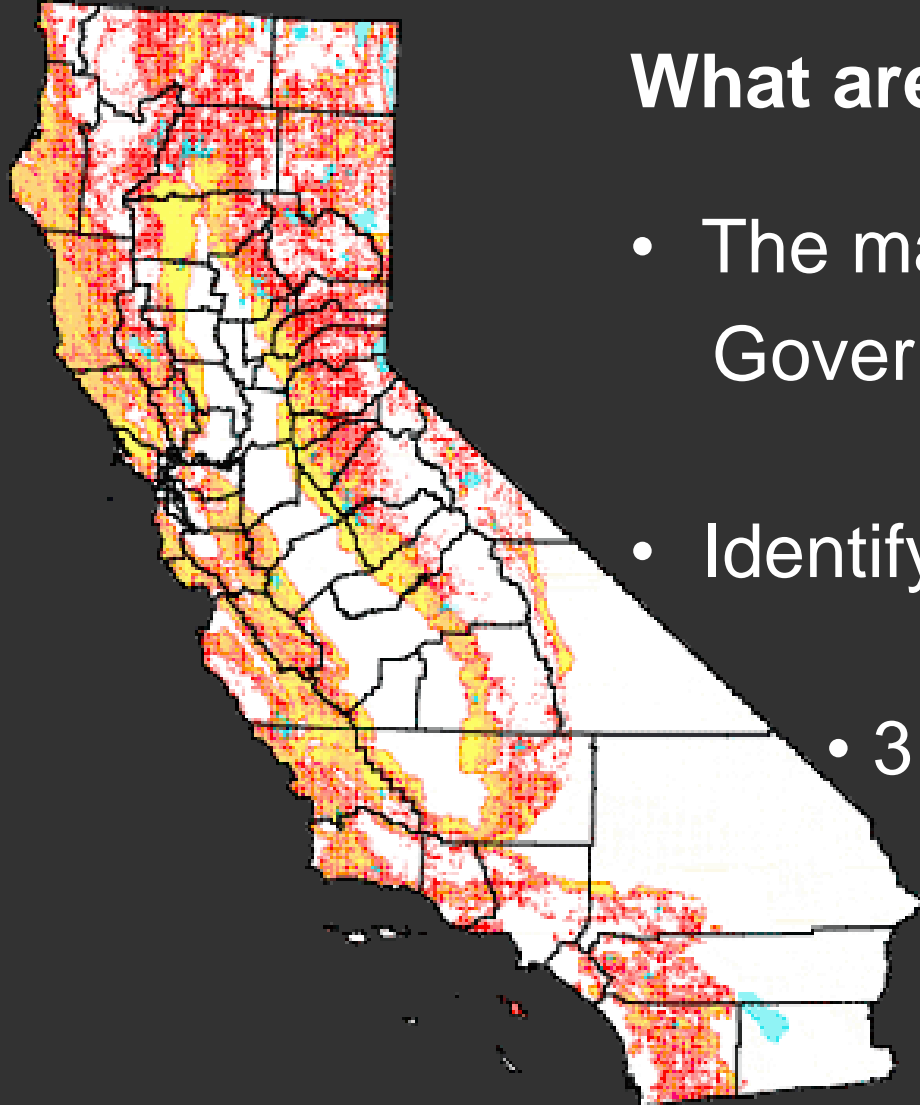
CAL FIRE

Fire Hazard Severity Zones



What are the Zones?

- The maps are required by Government Code 51178 & 51179
- Identify levels of fire hazard
 - 3 levels (Moderate, High, & Very High)



Fire Hazard Severity Zones



How are the Zones determined?

- CAL FIRE used the best available science and data to develop, and field test a model that served as the basis of zone assignments. The model evaluated the probability of the area burning and potential fire behavior in the area.
- Factors: fire history, vegetation, flame length, blowing embers, proximity to wildland, terrain, and weather



Fire Hazard Severity Zones



New Updates

- Updated burn probabilities for wildland areas (inclusive of 2020 fires)
- Updated fire environment footprints (urban/developed)
- Updated Vegetation density for urban areas
- Inclusion of slope in the urban zoning model
- **Localized fire weather used in both wildland and urban models**
- **New firebrand production and transport model using discrete local wind vector distributions**

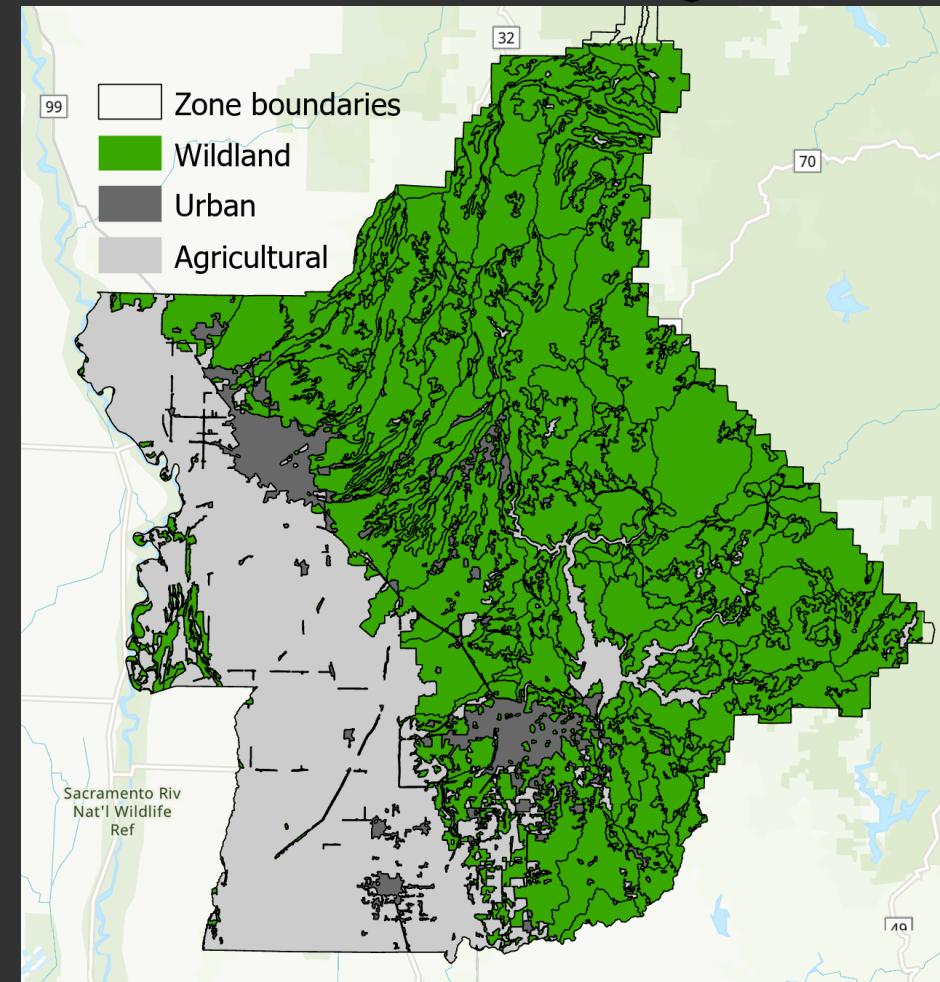


Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Wildland vs. Non-wildland Zones

- Zones are areas with relatively homogeneous slope and vegetation
- Hazard map is produced at 30 m resolution
- Scores are averaged within a zone
- Wildland is scored independently of urban and agricultural
- Urban zones scored using additional model steps

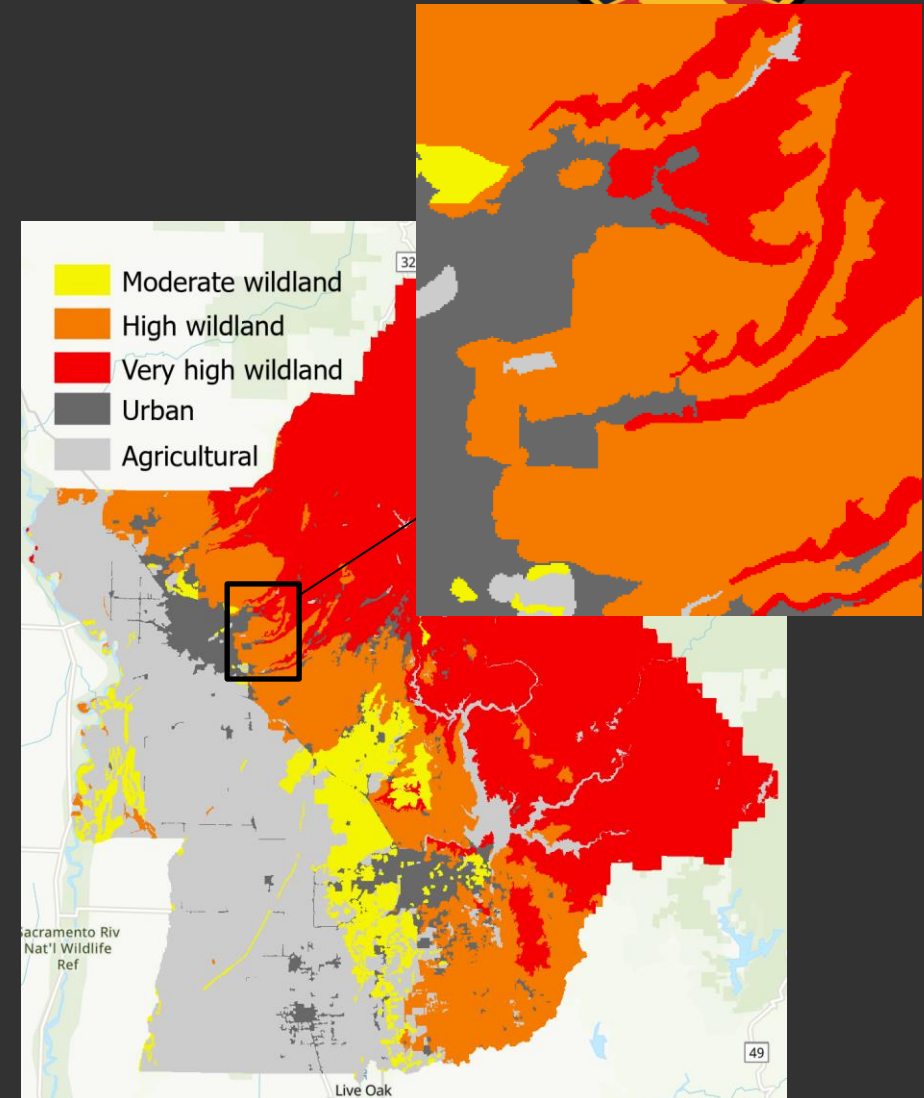


Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Wildland FHSZ

- Minimum size of 200 acres
- Burn probability
 - Based on fire occurrence from 1991-2020
- Fire intensity
 - Vegetation type
 - Slope
 - Local fire weather – how hot/dry/windy are the worst conditions at a given location (based on 2 km data from 2003-2018)

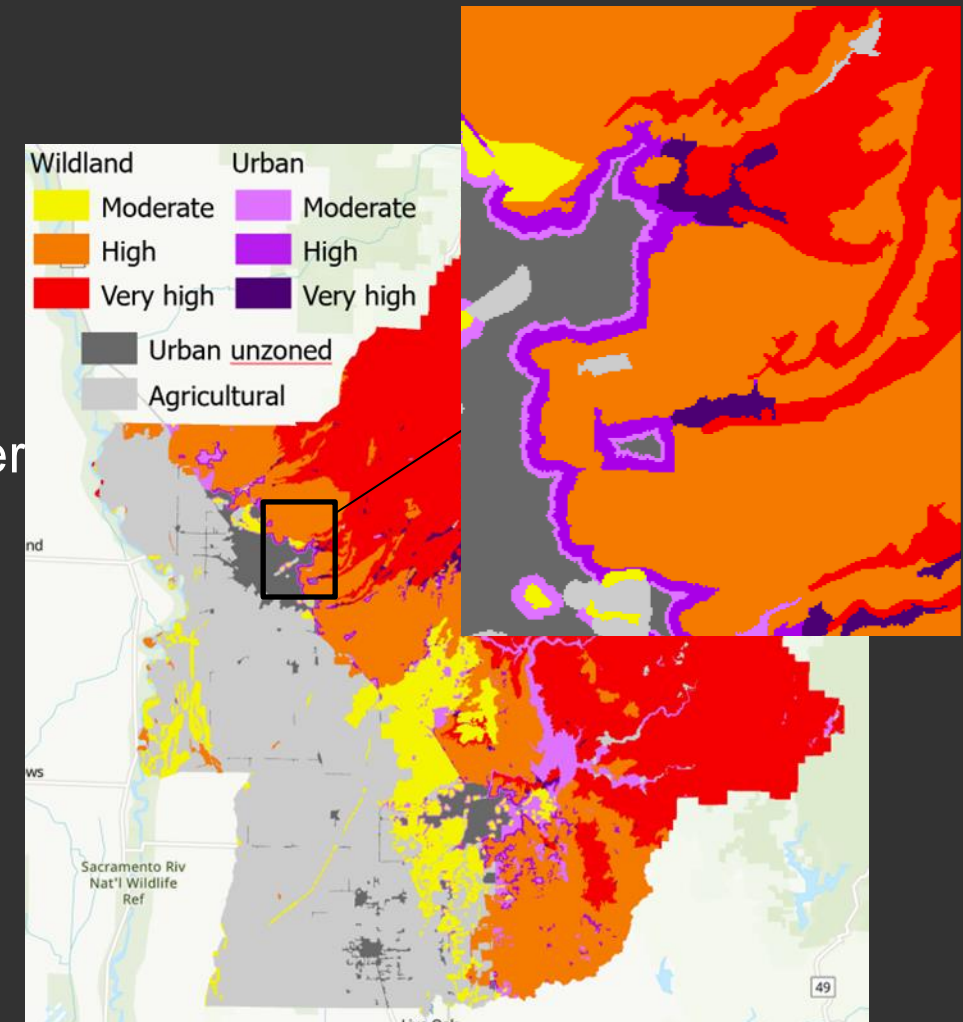


Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Urban FHSZ

- Minimum size of 20 acres for isolated islands of vegetation embedded in non-wildland.
- Based on distance to wildland and hazard level of adjacent wildland
- Ember production based on vegetation type and fire weather
- Ember transport based on wind speed/direction observed under the most extreme fire weather at a given location
- Width of moderate, high and very high bands in urban are based on ember load, urban tree cover and slope



Fire Hazard Severity Zones



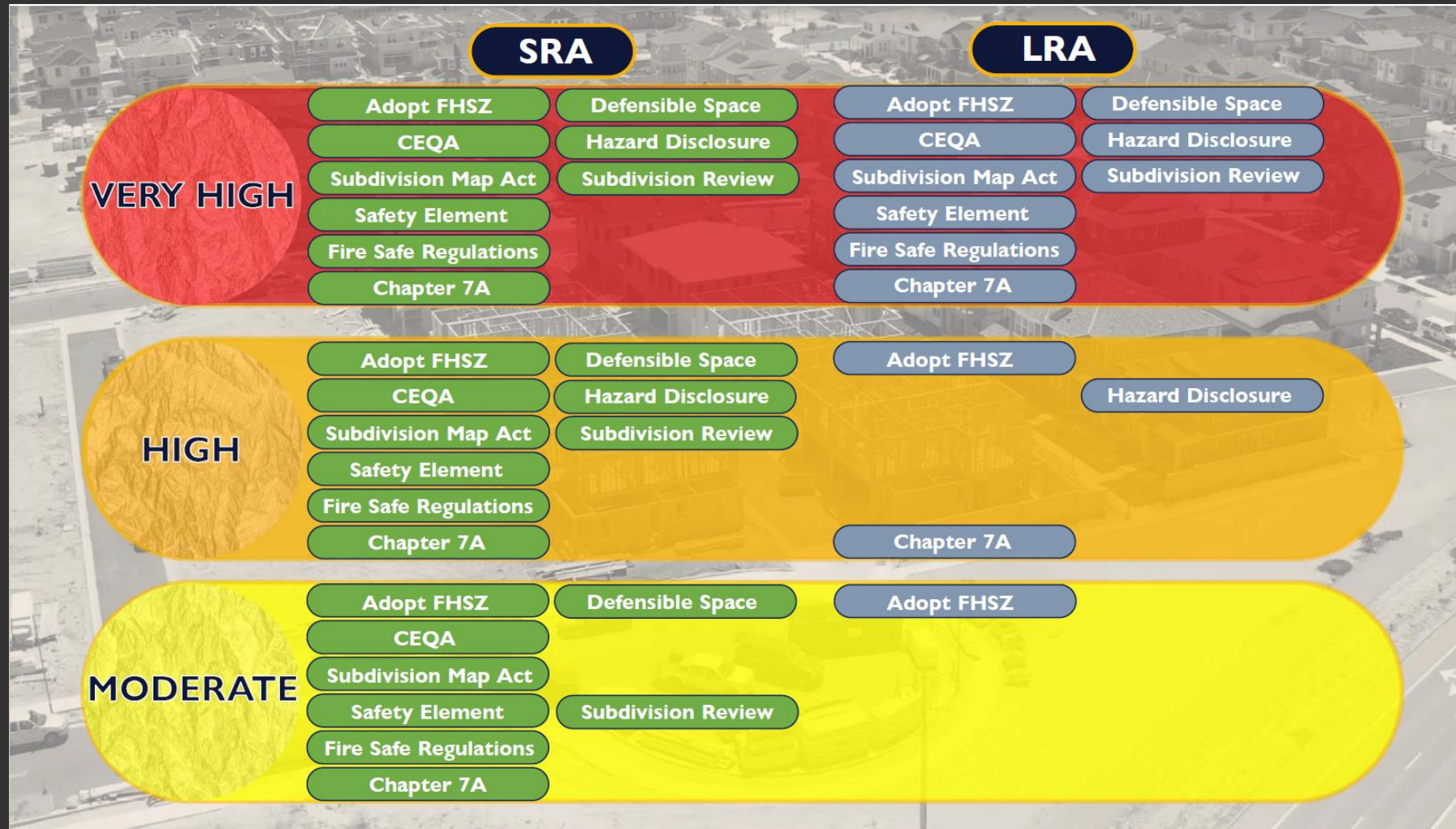
What is the map for?

- Building standards for new construction in the Wildland-Urban Interface (California Building Code Chapter 7A)
- Property development standards such as road widths, water supply and signage (Fire Safe Regulations)
- Defensible Space Requirements (Government Code 51182)
- Natural hazard real estate disclosure

Fire Hazard Severity Zones



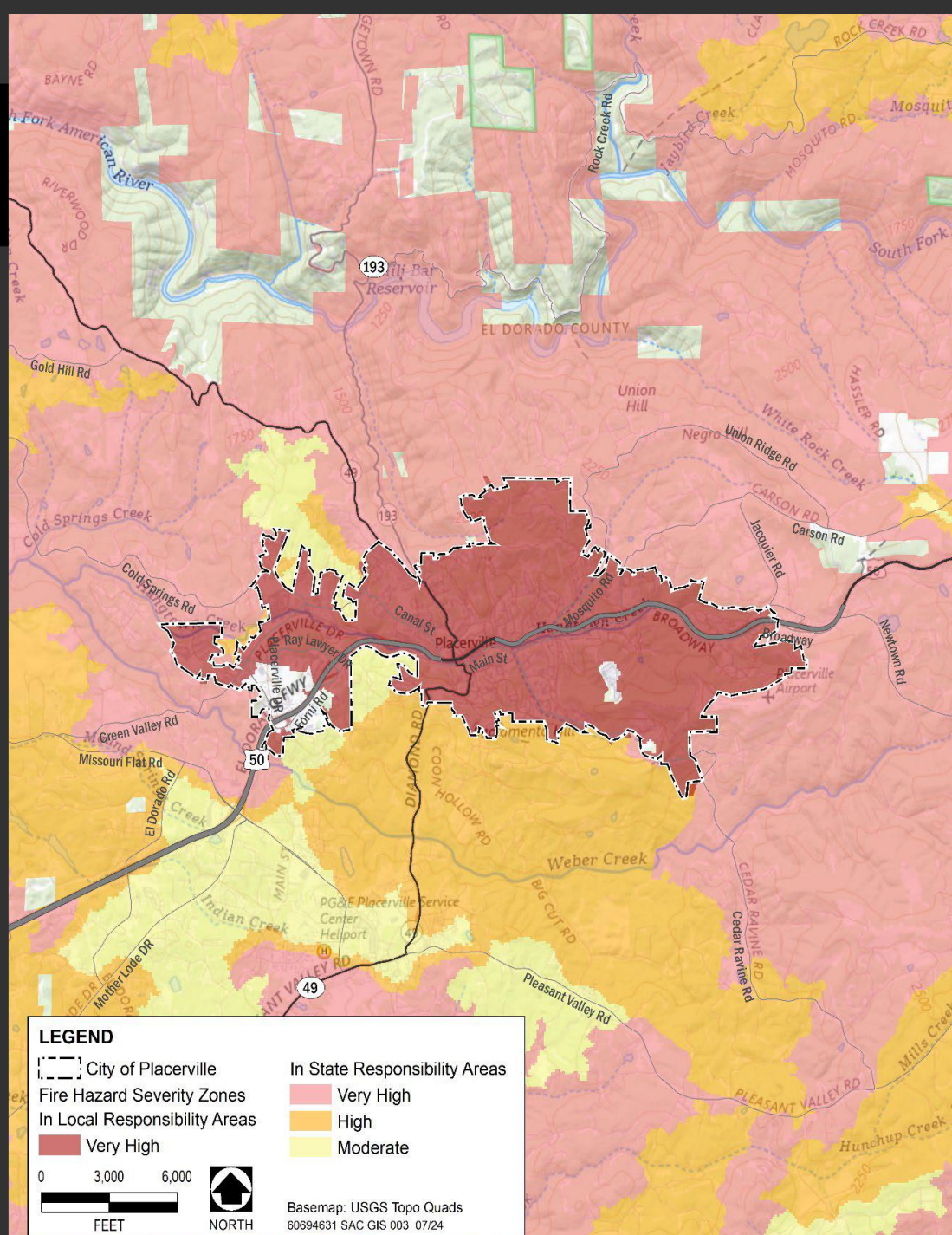
What's Impacted...





Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the
State Fire Marshal
January 22, 2025



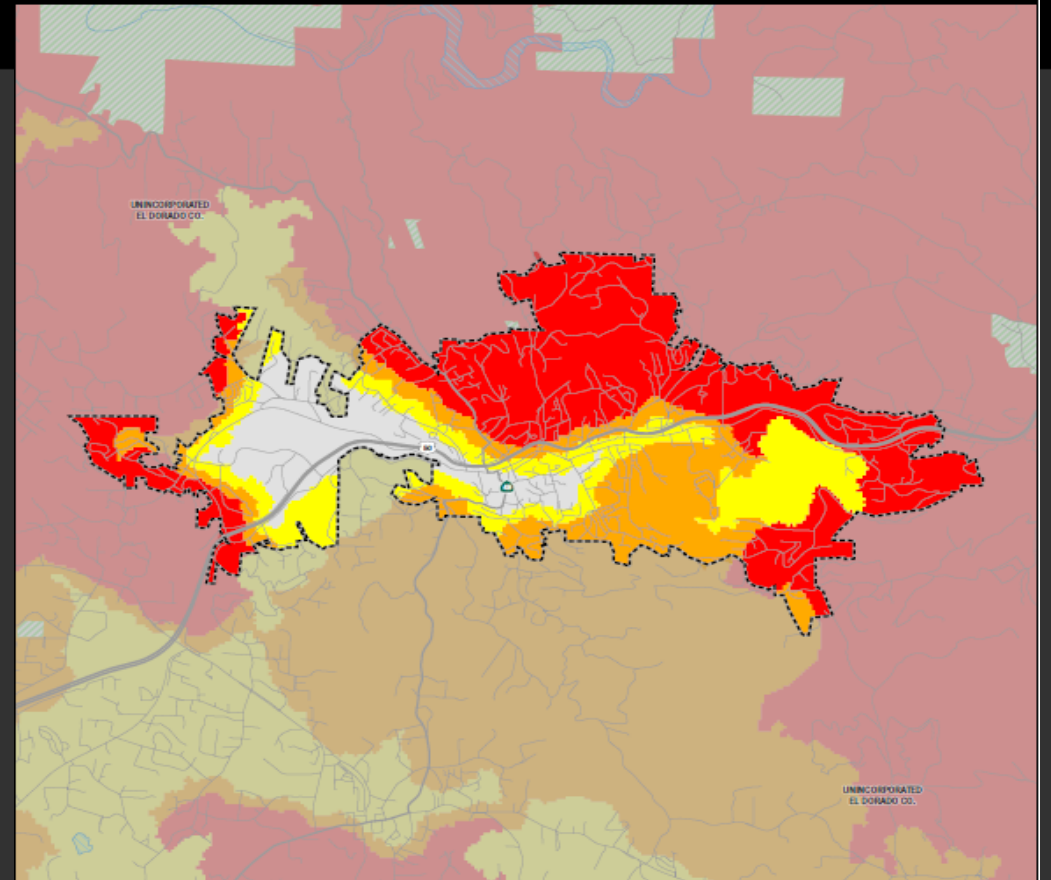
LEGEND

City of Placerville	In State Responsibility Areas Very High
Fire Hazard Severity Zones In Local Responsibility Areas Very High	High
Moderate	Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)

0 3,000 6,000
FEET

NORTH

Basemap: USGS Topo Quads
60694631 SAC GIS 003 07/24



Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) in Local Responsibility Area (LRA), as Identified by the State Fire Marshal

Very High High Moderate

Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area (SRA), Effective April 1, 2024

Very High High Moderate

Mi 0 1 2 3
Km 0 1 2 3

Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers
Scale: 1:37,000 @ 11" x 17"

Incorporated City Waterbody

Unzoned LRA Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)

Government Code section 51178 requires the State Fire Marshal 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.

The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of data or maps.

Keith Newson, Governor, State of California
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources, CA Natural Resource Agency
Joe Tyler, Director/Fire Chief, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Daniel Salant, State Fire Marshal, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Data Sources:
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZSRA3_3, FHSZLRA_25_1)
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA35_1)
City and County boundaries as of 10/23/24 (CA Board of Equalization)

Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Adoption Timeline:

- Feb 10, 2025 Map Received
- March 10, 2025 Map Posted for Public Review
- April 8, 2025 Ordinance Approving Map Introduced
- April 22, 2025 Ordinance Approving Map Adopted
- May 22, 2025 Ordinance and Maps Take Effect



Questions?



osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz

A screenshot of the CAL FIRE website. The page title is "Fire Hazard Severity Zones". The content includes a paragraph: "California's seasonally dry Mediterranean climate lends itself to wildfires, and in an effort to better prepare, CAL FIRE is required to classify the severity of fire hazard in areas of California." Below this is a video player with the title "The History of Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps" and a thumbnail showing a map of California with fire hazard zones. To the right of the video is a text block with the same title and a short paragraph: "Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps arose from major destructive fires, prompting the recognition of these areas and strategies to reduce wildfire risks. Legislative response led to mandated mapping across California under the California Public Resources Code 4201.4204, encompassing all State Responsibility Areas (SRA)."

