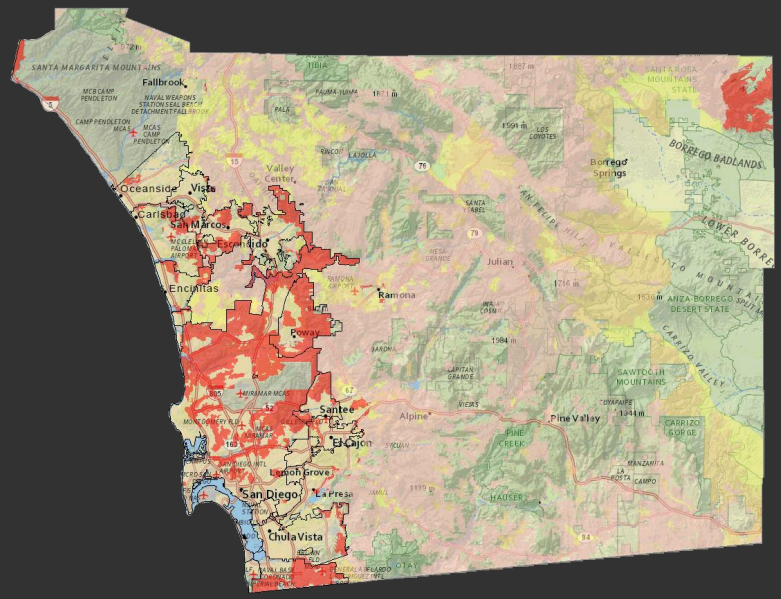
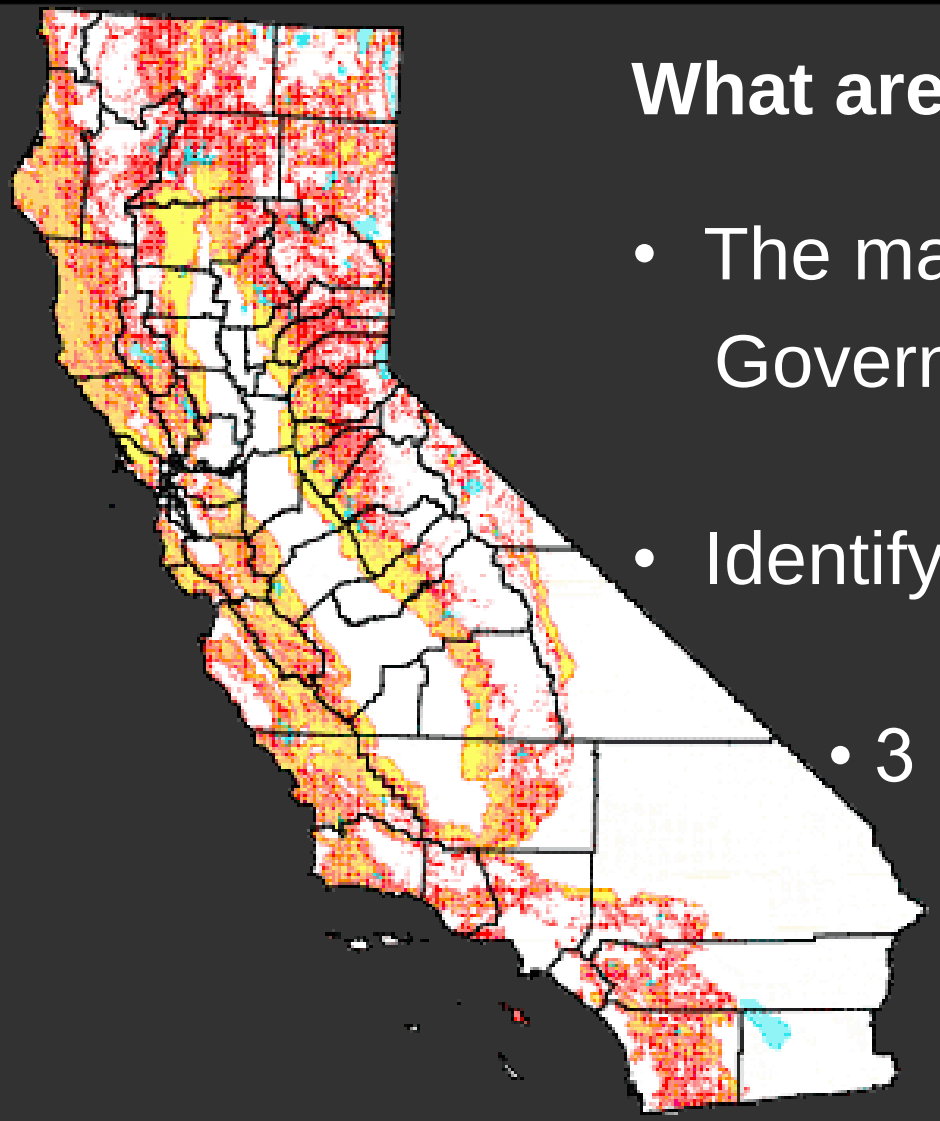
# Fire Hazard Severity Zones




CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
CAL FIRE
SINCE 1885

**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

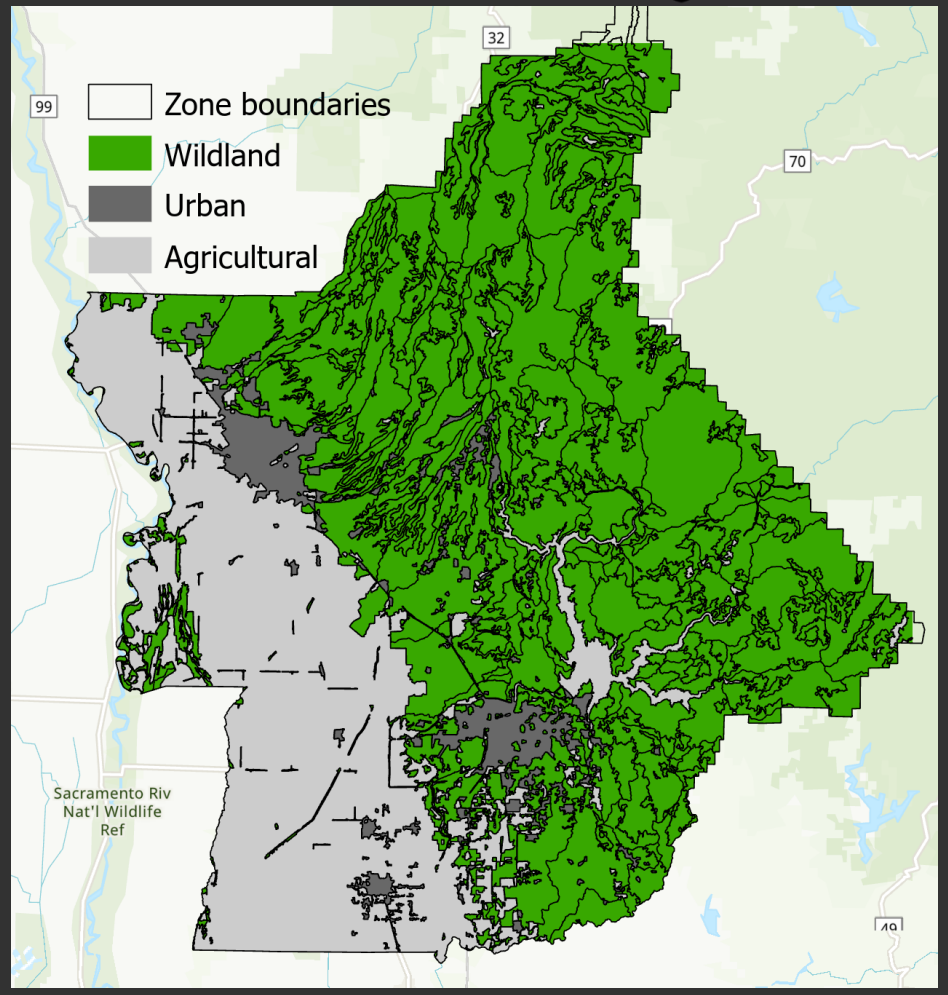
## New Updates

- 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

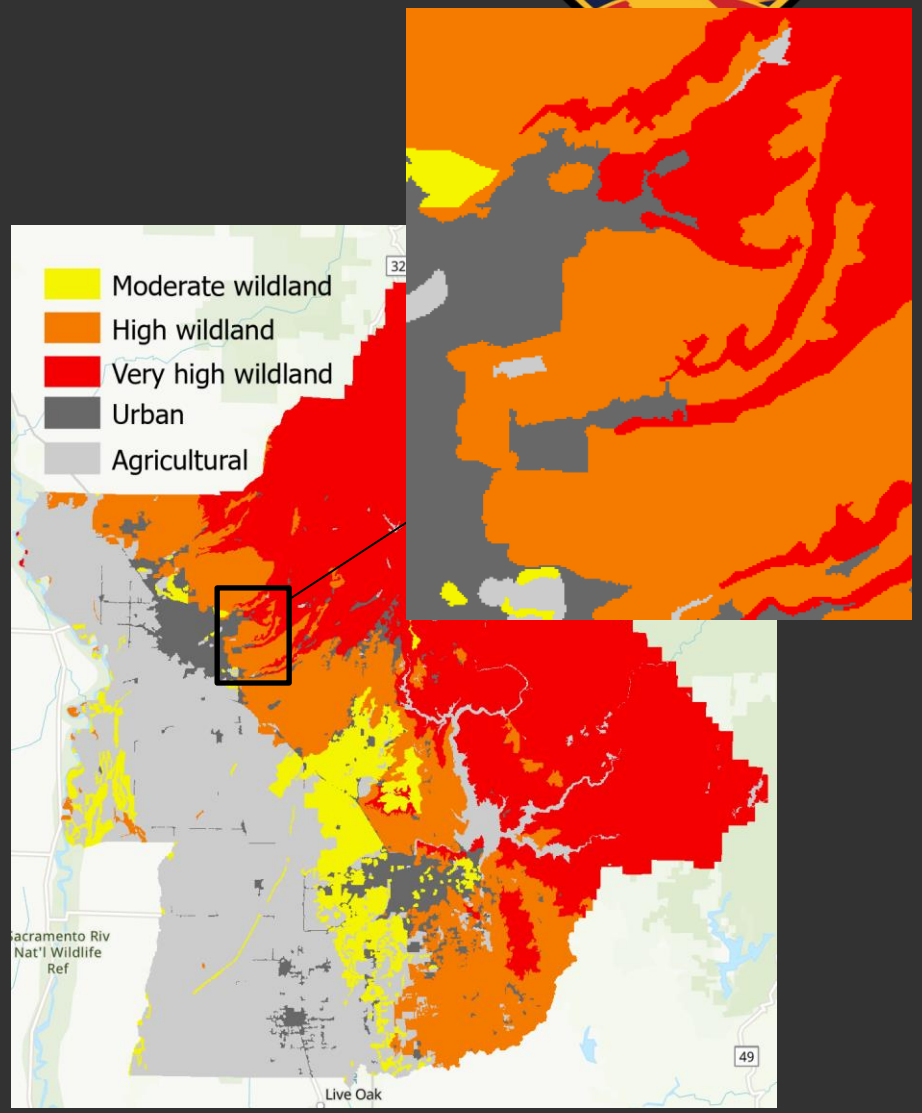
- Zones are areas with relatively homogeneous slope and vegetation
- Hazard map is produced at 30 m resolution
- Scores are averaged within a zone
- Wildland is scored independently of urban and agricultural
- Urban zones scored using additional model steps



# Fire Hazard Severity Zones

**Wildland FHSZ**

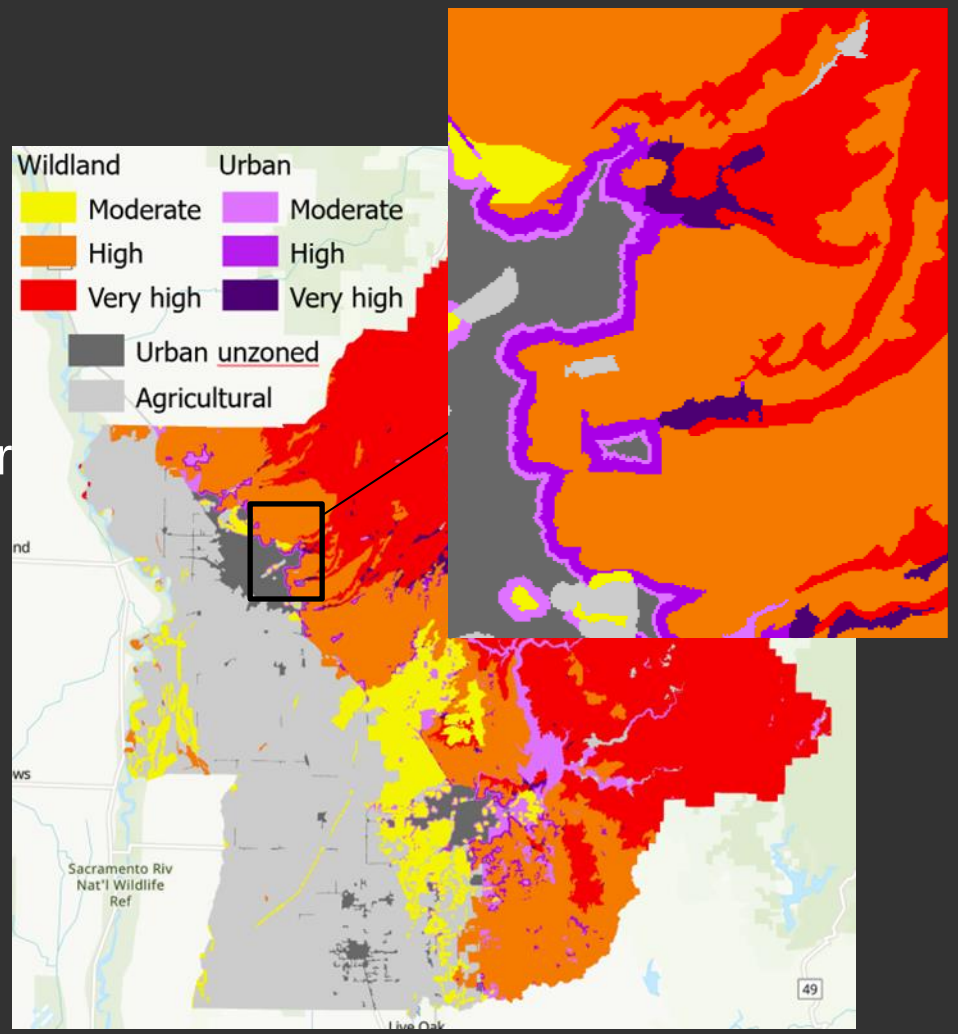
- Minimum size of 200 acres
- Burn probability
  - Based on fire occurrence from 1991-2020
- Fire intensity
  - Vegetation type
  - Slope
  - Local fire weather – how hot/dry/windy are the worst conditions at a given location (based on 2 km data from 2003-2018)



# 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



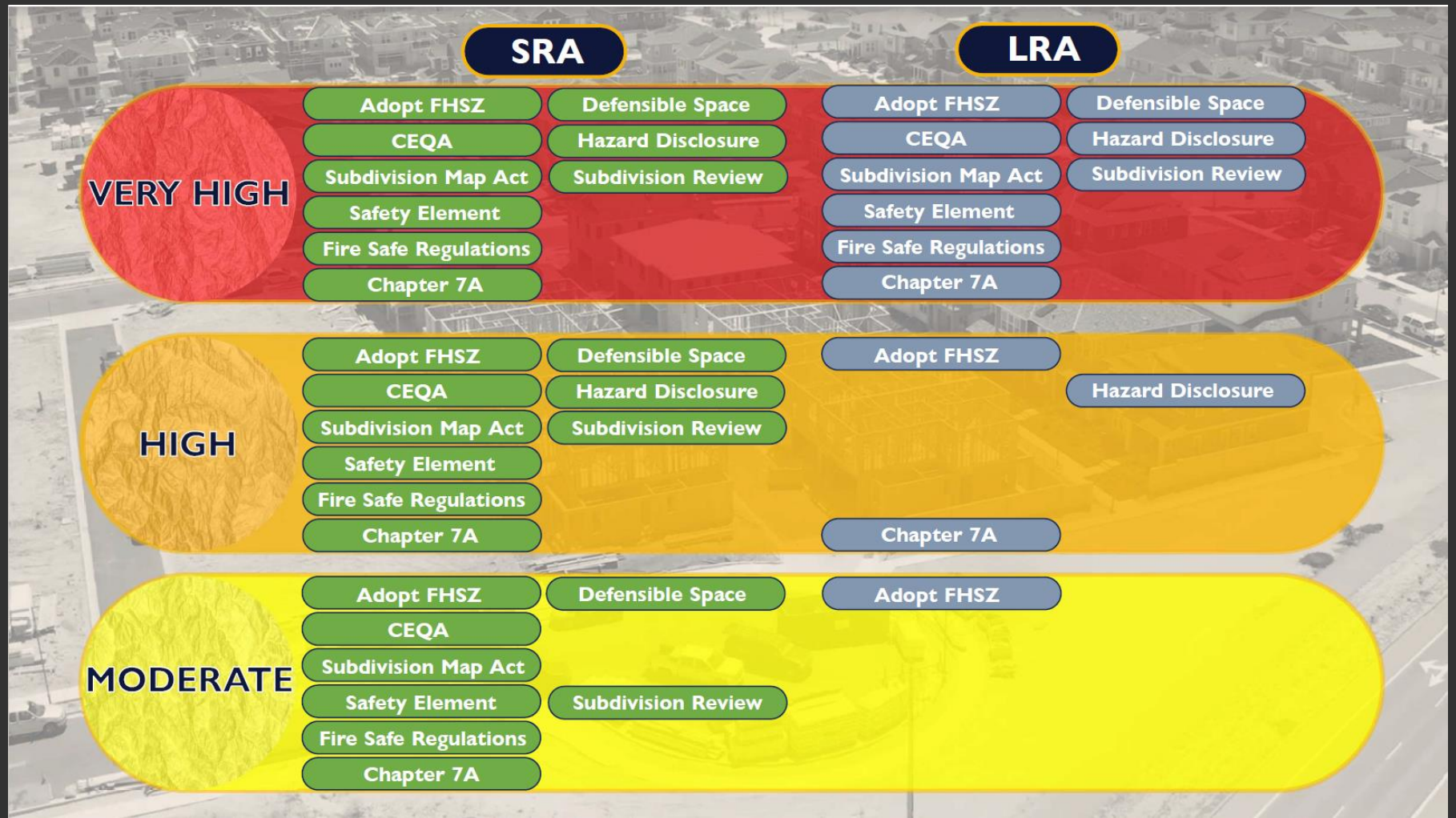
# Fire Hazard Severity Zones

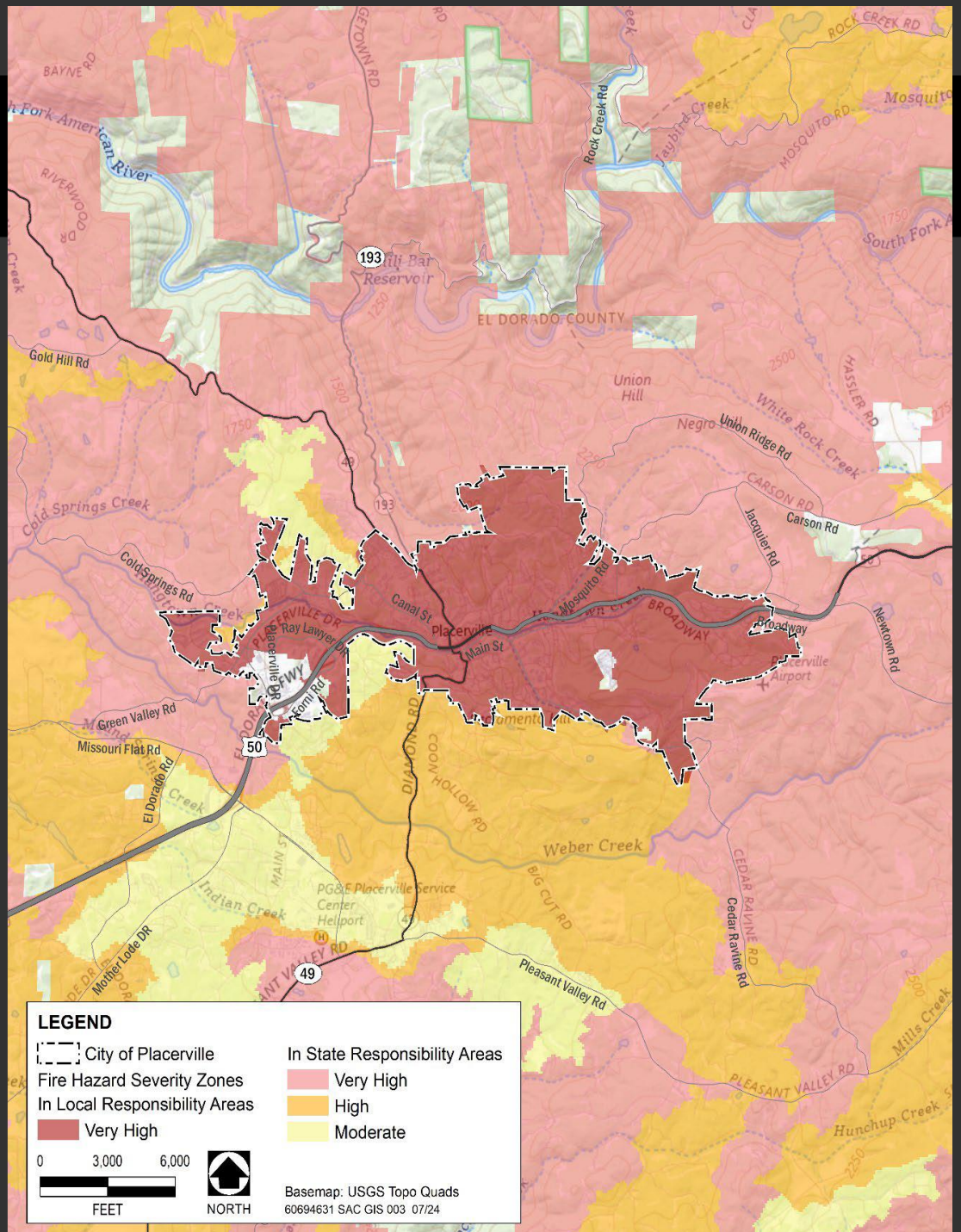
**What is the map for?**

- 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…



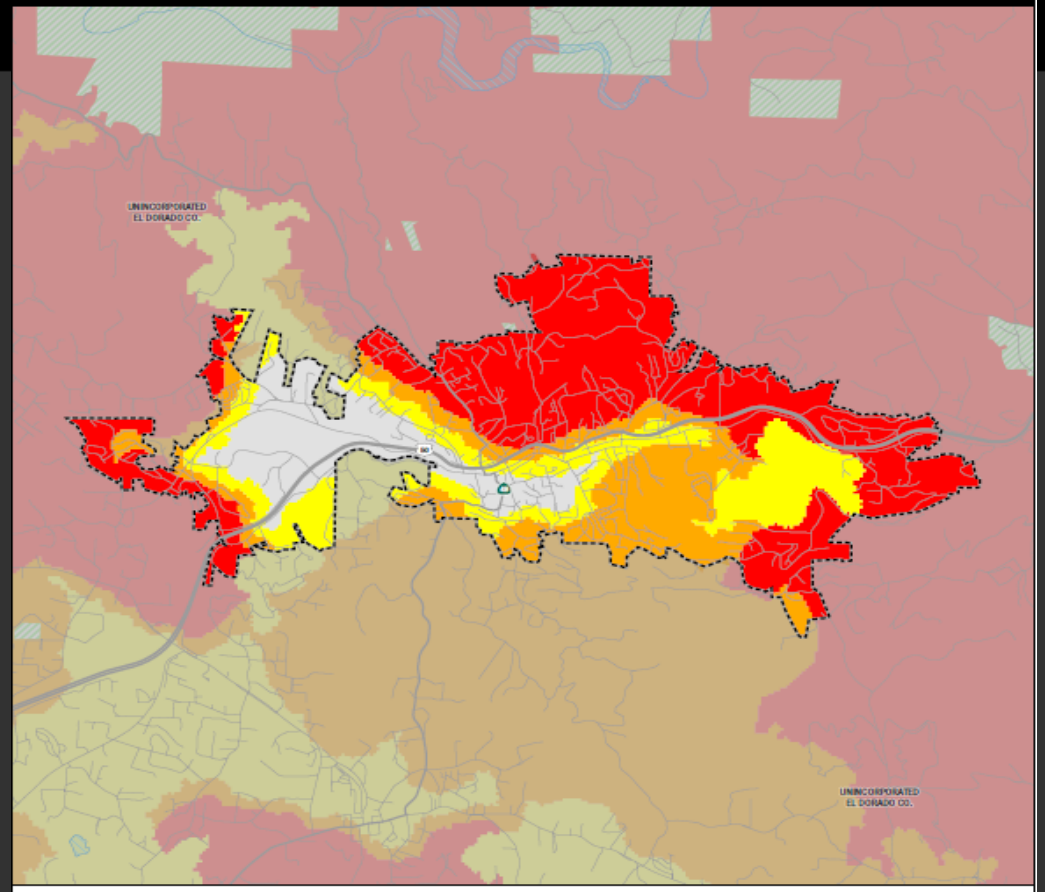



CITY OF PLACERVILLE – EL DORADO COUNTY

# Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

**As Identified by the State Fire Marshal**

**January 22, 2025**





**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
Km 0 1 2 3

Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers
Scale: 1:37,000 at 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.



Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources, CA Natural Resources Agency
Joe Tyler, Director/Fire Chief, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Data Sources:
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZSRA23_3, FHSZLRA_25_1)
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA25_1)
City and County boundaries as of 10/22/24 (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 Affect

# Questions?

**osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz**