



Watsonville
CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 13, 2025
TO: CITY COUNCIL
WRITTEN BY: Tom Avila, Division Chief
RECOMMENDED BY: FIRE CHIEF LOPEZ
APPROVED BY: TAMARA VIDES, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: UPDATED FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES IN WATSONVILLE

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve, for first reading only, waiving full reading of the text, an uncoded ordinance designating Watsonville Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

BACKGROUND:

CA GOV Code 51178 requires the California Office of 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 the severity of fire hazard expected in Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs). Senate Bill 63 requires the State to identify areas as moderate and high fire hazard severity; previously, the State was only required to identify areas as very high fire severity. Jurisdictions that contain very high fire severity zones are required to adopt the State maps by ordinance.

The California Office of the State Fire Marshal released the updated maps on February 24, 2025. Areas within the City of Watsonville boundaries were identified as moderate, high and very high fire severity. This information must be made available to the public for 30 days and the ordinance adopted within 120 days of the date the maps were released.

DISCUSSION:

The required compliance is based on the areas identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal that have been identified as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones. City staff made the maps available to the public on the City of Watsonville website as of April 30, 2025.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) DETERMINATION:

None

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item relates to the following Strategic Plan priorities:

Public Safety

Community Engagement & Well-being

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no cost to this item.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

There is no alternative action. It is required by Senate Bill 63.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (IF ANY):

- 1) Fire Hazard Severity Zone map for Watsonville