

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 1

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FIRE
HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP (6/24/25 - FIRST READING: 8/26/25 -
SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND
READING) (DISTRICTS: 2 AND 5)**

OVERVIEW

On September 27, 2022, the State of California enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 211, which established a requirement for the Office of the State Fire Marshal (Fire Marshal) to complete a fire hazard severity zone map update in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA). Once completed by the Fire Marshal, local agencies could make findings that increase the fire hazard severity within their LRA but not decrease it. Within 120 days of the revised LRA maps being made available, the local agency's governing body must adopt, through an ordinance, the fire hazard severity zone map.

On March 24, 2025, the Fire Marshal released the revised fire hazard severity zone map for the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD). The fire hazard severity zone maps have been updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire. The update incorporates new science in local climate data and improved fire assessment modeling in determining hazard ratings. Responsibility for wildland fire response differs from structural fire protection and emergency medical services. For residential and commercial fires, medical calls, or vehicle accidents, the responsibility is with the local fire agency in the entirety of their jurisdiction. However, for wildland fire, the State and Federal governments provide fire protection and have certain financial responsibilities in their designated areas. If a wildfire occurs in an LRA, the local fire agency is financially and legally responsible for response and coordination duties. Every year these boundaries are reviewed for updates. SDCFPD has 1,854,763 acres, of which 310,031 acres are LRA land. The remaining SDCFPD acres include 929,054 acres that are State Responsibility Area (SRA) and 615,678 acres that are Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). Only the LRA map is included in today's Ordinance, defined as urban regions, agricultural areas, and portions of the desert where the local government is responsible for wildfire protection. SDCFPD's LRA is in Ramona, Borrego Springs and the surrounding area. The new Fire Marshal's LRA fire hazard severity zone map includes 4,536 parcels in SDCFPD that had their fire hazard severity zone classification increase from no designation to either moderate, high, or very high. In addition, 189 parcels had their fire hazard severity zone classification decrease from very high to either no designation, moderate, or high. San Diego County Fire, on behalf of the SDCFPD, has reviewed the LRA maps and is not proposing any increases to severity. Today's action includes the first reading of an ordinance adopting the State Fire Marshal's LRA fire hazard severity zone map.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On June 24, 2025:

1. Approve the introduction of the Ordinance (first reading):

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FIRE HAZARD
SEVERITY ZONE MAP**

If on June 24, 2025, the Board of Directors takes action as recommended, then on August 26, 2025:

2. Consider and adopt (unless ordinance is modified on second reading):

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FIRE HAZARD
SEVERITY ZONE MAP

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The San Diego County Fire Protection District includes some of the lowest-income and most vulnerable communities. Revised Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity maps improve resiliency for at-risk residents if future wildfires were to ignite in the service area.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action to adopt an ordinance of the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map within the San Diego County Fire Protection District contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals to protect the health and wellbeing of residents. These actions will impact sustainability by providing accurate wildfire hazard models through new fire hazard severity zone maps for specific properties.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's actions. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Director Anderson, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District closed the Hearing and took action as recommended, introducing the Ordinance for further Board consideration and adoption on August 26, 2025.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Directors



Signed

by Andrew Potter

