

M O T I O N

On March 24, 2025, Cal Fire released its fourth and final iteration of wildfire hazard maps, which apply to areas under the jurisdiction of local fire departments, such as the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). Previously, Cal Fire's mapping efforts only covered the highest severity category, the "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" (VHFHSZ), within Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs). The newly released maps expand the scope to include "Moderate" and "High" hazard zones, thereby broadening the enforcement of brush clearance requirements beyond the previously identified VHFHSZ areas.

In the City of Los Angeles, the LAFD's Brush Clearance Unit (BCU) is tasked with performing and overseeing brush clearance in accordance with the state's Fire Hazard Severity Zone regulations. The updated maps designate 6,773 acres within the Moderate zone, 9,408 acres within the High zone, and 101,592 acres within the Very High zone, thereby adding a total of 16,181 acres for the BCU to manage. This expansion brings the total enforcement area under the jurisdiction of the BCU to 117,773 acres. While the City of Los Angeles has the authority to increase the boundaries of these severity zones, it is prohibited from reducing the size of the zones as established by the state. Additionally, Assembly Bill 38 will now expand the scope of Home Hardening inspections for escrow purposes to include properties within both the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The adoption of this ordinance is deemed to have no direct physical impact on the environment, nor does it pose any reasonably foreseeable indirect environmental changes. Consequently, the ordinance is not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act. Furthermore, all properties within the Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones will be incorporated into a Geographic Information System (GIS), with all mapping conducted in accordance with Senate Bill 63. Previous maps are now outdated and will no longer be used.

The City has 120 days to finalize and implement an ordinance reflecting the new hazard zones as well as satisfy a 30-day period allocated for public notification and comment. Failure to comply with the provisions outlined in the state's Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 4201-4204 could result in non-compliance with state wildfire protection laws. While the BCU is already in the process of preparing for the roll-out of these new mapping and enforcement requirements, the City must now take appropriate actions to align our municipal code with state wildfire response, protection, and management measures.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney, in collaboration with LAFD and Cal Fire, to draft an ordinance that will formally adopt these changes and ensure the City's compliance with the State's updated wildfire protection regulations. The ordinance should be amended by incorporating necessary provisions into the Los Angeles Municipal Code Chapter 5, Article 7.

MAR 25 2025

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct LAFD to transmit a copy of the adopted ordinance, pursuant to PRC 51179 subdivision (a), to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection within 30 days of ordinance adoption.

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council instruct LAFD to report to Council within 30 days on how they plan to conduct outreach to inform the relevant stakeholders and residents of the implementation of the new ordinance, and to assess what additional outreach measures may be required to ensure the community is fully aware of these changes at the state level.

PRESENTED BY:



JOHN S. LEE

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PRESENTED BY:



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SECONDED BY:



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