

STAFF REPORT

City Council Business Item

DATE: July 21, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Shari Meads, Community Development Director

THROUGH: Amy Nilsen, City Manager

SUBJECT: **Conduct Second Reading and Adopt the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map,**
Ordinance 2025-775

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Hold a public hearing to conduct second reading and adopt *Ordinance 2025-775*, to adopt the updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and find the Ordinance to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Public Resource Code 4202 mandates that the Office of the State Fire Marshal classify lands into fire hazard severity zones (FHSZs). The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) develops and publishes FHSZ maps that delineate zones of Very High, High, and Moderate fire hazard (fire likelihood) rather than risk (actual vulnerability). The City can increase, but not decrease, a parcel's fire hazard severity level. The recent FHSZ map designates 1,935 parcels within Fortuna as having a Moderate FHSZ rating. In contrast, the previous (2007-2011) FHSZ map showed no fire hazard zones within the City.

The City of Fortuna must adopt the updated FHSZ map by ordinance and send a copy of said ordinance to the State Fire Marshal within 30 days of adoption.

PRIOR ACTIONS

- On April 14, 2025, the Fortuna Fire Protection District adopted the Fire Hazard Severity Map
- On June 16, 2025, the City Council conducted the first reading of *Ordinance 2025-775*

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This Ordinance is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) in that the project has no potential to cause a significant effect on the environment and Section 15002(i)(1), in that adoption of the FHSZs and map is required by Government Code.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Receive staff presentation and review Council questions with staff.
2. Open Public Comment.
3. Close Public Comment.
4. Motion to adopt *Ordinance 2025-7755* and read by title only. Roll Call Vote.

ATTACHMENTS:

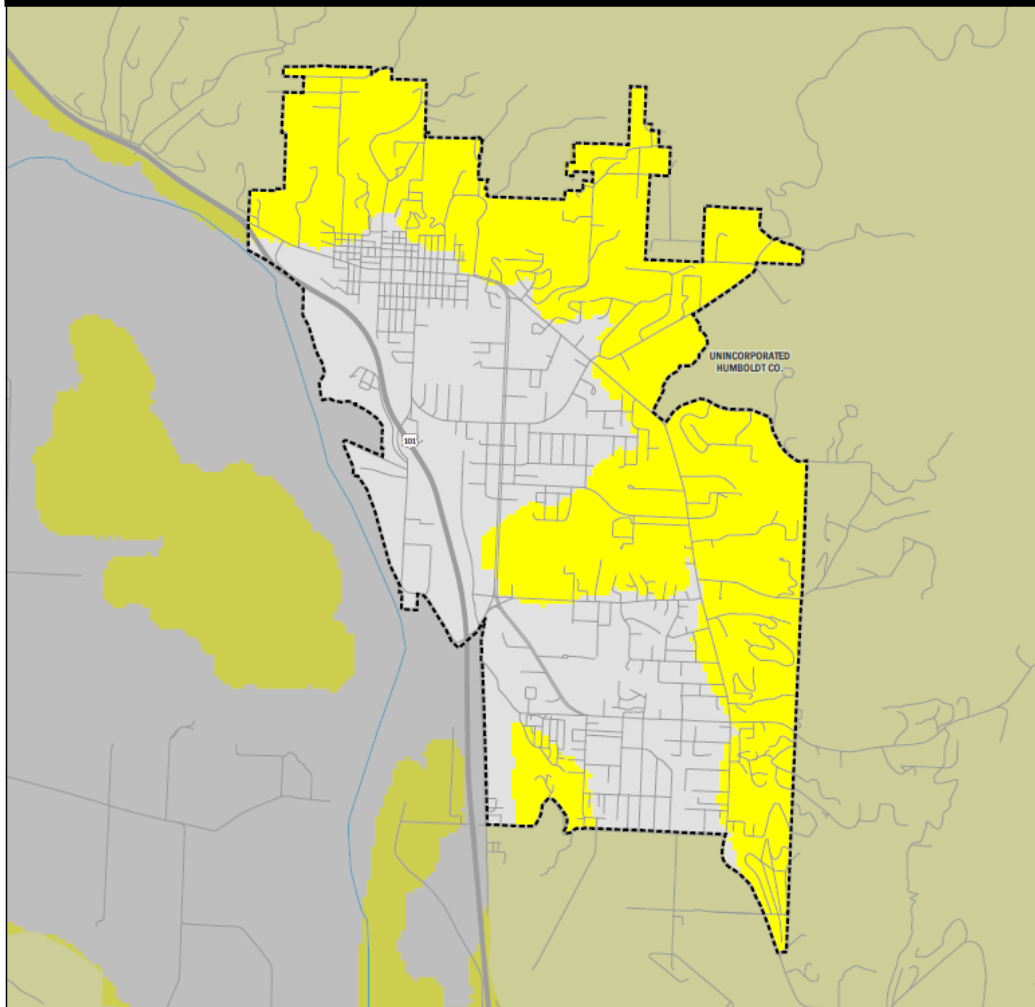
Attachment 1: Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map.
Attachment 2: *Ordinance 2025-775*.



Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the
State Fire Marshal

February 24, 2025

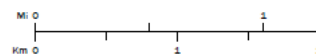


Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) in Local Responsibility Area (LRA), as Identified by the State Fire Marshal

Moderate

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

Moderate



Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers
Scale: 1:24,000 at 11" x 17"

--- Incorporated City

--- Unzoned LRA

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.

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_26_1)
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA26_1)
City and County boundaries as of 10/22/24 (CA Board of Equalization)

City of Fortuna Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map