

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE DESIGNATING FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES
WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF COUNTY SERVICE AREAS 4 (CSA 4)
AND 48 (CSA 48) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE
DEPARTMENT

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz (the “Board”) hereby finds and declares the following:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code section 51178, the State Fire Marshal is required 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 to prevail in those areas; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), which is within the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), is responsible for carrying out this mandate through fire prevention, engineering, training, education, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2025, the OSFM released updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) designations for Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) within Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, the State of California, through CAL FIRE, has developed Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps in accordance with Government Code section 51175 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 51178 requires local jurisdictions to adopt these maps, designating Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) within LRAs; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 51179 states that local agencies shall designate, by ordinance, moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones in its jurisdiction within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the director pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c) of section 51178; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz is a “local agency” as defined in Government Code Section 51177(e); and

WHEREAS in the prior review conducted in 2007 CAL FIRE determined that no VHFHSZs existed in the LRAs of Santa Cruz County, and accordingly, no VHFHSZ map was issued at that time; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the importance of formally designating updated Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the unincorporated areas served by County Service Areas 4 (CSA 4) and 48 (CSA 48), which fall under the jurisdiction of the Santa Cruz County Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Fire Hazard Severity Zones is necessary to support implementation of defensible space requirements, building standards, and other critical fire prevention measures in areas of elevated wildfire hazard; and

WHEREAS, CAL FIRE has provided updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for the LRAs within Santa Cruz County, which Santa Cruz County Fire Department has reviewed and accepted;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION I

The County hereby designates the Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the unincorporated areas of County Service Areas 4 (CSA 4) and 48 (CSA 48), as recommended by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) pursuant to Government Code Section 51178, and as depicted on the map identified in Section II of this Ordinance.

SECTION II

The map, approved by the County, is hereby attached as Exhibit A, incorporated by reference, and entitled “Santa Cruz County Unincorporated Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zones, Dated February 24, 2025.” The official map is also located electronically on the following website:

<https://countyfire.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov/FireResources/OSFM2025FireHazardSeverityZones.aspx>

SECTION III

The Board of Supervisors finds that this Ordinance to designate the Fire Hazard Severity Zones within Santa Cruz County Fire Department’s jurisdiction as recommended by CAL FIRE is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080 subdivision (b)(1) and CEQA Guidelines section 15002 subdivision (i), as a ministerial action, required by Government Code section 51179 subdivision (a).

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SECTION IV

This ordinance shall take effect on the 31st day after the date of final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS

NOES: SUPERVISORS

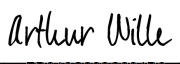
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS

ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

Felipe Hernandez
Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Juliette Rezzato
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signed by: _____
 5/7/2025
FD318C222C994D0
Arthur G. Wille
Assistant County Counsel

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 9540E807-C069-417C-9688-EEDADDDA1D2A
 Subject: Complete with Docusign: Uncodified Ordinance designating FHSZ
 Source Envelope:
 Document Pages: 4
 Certificate Pages: 4
 AutoNav: Enabled
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 Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Status: Completed
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 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
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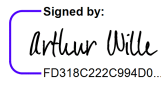
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Signer Events

Arthur Wille
 arthur.wille@santacruzcountyca.gov
 County of Santa Cruz
 Assistant County Counsel
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
 (None)

Signature

Signed by:

 FD318C222C994D0...
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
 Using IP Address: 63.194.190.100

Timestamp

Sent: 5/7/2025 11:00:40 AM
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Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	5/7/2025 11:00:40 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	5/7/2025 11:01:55 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	5/7/2025 11:04:06 AM
Completed	Security Checked	5/7/2025 11:04:06 AM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure		

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How to contact County of Santa Cruz:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us

To advise County of Santa Cruz of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

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- ii. send us an email to nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

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- Until or unless you notify County of Santa Cruz as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by County of Santa Cruz during the course of your relationship with County of Santa Cruz.