

26. Adopt 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," (Approved in Concept May 20, 2025) ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Clerk of the Board

Subject: Adopt 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"

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025

Formal Title: Adopt 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," (Approved in Concept May 20, 2025)

Recommended Action

Adopt 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" as approved in concept on May 20, 2025.

Executive Summary

N/A

Discussion

On May 20, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved the ordinance in concept and scheduled it for second reading/final adoption on June 10, 2025.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the recommended action.

Strategic Initiatives

N/A

Submitted By:

Juliette Rezzato, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.

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

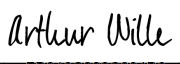
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS

ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

Felipe Hernandez
Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

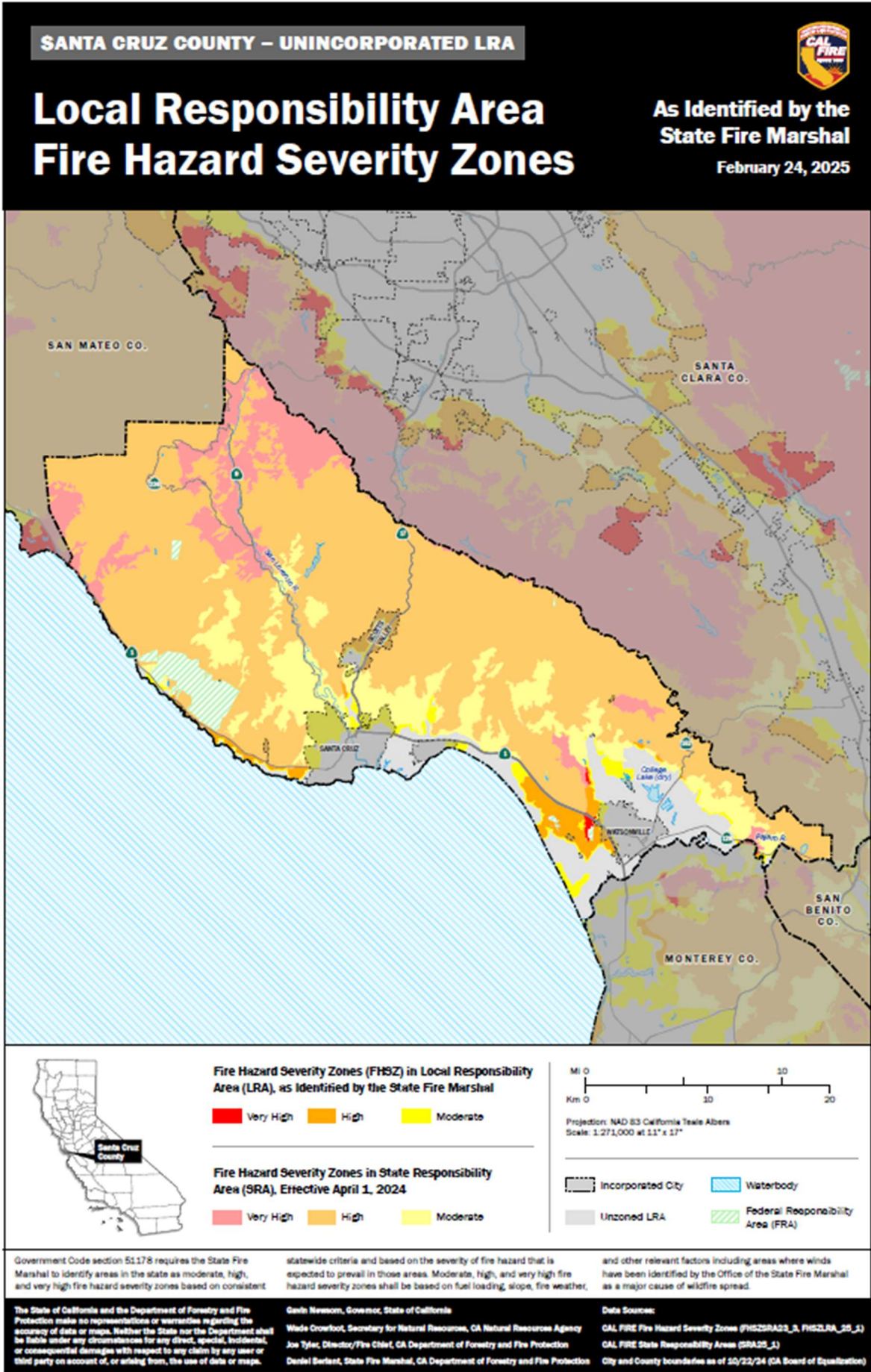
ATTEST: _____
Juliette Rezzato
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signed by:
 5/7/2025

FD318C222C994D0
Arthur G. Wille
Assistant County Counsel

EXHIBIT A



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
 Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled
 Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Status: Completed
 Envelope Originator:
 Paola Echeverria
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 Paola.Echeverria@santacruzcountyca.gov
 IP Address: 10.103.81.9

Record Tracking

Status: Original
 5/7/2025 10:56:19 AM
 Security Appliance Status: Connected
 Storage Appliance Status: Connected
 Holder: Paola Echeverria
 Paola.Echeverria@santacruzcountyca.gov
 Pool: FedRamp
 Pool: County of Santa Cruz
 Location: DocuSign
 Location: Docusign

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
 Viewed: 5/7/2025 11:01:55 AM
 Signed: 5/7/2025 11:04:06 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
 Accepted: 5/7/2025 11:01:55 AM
 ID: 464d7b36-8345-4321-8397-c9d12787a86f

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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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If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

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If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

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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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To request paper copies from County of Santa Cruz

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

To withdraw your consent with County of Santa Cruz

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- 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..

Required hardware and software

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements>.

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To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

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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.