



**MEETING DATE:** March 12, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM:** 7. CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones

**FROM:** Ryan Bonk

**RE:** CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones

---

**BACKGROUND:**

The City received correspondence from the CAL FIRE State Fire Marshal with the subject of "Official Transmittal of Fire Hazard Severity Zones". A copy of this correspondence and associated CAL FIRE maps are attached to this staff report for reference. Within this correspondence was the following statement:

*"Government Code 51179 requires the State Fire Marshal to make recommendations of fire hazard severity zones to local agencies, as defined per GC 51177(e), for their designation and adoption by ordinance. This letter serves as the official transmittal of the recommendation."*

On 03/03/2025, City Staff and the Beckworth Peak Fire Protection District met with CAL FIRE representatives on to discuss the Fire Hazard Severity Zones mandate. In response to the correspondence received from CAL FIRE and the discussions in this meeting, the City has made the information available for public review and comment via the City's website.

**Important Notice: The City of Portola was not involved in the development of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the corresponding maps produced by CAL FIRE. In addition, the City cannot decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal per the government code below.**

**51179**

*"(3) A local agency shall not decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency, and, in exercising its discretion pursuant to paragraph (2), may only increase the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency."*

---

**DISCUSSION:**

City staff is actively engaged with Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District and CAL FIRE to gain a comprehensive understanding of the broader implications of this state mandate for our community. Additionally, discussions have commenced with legal counsel representing both the City and Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District to provide guidance.

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

At this time, the City has met our current responsibility as indicated by the government code below:

**51178.5**

*"Within 30 days after receiving a transmittal from the State Fire Marshal that identifies fire hazard severity zones pursuant to Section 51178, a local agency shall make the information available for public review and comment. The information shall be presented in a format that is understandable and accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to, maps."*

Staff currently recommends that staff continues to work alongside Beckworth Peak Fire Protection District to continue to address the requirements of this mandate.

---

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

While the current actions taken by the City do not have an immediate financial impact, City staff remains uncertain of potential financial impacts related to adoption of this state mandate moving forward.

---

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. CAL FIRE OFFICIAL TRANSMITTAL OF FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES
- B. CITY OF PORTOLA- WEBSITE POSTING
- C. FHSZ CITY LRA 11X17 PORTOLA
- D. FHSZ COUNTY LRA 11X17 PLUMASCO

## Ryan Bonk, City Manager

**From:** OSFM <fhszinformation@fire.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2025 10:02 AM  
**To:** Ryan Bonk, City Manager  
**Subject:** Official Transmittal of Fire Hazard Severity Zones

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Gavin Newsom, Governor



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 568-3800  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



January 22, 2025

Dear: County Chief Administrative Officer, City Manager, Fire Chief, Fire Marshal

Re: Official Transmittal of Fire Hazard Severity Zones

The State Fire Marshal is mandated by Government Code (GC) 51178 to identify levels of fire hazard based on consistent statewide criteria and the expected severity of fire hazards. Government Code 51179 requires the State Fire Marshal to make recommendations of fire hazard severity zones to local agencies, as defined per GC 51177(e), for their designation and adoption by ordinance. This letter serves as the official transmittal of the recommendation. For the Statutory requirements for local adoption please review [California Code, GOV 51179](#).

Your City/County has been identified as having Moderate, High, Very High or a combination of Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) within your jurisdiction. The maps and data are available in the FHSZ HUB at <https://fire-hazard-severity-zones-rollout-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/>.

Please complete the Public Contact Survey in the FHSZ HUB using the link above. This information will be used for a public Webmap on the CAL FIRE-Office of State Fire Marshal website to guide your constituents to the appropriate contact person or website for the Local Responsibility Area FHSZ in your jurisdiction.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact our Team at [FHSZinformation@fire.ca.gov](mailto:FHSZinformation@fire.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Berlant".

Daniel Berlant  
State Fire Marshal  
CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal

[ACCESS FHSZ HUB](#)

[DOWNLOAD LETTER](#)



OSFM | 715 P St | Sacramento, CA 95814 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



(<https://www.cityofportola.com/>)



(<https://www.facebook.com/cityofportola>)



([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOI\\_sJydW5Cxx7SsHBvAAgw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOI_sJydW5Cxx7SsHBvAAgw))

[Contact Us \(/contact-us\)](/contact-us)

Select Language

Search...

THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

[NOTICES \(/NOTICES\)](/NOTICES)

# CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Area

[FHSZ\\_City\\_LRA\\_11x17\\_Portola.pdf \(/files/1a8a29d3a/FHSZ\\_City\\_LRA\\_11x17\\_Portola.pdf\)](/files/1a8a29d3a/FHSZ_City_LRA_11x17_Portola.pdf)

[FHSZ\\_County\\_LRA\\_11x17\\_PlumasCo.pdf \(/files/5886f688f/FHSZ\\_County\\_LRA\\_11x17\\_PlumasCo.pdf\)](/files/5886f688f/FHSZ_County_LRA_11x17_PlumasCo.pdf)

## CAL FIRE Provided Maps

The City of Portola has posted the attached Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones maps provided to the city by CAL FIRE as mandated by government code 51178.5.

**Important Notice: The City of Portola was not involved in the development of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the corresponding maps produced by CAL FIRE. In addition, the city cannot decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal per the government code below:**

[Join our mailing list](#)

Government Code 51179

*"(3) A local agency shall not decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency, and, in exercising its discretion pursuant to paragraph (2), may only increase the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency."*

CAL FIRE has provided additional information to the public pertaining to this mandate which can be found at the following links:

<https://fire-hazard-severity-zones-rollout-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/> (<https://fire-hazard-severity-zones-rollout-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/>)

<https://fire-hazard-severity-zones-rollout-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/pages/about-fhsz-in-lra> (<https://fire-hazard-severity-zones-rollout-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/pages/about-fhsz-in-lra>)

The city invites the public to make comment to this information mandated by CAL FIRE by submitting comment to [admin@cityofportola.com](mailto:admin@cityofportola.com) (<mailto:admin@cityofportola.com>).

COPYRIGHT © 2025 CITY OF PORTOLA

35 THIRD AVENUE, PORTOLA CA 96122

TELEPHONE 530-832-4216 OR 1-800-678-4216 FOR EMERGENCY WATER SERVICES



([HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFPORTOLA](https://www.facebook.com/cityofportola))

[PRIVACY POLICY \(/PRIVACY-POLICY\)](#)



([HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCOL\\_SJYDW5CXX7SSHBVAAGW](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOL_SJYDW5CXX7SSHBVAAGW))

[WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT](#)

[DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY \(TRANSPARENCY.HTML\)](#)

POWERED BY STREAMLINE ([HTTP://WWW.GETSTREAMLINE.COM/](http://www.getstreamline.com/)) | [SIGN IN](#)

([HTTPS://WWW.CITYOFPORTOLA.COM/USERS/SIGN\\_IN?DESTINATION=%2FCAL-FIRE-FIRE-HAZARD-SEVERITY-ZONES-IN-LOCAL-RESPONSIBILITY-AREA](https://www.cityofportola.com/users/sign_in?destination=%2FCAL-FIRE-FIRE-HAZARD-SEVERITY-ZONES-IN-LOCAL-RESPONSIBILITY-AREA))

**Join our mailing list**

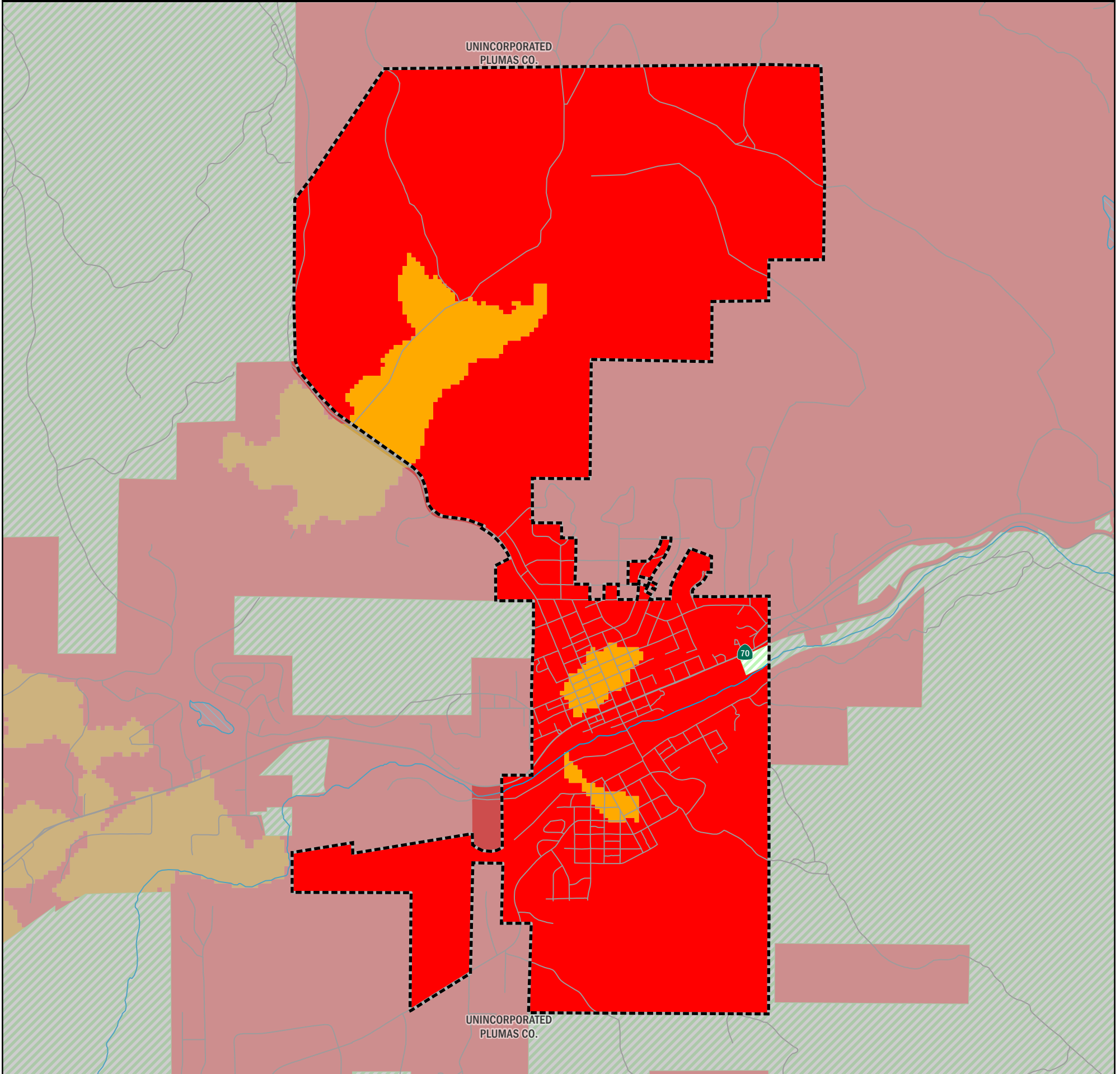
**Join our mailing list**



# Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the  
State Fire Marshal

January 22, 2025

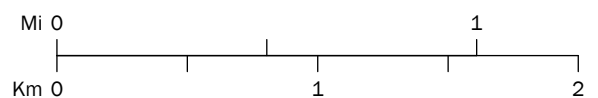


**Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) in Local Responsibility Area (LRA), as Identified by the State Fire Marshal**

■ Very High ■ High

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

■ Very High ■ High



Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers  
Scale: 1:29,000 at 11" x 17"

- Incorporated City
- Waterbody
- Unzoned LRA
- Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)

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\_25\_1)  
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA25\_1)  
City and County boundaries as of 10/22/24 (CA Board of Equalization)

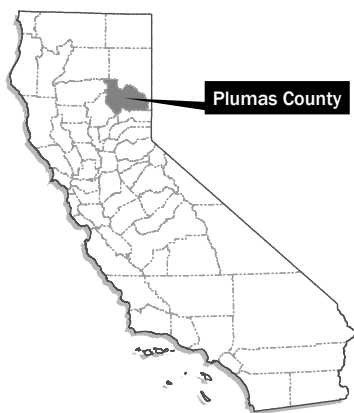
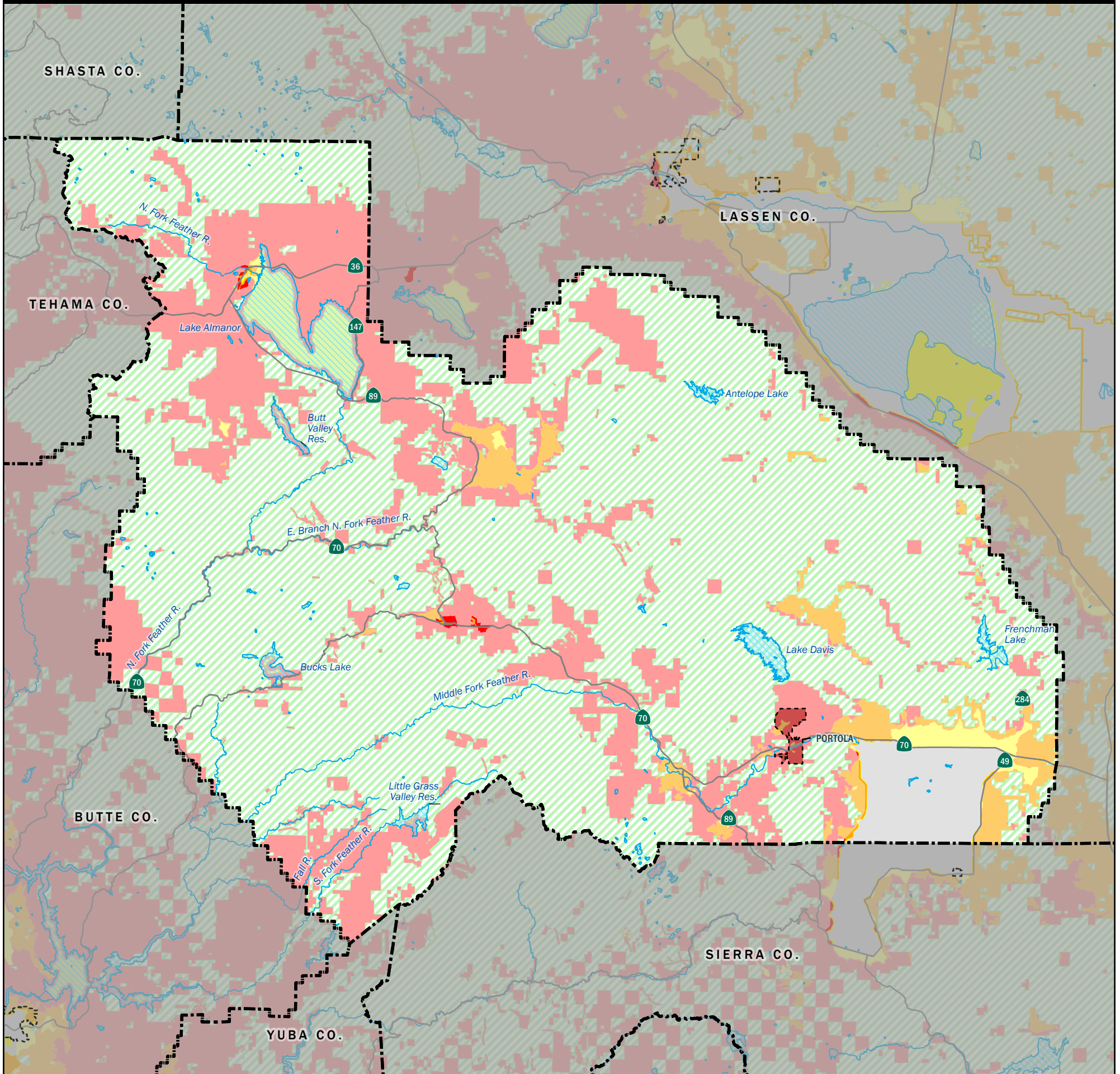




# Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the  
State Fire Marshal

January 22, 2025

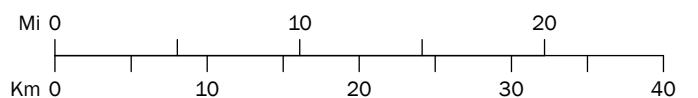


**Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) in Local Responsibility Area (LRA), as Identified by the State Fire Marshal**

Very High High Moderate

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

Very High High Moderate



Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers  
Scale: 1:497,000 at 11" x 17"

- Incorporated City
- Waterbody
- Unzoned LRA
- Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)

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\_25\_1)  
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA25\_1)  
City and County boundaries as of 10/22/24 (CA Board of Equalization)