



FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE HAZARD MAP UPDATE

LompoC City Council – 7/1/2025

Day 5 of being Lompoc's Fire Marshal -the letter arrives!

Benchmarks:

30 days to
notify the
public (April 13)

120 days to
adopt (July 15th)



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
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SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 566-3800
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



RECEIVED

MAR 13 REC'D

Lompoc Fire
City of Lompoc

March 10, 2025

Dear: 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.

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



Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the
State Fire Marshal
March 10, 2025

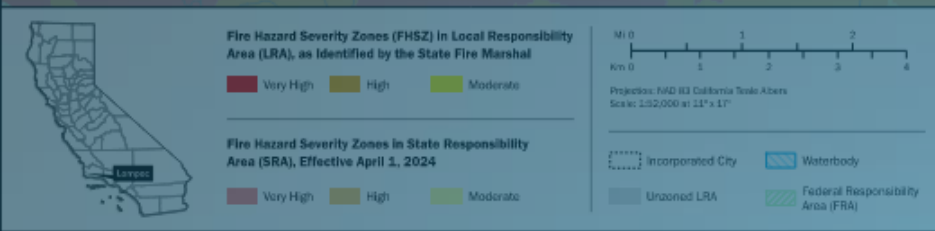
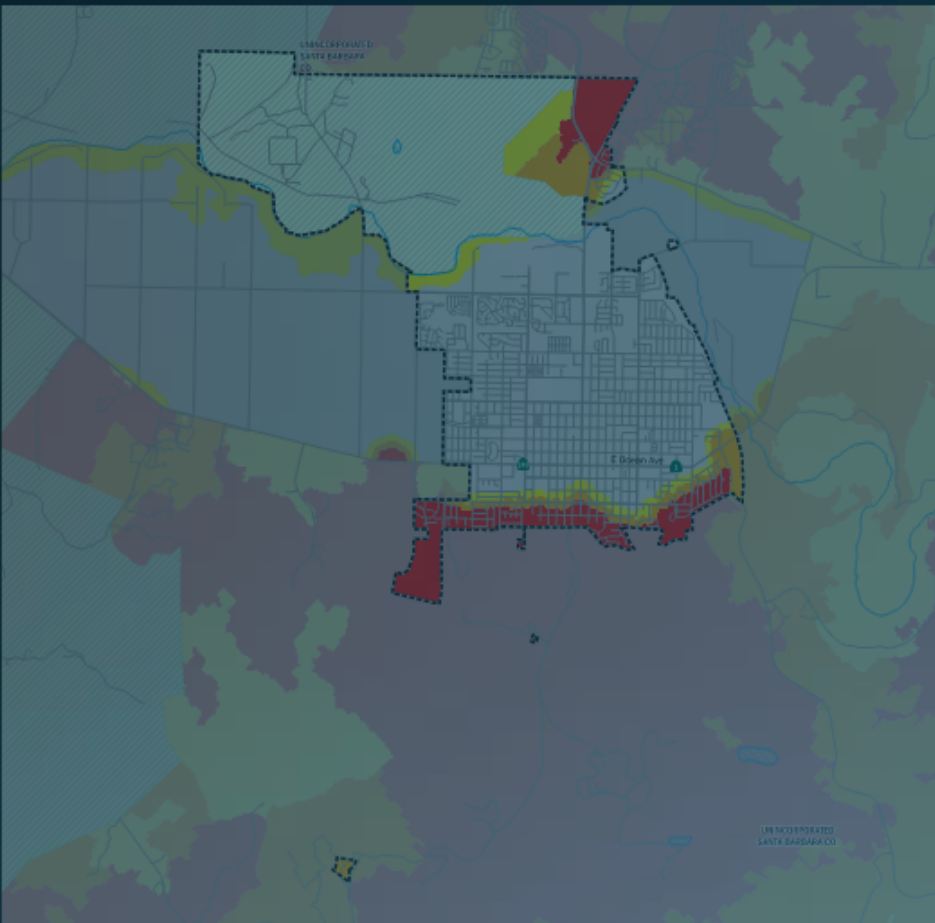


History Lesson:

Several devastating fires during the 80's/ early 90's

Assembly Bill 337 (Bates 1992)

- Calls for CAL FIRE evaluate fire hazard severity in local responsibility area
- Identifies areas in the State as Moderate, High, and Very High Severity Zones
- Recommend to local jurisdiction where Very High FHSZ exist

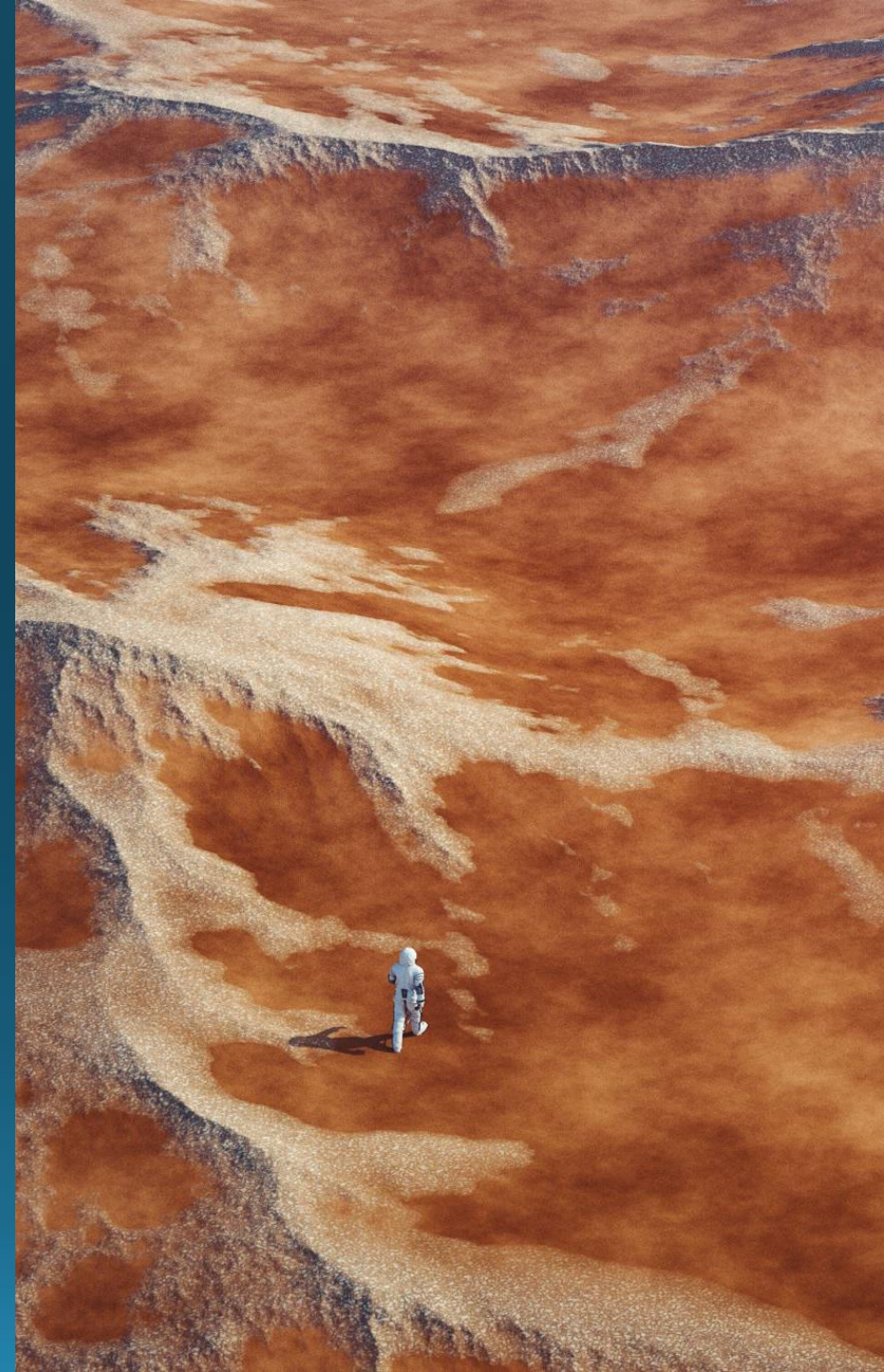


Government Code section 51179 requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Moderate, high, and very 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.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones Local Responsibility Area

How was the LRA Map created for Us?

- The State utilizes fire models that reflect flame and ember intrusion from adjacent wildlands and flammable vegetation.
- The models involve fuel loading, slope, and fire weather including areas where wind has been identified as a major cause of wildfire spread.



What do Fire Hazard Severity Zones Measure?

- The maps evaluate “HAZARD,” not “RISK”
- **HAZARD:** *based on physical conditions that create expected fire behavior over a 50-year period without considering short term risk.*
- **RISK:** *the potential damage a fire can do to the area under certain existing conditions, including fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction.*



Will this affect my Insurance?!



Insurance companies use *risk* models because they consider the susceptibility of a structure from damage to fire and other *short-term* factors that are not included in hazard modeling



Risk models that are used by the insurance companies change more often



CAL FIRE *Hazard* Maps are built to remain steady.

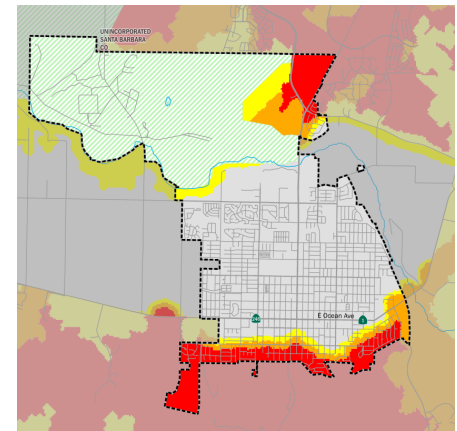


SHORT ANSWER: It should not!
(California Department of Insurance)

2025 LRA Map Local Response Area

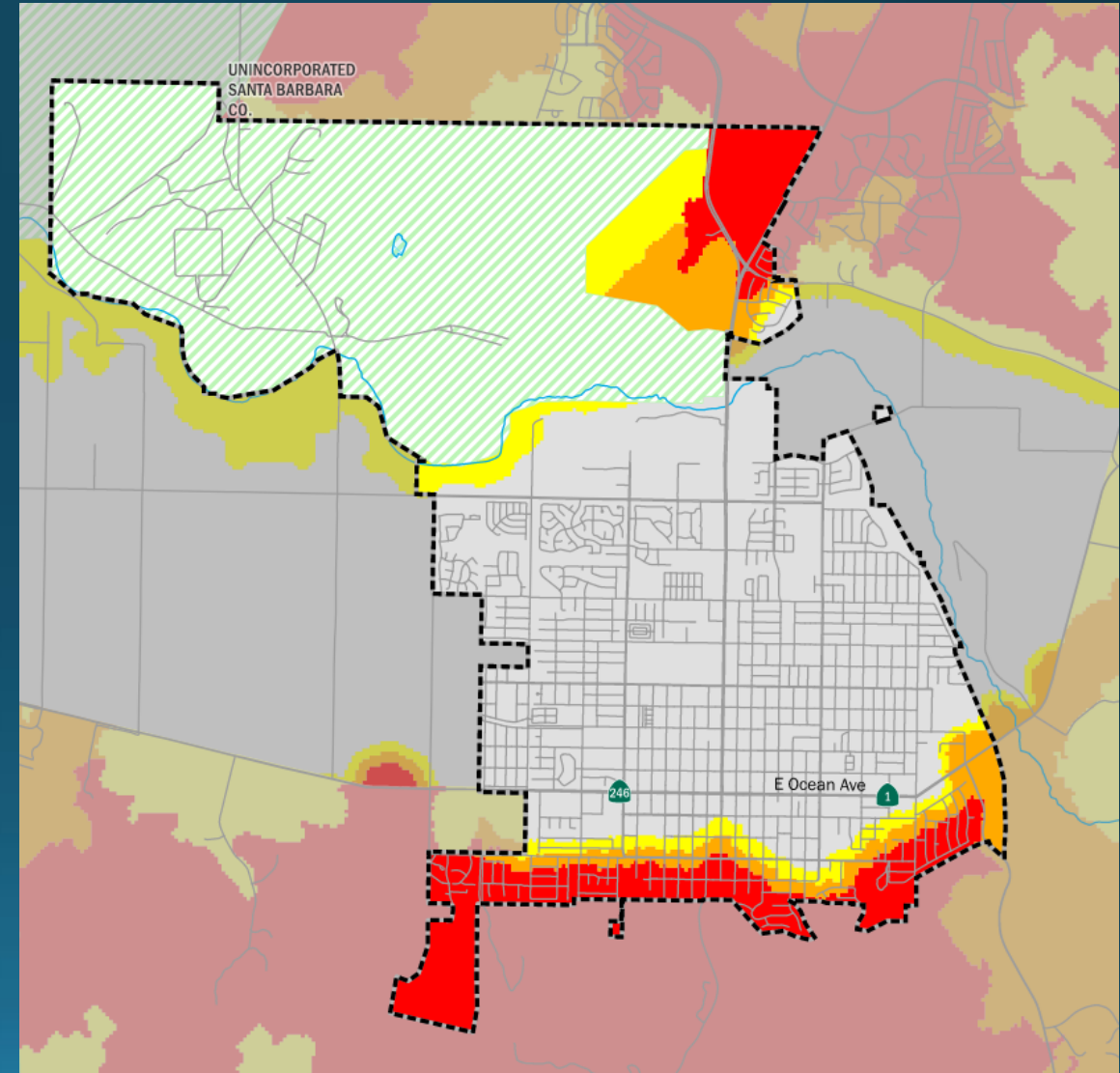
*Lompoc has NEVER had to consider Fire Hazard Severity Zones before now.

City of
LOMPOC



What areas in Lompoc will be affected?

- North of town, near the Wye (Highway 1, Harris Grade Road)
- South of Olive Avenue, from West to East of the City



How will these areas be affected?



New construction will have to meet high fire area requirements in CBC 7A



Defensible space requirements take effect in new and existing structures



Zone O requirements when made into law (forthcoming) 0-5ft

2022 California Building Code 7A

701A.2 Purpose.



The purpose of this chapter is to establish minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the ability of a building located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) or any Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas as specified in Section 701A.3.1 to resist the intrusion of flames or burning embers projected by a vegetation fire and contributes to a systematic reduction in conflagration losses.

2022 California Fire Code 49

4904.3 Local agency requirements.



Within 30 days after receiving a transmittal from the director that identifies Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, a local agency shall make the information available for public review. The information shall be presented in a format that is understandable and accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to, maps. A local agency shall post a notice at the office of the county recorder, county assessor and county planning agency identifying the location of the map provided by the director pursuant to Government Code, Section 51178. If the agency amends the map, pursuant to subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 51179, the notice shall instead identify the location of the amended map.

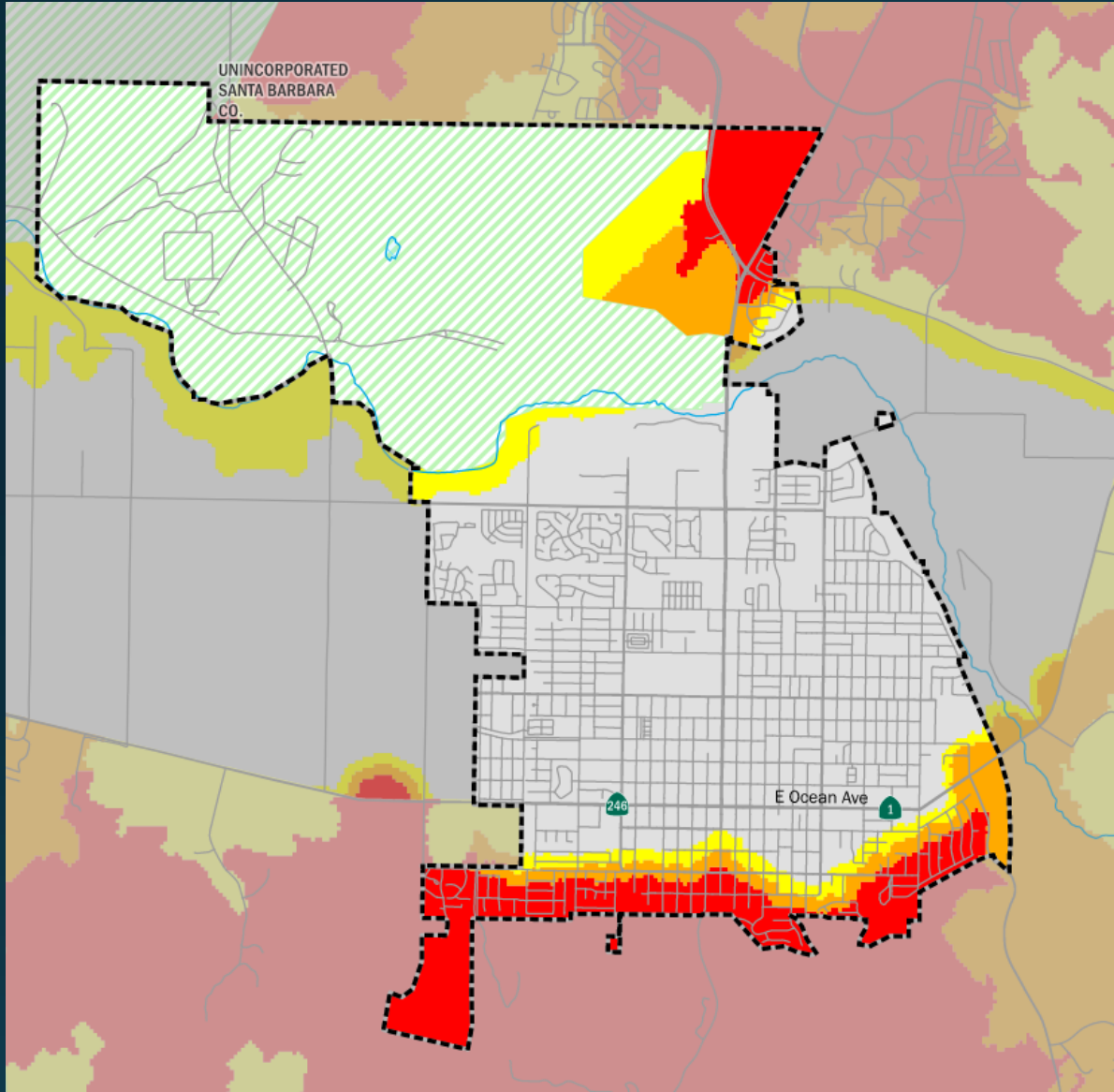
Recommendations That Council:

Introduce and subsequently adopt, Ordinance No. 1729(25), an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lompoc Designating Fire Hazard Severity Zones as Recommended by the California State Fire Marshal

TYPOs

At the top of the Ordinance is says “...Designating Fire Hazard **Safety** Zones”

On the 4th Whereas it repeats “...Fire Hazard **Safety** Zones...”



QUESTIONS?

- This is the 1st reading
- 2nd reading will be July 15th
 - Adoption of Ordinance