

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of California. The seal contains the text "OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR" at the top and "STATE OF CALIFORNIA" at the bottom. In the center is a shield with various symbols, including a grizzly bear, a miner, and a ship.

Adoption of Fire Hazard Severity Zones

*PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FMC CHAPTER 13.19
2025 FHSZ FOR LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS*

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Deputy Chief, Administration | Fire Marshal



Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- **Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ)** Maps are developed by Cal Fire
 - Required by CA Government Code §51175 - 51189 
 - Current maps were adopted by the City of Fullerton in 2011
 - Assists local governments identify areas of elevated hazard potential and apply appropriate mitigation standards



Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- **Based on CAL FIRE's best available fire science and advanced modeling techniques** 🔭
 - Uses detailed local data for Fullerton (vegetation, terrain, weather) 🏔️
 - Evaluates likelihood of area burning & potential fire behavior 🔥
 - Key Improvement: Better analysis of ember travel – how embers spread fire into neighborhoods (crucial for our hillsides/WUI) ✨
- **Result: A more accurate, long-term view of wildfire hazard potential**



What Determines Hazard Level?

- **A comprehensive assessment looking at multiple factors affecting fire spread from wildlands into developed areas:**
 - Fuel: Vegetation type, density, and fire history 🌿
 - Spread Conditions: Terrain (slopes), local weather (wind), wildland proximity ☐
 - Ignition Risk: Potential for intense flames and blowing embers ➡☁
- **Identifies long-term levels of fire hazard based on geospatial fire model:**
 - Moderate
 - High
 - Very High

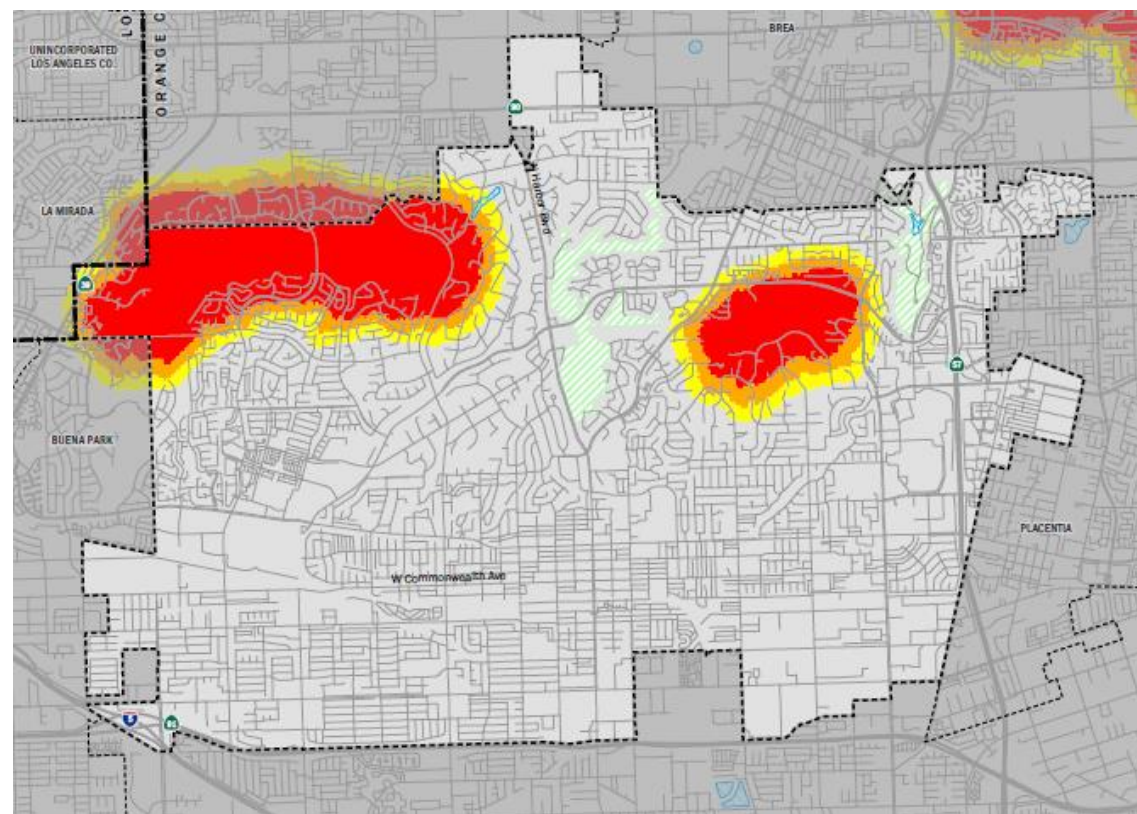
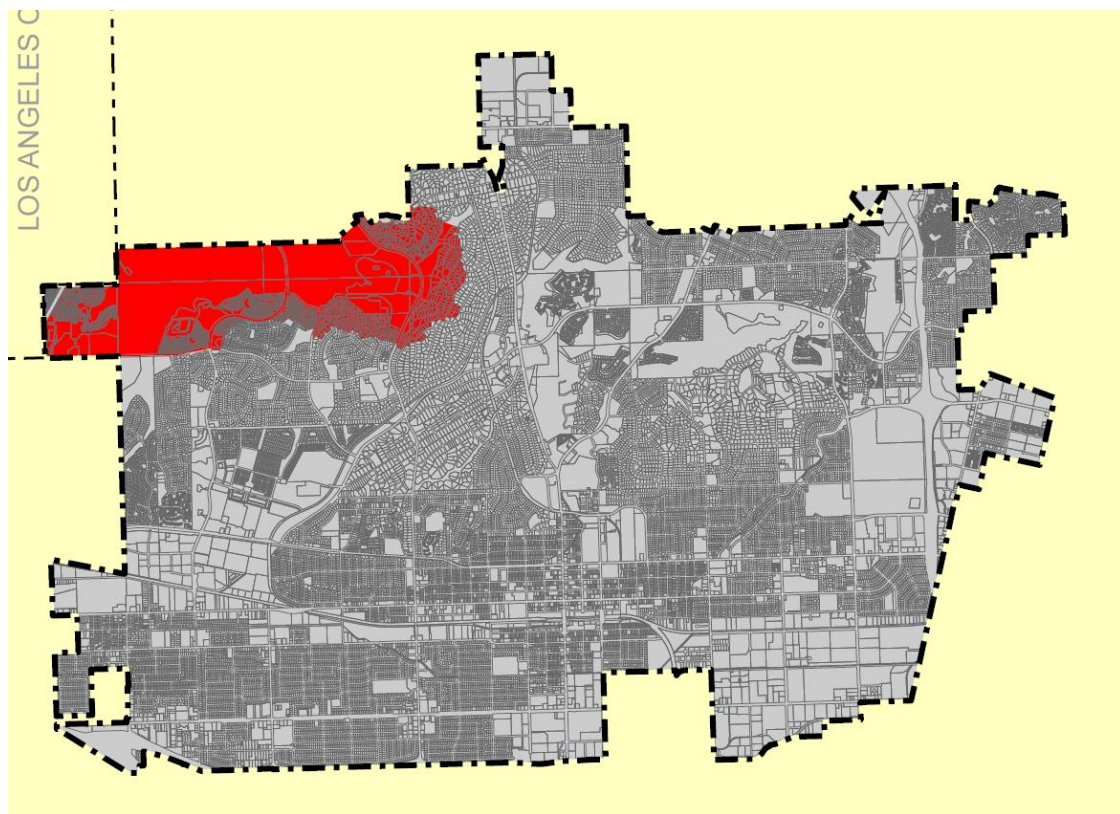


Changes to Fullerton's FHSZ

- **Addition of "Moderate" and "High" zones to Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)** – previously only "Very High" required under state law
- Fullerton's "Very High" zone increased by 28% (1,186 to 1,516 acres)
- **New Zone Areas:**
 - 426 acres categorized as "Moderate" □
 - 419 acres categorized as "High" ●
- Largest expansions: West & East Coyote Hills (WUI areas) 🏔️

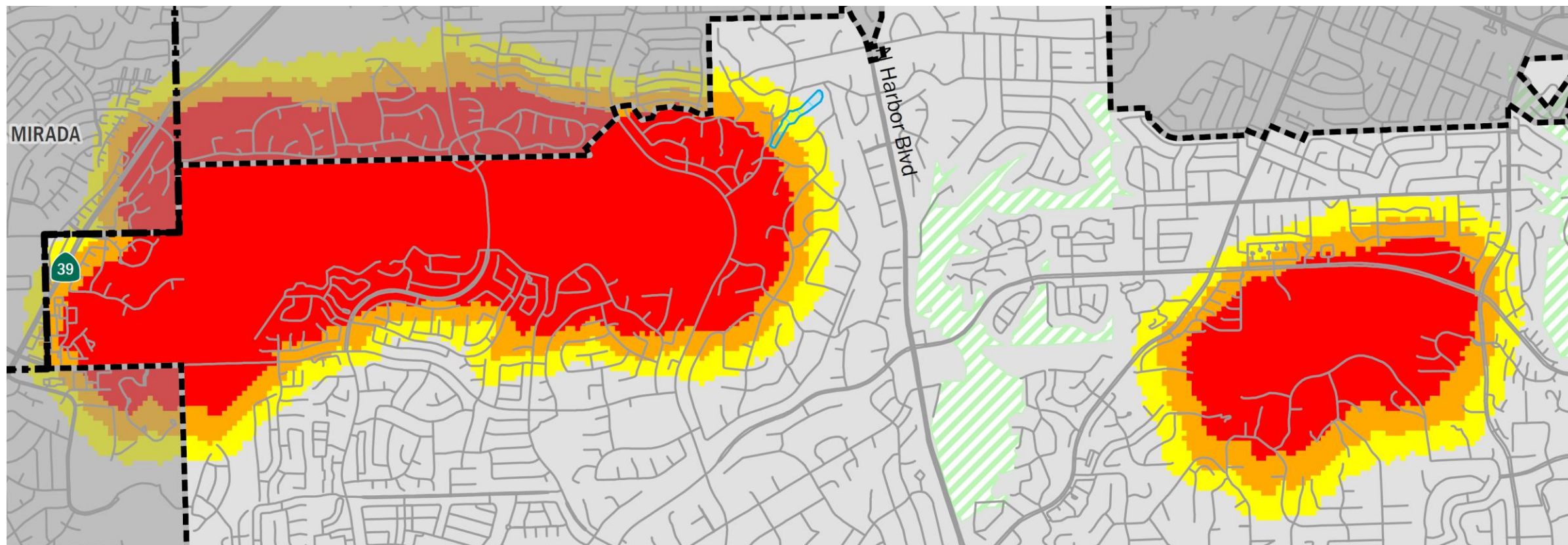


Comparison: 2011 vs 2025





2025 FHSZ





Expanded Fireworks Restrictions

- **Current Restrictions:** Fireworks limited to Very High zones 🚫
- **Updated Restrictions:** Ordinance extends sale/discharge restrictions to *all* designated FHSZ areas (Moderate, High, and Very High) 📁
- **Goal:** Reduce wildfire ignition risk, especially during peak season 🎯
- This does not affect City-permitted, professional public fireworks displays 🎆



Impact on Property Owners - Mitigation

- **Building Codes (Chapter 7A)** 
 - For new builds/major renovations:
 - Ignition-resistant materials
 - Ember-proof vents
 - Multi-pane windows
- **Defensible Space / Home Hardening (Very High Zone)** 
 - AB 38: Requires inspection documentation for home sales.
 - AB 3074: Requires Ember-Resistant Zone (0-5 ft from structure) - details pending state adoption by Dec 2025.



Summary of Property Requirements

Requirement Category	Moderate	High	Very High
Map Adoption & Fireworks Restriction	✓	✓	✓
Fire-Resistant Building Standards (New/Major Remodel)		✓	✓
Natural Hazard Disclosure (NHDS)			✓
Ember-Resistant Zone (Zone 0)			✓
Defensible Space Requirements (100 feet) and Documentation			✓



FHSZ Maps and Homeowner Insurance

- **These maps are unlikely to affect insurance rates or eligibility (according to CA Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara) ✕**
- Insurers have always used their own risk models (not just hazard maps) □
 - Fire Station proximity + Fire Department resources 🚒
 - Property characteristics and construction materials 🏠
 - Claims history 💰
- Improving Fullerton's ISO rating (currently Class 3) may have a greater impact on insurance than FHSZ 📁



Communication and Outreach Efforts

- Coordinated messaging (Fire Dept. & other City Depts) 
- Updated City Fire Hazard Mitigation Webpage 
 - CityOfFullerton.com/Government/Departments/Fire/Prevention/Fire-Hazard-Mitigation
 - New FHSZ maps posted 
 - Public comment form 
 - Email: FireMapComments@FullertonFire.org 
- Direct mail notification sent to approximately 4,000 affected property owners 
- Aggregated public comments attached to Council report 



Fiscal Impact

- **Immediate:** No direct cost to the City for adoption (beyond minimal expenses for public outreach) 💰
- **Future:** Increased demand on Fire Prevention resources (inspections, enforcement) in expanded zones 🚒🏠
- Staff will evaluate and report back on resource needs ↻



Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- **Adoption Timeline**

- Maps were released on March 24, 2025 📅
- Posted for public comment within 30 days 📅
- Maps must be adopted as published by Cal Fire within 120 days of being released: July 22, 2025 ⌚

- **Options for City Council**

- Adopted maps cannot be less restrictive than what is published by Cal Fire, but Council may designate additional areas



Proposed Motion

Introduce Ordinance No. XXXX for first reading by title only and waive further reading of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. XXXX - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING FULLERTON MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.19 TO INCORPORATE THE 2025 FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES FOR LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION AND PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 51178



Questions?
