



## AMERICAN CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

### AGENDA

City Hall - Council Chambers  
4381 Broadway, Ste. 201, American Canyon

April 22, 2025

6:30 PM

**Chair:** Pierre Washington  
**Vice Chair:** Mark Joseph  
**Board Members:** Brando Cruz, Melissa Lamattina, David Oro

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American Canyon promotes respectful and responsible behavior among meeting participants, whether they are present in person or remotely. Using offensive language or remarks that promote, foster, or perpetuate discrimination based on race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status regarding public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation/gender identification, as well as any other category protected by federal, state or local laws will not be tolerated. In the case of an occurrence, the speaker will be immediately disconnected from the microphone.

*American Canyon Fire District Board meetings will be conducted at City Hall, 4381 Broadway, Suite 201. This meeting is also available via Zoom Teleconferencing as a convenience for public participation. Should technical issues with Zoom occur, please select another viewing option, such as a live broadcast to residents on Napa Valley TV [here](#) and on YouTube [here](#).*

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**You may submit public comments for any Agenda Item, Non-Agenda Item or make general public comments by one of the following methods:**

**Written comments, Via eComments:** Please submit written comments through the eComments link located on the Meetings & Agendas page of our website [here](#). Comments received before the 3:00 p.m. day-of-meeting cutoff time will be routed to all Board Members at that time. eComments will remain open throughout the meeting, and all comments received will be posted online and become part of the meeting record.

**Oral comments, during the meeting:** A Zoom Meeting has been established for public participation during the meeting related to a specific agenda item or matters not on the agenda. To give your public comment via Zoom, connect via the Zoom link below and use the "raise your hand" tool or call into the zoom meeting at 669-900-6833. To avoid confusion, all hands raised outside of Public comment periods will be lowered.

**Zoom Meeting Link:** [Click here](#)

**Meeting ID:** 854 2409 2443 **Passcode:** 359023

The above-identified measures exceed all legal requirements for participation in public comment,

including those imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act. For more information, please call the Office of the Fire Executive Assistant at (707) 551-0653 or email [here](#).

**AGENDA MATERIALS:** Board agenda materials are published 72 hours prior to the meeting and are available to the public via the City's website at [www.cityofamericancanyon.org](http://www.cityofamericancanyon.org).

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** The Board of Directors will provide materials in appropriate alternative formats to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please send a written request to Fire Executive Assistant at 911 Donaldson Way E., American Canyon, CA 94503 or by email [here](#). Include your name, address, phone number and brief description of the requested materials, as well as your preferred alternative format or auxiliary aid, at least three calendar days before the meeting.

## **6:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION**

- 1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2). One Matter.**

## **PUBLIC ADDRESS-CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

*The Chairman will call the meeting to order and conduct role call. The Board of Directors will immediately convene into Closed Session after hearing any public comment on items agendized for Closed Session consideration. At 6:30 p.m. the Board of Directors will reconvene into Open Session and then resume Closed Session at the end of the meeting to address outstanding items, if necessary.*

## **6:30 P.M. OPEN SESSION - REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION/CONFIRMATION OF REPORTABLE ACTION

## **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*This time is reserved for members of the public to address the American Canyon Fire Protection District Board on items of interest that are not on the Agenda and are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the American Canyon Fire Protection District Board. It is recommended that speakers limit their comments to 3 minutes each and it is requested that no comments be made during this period on items on the Agenda. Members of the public wishing to address the American Canyon Fire Protection District Board on items on the Agenda should comment via email prior to the start of the meeting. The American Canyon Fire Protection District Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the Agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the American Canyon Fire Protection Board does not respond to public comment at this time. Speakers are asked to please speak clearly, and*

provide their name. Any handouts for distribution to the American Canyon Fire Protection District Board must be emailed by 3:00 p.m. on meeting day.

## AGENDA CHANGES

The Chair/Board of Directors may change the order of the Agenda or request discussion of a Consent Item. A member of Public may request discussions of a Consent Item by completing a Speaker's Card and presenting it to the Fire Executive Assistant prior to Public Comment.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

2. **Minutes of the Fire District Board meeting of March 25, 2025.**  
**Recommendation:** Approve the Minutes of the Fire District Meeting of March 25, 2025.
3. **Report Upon Return from Closed Session for March 25, 2025.**  
**Recommendation:** Approve the Report Upon Return from Closed Session for March 25, 2025.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. **Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map.**  
**Recommendation:** Adopt Proposed District Ordinance 2025-01 by title only accepting and designating the 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map within the jurisdiction of the American Canyon Fire Protection District, as recommended by the California State Fire Marshal.

## BUSINESS

5. **Fighting Fire with Funding**  
**Recommendation:** Receive and file the report, "Fighting Fire with Funding", the Urgent need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California.
6. **Fire Engine Update.**  
**Recommendation:** Receive and file an update on the fire engine production progress for American Canyon Fire Production District.

## FIRE CHIEF ORAL REPORT

## CHAIR/BOARD COMMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair and Board of Directors may comment on matters of public concern and announce matters of public interest; no collective Board action will be taken.

## ADJOURNMENT

## CERTIFICATION

I, Geoff Belyea, District Fire Chief, do hereby declare that the foregoing Agenda of the American Canyon Fire District Board was posted in compliance with the Brown Act prior to the meeting date.

Geoff Belyea, Fire District Chief

**American Canyon Fire Protection District**  
**Board Meeting**  
**ACTION MINUTES**

*March 25, 2025*

**6:30 P.M. OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Washington called the Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Washington led the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Board Member Brando Cruz, Board Member Melissa Lamattina, Board Member David Oro, Vice-Chair Mark Joseph, and Chair Pierre Washington

**Absent:** None

**REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION/CONFIRMATION OF REPORTABLE ACTION**

The Board convened in Open Session at 5:30 pm and after ascertaining that there were no public comments on the matter agendized for Closed Session, adjourned to Closed Session at 5:30 pm and concluded at 6:21 pm. A written report will be provided under the Government Code Section 54957.1(d).

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Washington called for public comments. Written comments: none. Oral Comments: None. The public comment period was closed.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Action:** Motion to approve CONSENT CALENDAR made by Board Member David Oro, seconded by Vice-Chair Mark Joseph, and CARRIED by roll call vote.

**Ayes:** Board Member Brando Cruz, Board Member Melissa Lamattina, Board Member David Oro, Vice-Chair Mark Joseph, and Chair Pierre Washington

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**2. Minutes of the Fire District Board Meeting of January 28, 2025.**

**Action:** Approved the Fire District Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2025.

**3. Report Upon Return from Closed Session of January 28, 2025.**

**Action:** Approved the Report Upon Return from Closed Session of January 28, 2025.

**4. Policies and Procedures.**

**Action** Approved the proposed Policies and Procedures for the American Canyon Fire Protection: Community Emergency Response Team, Community Emergency Response Team Vehicle Operations, and Sick Leave.

**5. Declare Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Out-of-Service Fire Hose, Hose Nozzles, a Honda Stroke 30 Outboard Boat Motor, and specific Extrication Equipment as surplus property.**

**Action:** Adopted a Resolution declaring Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Out-of-Service Fire Hose, Hose Nozzles, a Honda Stroke 30 Outboard Boat Motor, and specific Extrication Equipment as surplus property and authorized its disposition through either donation or destruction, in accordance with District policy and applicable laws.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**None**

**BUSINESS**

**6. Mid-Year Budget.**

Chief Belyea introduced Financial Consultant Ken Camp to the Board of Directors. Mr. Ken Campo presented the Mid-Year Budget Report and financial update.

Chair Pierre Washington called for public comments: Written comments: None, Oral Comments: Beth Marcus was called to speak. The public comment period was closed.

**Action:** Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Mid-Year Budget made by Vice Chair Mark Joseph and seconded by Board Member Brando Cruz and CARRIED by roll call.

**Ayes:** Board Member Brando Cruz, Board Member Melissa Lamattina, Board Member David Oro, Vice-Chair Mark Joseph, and Chair Pierre Washington

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**7. Contract Agreement for NVC AHA Training Site.**

The Board of Directors received a staff report for the contract agreement for NVC AHA Training site from Fire Chief Geoff Belyea. Chair Pierre Washington opened public comments. Written comments: none. Oral comments: none. The public comment period was closed.

**Action:** Motion to approve the contract agreement for NVC AHA Training Site made by Board Member Brando Cruz and seconded by Board Member David Oro and CARRIED by roll call.

**Ayes:** Board Member Brando Cruz, Board Member Melissa Lamattina, Board Member David Oro, Vice-Chair Mark Joseph, and Chair Pierre Washington

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**6. 2024 Annual Report.**

Chief Belyea presented the Annual Report.

Chair Pierre Washington called for public comments: Written comments: None. Oral Comments: None. The public comment period was closed.

**Action:** Receive and File the American Canyon Fire Protection District 2024 Annual Report.

**FIRE CHIEF ORAL REPORT**

Chief Belyea provided a statewide fire update and shared his involvement at the state level. He currently serves as an Executive Board Member for the Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC) and as the Legislative Director for the Joint Legislative Task Force, a collaboration between Cal Chiefs and FDAC.

Earlier this year, the Fire District Board issued a White Paper outlining the significant funding challenges faced by fire districts across California. These challenges stem from historical and recent legislative and regulatory actions, including Proposition 13, which capped property tax rates; ERAF, and Proposition 17, which redirected intended fire district funding to law enforcement. Additionally, new Cal/OSHA regulations now mandate that firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE) has a maximum usable life of 10 years from the date of manufacture, regardless of condition. In the past, PPE was tested annually and replaced as needed based on performance. Other compounding factors include the exemption of affordable housing from property taxes—an essential revenue stream for fire districts. The White Paper was distributed to all state senators, assemblymembers, and the Governor’s Office. Two weeks ago, Chief Belyea and the FDAC President met with Assembly Speaker Rivas’s policy staff for approximately 45 minutes to discuss the White Paper and advocate for a legislative call to action.

One key area of focus is the need for increased state funding to support personnel. With additional staffing, fire districts can place more engines in service, improving local response capabilities and reducing dependence on out-of-state mutual aid resources when California’s system is overwhelmed. Investing in local fire districts enhances the speed and efficiency of fire response.

The Joint Legislative Task Force continues to work closely with its legislative advocates in Sacramento, PPA, and is pursuing additional meetings with state elected officials to further convey the ongoing challenges and unintended consequences that legislative decisions have had on fire districts. Further updates will be provided as progress continues.

**CHAIR/BOARD COMMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION**

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Geoff Belyea,  
District Fire Chief/District Clerk

William D. Ross  
David P. Schwarz  
Kypros G. Hostetter  
Christina M. Belardo

Law Offices of  
**William D. Ross**  
400 Lambert Avenue  
Palo Alto, California 94306  
Telephone: (650) 843-8080  
Lawross.com

Los Angeles Office:

11420 Santa Monica Blvd  
#25532  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

File No: 199/3

March 26, 2025

**VIA E-MAIL**

The Honorable Pierre Washington, Chair  
and Members of the Board of Directors  
American Canyon Fire Protection District  
911 Donaldson Way E.  
American Canyon, CA 94503

Re: Report Upon Return from Closed Session; Regular Meeting of the American Canyon Fire Protection District Board of Directors; March 25, 2025

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Dear Chair Washington and Members of the Board of Directors:

This communication sets forth reportable action, if any, of the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the American Canyon Fire Protection District (“District”), consistent with provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Opening Meeting Act (Government Code Section 54950, *et seq.*) resulting from the Closed Session of the March 25, 2025 Regular Meeting, consistent with Government Code Section 54957.1.

Chair Washington and Members of the District Board convened in Opens Session at 5:30 p.m. and after ascertaining that there were no public comments on the matter agendized for Closed Session, adjourned to Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. to address the matter agendized for Closed Session consideration.

There was one (1) matter agendized for District Closed Session consideration:

1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). Three Matters.

With respect to the first matter considered under District Closed Session Agenda Item No. 1., there was reportable action in the form of unanimous Board direction (5-0) for the appointment of a Board Subcommittee consisting of Chair Pierre Washington and Board Member Brando Cruz to negotiate on behalf of the District with the County of Napa concerning property tax allocation agreements involved with any prospective change of organization under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 involving the District. Except as indicated, there was no other reportable action under the common law attorney-client privileged and that provided by Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2).

The Honorable Pierre Washington, Chair  
and Members of the Board of Directors  
American Canyon Fire Protection District  
March 26, 2025  
Page 2

With respect to the second matter considered under District Closed Session Agenda Item No. 1., there was reportable action in the form of unanimous Board direction (5-0) appointing a Board Subcommittee of Board Member David Oro and Vice Chair Mark Joseph to facilitate District action with respect to Caltrans real property adjacent to Highway 29 for use as a potential District Fire Station, including conferring with State Senator Christopher Cabaldon and Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry and the Director or Director's representative of Caltrans. Except as indicated, there was no other reportable action under the common law attorney-client privilege and that provided by Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2).

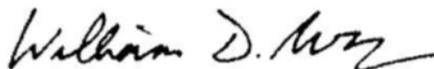
With respect to third matter considered under District Closed Session Agenda Item No. 1., there was no reportable action under the common law attorney-client privilege and that provided by Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2).

The Closed Session concluded at 6:21 p.m., where it was indicated that a written report upon return consistent with Government Code Section 54957.1, would be prepared.

This communication should be reviewed under the Consent portion of the Agenda of your next Regular or Special District Board Meeting.

Should you have questions concerning this Report, it may be taken off the Consent calendar when agendized in the future, or our office may be contacted in the interim.

Very truly yours,



William D. Ross  
District Counsel

WDR:jf

cc: Geoff Belyea, District Chief  
Martha Banuelos, Fire Executive Assistant/Office Administrator



## **TITLE**

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Proposed District Ordinance 2025-01 by title only accepting and designating the 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map within the jurisdiction of the American Canyon Fire Protection District, as recommended by the California State Fire Marshal.

## **CONTACT**

Geoff Belyea, Fire Chief

## **BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to California Government Code §51178 and §51179, the State Fire Marshal is required to identify areas within the state as moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zones. The zones evaluate “hazard”, not “risk”. Hazard is based on physical conditions that create expected fire behavior over a 50- year period without considering short-term modifications. Risk is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, including fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction. These zones are based on factors including vegetation, slope, weather, and other relevant fire risk data.

On February 24, 2025, the State Fire Marshal received the updated 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map to the American Canyon Fire Protection District. Under Government Code §51179(a), the model used by the State Fire Marshal’s Office has two key elements: Probability of an area burning and expected fire behavior under extreme fuel and weather conditions. The factors considered in determining fire hazard within wildland areas is fire history, flame length, terrain, local weather, and potential fuel over a 50-year period. Outside of wildlands, the model considers factors that might lead to buildings being threatened, including terrain, weather, urban vegetation cover, blowing embers, proximity to wildland, fire history, and fire hazard in nearby wildlands. This is not a structure loss model, as key information regarding structure ignition is not included. The District must adopt the zone designations by ordinance within 120 days of receipt.

The purpose of the Fire Hazard Severity Zone map is to assist the District, property owners, and the community in understanding areas of elevated fire risk. The designations help guide defensible

space requirements, building standards, fire mitigation strategies, and public awareness efforts.

Per Government Code §51179:

- Local agencies must adopt the zones as identified by the State Fire Marshal.
- The District may expand zone designations (i.e., increase hazard severity) based on substantial evidence.
- The District may not reduce the hazard severity level identified by the State Fire Marshal.
- The adopted ordinance and map must be transmitted to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection within 30 days of adoption.

The proposed Ordinance conforms with the State Fire Marshal’s model ordinance and fulfills the statutory obligations.

The map and supporting materials have been made available to the public for review and comment on the District website and at the District’s administrative office.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Not Applicable

### **BOARD PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

Public Safety: "Ensure American Canyon remains a safe community"

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

None

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Ordinance 2025-01\\_ Severity Zone Maps.pdf](#)
2. [Severity Zone Map American Canyon](#)
3. [FHSZ Presentation](#)

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE AMERICAN CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
ADOPTING THE 2025 FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP AS RECOMMENDED BY THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

**WHEREAS**, Government Code Section 51178 requires the California State Fire Marshal to identify and recommend areas within the state as moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Government Code Section 51179, local agencies are required to adopt the fire hazard severity zone designations within 120 days of receiving the recommendations from the State Fire Marshal; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 24, 2025, the American Canyon Fire Protection District received the 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Map from the State Fire Marshal, identifying designated zones within the District’s jurisdiction which is found in the District website at [Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Area - City of American Canyon](#); and

**WHEREAS**, the District has made the proposed FHSZ Map available for public review, provided proper public notice in accordance with Government Code Section 51179(g), and held a public hearing on April 22, 2025, to receive public input; and

**WHEREAS**, the District finds that adoption of the map is in the interest of public safety, supports fire prevention and mitigation efforts, and ensures compliance with applicable state law; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has not reduced the fire hazard severity designations established by the State Fire Marshal, and this adoption is consistent with the model ordinance issued by the State Fire Marshal.

**NOW, THEREFORE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT THAT:**

Section 1. The 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map a recommended by the California State Fire Marshal is adopted within the jurisdiction of the District without change; and

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force 30 days after its final passage and adoption. After adoption, the District shall submit the Ordinance to State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF, HELD ON THE 22nd DAY OF APRIL 2025, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

**AYES:**  
**NOES:**  
**ABSENT:**  
**ABSTAIN:**

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**Pierre Washington**  
**Chair, Board of Directors**

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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**Geoff Belyea**  
**Fire Chief/District Clerk**

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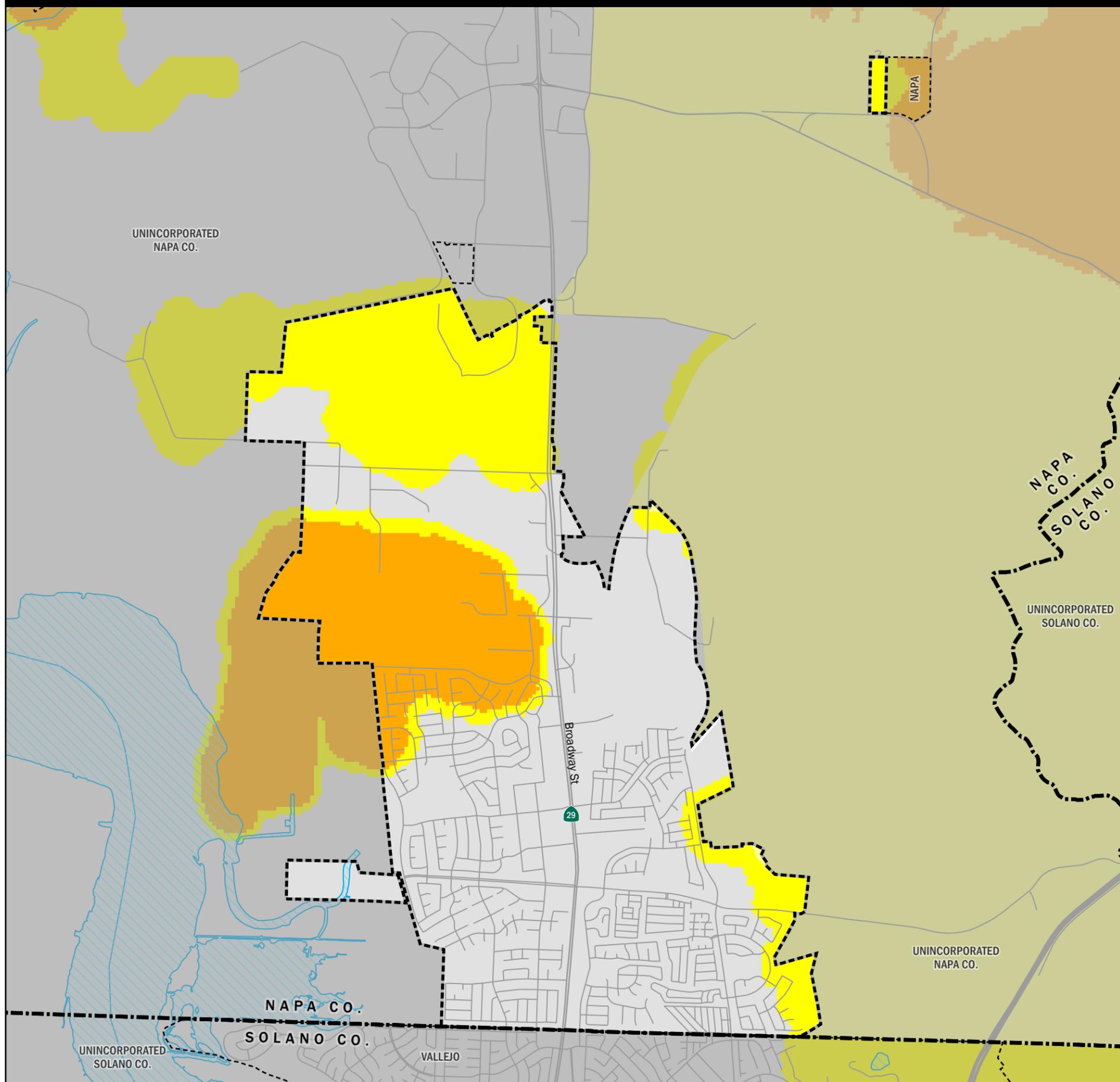
**William D. Ross**  
**District Counsel**  
**American Canyon Fire Protection District**



# Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the  
State Fire Marshal

February 24, 2025



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

High       Moderate

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

High       Moderate



Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers  
Scale: 1:34,000 at 11" x 17"

Incorporated City       Waterbody  
 Unzoned LRA

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,

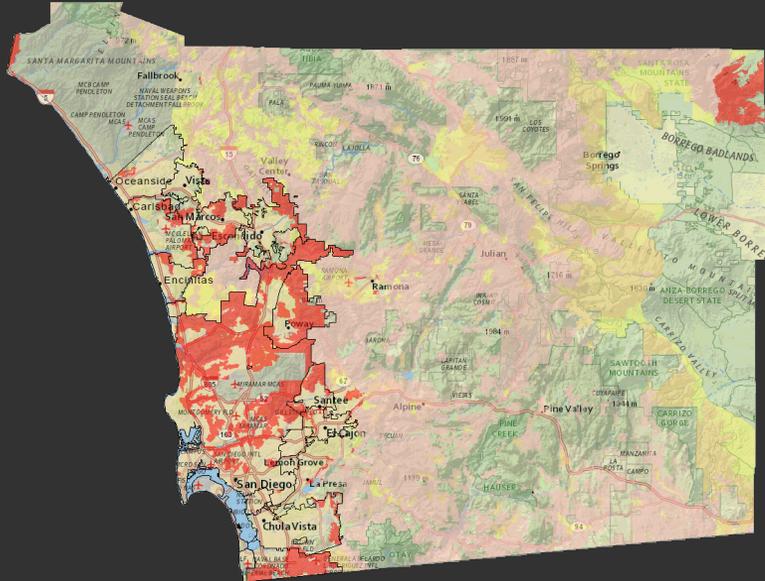
and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread.

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)

# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



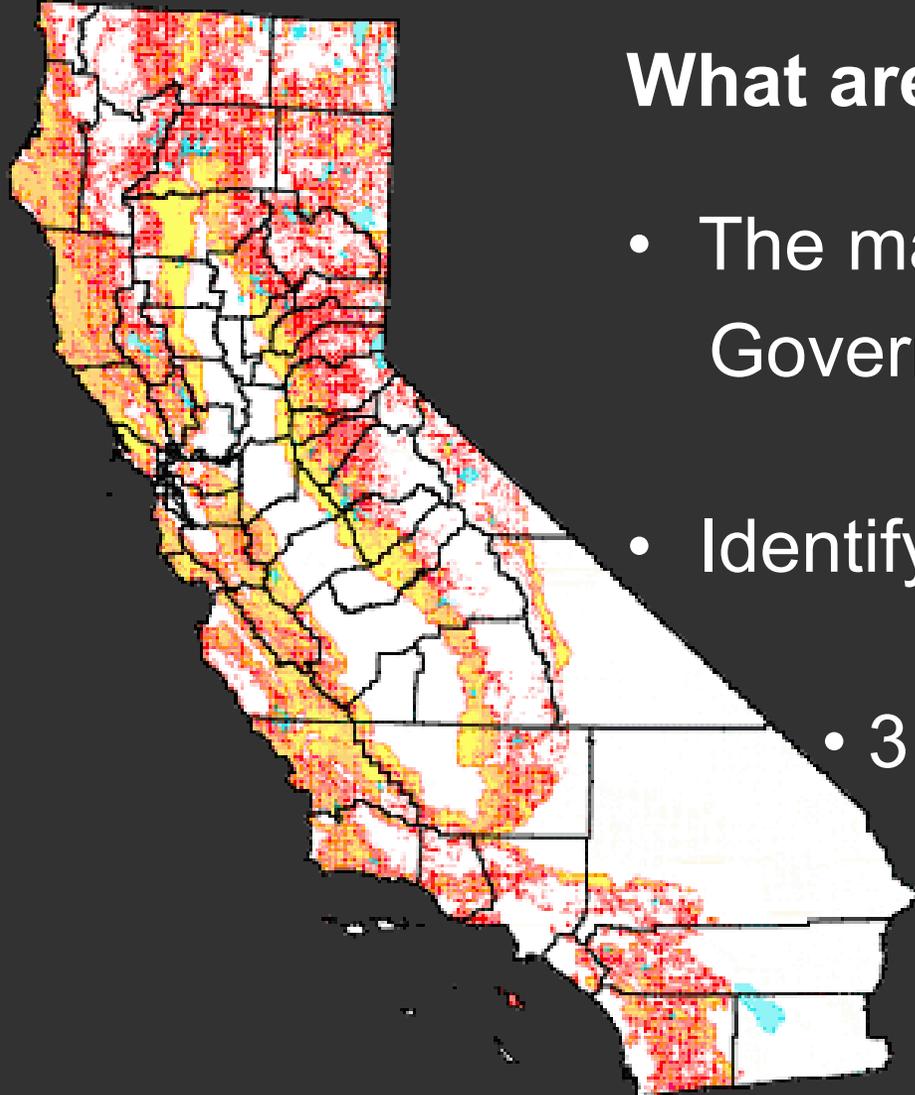
***CAL FIRE***

# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



## What are the Zones?

- The maps are required by Government Code 51178 & 51179
- Identify levels of fire hazard
  - 3 levels (Moderate, High, & Very High)



# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



## How are the Zones determined?

- CAL FIRE used the best available science and data to develop, and field test a model that served as the basis of zone assignments. The model evaluated the probability of the area burning and potential fire behavior in the area.
- Factors: fire history, vegetation, flame length, blowing embers, proximity to wildland, terrain, and weather



# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



## New Updates



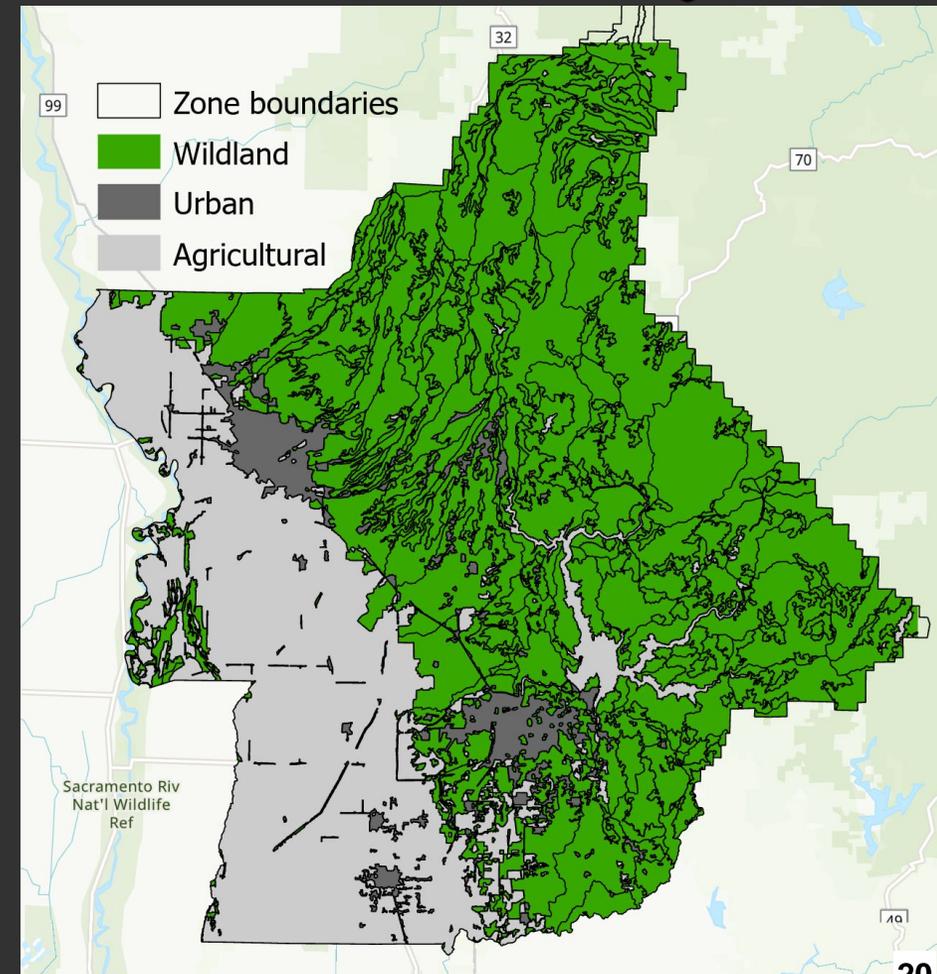
- Updated burn probabilities for wildland areas (inclusive of 2020 fires)
- Updated fire environment footprints (urban/developed)
- Updated Vegetation density for urban areas
- Inclusion of slope in the urban zoning model
- **Localized fire weather used in both wildland and urban models**
- **New firebrand production and transport model using discrete local wind vector distributions**

# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



## Wildland vs. Non-wildland Zones

- Zones are areas with relatively homogeneous slope and vegetation
- Hazard map is produced at 30 m resolution
- Scores are averaged within a zone
- Wildland is scored independently of urban and agricultural
- Urban zones scored using additional model steps

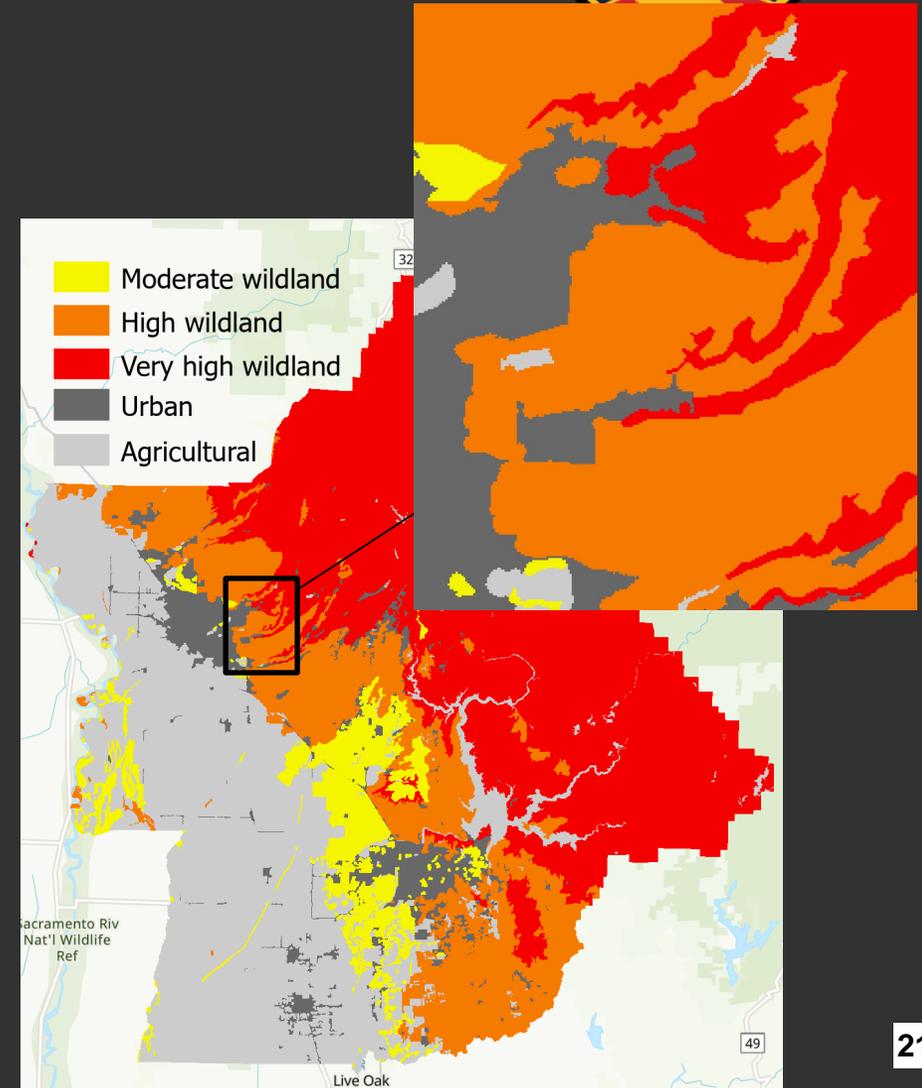


# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



## Wildland FHSZ

- Minimum size of 200 acres
- Burn probability
  - Based on fire occurrence from 1991-2020
- Fire intensity
  - Vegetation type
  - Slope
  - Local fire weather – how hot/dry/windy are the worst conditions at a given location (based on 2 km data from 2003-2018)

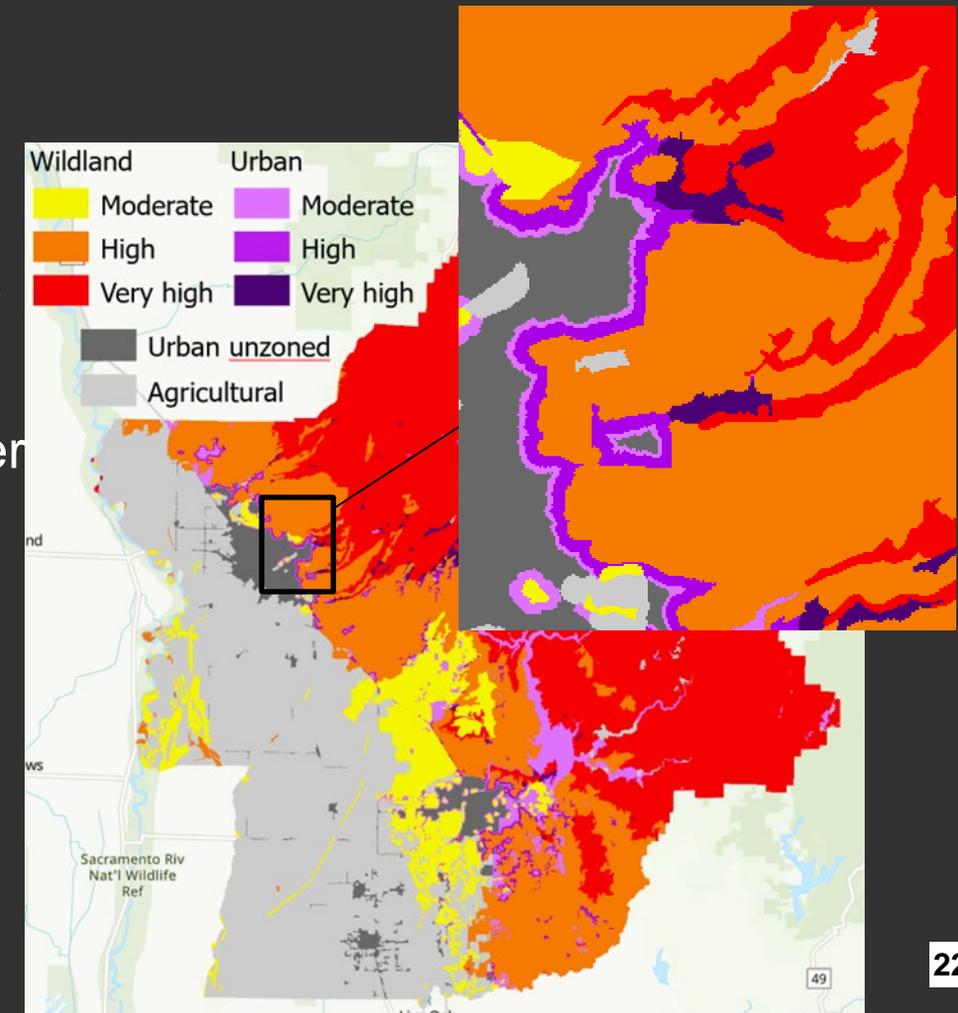


# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



## Urban FHSZ

- Minimum size of 20 acres for isolated islands of vegetation embedded in non-wildland.
- Based on distance to wildland and hazard level of adjacent wildland
- Ember production based on vegetation type and fire weather
- Ember transport based on wind speed/direction observed under the most extreme fire weather at a given location
- Width of moderate, high and very high bands in urban are based on ember load, urban tree cover and slope



# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



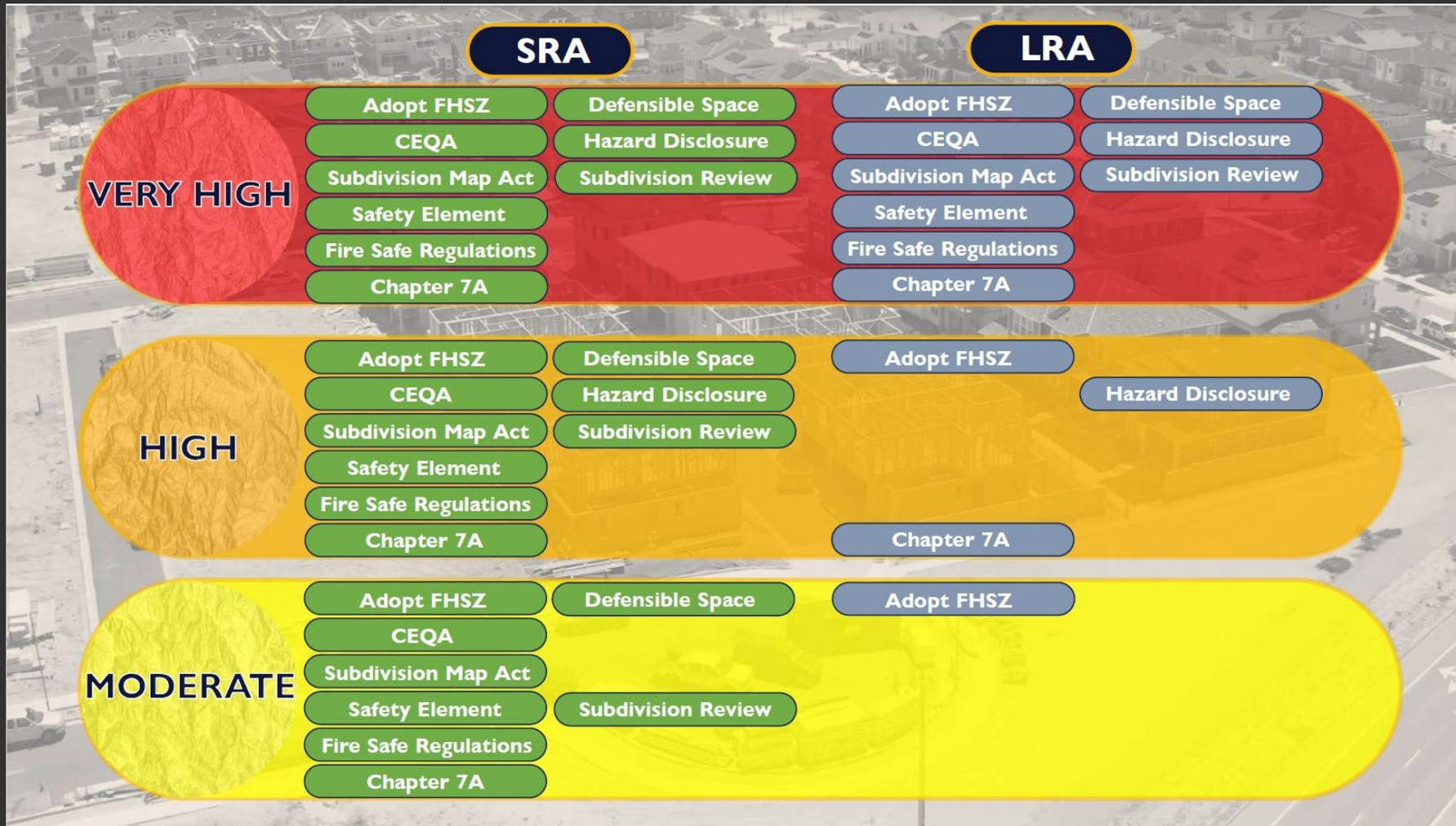
## What is the map for?

- Building standards for new construction in the Wildland-Urban Interface (California Building Code Chapter 7A)
- Property development standards such as road widths, water supply and signage (Fire Safe Regulations)
- Defensible Space Requirements (Government Code 51182)
- Natural hazard real estate disclosure

# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



## What's Impacted...



# Fire Hazard Severity Zones

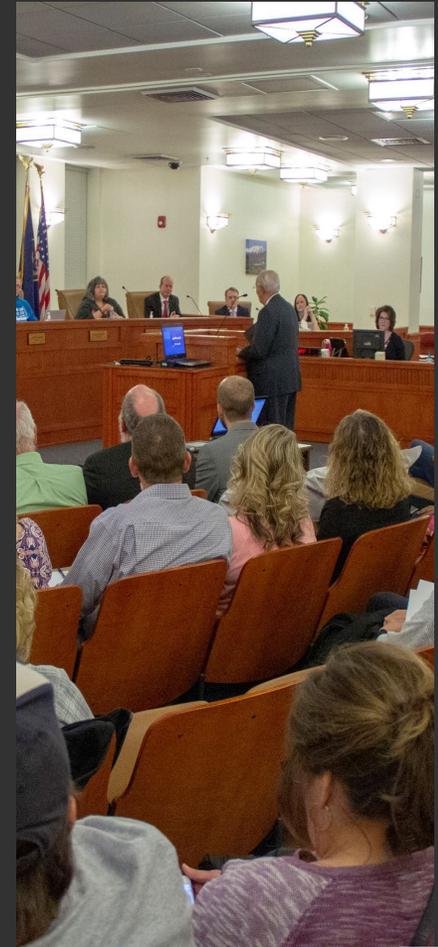


**Adoption Timeline:**

**Public Hearing: April 22, 2025**

**Adoption: The District has 30 days to submit the Ordinance to State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.**

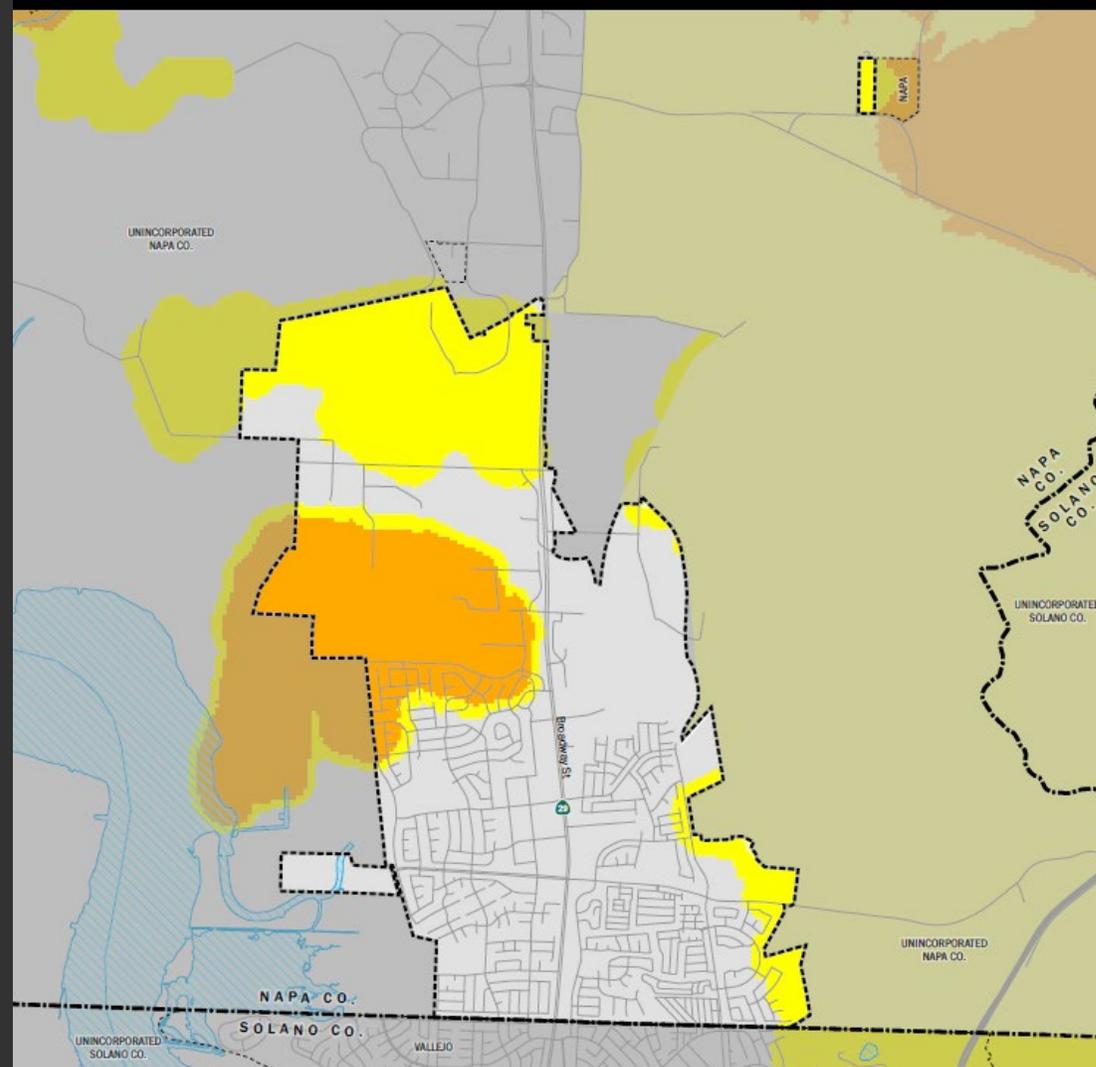
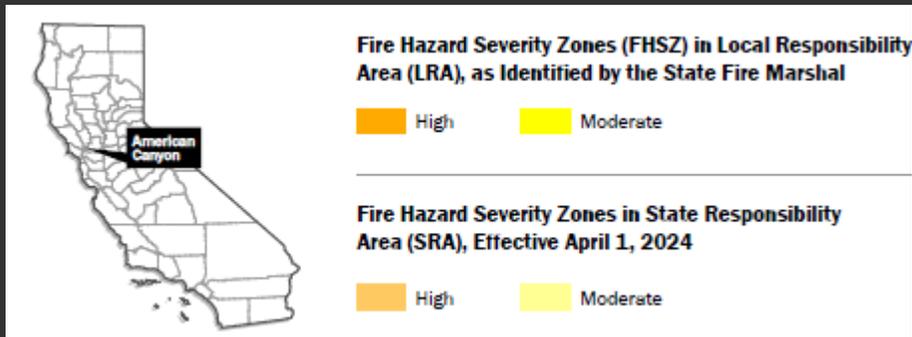
**May 22, 2025**



# Fire Hazard Severity Zones



## City of American Canyon Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones



# Questions?



# osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz

A screenshot of the CAL FIRE website's 'Fire Hazard Severity Zones' page. The page has a red header with the CAL FIRE logo and navigation links. The main content area is white and features a large heading 'Fire Hazard Severity Zones'. Below the heading is a paragraph explaining that California's dry Mediterranean climate leads to wildfires, and CAL FIRE is required to classify the severity of fire hazard. A video player is embedded on the page, showing a map of California with the text 'HISTORY OF FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAPS'. To the right of the video player is a text box titled 'The History of Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps' with a short paragraph of text.

Emergency/ Call 911 Translate Settings

ABOUT WHAT WE DO OUR IMPACT COMMITTEES RESOURCES JOIN US Search safety information SEARCH

Home > What We Do > Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation > Fire Hazard Severity Zones

## Fire Hazard Severity Zones

California's seasonally dry Mediterranean climate lends itself to wildfires, and in an effort to better prepare, CAL FIRE is required to classify the severity of fire hazard in areas of California.

The History of Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps

### HISTORY OF FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAPS

Watch on YouTube

#### The History of Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps

Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps arose from major destructive fires, prompting the recognition of these areas and strategies to reduce wildfire risks. Legislative response led to mandated mapping across California under the California Public Resources Code 4201.4204, encompassing all State Responsibility Areas (SRA).





## **TITLE**

Fighting Fire with Funding

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file the report, "Fighting Fire with Funding", the Urgent need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California.

## **CONTACT**

Geoff Belyea, Fire Chief

## **BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

In February 2025, the Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC), in partnership with California Fire Chiefs Association and the California Volunteer and Combination Chiefs released a white paper titled Fighting Fire with Funding. This document presents an urgent appeal to state policymakers, emphasizing the critical funding shortfall that is impacting California's local fire services.

Local agencies, including independent fire districts, serve more than 39 million residents across 125,782 square miles. Yet, they are operating under outdated funding structures that have not evolved to meet the growing demands of modern emergency response.

As part of these advocacy efforts, Chief Belyea and the members of FDAC's Executive Board met with representatives from the Governor's Office and the Speaker of the Assembly to discuss the white paper's findings and reinforce the urgent need for a sustainable funding framework for Fire Protection Districts. An additional meeting is scheduled with Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire in the near future.

The Fighting Fire with Funding white paper outlines several critical challenges facing California's fire service. Over the past 50 years, California's fire districts have transformed from focusing mainly on rural and urban fires suppression to providing a broad range of all-risk services – including emergency medical calls and hazardous materials incidents, technical rescues and wildfire response. Emergency medical services (EMS) now account for the majority of today's call volume, and wildfire responses have intensified over past decade, pushing the mutual aid system to its limits. Notably, during recent fires in Eaton and Pacific Palisades, over 60% of personnel deployed came from local

fire agencies—demonstrating just how essential these local resources are to the state’s overall emergency response system.

Yet the funding model for these expanded responsibilities remains antiquated. Proposition 13 (1978) and the Assembly Bill 8 (1979) locked in fire district revenues based on 1970s service levels. These outdated mechanisms offer no way to adjust funding for modern needs. Proposition 218 (1996) further limited local revenue options by requiring a two-thirds vote for new or increased taxes and assessments, making it difficult for fire districts to generate the revenue needed to meet modern service demands.

Rising costs driven by inflation, evolving professional standards, stricter building codes, and regulatory mandates have placed additional strain on already-limited local budgets. Labor costs have risen significantly, reflecting increased wages, benefits and the need to remain competitive amid recruiting challenges. Occupational health and safety standards have evolved considerably, leading to higher workers’ compensation costs and the implementation of mental health and wellness programs.

Simultaneously, the technology boom has transformed fire service operations, requiring continual investment in software, communications systems, and digital infrastructure. Unfunded mandates and costly capital facility requirements have led many agencies to defer vital projects. The white paper also highlights disparities in cost recovery, noting that fire districts face more restrictive revenue limitations compared to city and county counterparts. As a result, many districts struggle to maintain adequate staffing, training, and equipment. This underfunding directly impacts California’s mutual aid system, which relies heavily on local agencies. The growing number of “Unable to Fill” (UTF) requests indicate a clear sign of increasing strain, putting both local communities and state emergency response network at risk.

Call to Action: The Fighting Fire with Funding white paper urges California’s leaders to develop sustainable long-term funding solutions. The key issue is funding, not just equipment. Investing in more fire engines or tools will not address the crisis if agencies lack the staff and resources to deploy them. Instead, the focus must be on modernizing funding streams and fixing outdated laws so local fire services can maintain safe staffing, up-to-date training, and resilient infrastructure to protect our communities.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None. This report is informational.

## **BOARD PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

Public Safety: "Ensure American Canyon remains a safe community"

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

No environmental review is required, as the proposed action is not a “project” pursuant to the

California Environmental Quality Act and has no potential for causing an impact on the environment.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Fighting Fire with Funding](#)



# Fire Districts Association of California

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February 20, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
President Pro Tempore, California State senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Speaker, California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Needs of the Local Government Fire Service

Dear Governor Newsom, President Pro Tempore McGuire, and Speaker Rivas:

California's local fire services are facing a critical funding crisis that directly affects public safety. Service demands continue to dramatically increase while funding mechanisms remain outdated. This growing gap leaves local fire agencies struggling to maintain adequate staffing, equipment, and infrastructure, leading to longer response times, brownouts, and an overburdened mutual aid system.

The attached document, *Fighting Fire with Funding*, highlights these financial challenges and the urgent need for action. While investment in CalFire is important, it is equally critical to support the hundreds of local fire agencies that form the foundation of California's emergency response. During recent fires in Eaton and Pacific Palisades, over 60% of personnel came from local agencies. These agencies not only protect their own communities but also provide essential mutual aid resources, including water rescues, urban search and rescue, and hazardous materials response teams.

We respectfully request the opportunity to discuss *Fighting Fire with Funding* with you to develop long-term, collaborative solutions that prioritize fire service readiness at every level. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Chief Eric Walder  
President, Board of Directors

cc: Members of the California State Senate  
Members of the California State Assembly  
California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA)  
California Volunteer and Combination Fire Chiefs Association



# FIGHTING FIRE WITH FUNDING

**The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire  
Service Resources in California**

ENDORSED BY:

**Fire Districts Association of California**

**California Fire Chiefs Association**

**California Volunteer and  
Combination Chiefs**



**FEBRUARY 2025**

## Executive Summary

The California Fire Service is facing a critical funding shortfall that jeopardizes the safety and preparedness of communities statewide. Fire protection districts and fire departments, which cover 125,782 square miles and serve over 39 million people, have seen service demand grow significantly over the last 50 years. Despite this, funding mechanisms have not kept pace, leaving fire agencies struggling to maintain staffing, equipment, and infrastructure. This document outlines key challenges and emphasizes the urgent need for action.

## Key Issues:

- **Increased Service Demands:** Over the past five decades, fire districts have expanded their roles to include emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials incidents, and wildfire mitigation. This has led to increased costs for training, equipment, and specialized resources.
- **Rising Costs:** Labor, service, supply, and equipment costs have surged due to national standards, regulations, and climate change. These increased costs are not reflected in funding mechanisms, which have remained stagnant since the 1970s.
- **Funding Shortfall:** Fire agencies rely heavily on property taxes and service fees, which are insufficient to cover growing service costs. While special taxes and assessments are available, they are difficult to implement and unreliable for long-term planning.
- **Impact on Service Delivery:** Funding shortages have led to brownouts, increased response times, and deferred capital projects. The mutual aid system, which depends on local fire agencies, is becoming strained, risking statewide vulnerability during major emergencies.

## Call to Action:

- **Collaborative Solutions:** The California Fire Service must collaborate to identify solutions to this funding crisis. All stakeholders must consult fire service experts and avoid developing independent solutions. Established associations like [FDAC](#), [CalChiefs](#) and [FIREScope](#) are already equipped to vet potential solutions.
- **Focusing on Funding, Not Equipment:** While fire engines are often prioritized, the key issue is funding, not equipment. The true need is to address historical underfunding and outdated legislative mechanisms that have led to this financial crisis. Solutions should focus on increasing funding to meet modern service demands, rather than adding more equipment without the resources to maintain it.

## Conclusion:

Immediate action is needed to address the California Fire Service's funding shortfall. Solutions should be developed in collaboration with fire service experts. Ensuring fire districts are adequately funded is crucial to maintaining a safe and effective response system for all Californians and securing the service's future.



## Introduction:

Fire protection districts and fire departments across the state of California—responsible for providing emergency response to a population of 39,327,546 and over a total service area of 125,782 square miles—now face a distinct crisis: a funding shortfall. The lack of necessary investments at the state, county, city, and district levels poses a genuine threat to public safety. This financial strain manifests in brownouts, increased response times, delayed infrastructure investments, layoffs, and station closures.

This funding challenge is not a recent development but has been compounded by decades of increasing the level of service without corresponding funding growth. The dynamic and evolving role of fire districts and fire departments throughout the state—now responsible for mitigating a variety of risks and managing diverse resources—contrasts starkly with the restrictive and stagnant funding formulas set since the 1970s. With fully professionalized operations offering higher levels of service in a more regulatory and constrained environment, California’s fire districts find themselves on the brink of a financial crisis.

Secure and sufficient funding is crucial for ensuring fire districts and fire departments can continue serving their unique communities and is also essential for safeguarding statewide emergency response capabilities. Bolstering available funding mechanisms is a pathway to enhanced training, staffing, and resources, ultimately contributing to a safer California for all.

### 1. Level of Service Provided by Fire Districts has Increased Significantly Over the Past 50 Years:

In the 1970s, fire suppression was essentially divided into two distinct categories: rural and urban. Today, due to changes in demand and professional standards, firefighters must be equally trained and operationally ready to respond to a variety of risks.

- Professional standards developed over the past 50 years have dramatically changed how service is delivered to the community today.
  - A statewide certification system was implemented in 1982 to standardize professional competency requirements for all firefighters (career and volunteer). Training requirements for firefighters continue to change to meet community needs and mitigate evolving risks.
  - Response and deployment standards memorialized at the national level in 2001 included new standards on minimum staffing levels, performance objectives, and reporting requirements. Standards for firefighting equipment, apparatus, and personal protective equipment have also changed how service is provided, and resources are managed.
  - Labor standards have changed significantly since the 1970s, impacting wages, benefits, and working conditions. Some of the largest changes include advances in occupational health and safety standards to enhance protection of firefighters from injury and death.
- Demand for service has significantly changed over the past 50 years. Gone are the days where fire districts predominantly provide only rural and urban fire suppression.
  - The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), a standardized reporting system implemented in the 1970’s, now collects categorized data reflecting the dynamic response provided by fire agencies including fire, explosion, rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous conditions, severe weather, and natural disaster, among others.
  - Emergency medical service now accounts for the majority of call volume in the fire service. While EMS response was historically transport-only and, in many cases, provided by volunteer groups, today’s fire service has adapted to meet the demand for sophisticated prehospital treatment and advanced life support

(ALS) transport.

- o Over the past 50 years, shifting jurisdictional responsibilities and increased demand have cemented special operations into the scope of the fire service. Many fire districts throughout the state now bear the responsibility for hazardous materials response, water rescue, aircraft rescue firefighting, and search and rescue operations. This type of all-risk capability requires specialized training, vehicles, and equipment.
- Demand for wildfire response has skyrocketed over the past 50 years, reaching unprecedented levels in the past 10 years. In recent years, the statewide mutual aid system has been pushed to its limits, drawing record resources from local fire agencies to supplement response efforts.
  - o Land use policy and climate change are contributing factors to the changing landscape in California as it pertains to wildfire risk. The expansion of wildland-urban interface (WUI) throughout the state has enhanced wildfire risk. Today, most jurisdictions are tasked with mitigating this enhanced risk in some capacity as more than 11 million Californians (approximately 25% of the population) are estimated to live in the WUI.
  - o In the past, wildfire response was mainly ground attack and hand-dug fire lines. Now, to meet response demands, the fire service utilizes ground, air, and specialized equipment, including dozers, drones, etc., to combat the flames and safeguard life and property.

## **2. Policy Changes Have Impacted Cost to Provide Service:**

Over the past 50 years, changes in the level of service provided by fire districts and policy changes at the federal and state levels have exponentially increased the cost of providing service. The impact of unfunded mandates is evident in ballooning labor costs, service and supply costs, and capital facilities and equipment costs.

- Labor Costs
  - o As national deployment standards have changed over the last 50 years, so have the minimum staffing levels recommended for meeting response performance objectives. The need for increased staffing levels has been further compounded as development continues throughout the state and urban sprawl necessitates new service needs.
  - o In addition to the minimum competency requirements standardized for new firefighters in the early 1980's, fire agencies must also support the ongoing training needs required to maintain professional proficiency – including rank advancement and special operations like water rescue, HazMat, technical rescue, etc.).
  - o Over the past 50 years, the cost of wages and benefits has increased significantly due to changing labor standards, inflation, and the need to remain competitive in an environment of recruiting shortages.
  - o Occupational health and safety standards may reflect some of the most consequential changes pertaining to increases in labor costs, as ensuring firefighter safety continues to be a primary issue for fire agencies. Changes in this area over the years have led to increased workers' compensation costs and, more recently, mental health and wellness initiatives.
- Service and Supply Costs
  - o Perhaps the most unpredictable costs are service and supply, which rise and fall with market changes. Public contracting requirements significantly impact how services and supplies are procured, often increasing costs.
  - o Changing occupational health and safety standards and changes to national standards for personal protective equipment have increased the costs for outfitting and equipping firefighters.
  - o The technology boom from 1990-2000 led to changes in how technology is used in the fire service. Many

fire agencies were impacted by the cost of integrating technology into their operations and administration.

- Capital Facilities and Equipment Costs
  - Changes to community development statewide have permanently changed service needs and community risk. Land use and development policy changes, including open space requirements, development in the WUI, and high-density housing requirements, continue to significantly impact capital facilities and equipment costs as the need for new facilities and specialized equipment continues to grow.
  - In 1978, the state legislature implemented a single building code that ensured all building standards in the state were unified—the California Building Standards Code (Title 24). This code included various standards, including standards for structural integrity, safety, FFC ventilation, electrical systems, heating and air conditioning, accessibility, and many others. Title 24 has been repeatedly changed since then, most recently with added standards on energy efficiency and standards to combat climate change. These standards have significantly increased construction costs in California.
  - In 1986, the state legislature determined that buildings providing essential services should be capable of delivering those services to the public after a disaster. Essential service buildings (like fire stations) must now be designed and constructed to minimize fire hazards and resist the forces of natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, and wind. This unfunded mandate has significantly increased fire station construction costs.
  - In addition to building code and essential service facility requirements, added environmental investigation and mitigation requirements have increased construction costs and significantly impacted the planning and permitting process, extending project completion timelines.
  - Cost increases are not isolated to new facilities; expansion and remodeling of fire stations are rapidly becoming cost prohibitive as these projects are required to meet current building and environmental standards. The cost of bringing facilities “up to code” has led many fire agencies to defer necessary capital facility projects until the facility can be torn down and completely rebuilt.

### **3. Funding Has Not Kept Pace with Cost to Provide Service:**

Fire service costs are primarily recovered through property taxes (fire suppression) and fees for service (EMS). Despite increases in the level of service and the growing costs to provide that service, mechanisms available to fire districts for recovering costs have not been responsive to these increases. The formula for funding fire suppression has been stagnant since the 1970s, and other available funding mechanisms do not offer the stability to implement long-term planning initiatives.

- Property Taxes
  - Before the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, fluctuations in local governments’ cost of doing business were stabilized by the ability to locally adjust property tax rates to account for changes in the market. While Prop 13 aimed to stabilize property tax rates and provide relief to property owners, it left local governments, including fire districts, vulnerable to market volatility.
  - The property tax allocation method established in 1979 by Assembly Bill (AB) 8 was based on the existing level of service and did not provide a mechanism for adjusting allocations to accommodate future changes to professional standards for training, response, and labor; future changes to demand for services and increased risks; and future capital investments necessary to support these changes.
  - As the level of service has expanded since the 1980s, the legislature’s intent has been for fire agencies to be

less reliant on property taxes and more on special taxes and fees for service.

- Fees for Service
  - EMS delivery has always been fee-based; however, it has been directly related to hospital transport. Historically, transport fees have not contemplated future changes in professional standards and demand for service, specifically related to ALS's response.
  - As demand increased and emergency rooms became more impacted, wait times have dramatically increased in recent years. As a result, more fire agencies are becoming less reliant on emergency room transport and are providing more robust prehospital services for which no reliable cost recovery mechanism exists. Only recently has the widespread implementation of first responder fees been imposed to offset the cost of response and treatment on scene.
  - Fees for special operations services outside of fire suppression and EMS have no formalized mechanism for cost recovery as a matter of policy. Instead, they largely depend on a fire agency's ability to lobby and negotiate with other local jurisdictions.
  - In the 1980s, California created the Unified Program to protect Californians from hazardous waste and hazardous materials by ensuring local regulatory agencies consistently apply statewide standards. Many local regulatory agencies contract with fire districts to provide mitigation responses to hazmat incidents. While fire districts are entitled to full reimbursement, this is often not the case.
  - Ensuring fees cover the service cost continues to challenge fire agencies. The Mitigation Fee Act states that agencies may only collect fees proportional to the current level of service and provides a path for taxpayers to challenge fees. Ensuring that fees comply with state law typically requires a fee study, which can be burdensome to smaller agencies and often results in fee calculations that do not provide full cost recovery, leaving agencies to somehow fill the gap.
- Special Taxes and Assessments
  - While cities and counties can leverage sales and use tax measures to address funding shortfalls, special taxes and assessments are the only other cost recovery method available to fire agencies under existing state law and have been used historically to finance infrastructure and public services throughout the state.
  - In addition to changing how property taxes are assessed, Prop 13 also instituted restrictions on introducing new taxes – requiring a two-thirds vote by local governments and in some cases, by voters. Prop 218, passed in 1996, further restricted local agencies' revenue-raising efforts by requiring taxpayers or voters to approve all new or increased taxes, special assessments, and some fees by a two-thirds vote and adding additional procedures local agencies are required to follow. It also enabled voters to utilize the initiative power to rescind objectionable taxes, assessments, and fees, which continues to pose challenges to fire districts today.

#### **4. Cost Recovery Challenges Disproportionately Impact Fire Districts:**

The fire service's mission to protect life and property does not stop when funding runs short. Unlike many other public services, the acceptable margin of service reductions is razor thin and not without consequential impact on the community's safety. Service and sacrifice are woven into the fire service's culture, evident not only in the individuals who put their lives on the line but also in the sacrifices fire districts are increasingly forced to make to deliver that service.

- In order to fulfill its mission, the level of service provided by fire agencies throughout the state must be responsive to the community's ever-changing needs.
- Policy-driven changes have impacted the level of service required to keep the community safe and have increased service costs.
- There is a disparity in cost recovery for fire districts compared to fire service partners at the city and county levels,

as fire districts have fewer cost recovery methods available.

- Cost recovery for policy-driven changes to service levels is inadequate, as the primary mechanisms available to fire districts for recovering costs (property tax and service fee) do not account for these changes. Other available cost recovery methods to fire districts (special taxes and assessments) are burdensome to implement, under constant scrutiny, and less dependable as long-term funding sources, diminishing the ability for fire districts to actualize long-term strategic planning for services, station construction, etc.
- While services have continued to expand, funding has not grown at parallel levels. Budget constraints have led to challenges in maintaining staffing levels, upgrading equipment, and conducting necessary training programs.
- Due to relentless funding challenges, fire districts have been forced to prioritize maintaining existing service levels and deferring necessary capital facility and equipment projects.
- Without addressing this funding crisis, fire districts may be unable to continue providing services that are responsive to community needs and in compliance with established standards.

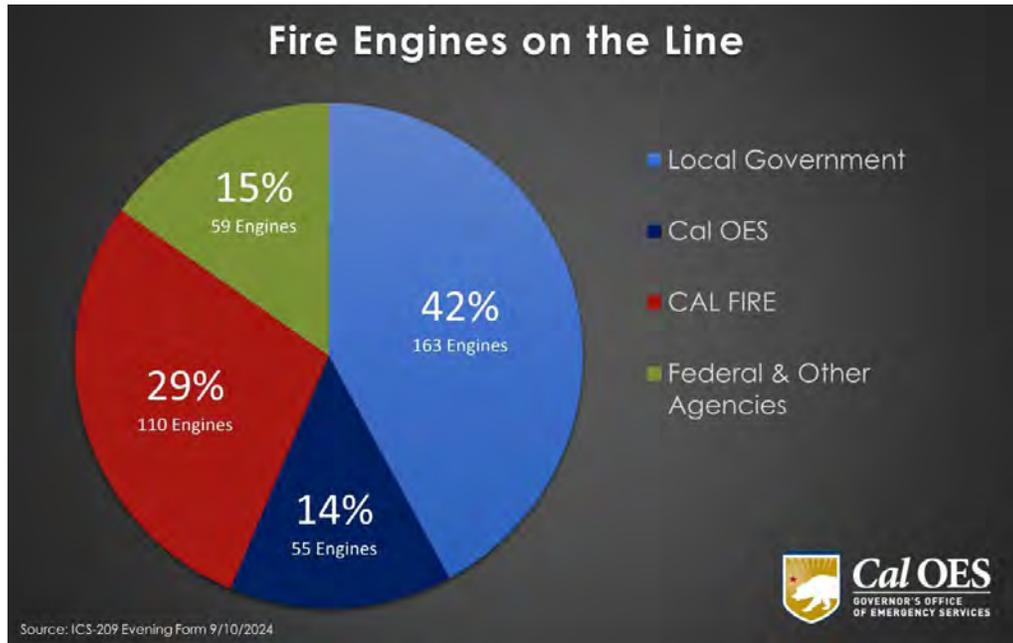
## 5. Adverse Impacts on Local Fire Agencies Increase Statewide Vulnerability

The statewide mutual aid system leverages the resources of local fire agencies to safeguard lives and property throughout the state. While fire districts are primarily responsible for protecting their own jurisdiction, there has been an increased reliance on inter-agency automatic and mutual aid to deliver service. The impact is felt regionally and throughout the state when local fire agencies suffer.

- Staffing shortages continue to be a challenge for local fire agencies, exacerbated in recent years by increasing service needs and the COVID-19 pandemic. These shortages impact the ability to provide resources for mutual aid response.
- Deferred investments in equipment and apparatus also continue to challenge local fire agencies, resulting in unprecedented gaps in the mutual aid system.
- The mutual aid reimbursement process is becoming increasingly burdensome to local fire agency budgets as reimbursement delays exacerbate existing funding shortfalls.
- Funding shortfalls at the local level strain local resources, adding to the burden on the mutual aid system and passing it on to other local agencies participating in the mutual aid system.
- Vulnerabilities to the mutual aid system are growing, as evidenced by how often local agencies are unable to fill (UTF) calls for additional resources for mutual aid response. In 2020, the fire service in California experienced a staggering 19,435 UTFs, and in 2021 – while slightly better – saw 11,422 UTFs.
- Strained resources at the local level impact not only local agency budgets but also costs to the state. When local and state resources are exhausted, the state is left with no option but to utilize costly resources from outside the state and even the country.
- When resources are inadequate to tackle an emergency, locally or statewide, lives will be threatened, property is at risk, and what was once a manageable crisis may devolve into an unmitigated disaster.



This graphic highlights the crucial role that Local Government and Local Government-staffed OES engines play in California’s firefighting efforts. With 42% of the total engines deployed coming from local agencies, it is clear that collaboration at all levels—federal, state, and local—is essential for effective wildfire response. Together, we can protect our communities and respond to the challenges of wildfire season.



**Conclusion:**

California’s fire service—renowned for its emergency response capabilities, grapples with a unique and pressing disaster: a pervasive funding crisis. This crisis, fueled by insufficient state, county, city, and district investments, poses a tangible threat to public safety. The situation’s urgency is evident in the real-world cracks seen today, in higher response times, infrastructure delays, service reductions like brownouts and station closures, and even layoffs.

A critical aspect of the fire service’s resilience lies in collaboration, with local fire agencies forming over 50% of the mutual aid system. However, due to funding gaps, this system has unprecedented shortcomings, putting lives and property at risk when responding to emergencies. These challenges are manifested at the state level as the number of response requests returned as Unable to Fill (UTF) has reached staggering numbers in recent years, further evidence of a breakdown in local fire agencies’ operational capacity.

The roots of this funding problem extend over decades, where the fire service has continued to increase its level of service, yet funding formulas have stagnated since the 1970s. Continuous challenges to other cost recovery mechanisms for fire districts only exacerbate the issue. As fire districts stand at the precipice of a financial crisis, ensuring proper funding is crucial for safeguarding the diverse communities that fire districts serve and maintaining statewide emergency response capabilities. Training, staffing, and resources that are responsive to community needs are directly tied to sufficient and secure funding for fire districts and are what will pave the way for a safer California for all.





## **TITLE**

Fire Engine Update.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file an update on the fire engine production progress for American Canyon Fire Production District.

## **CONTACT**

Geoff Belyea, Fire Chief

## **BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

The American Canyon Fire Protection District entered into a production agreement for a new fire engine, and fabrication officially began on March 7, 2025. This staff report provides a summary of progress through the first six weeks of the build process, as documented through weekly photographic updates from the manufacturer.

### **Progress Overview**

#### **Week 1 – March 7, 2025: Cab Fabrication Begins**

Production began with the fabrication of the cab structure. The aluminum framework was formed, and mounting placement began to take shape. Initial shaping and welding of the front and side cab panels were completed.

#### **Week 2 – March 14, 2025: Engine Compartment Fabrication**

This phase included the formation of key internal compartments that will eventually house the engine and related components. Precision cuts and welds indicate ongoing assembly of the rear module framework.

#### **Week 3 – March 21, 2025: Body Construction Begins**

Significant progress was made on the vehicle body, which included additional compartment assembly and body integration work. This stage brought together more defined sections of the rear body and support frames.

**Week 4 – March 28, Pump Panel Assembly**

Fabrication of the Pump Panel Assembly began. These components will hold the pump and also provide storage.

**Week 5 – April 4, 2025: Chassis and Cab Painting**

The chassis was fully assembled with tires and wheels installed. Simultaneously, the cab underwent its first primer coat and was painted white.

**Week 6 – April 11, 2025 – Pump Assembly and Red Paint Application**

This week we saw major developments with the assembly of plumbing and mechanical pump components. Red paint was also applied to compartments.

The fire engine production remains on track and within schedule. The detailed weekly updates provide confidence that the manufacturer is maintaining steady progress on this critical piece of emergency response equipment.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time. Funding for this apparatus was previously authorized by the Board of Directors.

**BOARD PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

Public Safety: "Ensure American Canyon remains a safe community"

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None