



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Chair

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3

Angela Curro
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez
District No. 5

Item Number: 1.10

MEETING DATE: 04/22/2025

DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Kris Mangano

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Kris Mangano

SUBJECT:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES - K. MANGANO

Introduction of the 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for the Local Responsibility Area from the Office of the State Fire Marshall to enhance California's approach to wildfire preparedness. Accept Introduction of an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito Designating Fire Hazard Severity Zones", waive further reading, and continue to May 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. for adoption.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 75.5

ORDINANCE NO.: 1081

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has released updated 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps for Local Responsibility Area's (LRA) across the state. These map updates are intended to enhance California's approach to wildfire preparedness.

The revised maps incorporate 1.4 million additional acres into high and very high fire hazard severity zones statewide, updating code and construction requirements for communities most at risk.

Adoption and Implementation

Per OSFM, the County of San Benito has 120 days to adopt the map updates. The updated regulations will apply to those areas located within the County. The adoption will be requested on May 6, 2025.

The maps have been available for public view and comment on the County's website at:

<https://www.sanbenitocountyca.gov/services/safety/fire-services> and were posted on social media, the County Assessors Office, Resource Management Agency, and the County Clerk-Recorder Registrar of Voters Office.

Background Information

While all of California is subject to some degree of fire hazard, there are specific features that make some areas more hazardous. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is required by law to map areas of significant fire hazards-based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors.

The Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps were developed using a science-based and field-testing computer model that assigns a hazard score based on the factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior. Many factors are considered such as fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical weather for the area. The State identified three hazards in State and Local Responsibility Areas: "Moderate", "High", and "Very High".

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

Yes

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

No

RFP AND BID HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

Yes

BUDGETED:

N/A

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

N/A

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Ordinance - 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps
LRA Legislation Factsheet