Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Local Responsibility Area          State or Federal Responsibility Areas

VHFHSZ  VHFHSZ

Non-VHFHSZ  Non-VHFHSZ

City Boundary  Parcels

County Boundary

Government Code 51175-89 directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to identify areas of very high fire hazard severity zones within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). Mapping of the areas, referred to as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), is based on data and models of potential fuels over a 30-50 year time horizon and their associated expected fire behavior, and expected burn probabilities to quantify the likelihood and nature of vegetation fire exposure (including firebrands). Details on the project and specific modeling methodology can be found at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/methods.htm. Local Responsibility Area VHFHSZ maps were initially developed in the mid-1990s and are now being updated based on improved science, mapping techniques, and data.

This map was developed using data products such as parcel and city boundaries provided by local government agencies. In certain cases, this includes copyrighted geographic information. The maps are for display purposes only - questions and requests related to parcel or city boundary data should be directed to the appropriate local government entity. The maps will be used by building officials for new building permits in LRA. The updated zones will also be used to identify property whose owners must comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at time of property sale and 100 foot defensible space clearance. It is likely that the fire hazard severity zones will be used for updates to the safety element of general plans.

For more information, contact CAL FIRE-FRAP, PO Box 945248, Sacramento, CA 94244-2450, (916) 327-3939.

Obtain FRAP maps, data, metadata and publications on the Internet at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor,
Mike Chinn, Secretary for Resources,
Ruben Grijalva, Director,