City of Uki

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTM

2025-E0054
Recorded at the request of:
CITY OF UKIAH
06/24/2025 09:34 AM
Fee: $50.00 Pgs: 1 of 2
OFFICIAL RECORDS
Katrina Bartolomie - Clerk-Recorder
Mendocino County, CA

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMP

TO: X **Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation**
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

X **County Clerk**
500 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA, 95482

FROM: **City of Ukiah**
300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482

PROJECT TITLE:	Adoption of an Ordinance Adopting the Updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map for the City of Ukiah Local Responsibility Area
PROJECT LOCATION:	City of Ukiah
PUBLIC AGENCY DECIDING TO CARRY OUT PROJECT:	City of Ukiah
DATE OF APPROVAL:	June 18, 2025
NAME OF PROJECT APPLICANT:	City of Ukiah

TO: X **Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation**
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

X **Mendocino County Clerk- Recorder**
501 Low Gap Road, STE 1020
Ukiah, CA 95482

FROM: **City of Ukiah**
300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482

CEQA EXEMPTION STATUS:

- ☐ **Ministerial**
- ☐ **Declared Emergency**
- ☐ **Categorical Exemption**
- ☐ **Statutory Exemption Section**
- X **Other: CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3)**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: State law requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to classify lands within State Responsibility Areas into Fire Hazard Severity Zones and transmit maps of those zones to cities with jurisdictions over the zones (Local Responsibility Areas). The OSFM is to identify areas in the state as Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones consistent with statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. The Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps are then created by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) under the direction of the OSFM.

California Government Code Section 51179(a) requires local agencies to designate, by ordinance, Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in their jurisdictions within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the OSFM pursuant to Section 51178. Local agencies cannot adopt a version of the map

lowering the threat. The City of Ukiah received the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Map on February 24, 2025, and has until June 24, 2025, to transmit an adopted ordinance to CAL FIRE designating the FHSZ map for the City of Ukiah LRA.

Given OSFM's expansion of the Very High FHSZ in the City of Ukiah LRA, Staff and the Fire Severity Ad Hoc engaged with CAL FIRE through letter and by email correspondence to understand OSFM/CAL FIRE's data and analyses. In Staff's opinion, CAL FIRE's answers were presented from the point of view of the CAL FIRE data modeler and did not directly address the 'why' within many of Staff and the Ad Hoc's questions. At no time did CAL FIRE suggest a potential revision to the City of Ukiah LRA mapping, so the map as presented to the public on February 24, 2025, remains unchanged.

In accordance with Government Code 51179(a), an Ordinance was prepared for the adoption of the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map for the City of Ukiah Local Responsibility Area. During Staff's presentation of the item at the June 4, 2025, public hearing, Staff made the recommendation that Council amend the Ordinance to remove the interpretation methodology within Section 4. With this amendment, the former Section 5 of the Ordinance, California Environmental Quality Act, and the former Section 6, Effective Date, would become Sections 4 and 5, respectively.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The proposed ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), the "Commonsense Exemption", as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the activity may have a significant effect on the environment. The adoption of the fire hazard severity zone map is required by law and does not involve a commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person:	Katherine Schaefers, Planning Manager
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This is to certify that the Notice of Exemption and other project related documents are available to the General Public at: Community Development Department, Planning Division, Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, CA 95482.

Signature (Public Agency)	06-19-2025 (Date)	Planning Manager (Title)