

FILED

SEP 12 2025
COURTNEY PROGNER MORROW
MARIPOSA COUNTY CLERK

**MARIPOSA COUNTY
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: County Clerk, County of Mariposa
P.O. Box 247
Mariposa, CA 95338

FROM: Mariposa County
Planning Department
P.O. Box 2039
Mariposa, CA 95338

Project Title: An Ordinance creating a new chapter 8.04 of the mariposa county code titled "Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones" which designates fire hazard severity zones in Mariposa County.

Project Location: Countywide

Description

Of Project: Adoption of an ordinance adding new provisions to Mariposa County Code Title 8, Health and Safety, §8.04. titled Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones, which is to designate into Mariposa County Code the levels of fire hazard consistent with State Law pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178 in the State Responsibility Area applicable to Mariposa County, that being moderate, high, and very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) as recommended by the State Fire Marshall pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Mariposa County

Name of Persons Carrying Out Project: Mariposa County

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption, Class 5; Section 15061 (b) (3) The activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

Reason Why

Project Is

Exempt: The action is for ordinance adoption to add a Chapter to Mariposa County Code Title 8, Health and Safety, §8.04. entitled Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones, is to designate into Mariposa County Code the levels of fire hazard consistent with State Law pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178 in the State Responsibility Area applicable to Mariposa County, that being moderate, high, and very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) as recommended by the State Fire Marshall pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178.

The Ordinance language and map itself does not allow for any physical development. The action would not authorize or allow for any physical changes to the environment as any part of the adoption of the ordinance for local adoption of

0313
Notice of Exemption - Ordinance 1200 Adding a Chapter to Mariposa County Code Title 8, Health and Safety, §8.04. entitled Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones, with the adoption of the Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map.

the State Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map for Mariposa County. Due to no physical changes allowed by the action, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Steve Engfer, Planning Director

Phone Number:

(209) 966-5151

Mariposa County, Planning Department

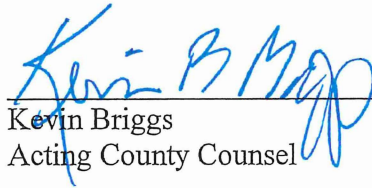


Steve Engfer, Planning Director

9/4/25

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kevin Briggs
Acting County Counsel

9/4/25

Date



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print **StartOver** **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:
22 — 09/12/2025 — 012
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY County of Mariposa	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL sengfer@mariposacounty.org	DATE 09/12/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Mariposa		DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE

Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Mariposa County	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL sengfer@mariposacounty.org	PHONE NUMBER (209) 966-5151
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS PO Box 2039	CITY Mariposa	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95338

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,123.50	\$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$	0.00
☐ Exempt from fee			
☐ Notice of Exemption (attach)			
☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)			
☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)			

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
☐ Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Brian Watson, Mariposa County Clerk, Deputy County Clerk
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State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

NOTICE

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):

- ☐ Collect environmental filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- ☐ Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- ☐ Attach copy of cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- ☐ Mail filing fees for CRP document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Please mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- ☐ Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE) *(Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))*

- ☐ Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- ☐ Attach copy of cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental filing fees are collected, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

The county clerk shall mail the following documents to CDFW on a monthly basis:

- ✓ A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- ✓ CDFW/ASB copies of all cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- ✓ A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- ✓ A copy of all NODs filed with the county during the preceding month
- ✓ A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD has been filed. If this information is contained on the cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

DOCUMENT RETENTION

The county shall retain two copies of the cash receipt (for lead agency and county clerk) and a copy of all documents described above for at least 12 months.

RECEIPT NUMBER

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.

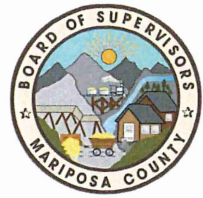
Mail to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Accounting Services Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors



Ordinance 2025-1200

MEETING: September 2, 2025

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Trindade, Unit Chief

RE: Waive the Second Reading and Adopt an Ordinance titled "Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones" for addition in County Code Section 8.04 (Currently 'Reserved') Which Designates Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps Developed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("CAL FIRE") for State Responsibility Areas Pursuant to Government Code 51179(a); Authorize Submission of the Ordinance and Associated Map to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Pursuant to 14 CCR 1280.02; Find That The Ordinance Is Not Subject to The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"); and Direct Staff to File a Notice of Exemption for the Project

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION

Waive the Second Reading and Adopt an Ordinance titled "Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones" for addition in County Code Section 8.04 (Currently 'Reserved') Which Designates Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps Developed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("CAL FIRE") for State Responsibility Areas Pursuant to Government Code 51179(a); Authorize Submission of the Ordinance and Associated Map to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Pursuant to 14 CCR 1280.02; Find That The Ordinance Is Not Subject to The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"); and Direct Staff to File a Notice of Exemption for the Project.

CAL FIRE has prepared and distributed Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Maps for communities in State Responsibility Areas ("SRA") for decades. An FHSZ is a geographic area classified by the State as having moderate, high, or very high wildfire hazard. CAL FIRE has developed and regularly field tests a model that evaluates the probability of an area burning and potential fire behavior in that area under extreme fuel and weather conditions. The factors included in determining fire hazard include fire history, flame length, blowing embers, terrain, vegetation cover, local weather, and potential fuel over a 50-year period. The Office of the State Fire Marshal within CAL FIRE regularly reviews and updates the FHSZ maps. The most recent Mariposa County FHSZ map is attached.

In February and March of 2025, CAL FIRE released the 2025 Local Responsibility Area ("LRA") Fire Hazard Severity Maps. Local Responsibility Areas are areas in which the financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of a city, county, city and county, or district. Under California Code, local governments must adopt these maps when changes affect areas designated as LRA Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones ("VHFHSZ"). Section 51179 of State Code allows a local agency to increase the level of hazard severity zones beyond what the Office of the State Fire Marshal designates in the FHSZ maps, but 51179(b)(3) prohibits a local agency from decreasing the

level of fire hazard severity for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency. Fifty-five of California's fifty-eight counties were required to prepare ordinances adopting the LRA VHFHSZ maps; only Alpine, Mariposa, and Trinity counties were not required to do so because they do not have LRA.

However, in 2022, the Board of Forestry released the first iteration of the Fire Risk Reduction Community List ("FRRCL") as mandated by Public Resources Code 4290.1. The list includes local agencies located in an SRA or VHFHSZ that meet best practices for local fire planning. The first criterion necessary for a community to be included in the List is the adoption of a local ordinance similar to those adopted by the other fifty-five counties and that which is proposed for adoption by this item. Given that Mariposa County has contracted with CAL FIRE for fire protection services and the Mariposa-Madera-Merced Unit utilizes CAL FIRE maps to carry out their responsibilities, approval of this proposed ordinance is reasonable.

County Fire, the County's Office of Emergency Management and the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee (MCFAC) use the FHSZ maps in wildfire risk assessment (including prioritizing fuel reduction projects), emergency preparedness and outreach (including pre-positioning of emergency resources), incident response and planning (including the determination of pre-evacuation and evacuation routes and zones) and in grant and funding alignment. In addition, FHSZ maps designate areas where California's defensible space standards and wildland urban interface building codes are required.

CAL FIRE's FHSZ maps drive local planning decisions, not insurance decisions. Insurance companies have access to risk analysis tools such as FireLine and CoreLogic, which draw on data sets similar to those of CAL FIRE but which also include company-specific risk assessment algorithms.

As noted in the attached Fire Risk Reduction Community List Information for Applicants document, the incentives for inclusion in the FRRCL are that: (a) priority is assigned to grant applications for communities on the List; and (b) possible insurance discounts may be available to FRRCL communities. While work continues on other actions necessary for Mariposa County to be considered for inclusion in the List, this item requests approval of the map, which is required by criterion #1.

This item also asks that the Board find that the ordinance is not subject to the CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) as it is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS

The Board has approved a number of documents that represent best practices for local fire planning, including:

- The Mariposa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan was initially approved in 2021 and amended in 2024.
- The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) was approved in 2015, revised and approved in 2020, and revised and approved on May 20, 2025.
- The Safety Element of the General Plan was initially adopted by the Board in December 2006 as part of the Mariposa County General Plan, revised by Resolution No. 2015-371 initiating amendments to incorporate, by reference, the LHMP, and again in 2017 to, among other actions, approve Mariposa County's responses to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

recommended modifications to the draft Safety Element.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Do not adopt, and the County could potentially forego the benefits identified by the Board of Forestry of inclusion in the List.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Possible reductions in approvals of Wildfire Prevention Grant funding.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Mariposa County 8.04 Ordinance Draft**
2. **Fire Map**
3. **20250731 DRAFT NOE MPSA FIRE MAP ADOPTION**
4. **20250731 Draft Summary Ordinance 8 04 FIRE MAP**
5. **2025 FRRCL- Brochure**

VOTE RESULT

RESULT: **Adopted (UNANIMOUS)**

MOVER: District V Supervisor Miles Menetrey

SECONDER: District III Supervisor Danette Toso

AYES: District V Supervisor Menetrey, District I Supervisor Smallcombe, District III Supervisor Toso, District II Supervisor Poe, District IV Supervisor Kiser

Mariposa County Ordinance No. 1200

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 8.04 OF THE MARIPOSA COUNTY CODE TITLED
“MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES”**

WHEREAS, the State Fire Marshal is mandated by Public Resources Code 4202 to classify lands within State Responsibility Areas into Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), and

WHEREAS, Government Code 51178 requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of the fire hazard that is expected to prevail in that area, and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Fire Marshal advised Mariposa County that, we do not have Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) which are “areas of the state in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires in the primary responsibility of a city, county, city and county, or district”, and

WHEREAS, all areas of Mariposa County are either Federal Responsibility Areas or State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and CAL FIRE is financially responsible for wildfire prevention and suppression in the SRA, and

WHEREAS, Mariposa County has signed cooperative agreements with CAL FIRE for fire protection services since June 28, 2016 and CAL FIRE utilizes the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps to plan for and execute fire suppression operations, and

WHEREAS, the maps are currently posted on the Mariposa County website for public view and comment, and specifically are located at:
<https://www.mariposacounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/100676/Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-Map>

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, a political subdivision of the State of California, hereby finds as follows:

SECTION I. Mariposa County hereby designates the Fire Hazard Severity Zones as recommended by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Government Code Section 51178.

SECTION II. Authorize staff to submit this Ordinance and associated map to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Pursuant to 14 CCR 1280.02

SECTION III. The Board finds that this Ordinance is exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and the Board directs staff to file the notice of exemption for the project.

SECTION IV. The map, which may be updated from time to time by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, is approved by Mariposa County and titled “Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones” and is attached as Exhibit A and hereby incorporated by reference.

SECTION V. Chapter 8.04 is hereby created to read as follows:

8.04 Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones

8.04.010 Purpose

The provisions of this chapter are to designate into this Code the levels of fire hazard consistent with State Law pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178 in the State Responsibility Area applicable to Mariposa County, that being moderate, high, and very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) as recommended by the State Fire Marshall pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178.

8.04.020 Definitions

The following definitions are adopted for the purposes of this chapter:

A. "Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones" means the State Responsibility Areas Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), as recommended by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Government Code Section 51178, as amended from time to time, and as designated and adopted by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors.

B. "State Responsibility Area" means Public Resources Code - PRC § 4102 definition of areas applicable to Mariposa County, being an area of the state, in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires has been determined by the Board of Forestry pursuant to Section 4125 to be primarily the responsibility of the state.

8.04.030 Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map

The attached official hazard map is herewith incorporated by reference and entitled "Mariposa County Fire Hazard Severity Zones" which are the State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones as defined by the State Fire Marshal (dated June 15, 2023), as may be amended from time to time, and shall be for the purpose of evaluating local wildfire hazard planning decisions and not insurance wildfire risk underwriting decisions. The official hazard map is also located electronically on the following County website:

<https://www.mariposacounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/100676/Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-Map>

SECTION VI: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after final passage pursuant to Government Code §25123.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of September 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, POE, TOSO, KISER, MENETREY

NAYES: NONE

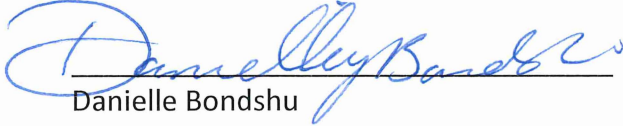
ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAINED: NONE



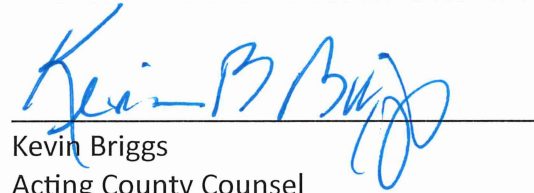
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Danielle Bondshu
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kevin Briggs
Acting County Counsel

Exhibit A

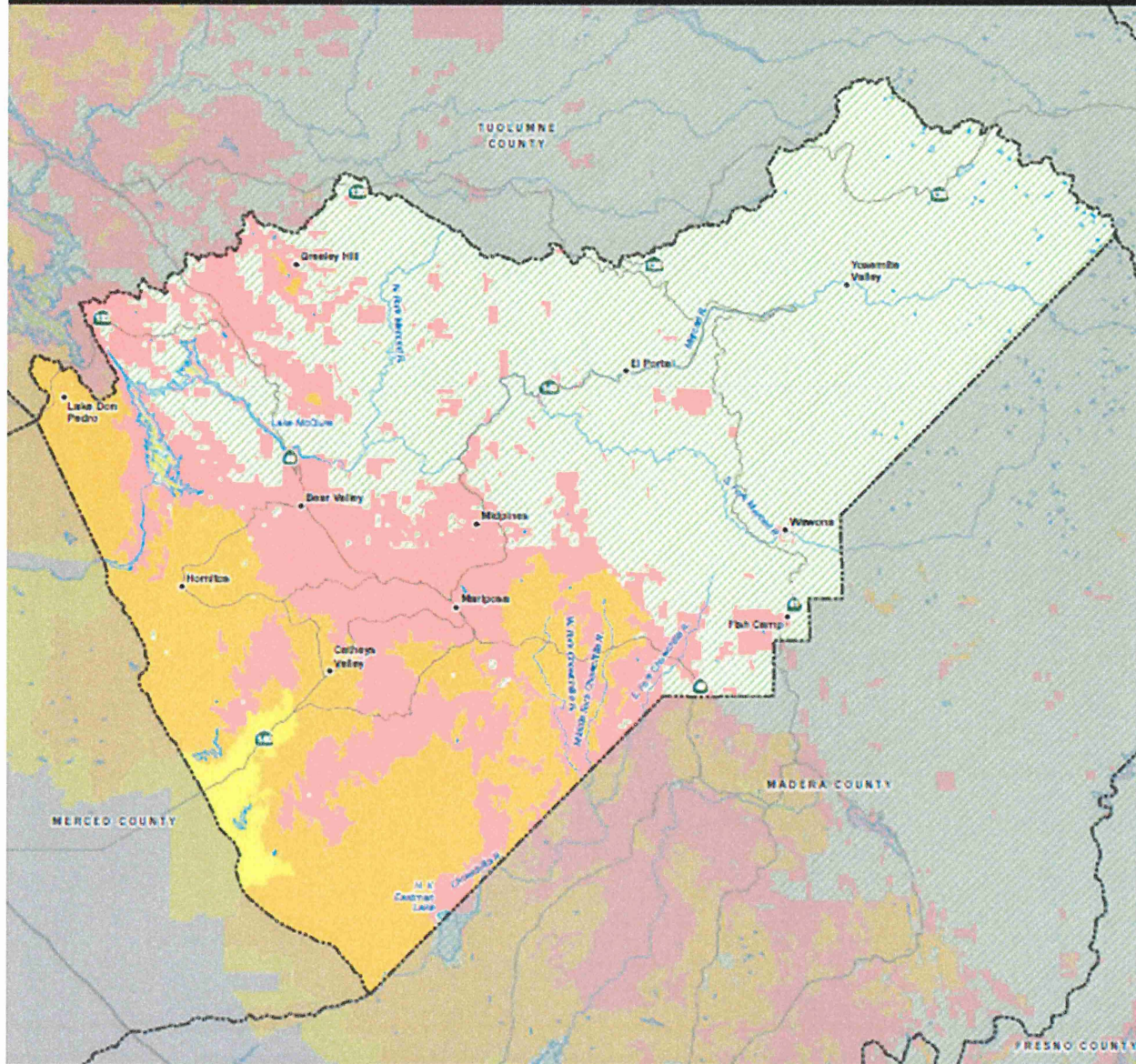
See below for full Map

Also available at:

<https://www.mariposacounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/100676/Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-Map>

State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

June 15, 2023

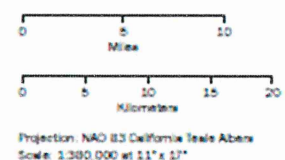


Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area (SRA)

Very High	219,184 Acres
High	206,174 Acres
Moderate	18,278 Acres

Fire Protection Responsibility Areas (non-SRA)

Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)
Local Responsibility Area (LRA)
Waterbody



Public Resources Code 4201-4204 directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to map fire hazard within State Responsibility Areas (SRA) based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors present, including areas where winds have been identified by the department as a major cause of wildfire spread. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), classify a wildland zone as Moderate, High, or Very High fire hazard based on the average hazard across the area included in the zone.

Access PDF versions of the maps at <https://calfire.fire.ca.gov/fhsz-esraps>. For more information, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions document for the 2023 Fire Hazard Severity Zones at <https://calfire.fire.ca.gov/fhsz> or scan the QR code at right. If you have further questions, please call 916-633-7655 or email FHSZcomments@fire.ca.gov.



Scan or click the QR code for more information and to visit the interactive FHSZ viewer.

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.

Obtain FRAP maps, data, metadata, and publications at <https://frap.fire.ca.gov>.
For more information, please call 916-633-7655 or email FHSZcomments@fire.ca.gov.

Kevin Newsom, Governor, State of California
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources,
California Natural Resources Agency
Daniel Berhart, Acting State Fire Marshal,
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Data Sources:
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZSRA_23_2)
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRAS2_2)

MARIPOSA COUNTY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: County Clerk, County of Mariposa
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Mariposa, CA 95338

FROM: Mariposa County
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Name of Persons Carrying Out Project: Mariposa County

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Lead Agency Contact Person:

Steve Engfer, Planning Director

Phone Number:

(209) 966-5151

Mariposa County, Planning Department

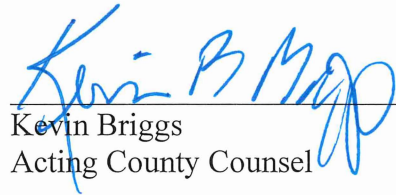


Steve Engfer, Planning Director

9/4/25

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kevin Briggs
Acting County Counsel

9/4/25

Date