



LEAGUE OF
**CALIFORNIA
CITIES**

Strengthening California Cities
through Advocacy and Education

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Mapping

Speakers:

Chief Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE

Chief Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director, Community Wildfire
Preparedness & Mitigation, CAL FIRE

Chief Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director of
Community Wildfire Planning and Risk Reduction, CAL FIRE

Housekeeping Notes

- This session is being recorded.
- Attendees are muted.
- Question and Answer is available throughout the webinar.
- To write in a question, select the Q&A button on your tool bar.
- Following the presentation, the recording and slides will be shared with registrants.



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CITY MANAGERS CONFERENCE

RANCHO MIRAGE, CA

February 5-7, 2025



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FIRE CHIEFS LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

PALM SPRINGS, CA

DECEMBER 10-11, 2025



CAL FIRE

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division

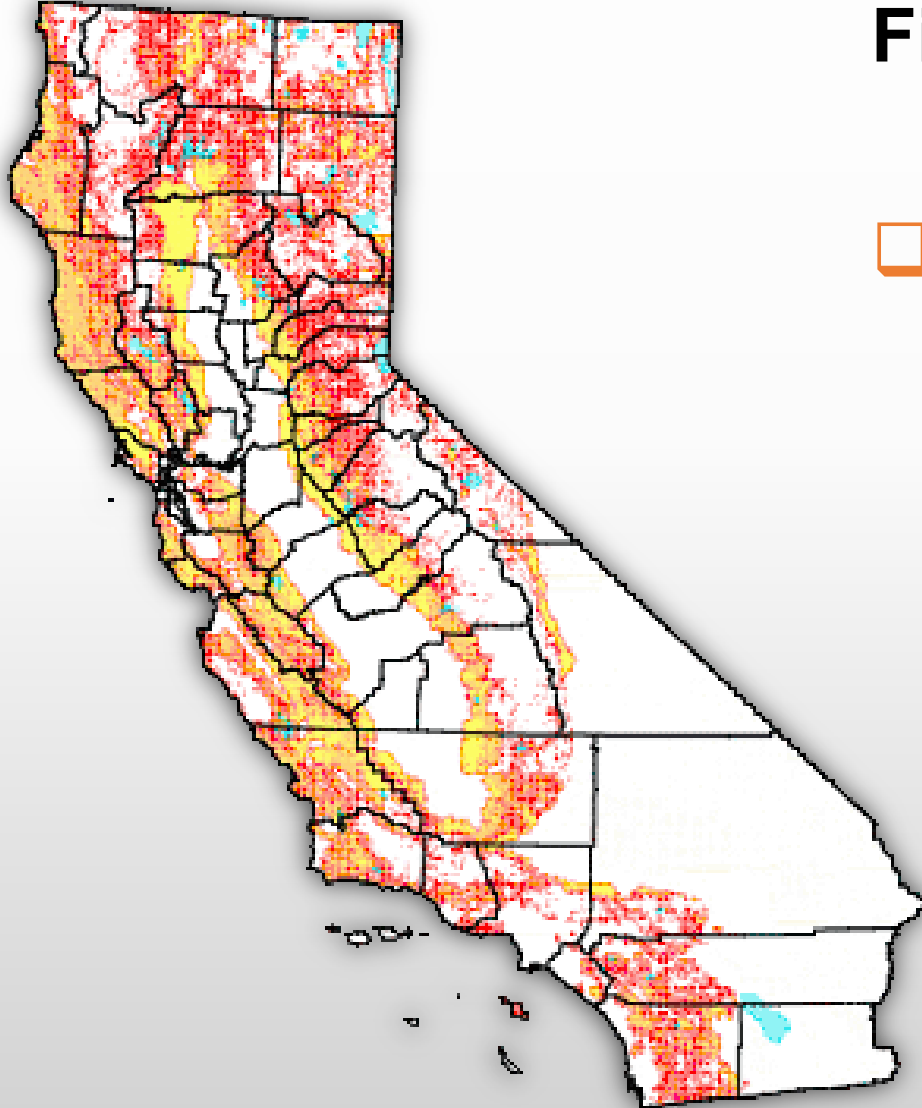
Fire Hazard Severity Zones – LRA Update

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

LRA Objectives:

- Provide local Agencies recommended Moderate, High and Very High FHSZ
- Local Agencies adopt local ordinance for FHSZ
- Local Agencies send the adopted ordinances to BOF

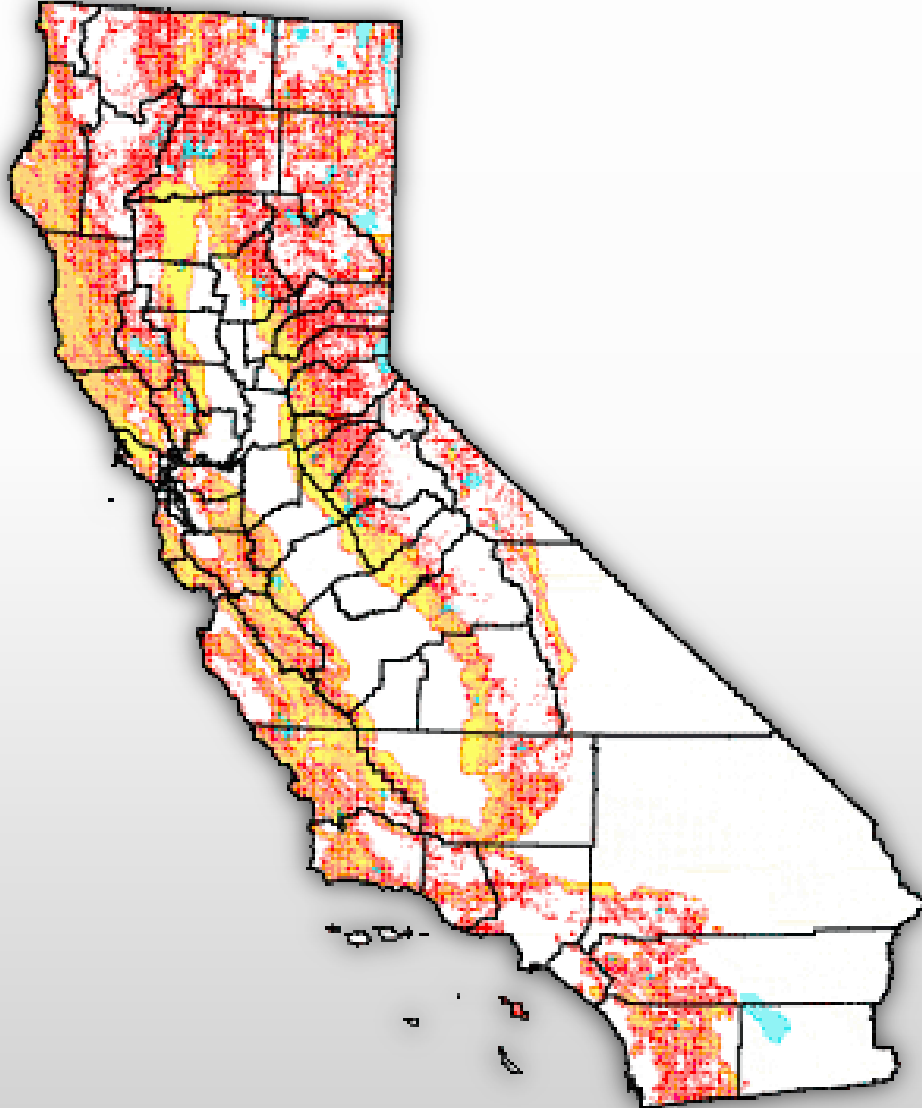
Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



Fire Hazard

- “Hazard” is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period without considering mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfire, or fuel reduction efforts

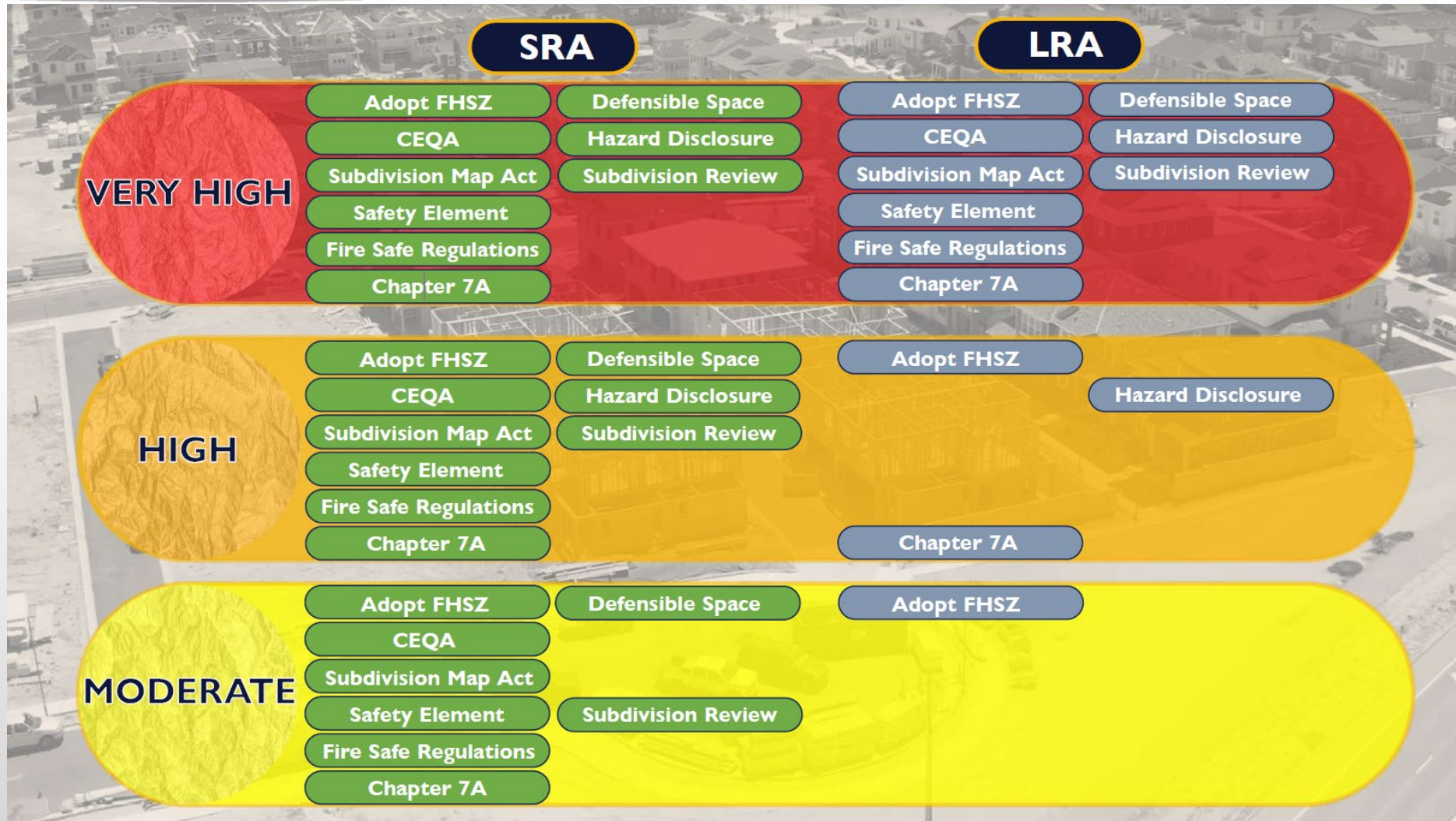
Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



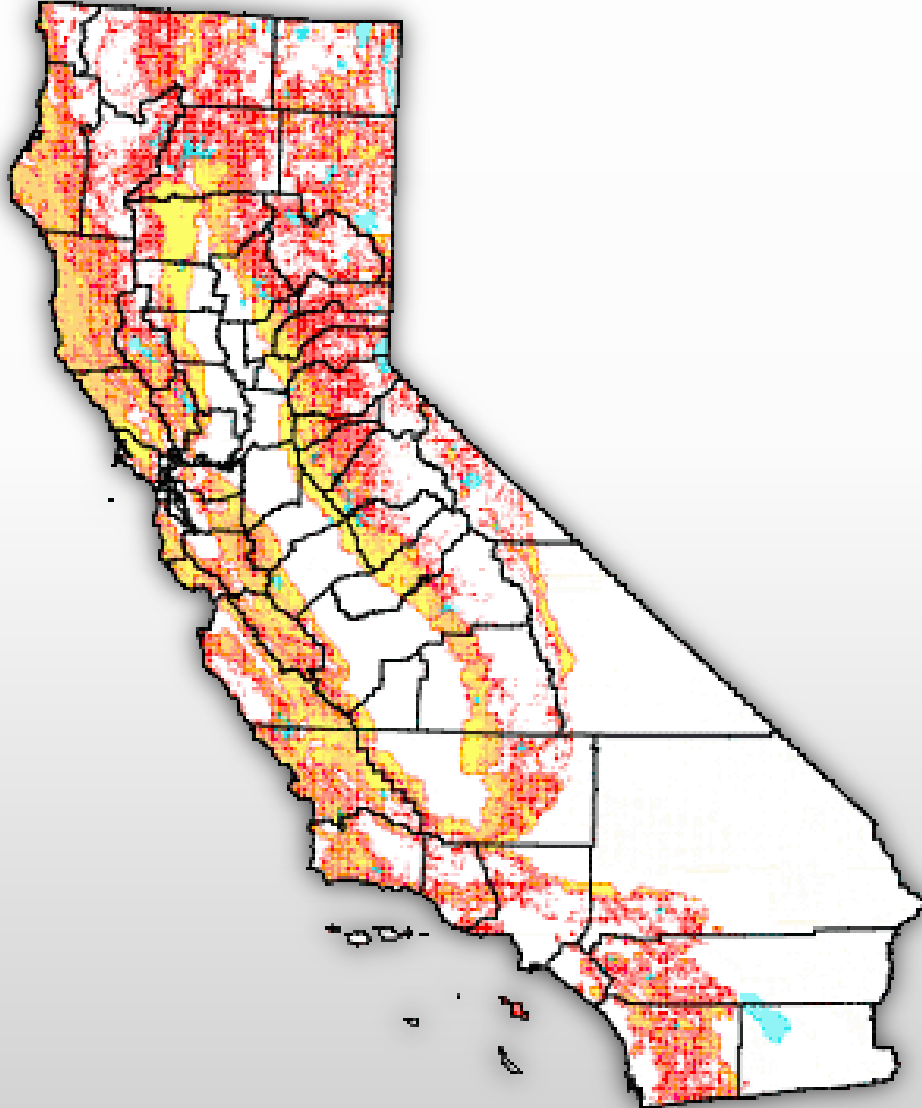
Wildfire Risk

- “Risk” is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, accounting for any modifications such as fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



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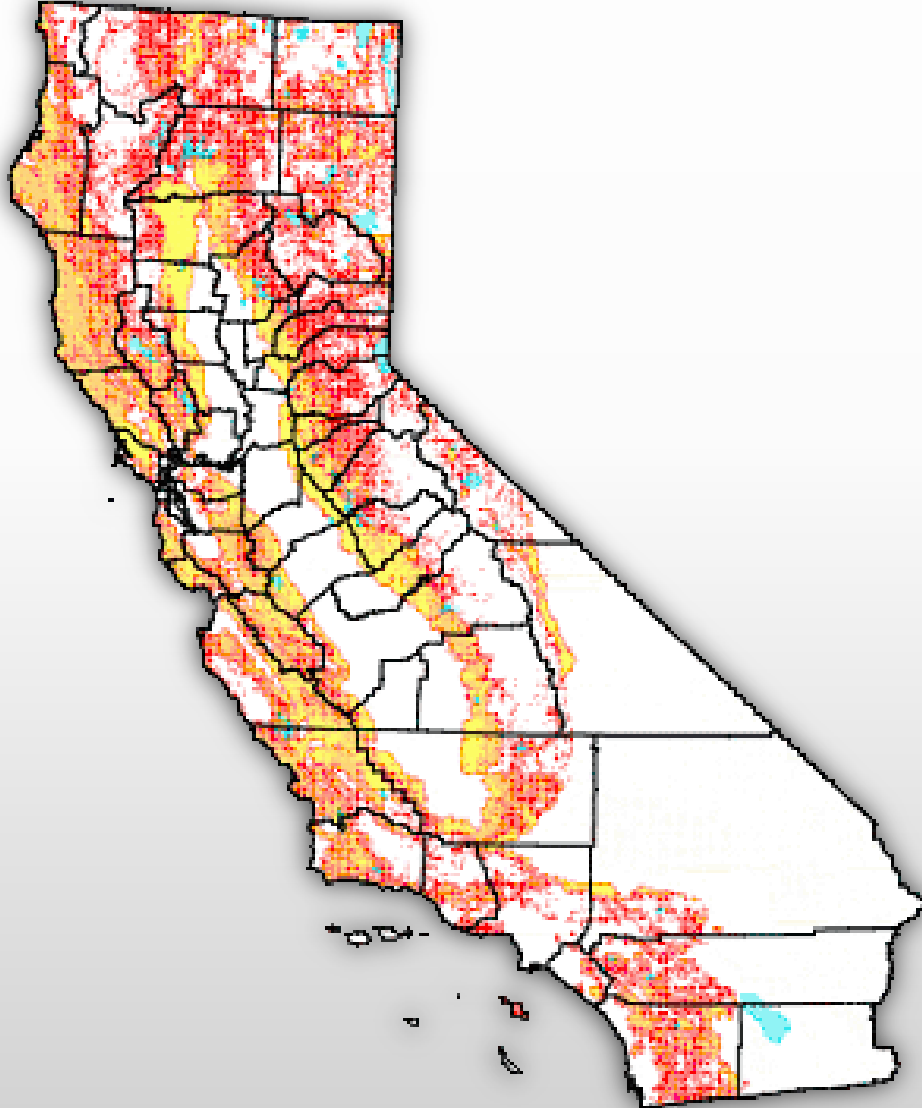


Map Development

- ❑ Completed on December 1, 2024
 - ❑ Approximately 450 jurisdictions
 - ❑ 2007 – Over 200 jurisdictions in Very High FHSZ

- ❑ Develop LRA jurisdictional Maps for Cities and Counties and statewide LRA data
 - ❑ 45 days

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

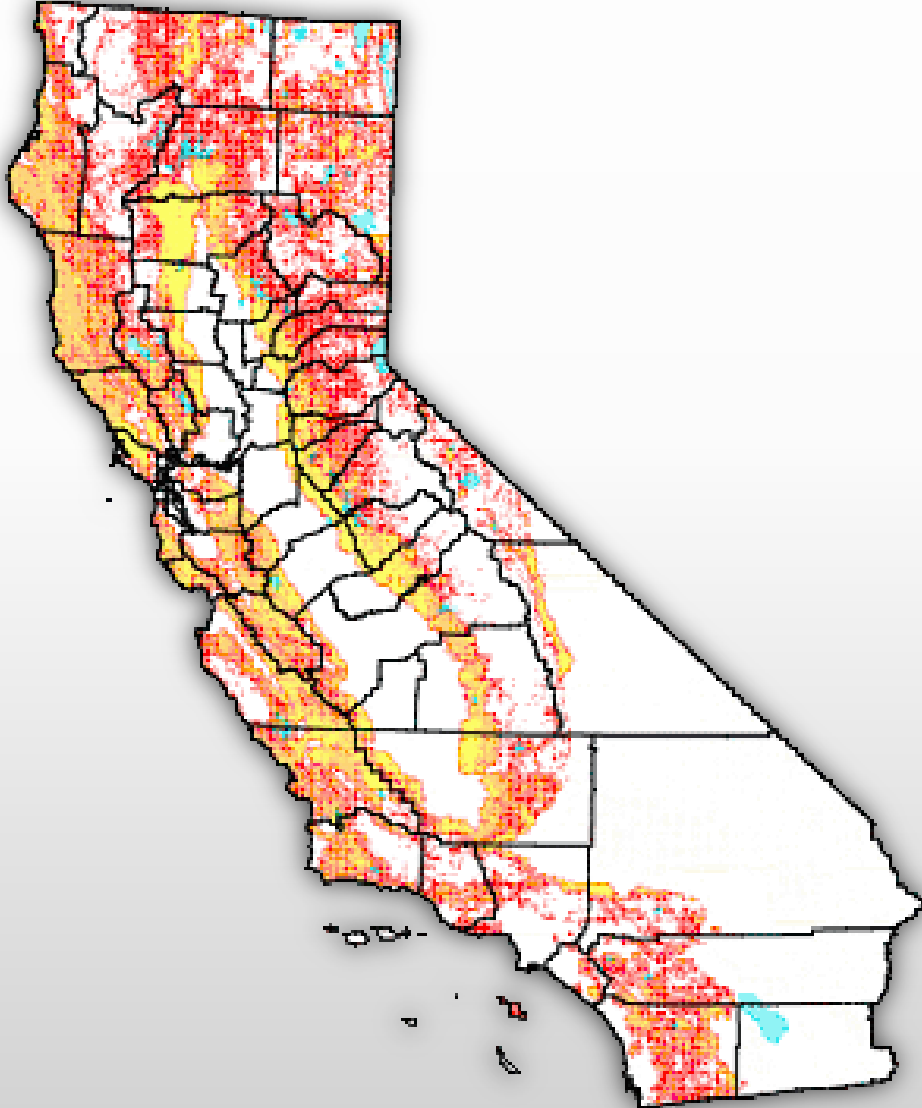


Initial Outreach to Local Agencies

- ❑ 60 days prior to map release
- ❑ Notification to Local Agencies
 - ❑ County Board of Supervisors
 - ❑ City Manager
 - ❑ Fire Chief
 - ❑ Fire Marshal

Gov. Code 51177 “Local agency” means a city, county, city and county, or district responsible for fire protection

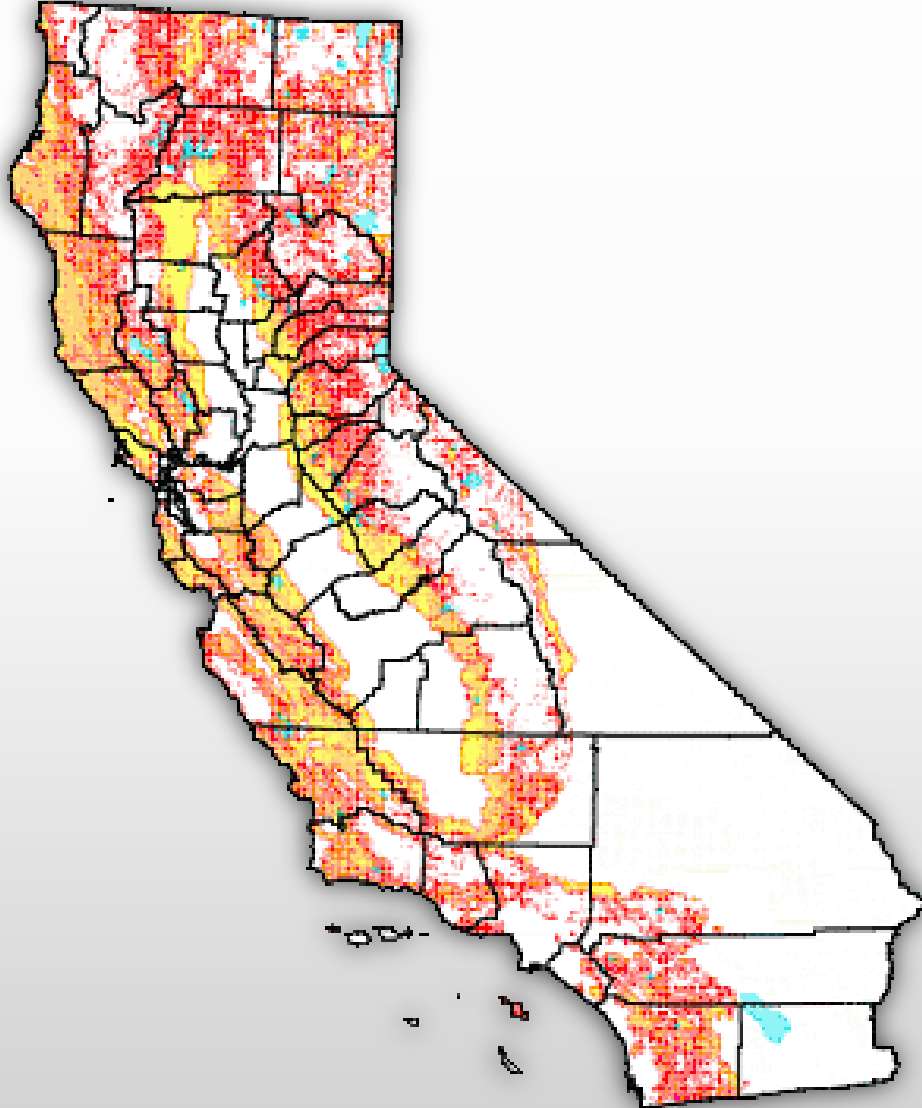
Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



Initial Outreach to Local Agencies

- Information in the HUB includes
 - Training video on the LRA process
 - Pertinent reference material
 - OSFM regional contact information
 - Tools to schedule a meeting with assigned OSFM staff
 - Public FHSZ model information and videos
 - FAQ's
 - Model ordinance
 - Local Agency surveys

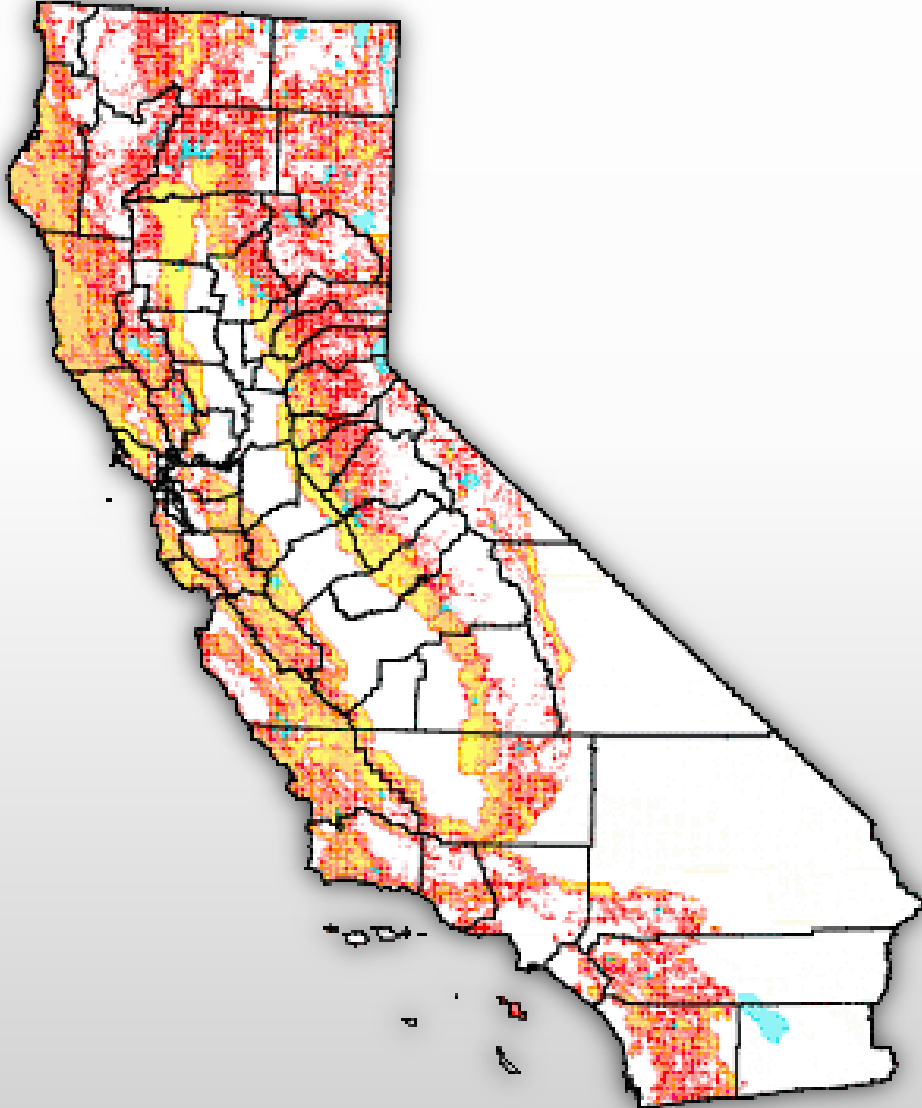
Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



Map Release

- ❑ Email and letter to Local Agencies
 - ❑ Provide local jurisdictions with a link to download maps and data.
 - ❑ Maps and data will be available through the HUB.

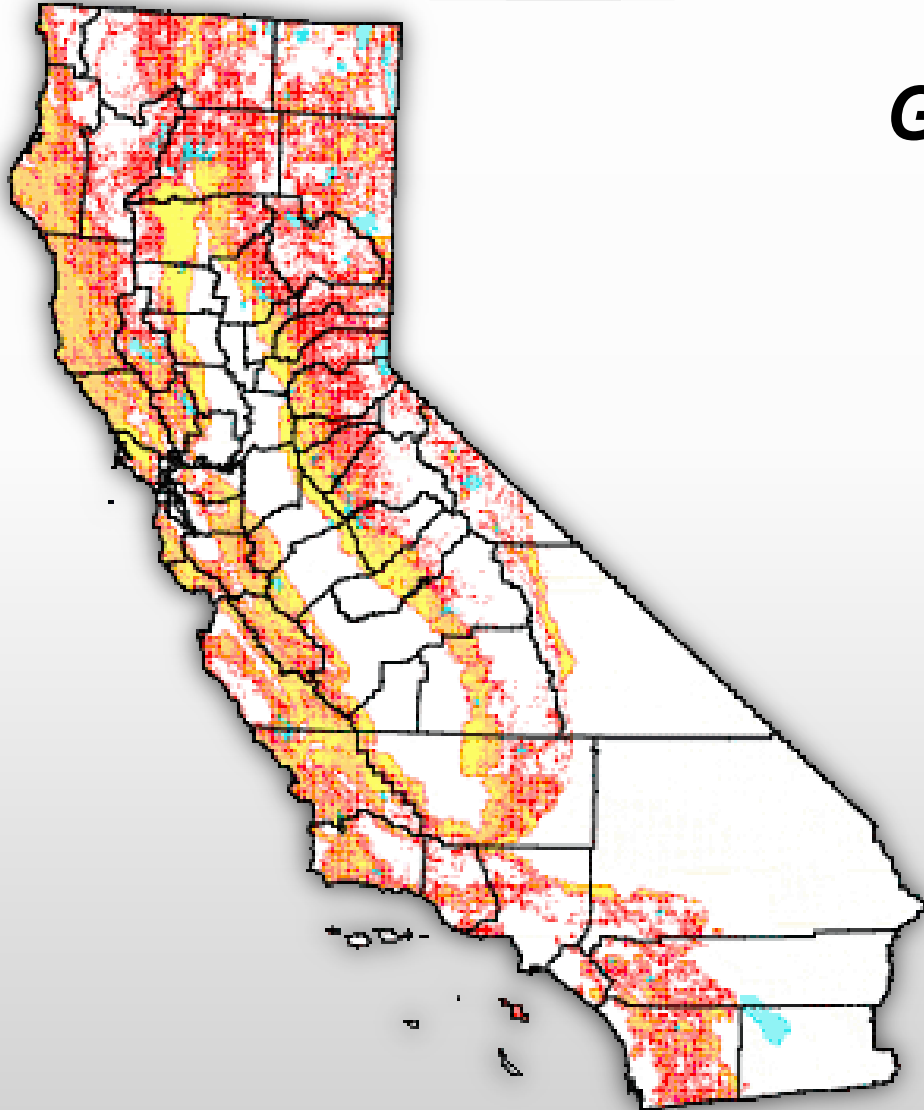
Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



Local Agency Adoption Process Begins (120-Day Ordinance Adoption) *Gov. Code 51179*

- ❑ Within 30 days of receiving the recommended FHSZ's, the Local Agency will make the information publicly available.
- ❑ Within 120 days of receiving the recommended FHSZ's, Local Agencies are required to adopt the FHSZ's by ordinance.

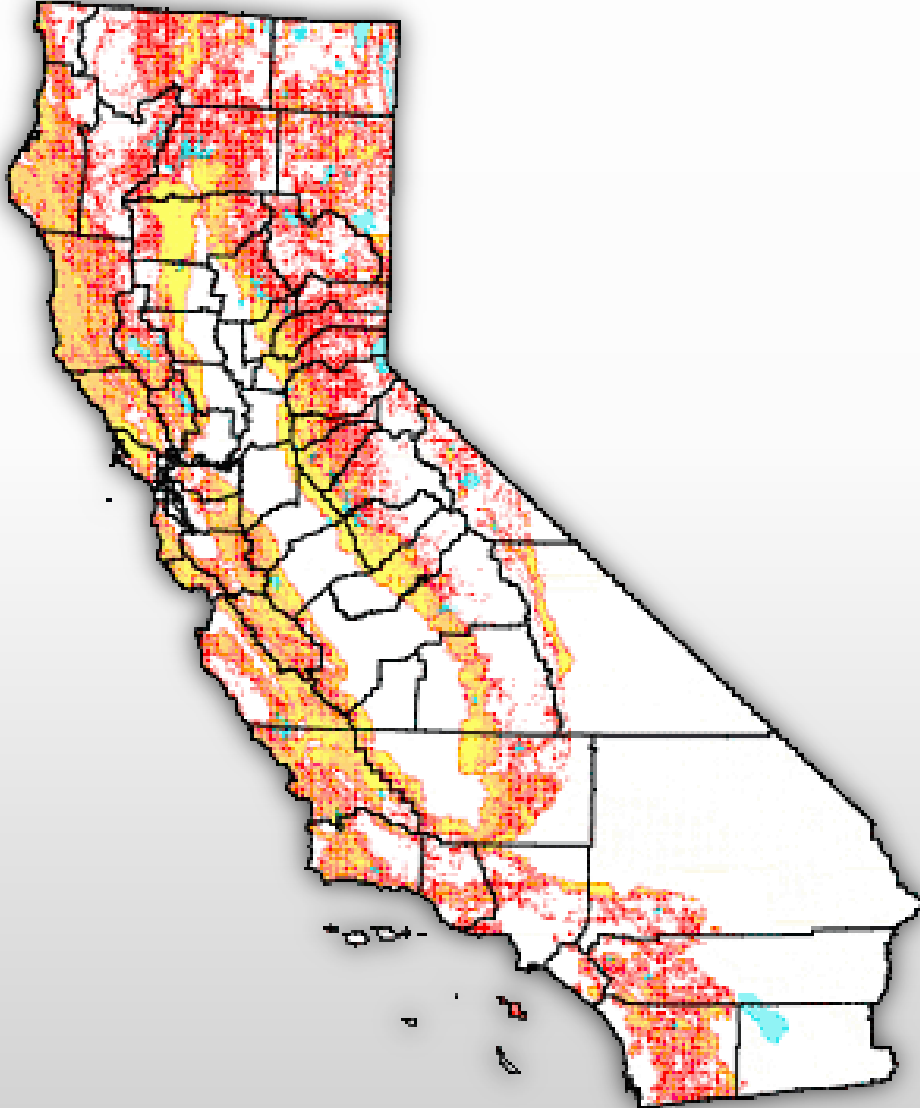
Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



Gov. Code 51179

- ❑ A local agency shall not decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency, and, in exercising its discretion pursuant to paragraph (2), may only increase the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)



Local Adoption Submittal to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

- ❑ Within 30 days of FHSZ ordinance adoption, Local Agencies are required to submit required documents to the Board.
- ❑ PDF map and Geographic Information System (GIS) geodatabase are required as part of the submission of the local ordinance.
- ❑ Board confirmation of receipt marks completion of the adoption of FHSZ's for each Local Agency.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

Proposed Timeline:

September 1, 2024	Map development begins (<i>Underway</i>)
November 2024	Local Agencies are notified and OSFM begins outreach and education on the process to Local Agencies
January 2025	Maps transmitted to Local Agencies
May 2025	Maps required to be adopted by Local Agencies
June 2025	Copy of the adopted local map ordinance required to be submitted to the BOF

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

OFSM Assistance

