

Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone Adoption

**Board of Supervisor's Meeting
July 8, 2025**



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Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

- Areas of homogenous lands
- Classified based on fuel loading, slope, and fire weather/winds
- Physical conditions that create a likelihood of fire
- Modeled probability of an area burning



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Local Responsibility Areas

- Incorporated cities, urban areas, agricultural areas – local government is responsible for wildfire protection
- Classified based on fuel loading, slope, and fire weather/winds
- Physical conditions that create a likelihood of fire
- Modeled probability of an area burning: Moderate, High, Very High



FHSZ Adoption

California Government Code section 51178

Office of the State Fire Marshall issues Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps for Local Responsibility Areas

California Government Code section 51179

Local agencies are required to designate by ordinance moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones



What Does FHSZ Adoption Mean?

California WUI Building Codes (CBC Chapter 7A)

Apply to design and construction of new buildings in High and Very High FHSZ

California Government Code section 51182

Trigger of 100-foot defensible space clearance applies



What Does FHSZ Adoption NOT Mean?

California Consumer Alert

“CAL FIRE hazard maps do not affect insurance rates or availability” (insurance.ca.gov)

Commissioner’s POV

“Let me be clear: The CAL FIRE hazard maps are not used for insurance rates or underwriting decisions”



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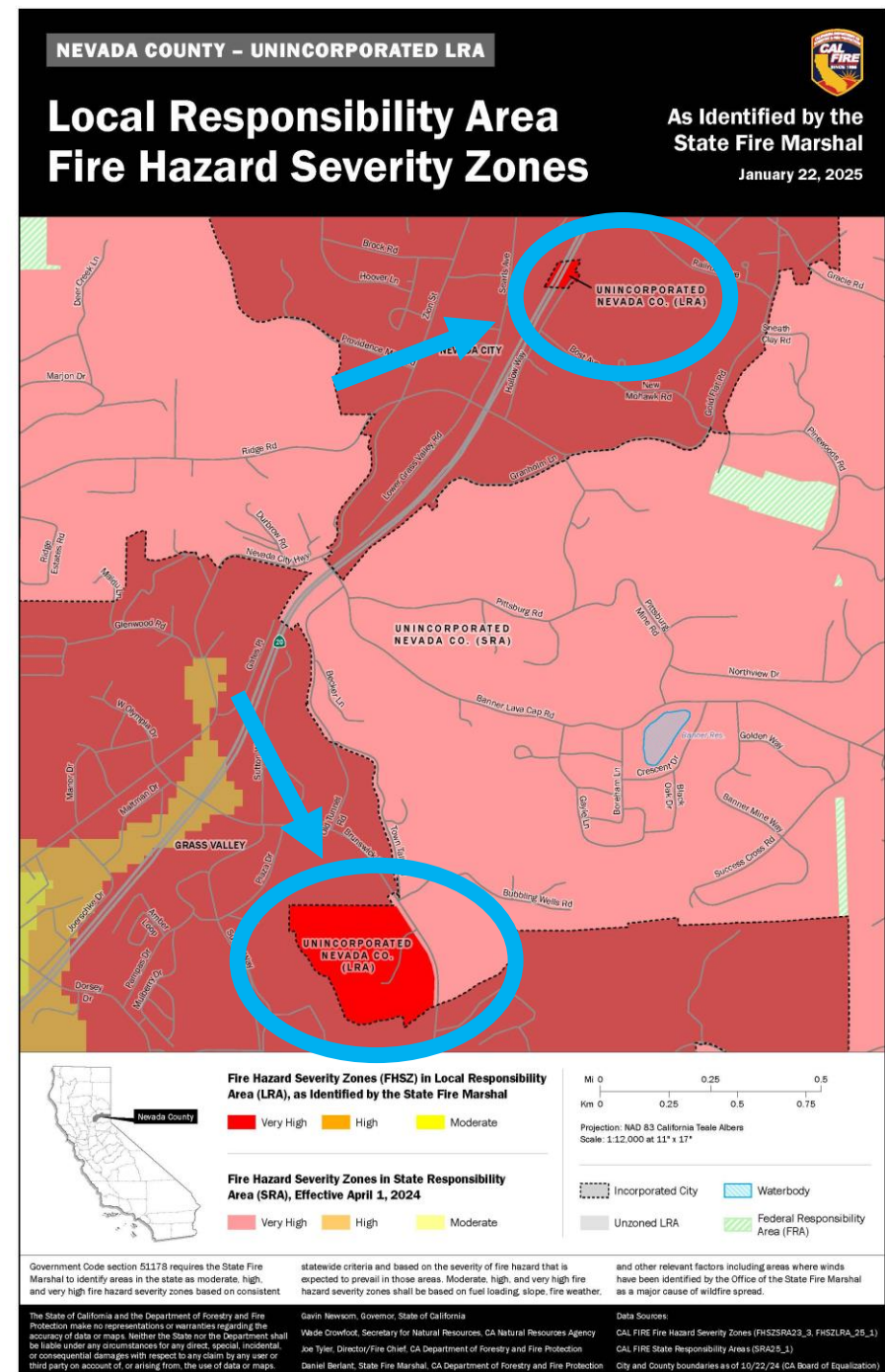
READY NEVADA COUNTY

Nevada County FHSZ LRA

- 6 Parcels
- 43 Acres
- Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones



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Benefits of FHSZ Adoption

Fire Risk Reduction Community Eligibility

- List developed by State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- CAL FIRE required to prioritize local assistance grant funding from local agencies on the list
- List included under CA Department of Insurance's Safer from Wildfire Regulations (Title 10, Section 2644.9(d)) as mandatory factors insurers must consider



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Questions



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