



NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Standridge, Fire Chief (530-897-3400 or firechief@chicoca.gov)

MEDIA ALERT

CITY OF CHICO ANNOUNCES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR STATE FIRE MARSHAL FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAPS

CHICO, CA – March 13, 2025 – Under the guidance of the State Fire Marshal, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) recently updated the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps. These maps are used for land use planning, enforcing building codes, and developing wildfire risk mitigation strategies. The City of Chico does not control the creation of fire hazard severity zone maps; however, we are responsible for facilitating public access to the proposed maps and hosting a public comment period to ensure the community has an opportunity to review and provide feedback, according to Government Code Section 51178.5.

Community input is important to address concerns and enhance understanding of how fire hazard severity zones affect residents, businesses, and emergency response planning. Following California Government Code Section 51179(a), local agencies must designate moderate, high, and very high fire severity zones within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 51178. Local governments are not permitted to adopt a map that lowers the fire hazard severity zone rating identified by the State Fire Marshal; we can only adopt a map as presented or modify it to increase the fire hazard severity zone level for a given area.

City of Chico residents are encouraged to review the proposed City of Chico LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map before the 90-day window closes on **June 10, 2025**. Additional information is available on the [City of Chico Fire Department website](#).

To provide public comment specific to the City of Chico's FHSZ map, please send them to:

WUIMap@chicoca.gov

For questions or concerns about the process, insurance implications, or other related issues, please contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at FHSZinformation@fire.ca.gov or by calling (916) 633-7655.

Helpful Links

- [LRA Legislation Factsheet](#)

- [Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer - LRA](#)
- [Learn more about the OSFM FHSZ's](#)
- [OSFM LRA FHSZ Informational Hub](#)

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us.

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