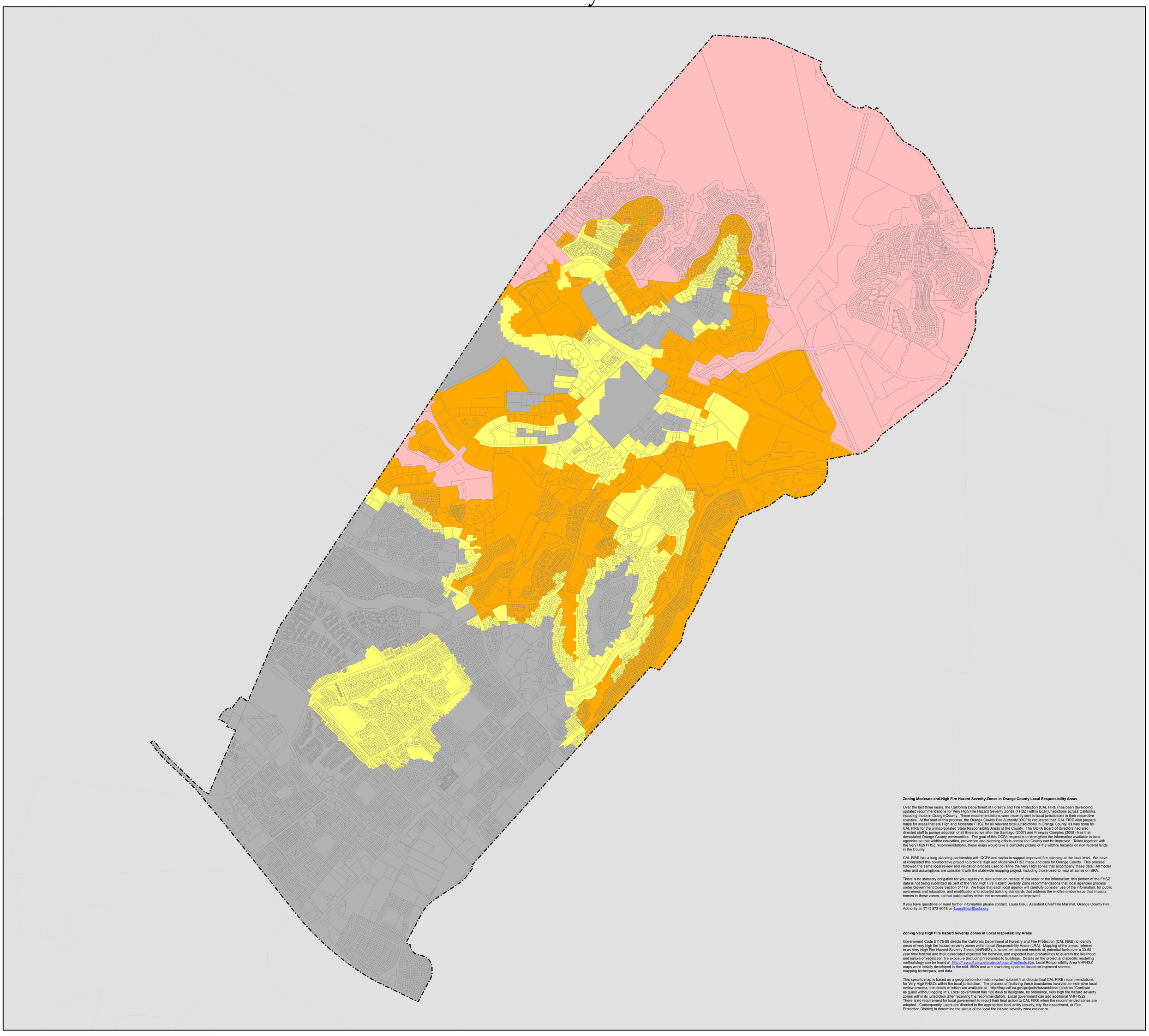
Lake Forest

High and Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Provided by CAL FIRE



Zoning Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Orange County Local Responsibility Areas

Over the last three years, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has been developing updated recommendations for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) within local jurisdictions across California, including those in Orange County. These recommendations were recently sent to local jurisdictions in their respective counties. At the start of this process, the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) requested that CAL FIRE also prepare maps for areas that are High and Moderate FHSZ for all relevant local jurisdictions in Orange County, as was done by CAL FIRE for the unincorporated State Responsibility Areas of the County. The OCFA Board of Directors had also directed staff to pursue adoption of all three zones after the Santiago (2007) and Freeway Complex (2008) fires that devastated Orange County communities. The goal of this OCFA request is to strengthen the information available to local agencies so that wildfire education, prevention and planning efforts across the County can be improved. Taken together with the Very High FHSZ recommendations, these maps would give a complete picture of the wildfire hazards on non-federal lands in the County.

CAL FIRE has a long-standing partnership with OCFA and seeks to support improved fire planning at the local level. We have at completed this collaborative project to provide High and Moderate FHSZ maps and data for Orange County. This process followed the same local review and validation process used to refine the Very High zones that accompany these data. All model rules and assumptions are consistent with the statewide mapping project, including those used to map all zones on SRA.

There is no statutory obligation for your agency to take action on receipt of this letter or the information; this portion of the FHSZ data is not being submitted as part of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone recommendations that local agencies process under Government Code Section 51179. We hope that each local agency will carefully consider use of the information, for public awareness and education, and modifications to adopted building standards that address the wildfire ember issue that impacts homes in these zones, so that public safety within the communities can be improved.

If you have questions or need further information please contact, Laura Blaul, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal, Orange County Fire Authority at (714) 573-6018 or LauraBlaul@ocfa.org.

Zoning Very High Fire hazard Severity Zones in Local responsibility Areas

Government Code 51175-89 directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to identify areas of very high fire hazard severity zones within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). Mapping of the areas, referred to as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), is based on data and models of, potential fuels over a 30-50 year time horizon and their associated expected fire behavior, and expected burn probabilities to quantify the likelihood and nature of vegetation fire exposure (including firebrands) to buildings. Details on the project and specific modeling methodology can be found at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/methods.htm. Local Responsibility Area VHFHSZ maps were initially developed in the mid-1990s and are now being updated based on improved science, mapping techniques, and data.

This specific map is based on a geographic information system dataset that depicts final CAL FIRE recommendations for Very High FHSZs within the local jurisdiction. The process of finalizing these boundaries involved an extensive local review process, the details of which are available at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/btnet (click on "Continue as guest without logging in"). Local government has 120 days to designate, by ordinance, very high fire hazard severity zones within its jurisdiction after receiving the recommendation. Local government can add additional VHFHSZs. There is no requirement for local government to report their final action to CAL FIRE when the recommended zones are adopted. Consequently, users are directed to the appropriate local entity (county, city, fire department, or Fire Protection District) to determine the status of the local fire hazard severity zone ordinance.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- Very High, as recommended by Cal Fire and previously delivered. Depicted on this map for reference purposes only.
- Moderate (as provided by the State Fire Marshal and and OCFA under joint agreement)
- High (as provided by the State Fire Marshal and and OCFA under joint agreement)
- Non-FHSZ

- City Boundary
- Parcels
- County Boundary

N W E S

0 1 2 Miles

0 2 4 Kilometers

Projection Albers, NAD 1983
Scale 1:15,000
at 36" x 42"
November, 2011

This map was developed using data products such as parcel and city boundaries provided by local government agencies. In certain cases, this includes copyrighted geographic information. The maps are for display purposes only - questions and requests related to parcel or city boundary data should be directed to the appropriate local government entity.

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 on the Internet at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov
For more information, contact CAL FIRE-FRAP, PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, (916) 327-3939.

Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California
John Laird, Secretary for Resources, The Natural Resources Agency
Ken Pimlott, Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Map ID: LakeForest_fhsz_midhi

DATA SOURCES
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (C30fhszlall06_3)