



## OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Members of the Council:*

Chair Jane Nye

Vice Chair Seema Chandra

JL Diaz

Michelle Santucci

Brian Trushinski

### OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

**The Oak Park MAC held a meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 7:00 PM**

**Oak Park High School, Room G-9**

**899 Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377**

1. **Call to Order of the meeting and Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jane Nye at 7:05 PM. MAC members Seema Chandra, JL Diaz, Michelle Santucci, Brian Trushinski, and OPHS student representative, Catherine Cheng were all present.
2. **Flag Salute.** Brian Trushinski led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Adoption of the Agenda.** Seema Chandra requested that we move Public Comments to after Comments from Supervisor Gorell. Seema Chandra moved to adopt the agenda as modified. JL Diaz seconded the motion. Motion was approved 5/0.
4. **Approval of the meeting minutes of February 23, 2023.** JL Diaz moved to approve the minutes. Michelle Santucci seconded the motion. Motion was approved 5/0.

#### 5. **Public Safety reports**

##### **Ventura County Sheriff – Senior Deputy Christopher Jones**

- Spike in catalytic convert thefts. In one night, there were four stolen and then another two nights later there were another two stolen. Mostly from communal living environments like condo/apartment complexes across from MCMS. Most vehicles have been Toyota Priuses, one was a Honda Accord. Reminder to have a Cat shield installed (70+ rivets prevent thefts). Still working on costs of License Plate readers. Talked to Crime Analysis Unit and in Thousand Oaks, in 6 months, they were able to recover many hundreds of thousand of dollars of stolen merchandise. Thousand Oaks went from 15 readers to 30 cameras. Steven Kozel asked about crime data statistics and more community updates. Sr. Dep. Jones replied that the biggest crime in our area is the crime of opportunity – residents leaving things in their cars, leaving their houses and cars unlocked. Catalytic converter thefts are also significant – everywhere. And mail theft (10+ reports in a month) for identity theft. Denna Parry asked about solicitors – recommendation was to log a 911 call.

##### **Ventura County Fire Department – Battalion Chief Bob Wilshire**

- Here in place of Division Chief Jeff Shea. Rains have not caused any problems in Oak Park – we're very lucky. Minor flooding and some downed trees. Other Ventura County communities have not fared as well. We don't want to ignore possible fire concerns with lots of grass & weed growth. Be sure to clear weeds and tall grasses. June 1 inspection deadline by VCFD. Anticipating a later fire season this year because of all the rain. Academy of new recruits should be graduating shortly – will see some new young faces. Rain has caused some challenges in back country roads – remote rescues are more challenging – may see more helicopter responses. Annual K12 school inspection campaign –

and R2 inspection campaign (multi-residency with common exit corridor). Good news - Oak Park has just received a new fire engine – medic engine 36 – new technology makes the fire fighters’ job easier.

Steven Kozel asked if they were aware of a mud slide on Sunnycrest. No call for service was reported. May be a broken sprinkler issue. VCFD will follow-up.

Also, in attendance – Oak Park Fire Station 36

#### **CHP – Officer Ryan Ayers**

- Out of Moorpark CHP office. No major issues to report. Updates on ongoing issues – oversize vehicle ordinance was enforced – sedan + trailer w/handicap placard has now been moved. Education + enforcement is effective, especially around Red Oak Elementary School (stop signs are being run). Made eye contact with each driver – each driver stopped. Officer Ayers had a chat with those driving fast.

Handles CA state police work. With uptick in retail theft, CHP is taking on more work to support other public safety resources. Good collaboration with other agencies.

Road rage is one of the biggest spikes in crimes. Result of Covid emotional stress.

Theft from Ventura County Fairgrounds – 4 arrests were made. Supervisor Gorell asked for details, but since it hasn’t been adjudicated, nothing can be said.

April is Distracted Driver Month – zero tolerance, maximum enforcement.

Collaborating with school districts in implementing plans to prepare for emergencies. All agencies will respond.

Recommends license plate readers to be installed in Oak Park. Organized theft taskforce has done 1568 investigations throughout CA 942 arrests, recovered \$300K+ assets, \$30M cost to recover. Seeing a lot of catalytic converter and residential thefts. Be sure to be aware and report any unusual issues.

JL Diaz brought up strange call to OPHS – Jim Moynihan from OPUSD said it was a call from unidentified person saying someone was coming by with a surprise. School on high alert. Parents notified. Note: there are specialized police units investigating.

Michelle Santucci asked if there was a crime statistics database that tracks why crimes occur. Officer Ayers said there may be data kept, but he doesn’t have knowledge of one for our area.

#### **6. Comments from Supervisor Jeff Gorell**

Nice opportunity to recognize Chuck Alvarez at the County level on Tues, Mar 28, 2023, at the Board of Supervisors to celebrate his 33 years of public service. Supervisor Gorell noted that many people talked about all the projects that Chuck delivered to the County. Supervisor Gorell and his staff are very grateful for his service to the County of Ventura. Supervisor Gorell said Chuck has a heart for public service, noting that when he asked Chuck what he going to do now that he’s retiring, Chuck said, “I’ll probably take a month off to relax and then volunteer in the community.” Big thank you to Chuck! We’re going to miss Chuck!

Noted that our budget is not balanced, and we continue to dig into reserves where it’s not sustainable. We, collectively, need to decide how to proceed. We do not want to have to raise assessments. We need to identify our priorities and a sustainable, long-term budget and financial plan. We will work with CSA #4 and the MAC, along with residents to set priorities.

County counsel has advised us to not have a single MAC member as the Oversized vehicle liaison. Michelle Santucci has the assignment. We need to have two MAC members on this committee or five MAC members.

Risk is that one person could have a perceived conflict of interest. **Action item** – MAC to deliberate on how to move forward and have a future agenda item to decide next steps.

Be sure to look at Supervisor Gorell's website for weekly updates. Request that the MAC push Oak Park residents to the website.

District Office is moving from Hillcrest to Thousand Oaks Civic Center. This will make reaching Supervisor Gorell more accessible by public transportation, will cut costs, and the new office is co-located with other government official's offices. There is also better parking. Ribbon-cutting ceremony will be on Thursday, May 4, 2023. There will be a grand opening party to get the word out. Supervisor Gorell will pay for this himself.

Public Works has a great portal to submit issues - <https://www.vcpublishworks.org/wsd/customerportal/>

The staff is very responsive to all requests. This also helps with tracking issues and provides a great feedback loop.

If Public Works does not help quickly, the escalation path is via Supervisor Gorell's office. Bookmarks with the link to the Portal were given out to the attendees.

Strategic Planning – they are doing this at the County level, and Supervisor Gorell would like the MAC to do this as well (3-5 years out). Staff will coordinate a Special MAC meeting to focus on strategic planning. They will bring in a facilitator to ensure a great outcome.

Michelle Santucci praised Supervisor Gorell for his ideas – especially for using his website for centralizing all Oak Park information and communication. She noted the VC Public Works Portal is also helpful. Michelle also noted that MAC meetings are not well attended – maybe fewer than 10-15 residents were present. Michelle asked if there were other ways to encourage attendance – The Star or Acorn? Post cards mailed quarterly? Social media alerts? Supervisor Gorell is investigating live streaming and other ways to encourage inputs and attendance. His understanding is that we get more attendance if there are controversial issue. Otherwise, residents are happy and don't see a need to attend.

Janna Orkney asked if there was a timeline to live stream the MAC meetings.

**Action Item:** add this to a future agenda.

Supervisor Gorell said participation is a challenge to manage the queue. There is no budget, either.

Steve Kozel asked if other MACs use Zoom. Supervisor Gorell said the other MACs do not have remote interactions.

Vice Chair Chandra noted that with Zoom meetings during Covid we did have increased participation.

Deena Parry requested that The Star attend our meetings. Also, appreciated that Dale Thomas is updating the event boards, consistently.

Supervisor Gorell is pushing transparency and accessibility – he held sidewalk office hours earlier today in front of the Oak Park Library to make himself available. This is one way to push the envelope for increased interactions.

Catherine Cheng requested that future events be held not when school is in session, as students wanted to meet with Supervisor Gorell, but needed to attend class. Supervisor Gorell said that he was there during lunch hour and many students stopped by to talk. He would like to be invited to OPHS to speak to students.

Michelle Santucci said her neighbors are happy. She never has received a complaint about Oak Park. There was a great turnout for a hot topic – like fire safety.

## **7. Public Comments**

**Janna Orkney** – Elected Board member and Vice Chair of Triunfo Water and Sanitation District (TWSD). She would like to talk about getting residents to come to the Oak Park MAC meetings. Request to make the agenda more transparent – interested in license plate readers, zoom meetings, but do not see these items on

the agenda. Would like to tighten up the agenda. Asking Supervisor Gorell to modernize the agendas. Also, could not find the MAC Meeting Minutes on Supervisor Gorell's website.

Michelle Santucci mentioned that Officer Jones brought up the license plate readers and it was not an agenda item.

**Deena Parry** – Concerned about solicitors and ambulance times. Jane Nye mentioned that the VCFD addressed this in the Feb MAC meeting. Larry Williams responded that response times are constantly monitored. Supervisor Gorell said the County is monitoring response times and the AMR contract is up for renewal, so this is under review.

**Steven Kozel** – Agreed with Janna Orkney's comments. Would also like more detail and better follow-up with the agendas. Would like more consistency. Carry more business items, forward. Again, request the Nov meeting minutes be posted on Supervisor Gorell's website – Steven will send them to Dale Thomas to post.

## **8. Presentation by Charles Alvarez, Ventura County Public Works Agency**

Chuck requested that we combine his report with Matt's report (see below) – the MAC and Larry Williams agreed to the change.

Good news – Landscape issues due to Woolsey fire damage. We just got the check \$107K on emergency repairs. This is reimbursement from the State and Federal government.

Introduced Matt Kovacevich as the Enhanced Landscape Account Manager – here to present the March report. He works with Ventura County CSA #4 on all parkway areas managed by the County. Did quite a bit of storm damage clean-up, in addition to normal maintenance work. Included photos in his report – trimmed trees, cleaned up mud, managed drought landscape issues. Ensuring drought and fire resiliency.

Vice Chair Chandra asked if the storm damage response came out of our standard budget. Matt responded that it came out of our regular budget.

Eric Steiner asked how often Enhanced Landscape weeds slopes. Matt responded that it is a top priority and an ongoing task.

Deena Parry asked if Round Up is used for week abatement – Matt responded that it is never used.

Regarding Turf Removal project – it is no longer feasible to move forward with 100K sf of turf removal.

Median and irrigation fixes would cost a huge increase over what we originally thought - \$15/sf , not \$3.

New proposal and what they budgeted for is replacing only the turf currently watered by potable water (10K sf) – this would give us 'the biggest bang for our buck.' We would also get a refund for doing turf removal, which gives us \$30K buffer. Kanan and Tamarind and Kanan and Golden Eagle.

**Action Item:** MAC to discuss new landscape priorities. This needs to be added to a future agenda.

Oak Park monument sign was painted this week and looks great! Will re-plant in front of the sign. Solar lights will also be added to the monument sign.

Recycled Water signed have been ordered and will be installed.

Re-stripping the bike path is a priority and a public safety concern. No budget for this but will need to move things around to get this done.

Chuck is retiring and Chuck introduced George Andreotti who is Valeria Lopez's new manager.

The MAC gave Chuck a gift of a beautiful succulent plant as a thank you for his years of service with the Oak Park MAC!

## 9. Advisory Matters

- a) Enhanced Landscape Update – Matt Kovacevich
- b) Ventura County Fire Department, Fire Hazard Reduction Program – Larry Williams

## 10. Information Items

None

## 11. Council Comments

**Catherine Cheng** – School dance moved from Feb to Mar – huge success. Had a college fair night where 20 colleges came to speak of applying to colleges and introducing their college and hoping that Juniors apply to their schools. OPHS Mock Trial made County finals and Speech and Debate team is bringing a record number of competitors to the State competition. Band District Festival – mass performance from students in grades 6-12 for the public. Drama and theater students had a fabulous Addams Family performance in March. Election week for ASB school year. Seniors are working on Prom and other graduation events. Elementary school open houses are planned for April. There will be a blood drive on Apr 19 – this will be open to the public, not just students.

**Seema Chandra** – No updates.

**JL Diaz** – The Oak Park Fire Safe Council received a grant for \$20K – will go towards operations of the OPFSC, development of the website, publications, etc. Doing a lot of campaigns for Wildfire Property Assessments. The assessment is free. Community Wildfire Plan – now sharing this information.

**Michelle Santucci** – No updates.

**Brian Trushinski** – RSRPD Oak Park Committee will meet in April. Property that has overhanging tree limbs, RSRPD now has the funds to trim (may need an encroachment permit).

Eric Steiner's report was reviewed, and Brian asked for Eric's highest priority request – Eric identified Hawthorne between Rockfield and Bowfield.

How do we move forward? MAC should re-prioritize our landscape priorities. Should we trade-off turf removal for Hawthorne.

Motion to recommend that Enhanced Landscape provide design concepts + provide costs.

Irrigation lines must now stay above ground and would need to be screened. Stump grinding.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Michelle Santucci – 4 ayes, 0 – no, 1 abstention by JL Diaz as he is not familiar with the location. Motion passes and there is consensus by the MAC for CSA #4 to discuss design concepts for Hawthorne with Enhanced Landscape at April meeting.

Street sweeping follow-up – the County has a schedule and is posted on Supervisor Gorell's website. Only concern is that the truck goes too fast.

Noted that Welcome to Oak Park gateway sign looks amazing!

**Jane Nye** – Mar 21 OPUSD update – CA Distinguished School awarded to OHES and Red Oak ES, celebrated 6 OPHS students who are National Merit Scholars, and the elementary schools are being expanded to 4-year-old children – TK (transitional kindergarten) – an additional 130 new students! Still need to finance new classrooms.

TWSD – water restrictions were lifted. Planned outreach to community for the Pure Water Project. For the new Lagoon grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony, TWSD and the JPA will have a booth. No final date, but possibly the end of April. Will provide details as soon as it is finalized.

Worked with Chuck and Valeria on emptying trash cans on Kanan.

Submitted work request via Public Works apps to replace pylons on Kanan and Los Arcos.

## **12. Written Communications**

Received email from Steve Kozel regarding agenda details.

Received email from Janna Orkney regarding agenda details.

## **13. Future Agenda Items**

- License plate reader system and cameras in Apr
- Budget review
  - Apr – Presentation by Fiscal Manager for Public Works to discuss details
  - May – prioritize budget and make recommendations to County for 2024
    - School crossing guards
    - Landscaping
    - VIP
- ❖ [Would like inputs from residents](#)
- MAC Strategy review (3-5 yr plan)
- Update Supervisor Gorell's website and expand communication
- Landscaping priorities in Apr – CSA #4 to work with Enhanced Landscape to provide a recommendation and provide costs
- For landscape action in May
- Lagoon ribbon cutting and booth
- Update on live streaming / Zoom meetings
- Oversized vehicle committee expansion

## **14. Adjournment**

**Chair Nye** adjourned the meeting at 10:04 PM.

The next MAC meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at OPHS room G-9 on Thursday, April 27, 2023.





# VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

March 30, 2023



# AGENDA

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- Definitions
- Background
- Update - 2022 Draft FHSZ Map
- Hazard vs Risk
- Recent Legislative Changes
- FAQ
- Questions?



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# DEFINITIONS



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# STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA)

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- SRA is a legal term defining the area where the state has financial responsibility for wildland fire protection and prevention.
- Incorporated cities and federal ownership are not included.
- Within the SRA, CAL FIRE is responsible for fire prevention and suppression. There are more than 31 million acres in SRA, with an estimated 1.7 million people and 800,000 existing homes.



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# LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA (LRA)

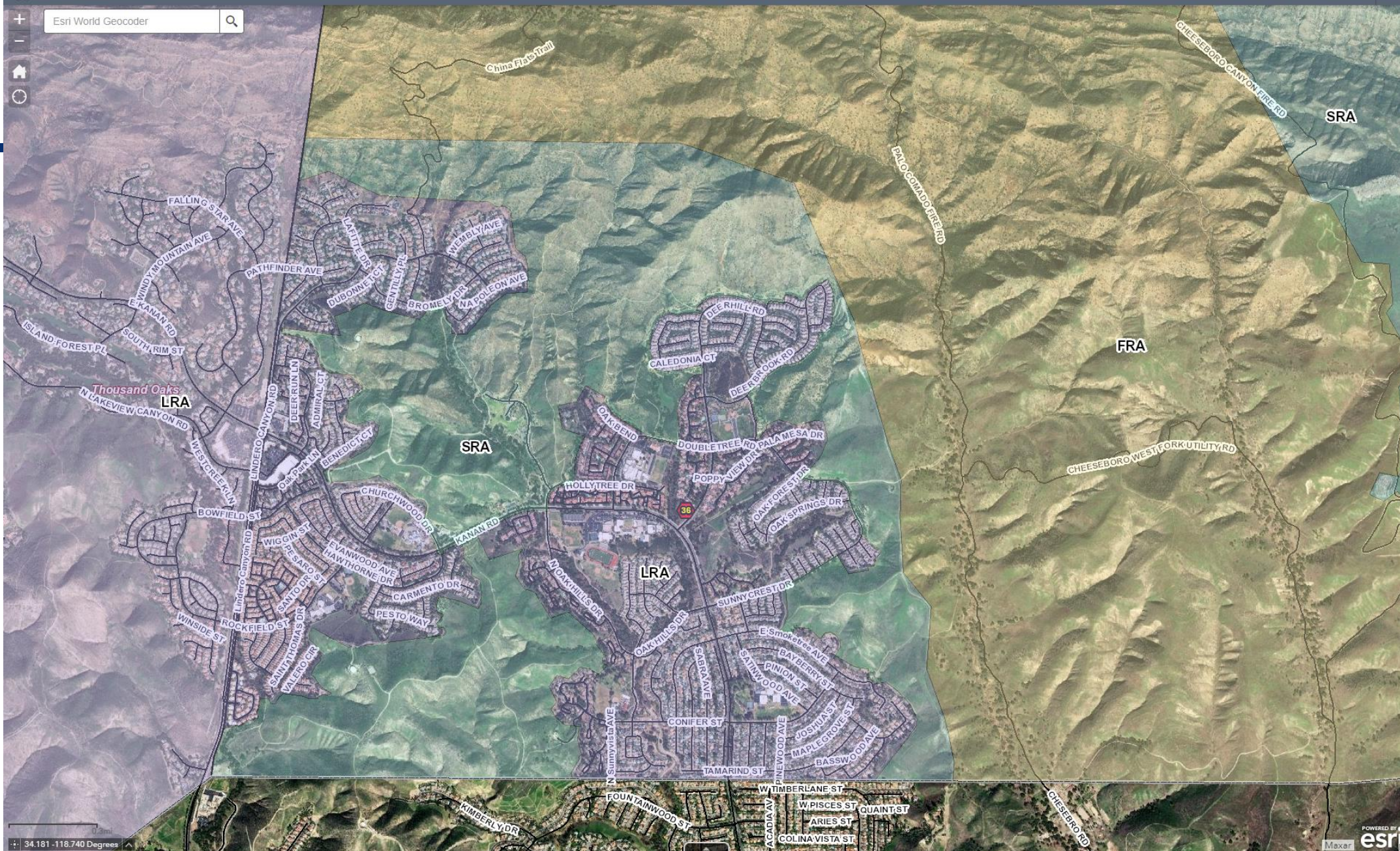
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- LRA are incorporated cities, urban regions, agriculture lands, and portions of the desert where the local government is responsible for wildfire protection.
- This is typically provided by city fire departments, fire protection districts, counties, and by CAL FIRE under contract.



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# FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE (FHSZ)

- The State Fire Marshal is required by law (PRC 4202) to map areas of significant fire hazard based on fuel, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors, including areas where winds have been identified by the department as a major cause of wildfire spread.
- Fire Hazard Severity Zones fall into the following classifications:
  - Moderate
  - High
  - Very High



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# FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE (FHSZ)

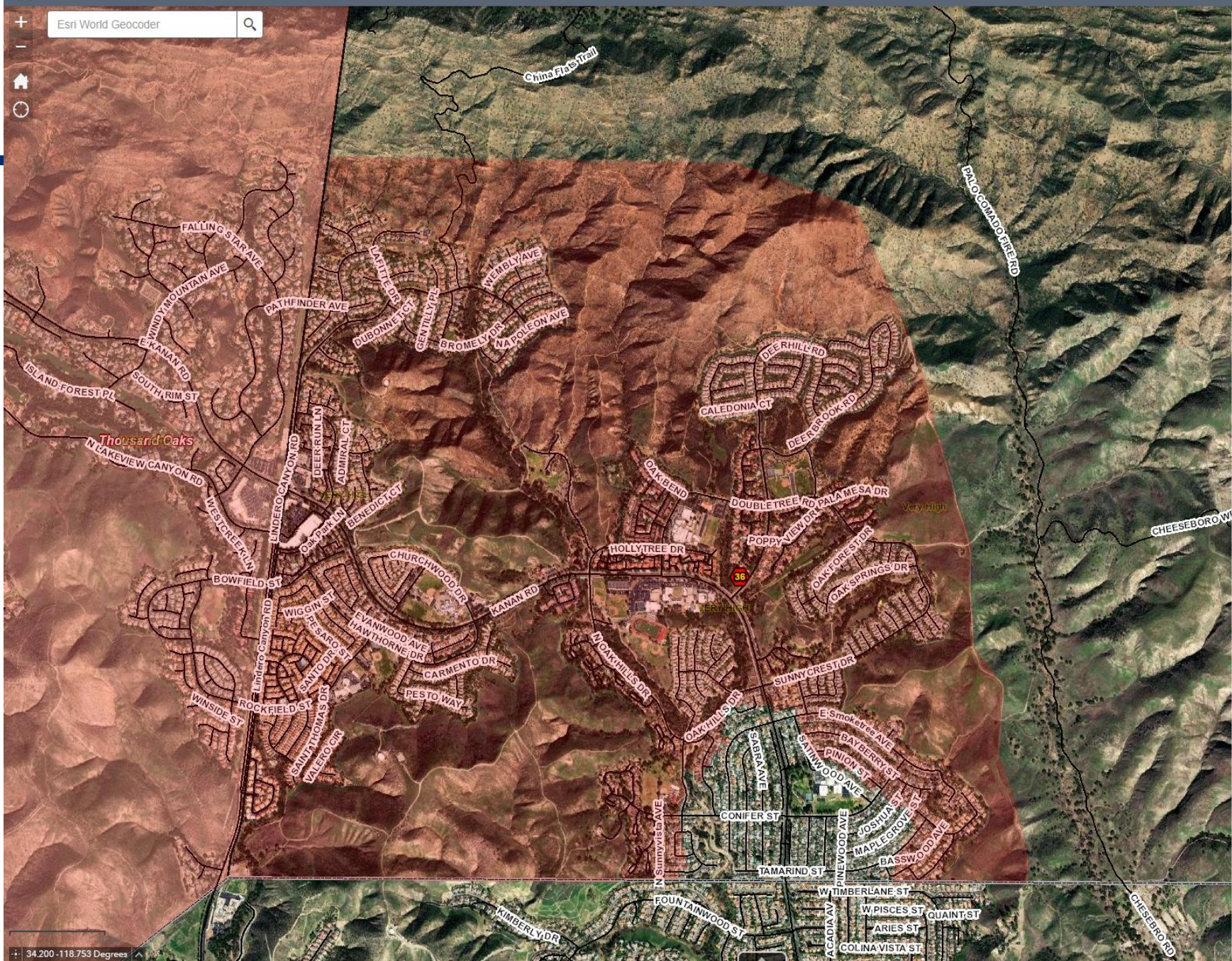
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- All areas in SRA are zoned, including non-wildland areas and waterbodies.
- Currently, in LRA only the very high fire hazard severity zone is mapped. The new updated LRA maps scheduled to release Summer or Fall of 2023 will include all three (3) zones. (Required by State Law)



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- Layer List
- Operational layers
- ☐ SRA\_DPA1061
  - ☐ FHSZ\_Local OLD DRAFT
  - ☒ FHSZ\_FRAPReplica\_FireGISTest04\_1061
  - ☒ StationsAbove64K\_1061
  - ☒ StreetsForWeb1061
  - ☐ AdministrationBoundariesReplica
  - ☒ CountyBoundary1061
  - ☒ FHRPParcels1061
  - ☒ ParcelApnAddress1061
  - ☐ ParcelApn1061
  - ☐ ParcelAddress1061
  - ☒ ParcelBoundary1061
  - ☒ VenturaCountyCities1061



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# BACKGROUND



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# HISTORY OF FHSZ MAPS

- In 2007 the State Fire Marshal identified areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas.



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# HISTORY OF FHSZ MAPS

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- In 2010 very high fire hazard severity zone map in LRA was completed.



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# HISTORY OF FHSZ MAPS

- In 2012 another major legislative change (SB 1241) was passed that addressed the long view to wildfire planning.
- It aimed at protecting people, properties, and environment against unnecessary hazard associated with wildfire for new and existing developments.
- It required cities and counties to address fire risk in SRA and very high LRA in safety element of their general plans upon the next revision of the housing element.



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# UPDATE – 2022 DRAFT FHSZ MAP



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# 2022 DRAFT FHSZ SRA MAP

- The hazard map has been updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire.
- This current revision only updates areas in California's unincorporated, rural areas where wildfires tend to be frequent.



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# 2022 DRAFT FHSZ SRA MAP

- Over the past few years, CAL FIRE has been building the new model.
- The latest technologies were used in the mapping. It includes new factors such as land use changes, recent fire history, and new significant wind event data.



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# 2022 DRAFT FHSZ SRA MAP

Ventura	Very High	High	Moderate	All SRA
11/21/2022 FHSZ Acres	340,936	12,493	1,908	355,337
FHSZ Acres as % of SRA	95.9%	3.5%	0.5%	
FHSZ % Difference as Compared to 2007	20.5%	-11.4%	-9.0%	
SRA Acres Difference as Compared to 2007				4,285
SRA % Change as Compared to 2007				1.2%



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# 2022 DRAFT FHSZ SRA MAP

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- <https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd937aba2b044c3484a642ae03c35677>



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# 2022 DRAFT FHSZ SRA MAP

- As part of the adoption process of the map, CAL FIRE invites public comment on the proposed map between December 16, 2022, and April 4, 2023.
- CAL FIRE will host a public comment hearing in all 56 counties that have SRA to receive public comment.
- Ventura County public hearing was on January 18, 2023.
- The public may submit written comment through email at [FHSZcomments@fire.ca.gov](mailto:FHSZcomments@fire.ca.gov).



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# 2022 DRAFT FHSZ SRA MAP

- To determine the FHSZ of a property, the public can easily search an address using a new FHSZ Viewer at [osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ).
- For information about FHSZs, visit the program's website at [osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ). The public can also call an automated hotline at (916) 633-7655.



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# LRA FHSZ MAPS UPDATE

- The Local Responsibility Area Map Process will happen after the State Regulated Area process has been completed, which is estimated to occur in Summer or Fall of 2023.
- The new LRA map will include all three (3) zones, same as SRA.



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# HAZARD VS RISK



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# KEY POINT TO REMEMBER

- The FHSZ map evaluates “hazard,” not “risk”.
- “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.
- “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.



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# RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES



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# RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- SB 901 – State Min. Fire Safe Regulations in Very High LRA. (Effective July 1, 2021). Updated Regs Eff 4-1-2023
- AB 2911 - Review of Subdivisions in SRA and Very High LRA.
- AB 38 – Real State Disclosure and D-Space Inspections in High and Very High. (Effective July 1, 2021)
- SB 63 – Adds Moderate and High in LRA
  - Chapter 7A in High
  - OSFM & HCD to consider Chapter 7A in Moderate



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# RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- State ADU Laws and County Ordinance: Changes in state law are happening each year and any local ordinance must be updated to comply. VC-RMA ADU Ordinance update currently in process.
- SB 9 (2020) regarding ministerial lots splits to allow for more ADU. Not applicable in High and Very High FHSZ or areas with public health and safety issues per SB 9.
- VCBC: Requires additions to comply with CBC Chapter 7A requirements.
- Requires retrofit on existing non-chapter 7A buildings. 10% cost.



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# RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

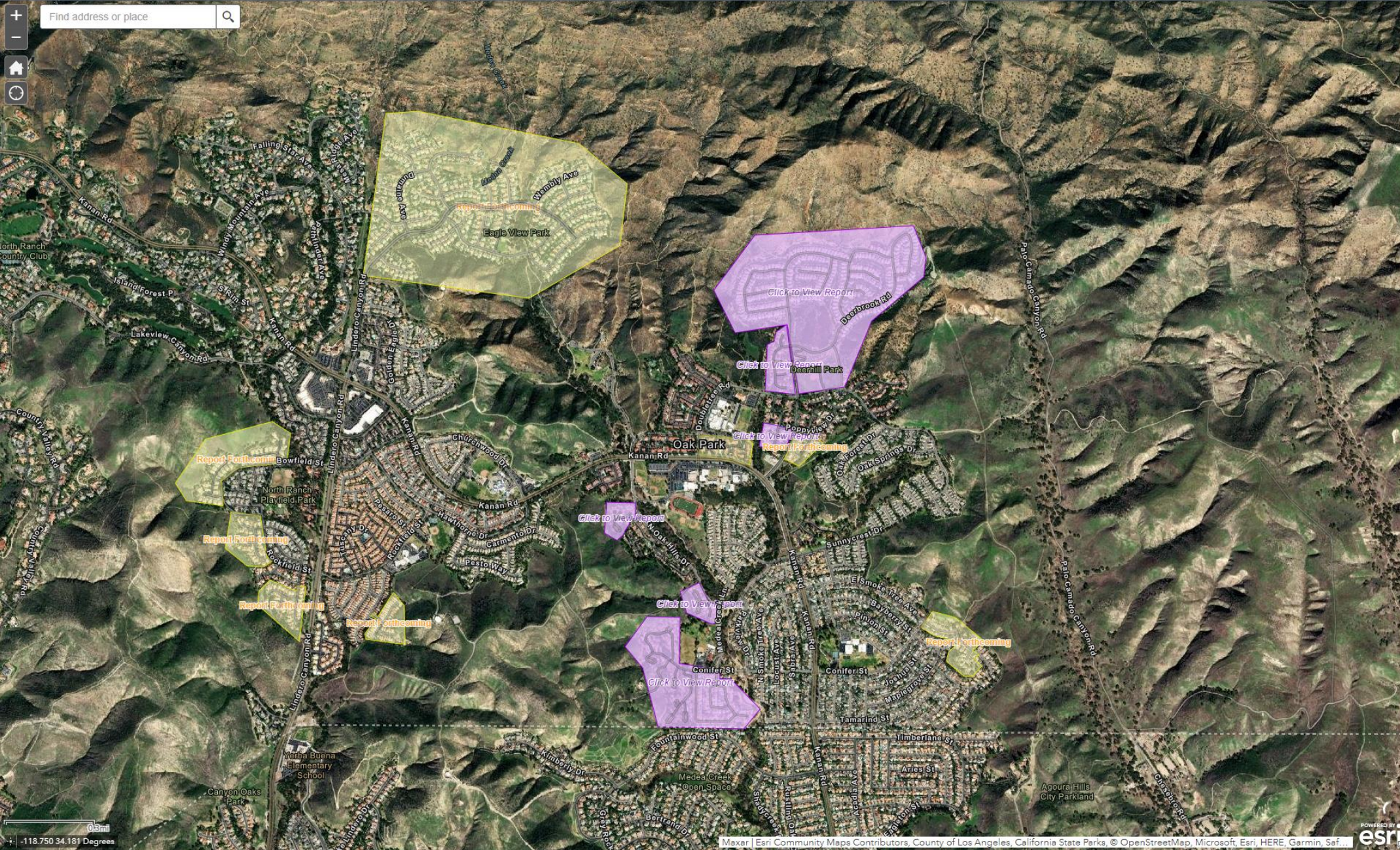
- AB 3074 - Created an ember-resistance zone (Zone 0) within 5 feet of the structure, including any attached deck.
- Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide guidance document on or before 1/1/2023 to consider the elimination of materials in Zone 0 that would likely be ignited by embers. Note: BOF Zone 0 Regulations are delayed and expected out for review late 2023.



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Find address or place



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# RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES



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# EMBER RESISTANCE ZONE – ZONE 0

- The State requirements shall not take effect for new structures until the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection updates the regulations.
- The State requirements shall take effect for existing structures one year after the effective date for the new structures.
- Currently Governor's office is reviewing the guidance document for financial impact.
- Estimated timeline: 1/1/2024 for new structures and 1/1/2025 for existing structures.



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# EMBER RESISTANCE ZONE – ZONE 0

- Ventura County Fire Dept implemented a Zone 0 in April 2019 for new landscape before State Law was changed in 2020. VCFD Ordinance 32 and Standard 515.
- VCFD started formal review of landscape plans in Oct 2021. VCFD Guideline 416
- VCFD addressing combustible fencing in Zone 0 for new construction starting Jan 1 2023.
- VCFD Addressing Accessory Buildings in the 0-50 foot zone. These are not ADUs



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# EMBER RESISTANCE ZONE – ZONE 0



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# EMBER RESISTANCE ZONE – ZONE 0



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# EMBER RESISTANCE ZONE – ZONE 0



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# EMBER RESISTANCE ZONE – ZONE 0



Example of what needs to be removed.



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# ZONE 0 PUBLIC SURVEY

- Your input is needed!

CAL FIRE is partnering with the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop a new 0–5-foot defensible space zone for wildfire resilience.

We're asking California residents and business owners to help inform cost estimates for the implementation of these new science-driven defensible space standards.

Please complete the 5–10-minute survey below, closing Wednesday, April 5.

[https://bit.ly/BOF\\_Zone\\_Zero\\_Survey](https://bit.ly/BOF_Zone_Zero_Survey)



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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE STANDARDS



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# FIRE HAZRD REDUCTION PROGRAM

- The Ventura County Fire Protection District has had a Fire Hazard Reduction Program since the late 60's. Also known as (Weed Abatement).
- Prior County and Fire District Ordinances start in 1929 requiring brush clearance from buildings.
- It was designed to prevent the loss of life and property.
- The Fire Hazard Reduction Program is the Districts single largest most important fire prevention program.
- The program has been a model for numerous agencies around the nation.



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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

- The goal is to educate and partner with property owners to have them complete the required clearance work without having to abate the parcel.
- This is accomplished by Increase public awareness through education/communication.
- The Fire Hazard reduction Program was put to the ultimate test in the 1993, 2003, 2017, 2018 and 2019 FIRESTORMS. Saving countless lives and homes.



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# FIRE HAZRD REDUCTION PROGRAM

- CRC: Corresponding changes to match changes in 7A.
- CFC: Chapter 49 WUI Requirements expanded to address:
  - Definitions,
  - Fire protection plans,
  - Fuel and vegetation plans,
  - Defensible space,
  - Fire Safe Development regs, and
  - References to required reviews for Subdivision surveys and safety elements.



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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

## 100-Foot Clearance From All Structures In A Nutshell

- All fuels and vegetation within the 0 to 100-foot zone is subject to defensible space laws and regulations. This includes combustible materials, ornamental plants, cultivated landscape plants, native plants, trees, shrubs, grasses, weeds, and wildland vegetation.
- State Law added the word “Spaced” to how vegetation shall be maintained.
- Not all vegetation is removed. Some native plants can remain if they are properly spaced and trimmed. Any dead grasses, shrubs, weeds, and vegetation shall be removed.
- Combustible grasses are cut to 3” in height.
- With the live root system left in place fire hazard is eliminated and erosion factors remain unchanged.
- VCFD Ord 32 and Standard 515 have detailed requirements for each Zone within the 100-Foot.



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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

- Trees shall have any dead branches removed, including dead palm fronds.
- Trees limbed up 6 feet above the ground. More if shrubs underneath trees.
- Trees shall have a minimum 3-foot clearance above any roof and 3 feet to sides and below any eave or roof projection.
- Roofs are free of any leaves, needles, or other vegetation. This includes rain gutters, but we do not climb to inspect them.
- Trees shall have a minimum 10-foot vertical and horizontal clearance from any chimneys or stovepipe.
- Mulch and wood chips are prohibited within 5 feet of any building. (VCFD Ordinance)



**VENTURA COUNTY  
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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE STANDARDS

- VCFD Standard 515 was developed and issued in April 2019. It was updated Feb 2022 to better clarify the requirements in the 100-foot zone from buildings. Updated again Jan 2023.
- It incorporates State Laws and local requirements for how to install and maintain the defensible space within each zone.
- There are retro-fit provisions that can apply to existing properties. Review is done on a case-by-case basis.



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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE IN USE

Removing or reducing volatile vegetation within 100 feet of all structures.  
Providing a safe working space for fire suppression forces.  
(Defensible Space)



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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE IN USE



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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE IN USE



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# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

## TYPICAL YEARLY TIMELINE

- April 20: Notices To Abate Fire Hazard are mailed to approx. 18850 property owners
- June 1: Deadline for clearing fire hazard from property
- June 1-30: Stations conduct property inspections.
- Properties not in compliance are subject to abatement by Fire District Contractor. The FHRP Unit coordinates this after attempting contact with property owners.
- Contractor fees and Fire District Admin fee (currently \$1633 for 2023) are placed on property tax bill



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# OAK PARK MAC UPDATE

- Current existing wildland fire hardening regulations (some State & County-approved regs. have been around since 2014, even earlier, but a lot of people are unaware of these).
- New wildland fire prevention regulations that were approved and went into force starting January 1, 2023
- Regulations currently being discussed by his State Committee and what those regs. Might mean to Oak Park residents and businesses.
- What the VCFD would like Oak Park residents and businesses to consider doing now in order to be better prepared for the upcoming wildland fire period.
- What the VCFD considers to be 'best practices' for wildland fire hardening
- Removal of trees, possibly even oaks, if the trunk is within 5 feet of a structure.
- Trimming of tree branches/limbs and shrubs that are within 5 feet of a structure, as well as anything within 3-5 feet that is above a roofline.
- Prohibiting the installation of new & removal of existing artificial turf in what they call State Zone 0 (i.e., within 5-10 feet of a structure) regulations starting in 2024.
- Prohibiting the placement of wood chips/mulch beyond 5 feet of a structure (current regs. since 2014 do not allow wood chips/mulch within 5 feet of a structure).



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# FAQ



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# FAQ?

## What are the uses of Fire Hazard Severity Zones?

- Answer: The zones are used for several purposes including to designate areas where wildland urban interface building codes (California Building Code (CBC), Chapter 7A) are required.
- They can be a factor in real estate disclosure.
- And local governments may consider them in their general plan.



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# FAQ?

## **Does the revised SRA FHSZ map change requirements for homes or properties?**

Answer: No. The same requirements will remain regardless of whether a particular area is reclassified or not.



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# FAQ?

## **Will the new fire hazard severity zones affect my ability to get or maintain insurance?**

Answer: Insurance companies use risk models, which differ from hazard models.

Commissioner Lara's regulation requires insurance companies to provide discounts to consumers under the Safer from Wildfires framework created by the California Department of Insurance in partnership with state emergency preparedness agencies.



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# FAQ?

## How are the new Fire Hazard Severity Zones impacting development?

Answer: Many of the changes expanding fire hazard severity zones in local responsibility areas (LRA) have been supported by the building industry. CAL FIRE works closely with the building industry when setting various building codes and defensible space requirements, so we are working together to not affect development itself but to make sure development matches the hazards of that area.



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# FAQ?

## **Does the designation of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area trigger the 100-foot clearance requirement?**

Answer: Yes, unless a local government has passed a more stringent requirement, the 100-foot defensible space clearance applies.

VCFD has a more stringent requirements. Therefore, the updated map does not affect VCFD 100-foot clearance requirements.



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# WUI UPDATE OVERVIEW

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Resources are available at

[VCFD.org](http://VCFD.org) & [VCFHRP.org](http://VCFHRP.org)

## Contact Info

Larry Williams, FPO

FHRP Unit Manager

805-947-8543

[Larry.Williams@ventura.org](mailto:Larry.Williams@ventura.org)

[fhrp@ventura.org](mailto:fhrp@ventura.org)



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# QUESTIONS?



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