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ORDINANCE NO. 1350

AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FOLSOM TO DESIGNATE FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES IN THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA (LRA)

The City Council of the City of Folsom does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to designate Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and reference the City of Folsom LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, published March 10, 2025, pursuant to Government Code Section 51178.

SECTION 2 FINDINGS

California Government Code Section 51179(a) requires local agencies, including cities, counties, or districts responsible for fire protection within a moderate fire hazard severity zone, to designate by ordinance the moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones within their jurisdiction. This designation must occur within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 51178. The City of Folsom received the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map on March 10, 2025. As the agency responsible for fire protection within a moderate fire hazard severity zone, the City of Folsom is required to adopt this ordinance.

SECTION 3 SCOPE

The proposed ordinance would designate Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) based on the updated LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, published on March 10, 2025.

State law requires CAL FIRE to evaluate fire hazard severity in LRAs. In 2021, CAL FIRE expanded its classifications to include Moderate and High hazard zones in addition to Very High zones. The updated maps identify fire hazard levels in areas not covered by state or federal fire services.

Using a scientific model, CAL FIRE assessed fire probability and behavior by analyzing factors such as fire history, vegetation, terrain, and weather conditions. These maps reflect hazard, meaning the likelihood of fire occurring, rather than risk, which considers actual vulnerability and mitigation efforts.

Under California Government Code Section 51179(3), local agencies are not permitted to reduce designated hazard levels but may increase them if necessary.

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SECTION 4 SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council declares that it would have passed each section irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective.

SECTION 5 EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from and after its passage and adoption, provided it is published in full or in summary within twenty (20) days after its adoption in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

This ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the City Council on April 22, 2025 and the second reading occurred at the regular meeting of the City Council on May 13, 2025.

On a motion by Councilmember Leary seconded by Councilmember Rohrbough, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Folsom, State of California, this 13th day of May, 2025, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s): Leary, Raithel, Rohrbough, Aquino
NOES: Councilmember(s): None
ABSENT: Councilmember(s): Kozlowski
ABSTAIN: Councilmember(s): None

Sarah Aquino

Sarah Aquino, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jennifer Jimenez

Jennifer Jimenez, DEPUTY CITY CLERK