

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** July 28, 2008
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Approve the proposed Environmental Determination;
- 2) Approve the proposed Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map, dated July 1, 2008, and;
- 3) Direct the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance adopting the approved map.

BACKGROUND:

In 1996, the City Council enacted Ordinance 6683 which adopted the "City of Pasadena Fire Hazard Area Map", dated July 1, 1996, pursuant to the requirements of the California Government Code, section 51175, *et seq.* This map defined areas of the City identified by the Fire Department, in consultation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), wherein additional fire protective construction requirements were warranted due to the presence of increased fire hazards caused by the urban-wildland interface. These areas are known as "Fire Hazard Severity Zones."

The California Government Code requires that Cal Fire periodically review and make recommendations regarding the delineation of fire hazard severity zones in consultation with local fire departments. The proposed Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map, dated July 1, 2008, is the result of the most recent review of local conditions conducted by Cal Fire and Pasadena Fire Department using updated technology, knowledge of fire behavior in the urban-wildland interface, and current local conditions.

Adoption of this Map creates no new regulatory requirements; adoption may change the applicability of specific existing regulations depending on the location of a project. The changes to the Map are relatively minor. The two-tiered zoning previously used (High Hazard and Interface Zone) have been divided into three zones consistent with the new

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State nomenclature- Very High, High and Moderate. The boundaries of the various zones have shifted to reflect current science and local knowledge of wildland fire behavior. For example, during the Altadena Firestorm of 1993, roof fires were started by the firestorm a mile or more away from the main body of the fire. The overall boundary of the San Rafael, Linda Vista and Arroyo areas are generally the same with some slight shifts between the three zones. A small area of brush near the San Marino border has been removed from the Map due to the limited nature and insufficient mass to sustain a major conflagration, consistent with Cal Fire's recommendation. The Hastings Ranch area experienced the most changes with some limited areas removed and other areas shifted between hazard ranks.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Adoption of the proposed Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map, dated July 1, 2008, has no direct fiscal impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

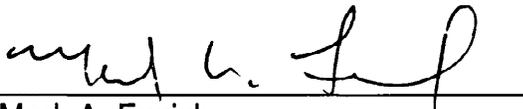
The proposed ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(C) (2) because it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

Respectfully submitted,



BERNARD K. MELEKIAN
City Manager

Prepared by:



Mark A. Fasick
Fire Marshal

Approved by:



Dennis J. Downs
Fire Chief