

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.20
(ID # 28180)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, July 01, 2025

FROM : FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: FIRE DEPARTMENT: Adoption of a new Ordinance No. 999, Relating to the Adoption of Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps. All Districts [\$7,000 General Fund 52%, Structural Fire Taxes 46%, Fees 2%]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Ordinance No. 999, an ordinance relating to the Adoption of Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps; and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the summary of the ordinance pursuant to Government Code section 25124(b).


ACTION:


Bill Weiser, Fire Department Chief 6/17/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Gutierrez, seconded by Supervisor Medina and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended and Ordinance 999 is adopted with waiver of the reading.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: July 1, 2025
xc: Fire, COB/MC/AB/DL/NS

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

| FINANCIAL DATA | Current Fiscal Year: | Next Fiscal Year: | Total Cost: | Ongoing Cost |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| COST | \$ 7,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 7,000 | \$ 0 |
| NET COUNTY COST | \$ 3,640 | \$ 0 | \$ 3,640 | \$ 0 |
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: General Fund 52%, Fees 2%, Structural Fire Taxes 46% | | | Budget Adjustment: No | |
| | | | For Fiscal Year: 25/26 | |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Previously the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps within the Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) were adopted as part of the fire code adoption, Riverside County Ordinance No. 787, current legislation requires these maps to be adopted separately.

Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) classification in the LRA were established pursuant to AB 337 in 1992 in response to the Panorama and Tunnel Fires. From 2008 to 2011, CAL FIRE worked to designate areas as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) within the LRA. During this time local governments were able to adopt the maps as recommended or adjust the recommendation to be more or less restrictive.

In 2021, SB 63 expanded the scope of FHSZ classifications by mandating the identification of additional zones, including Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, in addition to the Very High. In 2022, AB 211, as codified in Government Code section 51179, reinforced these mandates and required local agencies to formally designate, by ordinance, all three classifications within 120 days of receiving the recommendations for the State Fire Marshal. The bill also eliminated the local governments' ability to downgrade the hazard levels recommended by the State Fire Marshal.

The classification of FHSZ in California has evolved significantly over the past several decades in response to the increasing threat of wildfires. The State of California, through the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and in collaboration with local jurisdictions, has developed a systematic approach to identifying and classifying areas based on their wildfire hazard potential.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones are designated based on the likelihood of fire occurring and its expected behavior over a 30- to 50-year period. These zones are determined using factors such as fuel loading, terrain, fire weather conditions, historical fire activity, and wind patterns.

The previous FHSZ maps in California were developed and adopted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to identify areas at significant risk of wildfires. These maps, which classify zones as moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity, were originally created using fire history, topography, vegetation, and climate data. They were first implemented in 2007 for State Responsibility Areas (SRA), where CAL FIRE has primary

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

jurisdiction, and later incorporated into Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) through local government planning and building regulations. The adoption of these maps played a crucial role in guiding land-use decisions, establishing building codes, and informing mitigation efforts to reduce wildfire risks. However, as fire behavior has evolved due to climate change, prolonged drought, and increased development in wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas, the need for updated maps has become evident to ensure accurate risk assessments and effective fire prevention strategies.

The designation of FHSZ under Government Code section 51178 requires local agencies to engage in a transparent and participatory process to ensure that affected communities have access to updated wildfire hazard information. The updated FHSZ maps were released on March 24, 2025, triggering the requirement for local agencies to make this information available for public review and comment within 30 days of receipt.

In compliance with this requirement, these maps have been posted on Riverside County Fire Department's website for public access and review. Additionally, they are being presented before you today during this presentation to facilitate discussion, provide clarification, and gather input from both the Board of Supervisors and the community. This ensures transparency and encourages informed community engagement in the wildfire hazard designation process. In addition, a full copy of the attached ordinance is available to the public online, and will be available in print at the Board of Supervisors meetings considering this item.

Because the maps are required under state law, approval of the ordinance is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is exempt as ministerial and pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense exemption).

Impact on Residents and Businesses

For local governments, these classifications have significant implications, including:

- **Building Code Requirements:** California's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) building codes (CBC Chapter 7A) apply to new construction within designated High and Very High FHSZs.
- **Defensible Space Standards:** Properties within these zones must maintain 100 feet of defensible space around structures, per Government Code section 51182.
- **Land Use and Planning Considerations:** Local agencies must incorporate FHSZ designations into their general plans, zoning ordinances, and emergency response strategies.
- **Real Estate Disclosures:** Property owners within these zones are required to provide wildfire hazard disclosures during property transactions.

Additional Fiscal Information

The estimated costs of preparing, processing, and implementing this ordinance is \$7,000, which is included in the Fire Department budget. No additional funding is requested. Any additional costs associated with newly required services due to the Ordinance will be funded with Fire Department fees already established.

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Draft Ordinance No. 999
- B. County of Riverside Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map

Geoff Pemberton

Geoff Pemberton, Chief Deputy County Fire

6/16/2025

George Trindle

George Trindle, Chief ASST COUNTY COUNSEL

6/17/2025

Rebecca S Cortez

Rebecca S Cortez, Principal Management Analyst

6/23/2025

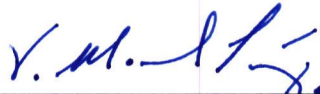
1 shown on the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps published by the Office of the
2 State Fire Marshal.

3 Section 6. ADOPTION OF MAP. The Board hereby adopts the portion of the State Fire
4 Marshal's Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps covering the County as the "County of Riverside Fire Hazard
5 Severity Zones Map." A copy of the County of Riverside Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps is on file with
6 the Clerk of the Board and can also be found online at www.rvcfire.org and is incorporated herein by
7 reference.

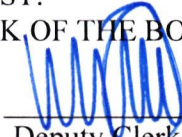
8 Section 7. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this ordinance are separate and severable. If
9 any provision of this ordinance is for any reason held by a court to be unconstitutional or invalid, the Board
10 declares that it would have passed this ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of the provision held to be
11 unconstitutional or invalid. Such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall therefore not affect the remaining
12 provisions of this ordinance, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

13 Section 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days from the
14 date of adoption.

15 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY
16 OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

17
18 By: 
19 V. MANUEL PEREZ, Chair
County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

20 ATTEST: **KIMBERLY A. RECTOR**
CLERK OF THE BOARD

21 By: 
22 Deputy Clerk of the Board

23 (SEAL)

24 *APPROVED AS TO FORM:*
25 MINH C. TRAN
26 County Counsel

27 
28 Melissa R. Cushman
Supervising Deputy County Counsel

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss

I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of said county held on July 1, 2025, the foregoing ordinance consisting of 8 Sections was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

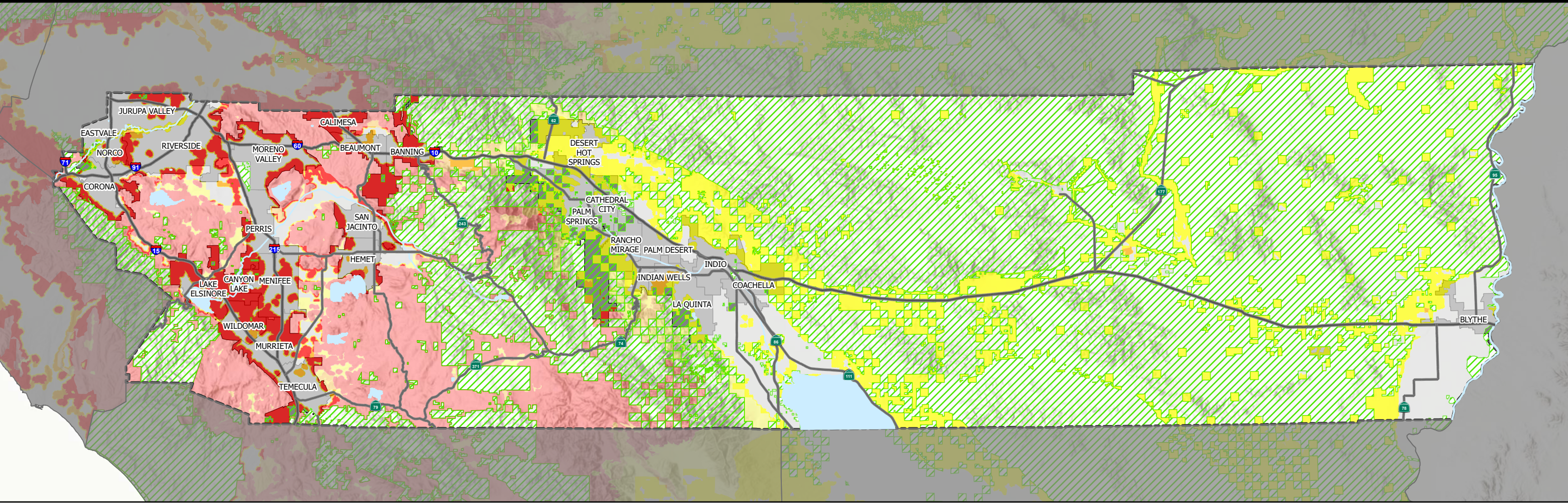
DATE: July 1, 2025

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR
Clerk of the Board

BY: _____
 Deputy

SEAL

County of Riverside Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map



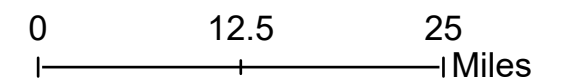
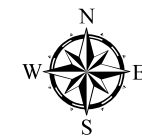
Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area (SRA)

- Moderate
- High
- Very High

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) in Local Responsibility Area (LRA)

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Unzoned LRA

- Waterbody
- Federal Responsibility
- Incorporated City



Map By FireGIS - CLindsay - Date: 6/4/2025

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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3512 14 Street
Riverside, California 92501
(951) 368-9229
neller@scng.com

County of Riverside - Clerk of the Board
PO Box 1147
Riverside, California 92502

Account Number: 5209148
Ad Order Number: 0011742734
Customer's Reference/PO Number:
Publication: The Press-Enterprise
Publication Dates: 06/26/2025
Total Amount: \$470.56
Payment Amount: \$0.00
Amount Due: \$470.56
Notice ID: Uj9ZwSgpGM3VPW3rsdZ4
Invoice Text:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, on the 1st Floor Board Chambers, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 9:30 A.M. or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider adoption of the following Ordinance: SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 999 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MAPS This summary is presented pursuant to California Government Code Section 25124(b): a certified copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 999 may be examined at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, located at 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Riverside, California. In, summary, Ordinance No. 999 designates the moderate, high and very high fire hazard severity zones, as recommended by the California State Fire Marshal, in accordance with Government Code sections 51178 and 51179. Pursuant to Government Code section 51179 a local agency must designate, by ordinance, the fire hazard severity zones within its jurisdiction within 120 days of receipt of the State Fire Marshals recommendations. Ordinance No. 999 adopts the portion of the State Fire Marshal's Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps covering the County as the "County of Riverside Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map," will apply to the unincorporated area of Riverside County and would take effect 30 days after its adoption. Alternative formats available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation, please contact Clerk of the

Fire

7/1/2025

3.20

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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The Press-Enterprise
3512 14 Street
Riverside, California 92501
(951) 368-9229

County of Riverside - Clerk of the Board
PO Box 1147
Riverside, California 92502

Publication: The Press-Enterprise

PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF

Ad Desc: 0011742734

FILE NO. 0011742734

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and not party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am an authorized representative of THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California, under date of April 25, 1952, Case Number 54446, under date of March 29, 1957, Case Number 65673, under date of August 25, 1995, Case Number 267864, and under date of September 16, 2013, Case Number RIC 1309013; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in said newspaper in accordance with the instructions of the person(s) requesting publication, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

06/26/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: June 26, 2025.
At: Riverside, California



Signature

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, on the 1st Floor Board Chambers, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, on **Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 9:30 A.M.** or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider adoption of the following Ordinance:

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 999

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MAPS
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Alternative formats available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation, please contact Clerk of the Board at (951) 955-1069.

Please send all written correspondence to: Clerk of the Board, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, CA 92502-1147 or email cob@rivco.org

Dated: June 23, 2025
Kimberly Rector,
Clerk of the Board
By: Naomi Sicra,
Clerk of the Board Assistant
The Press-Enterprise
Published: 6/26/25

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Riverside, California 92501
(951) 368-9229
cgonzales@scng.com

County of Riverside - Clerk of the Board
PO Box 1147
Riverside, California 92502

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Account Number:</i> | 5209148 |
| <i>Ad Order Number:</i> | 0011745126 |
| <i>Customer's Reference/PO Number:</i> | |
| <i>Publication:</i> | The Press-Enterprise |
| <i>Publication Dates:</i> | 07/10/2025 |
| <i>Total Amount:</i> | \$396.39 |
| <i>Payment Amount:</i> | \$0.00 |
| <i>Amount Due:</i> | \$396.39 |
| <i>Notice ID:</i> | q5pstBCJ8lzexKC4fGGR |
| <i>Invoice Text:</i> | BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 999 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MAPS This summary is presented pursuant to California Government Code Section 25124(b): a certified copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 999 may be examined at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, located at 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Riverside, California. In, summary, Ordinance No. 999 designates the moderate, high and very high fire hazard severity zones, as recommended by the California State Fire Marshal, in accordance with Government Code sections 51178 and 51179. Pursuant to Government Code section 51179 a local agency must designate, by ordinance, the fire hazard severity zones within its jurisdiction within 120 days of receipt of the State Fire Marshals recommendations. Ordinance No. 999 adopts the portion of the State Fire Marshal's Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps covering the County as the "County of Riverside Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map," will apply to the unincorporated area of Riverside County and would take effect 30 days after its adoption. V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Board I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of said County, held on July 1, 2025, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by said Board by the following vote: AYES: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez NAYS: None ABSENT: None Kimberly A. Rector, Clerk of the Board By: Naomi Sicra, Clerk of the Board Assistant |

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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The Press-Enterprise
3512 14 Street
Riverside, California 92501
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County of Riverside - Clerk of the Board
PO Box 1147
Riverside, California 92502

Publication: The Press-Enterprise

PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF

Ad Desc: 0011745126

FILE NO. 0011745126

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and not party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am an authorized representative of THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California, under date of April 25, 1952, Case Number 54446, under date of March 29, 1957, Case Number 65673, under date of August 25, 1995, Case Number 267864, and under date of September 16, 2013, Case Number RIC 1309013; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in said newspaper in accordance with the instructions of the person(s) requesting publication, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

07/10/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: July 10, 2025.
At: Riverside, California



Signature

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 999 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MAPS

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V. Manuel Perez,
Chair of the Board

I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of said County, held on **July 1, 2025**, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by said Board by the following vote:

AYES: Medina, Spiegel,
Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Kimberly A. Rector,
Clerk of the Board
By: Naomi Sicra,
Clerk of the Board Assistant
The Press-Enterprise
Published: 7/10/25

Rec'd by NK JUL 10 2025 10:25 AM



California
GANNETT

PO Box 631437 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1437

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Naomy Sicra
Riverside County-Board Of Sup.
4080 Lemon ST # 127
Riverside CA 92501-3609

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

The Desert Sun, a newspaper published in the city of Palm Springs, Riverside County, State of California, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

07/10/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 07/10/2025

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY
OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 999
AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
RELATING TO
THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA
FIRE
HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MAPS

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V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Board
I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of said County, held on July 1, 2025, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by said Board by the following vote:
AYES: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Kimberly A. Rector, Clerk of the Board
By: Naomy Sicra, Clerk of the Board Assistant
July 10, 2025 11475296

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$171.14
Tax Amount: \$0.00
Payment Cost: \$171.14
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Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

2025 JUL 22 AM 10:24

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CLERK/SC/STAFF OFFICE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY
OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 999
AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
RELATING TO
THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA
FIRE
HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MAPS

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V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Board
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AYES: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
Kimberly A. Rector, Clerk of the Board
By: Naomy Sicra, Clerk of the Board Assistant
July 10, 2025 11475296