

ORDINANCE NO. [2025-XXX]

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 51178

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("CAL FIRE"), pursuant to Government Code Section 51178, has updated and transmitted revised Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps for areas within Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs); and

WHEREAS, Government Code Sections 51175 through 51189 require local jurisdictions to adopt these maps by ordinance and apply applicable building standards for new construction in designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, as set forth in the California Building Code and California Fire Code; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the FHSZ map will help reduce wildfire risks through appropriate land-use planning, code enforcement, and community protection standards, thereby enhancing the safety and resilience of the Palm Desert community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Desert wishes to adopt the FHSZ map as recommended by CAL FIRE to comply with state law and promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The City Council finds the following:

1. Notice of the public hearing was published twice, with at least five (5) days intervening between each publication on May 30, 2025, with a second notice published on June 6, 2025, the first date being at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing.
2. The duly noticed public hearing was held, and all oral and written presentations regarding the adoption of Fire Hazard Severity Zones were heard and considered.
3. The City of Palm Desert hereby adopts the Fire Hazard Severity Zones as presented in the map titled: "City of Palm Desert Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map," prepared and published by CAL FIRE as reflected in **Exhibit A**. This map shall serve as the official FHSZ designation within the City's Local Responsibility Area.

SECTION 3. PUBLIC ACCESS TO OFFICIAL MAP

The adopted Fire Hazard Severity Zones map shall be available for public inspection: At the Office of the City Clerk, 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260; and online at the City's official website.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from its adoption.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION

The City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, California, is hereby directed to publish this ordinance in the Desert Sun, a Newspaper of general circulation, published and circulated in the City of Palm Desert, California, and shall be in full force and effective thirty (30) days after its adoption.

ADOPTED ON _____, 2025.

JAN C. HARNIK
MAYOR

ATTEST:

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK

I, Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, California, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. ____ is a full, true, and correct copy, and was introduced at a regular meeting of the Palm Desert City Council on June 12, 2025, and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on June 26, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RECUSED:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, on _____.

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK