



AGENDA: February 20th 2023 MEETING

3:00 p.m. at Johnson Valley Community Center, 50567-A Quailbush Rd.

All HVCC agendas, contact information, and minutes are posted on www.homesteadvalleycc.org

Flag Salute

Roll Call/Delegate List

Approve Agenda

Treasurer's Report: Floy Creveling

- 1. Guest Comments**
- 2. Congressman Jay Obernolte** – Representative Hayden Bartz
- 3. 29 Palms MCAGCC** – Kimberly Pope
- 4. San Bernardino County Fire** – Battalion Chief Donnie Vioria
- 5. CAL Fire** - Battalion Chief/PIO Alison Hesterly
- 6. San Bernardino County Sheriffs Dept** – Captain Robert Warrick
- 7. San Bernardino County 3rd District** – Supervisor Dawn Rowe
- 8. Assemblyman Tom Lackey** – District Director Pamela Balch
- 9. State Responsibility Area (SRA) & Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)**
- 10. BLM Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan**
- 11. Committee Reports:** Scenic 247, Rural Living and Fund Raising and Events
- 12. Community Reports / Announcements**
- 13. Review Action Items From This Meeting**

Next HVCC meeting: Monday, March 20th, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Flamingo Heights Community Association, 55977 Perris St

Adjourn

HVCC DELEGATES / COMMITTEE LIST

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members appointed by the 4 HVCC Organizations, residing in the community they represent.
Up to 3 voting members from each community, plus an alternate to vote in case of an absence.

Kim Abramson	Johnson Valley
Adrienne Bishop	Landers
Digna Cassens	Flamingo Heights
Floy Creveling	Landers
Jim Hanley	Johnson Valley
Jim Harvey	JVIA Alternate
Judy Laffoon	Landers Alternate
Justin Merino	Johnson Valley (non-voting)
Betty Munson	Johnson Valley
Chris Nichols	Yucca Mesa
Rick Sayers	Yucca Mesa
Roxanna Shamay	Landers

OFFICERS

President: Justin Merino
Vice President: Rick Sayers
Secretary: Kim Abramson
Treasurer: Floy Creveling

STANDING COMMITTEE

Rural Living: Open for nomination
Public Outreach: Open for nomination
Fund Raising and Events: Roxanna Shamay and Justin Merino

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Scenic 247 Committee: Chairperson: Betty Munson
Phillip Brown, Barbara Harris, Jim Harvey, Sarah Kennington, Sara Fairchild, Chuck Bell, Justin Merino

Committee members are not required to be members of the Council

Treasurer's Report

Homestead Valley Community Council, Inc.

Treasurer's Report

For the month of January 2023

Checking Account:

Beginning Statement Balance 01/01/2023..... \$11,461.20
Income..... \$
00.00
Expense..... \$
1,250.00
CK – Donation checks (#710 Yucca Mesa & #711 Flamingo Heights) each for \$625.00
Ending Statement Balance 01/31/2023..... \$ 10,211.20
One donation check (#713) of \$625.00 was outstanding as of 12/31/2022
Actual balance in HVCC checkbook is \$ 9,586.20

AmPac Business Capital Debit Card - This is a grant of \$2,500.00 awarded to participating non-profits for business expenses.

Beginning Statement Balance
01/01/2023..... \$2,300.05

I reported that the balance of the debit card was \$2,300.79 on last month's report. I did not account for a \$0.74 customer fee attached to the debit purchase of \$21.25 at Copy Center Plus on 12/29/2022 that resulted in the total debit being \$21.99 instead of \$21.25. The closing balance for 12/31/2022 was \$2,300.05.

DC – Walmart – Laptop & speaker to go in case with other HVCC equip. for meetings on 01/16/2023.... \$ 198.12
DC – Squarespace – Annual fee for website hosting on 01/20/2023.....
\$ 153.60
DC – Domain Renewals (hvccsite.org, scenichighway247.com, scenichwy247.com) #2445017191..... \$ 32.51
Ending Statement Balance 01/31/2023.....
\$1,915.82

Legend:

CK – Check DC– Debit Card DEP-Deposit EFT– Electronic Funds Transfer

Floy Creveling

Treasurer



United States Marine Corps

Internet: <http://www.29palms.marines.mil/>

Government and External Affairs Office

P.O. Box 788105

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

Twentynine Palms, CA 92278

For more information:

Phone: (760) 830-3737

PRESS RELEASE #23-002

February 1, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHNSON VALLEY SHARED USE AREA CLOSURE CHANGES

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. –

The Marine Corps has released new temporary closure dates for the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area in 2024. The area will be temporarily closed to the public February 15th through the 27th, 2024, while the Marine Corps conducts critical military training.

All upcoming closures of the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area are listed below:

- August 18-28, 2023
- February 15-27, 2024

Closure periods include the time required to ensure the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area is clear of recreation activity prior to military training and to confirm the land is safe for public access before reopening. The adjacent Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area is unaffected by closures to the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area and remains open to the public for recreation and off-roading. Recreationists are also encouraged to explore other nearby off-roading areas including Stoddard Valley OHV Area and Ocotillo Wells State Vehicle Recreation Area when the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area is closed.

Training is conducted at the Combat Center year-round, including ranges acquired through the land expansion bordering the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area. Please be aware and respect base boundaries when recreating near the installation. Individuals have a personal and legal responsibility to avoid trespassing.

For additional information, including a map of the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area, please visit: www.29palms.marines.mil/johnsonvalley/ or email the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at SMBPLMSJOHNSONVALLEY@usmc.mil.

JOHNSON VALLEY SHARED USE AREA

**Upcoming
Closure Dates**
for military training



2023

18 - 28 August



2024

15 - 27 February



@COMBATCENTERGEA





www.29Palms.marines.mil/johnsonvalley

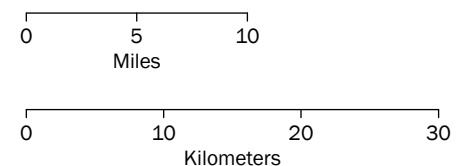
November 21, 2022



Very High	170,406 Acres
High	75,063 Acres
Moderate	99,305 Acres

 Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)

 Local Responsibility Area (LRA)



Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers
Scale: 1:550,000 at 11" x 17"

Access PDF versions of the maps at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz-maps>. For more information, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions document for the 2023 Fire Hazard Severity Zones at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz> or scan the QR code at right. If you have further questions, please call 916-633-7655 or email FHSZcomments@fire.ca.gov.



Scan or click the QR code for more information and to visit the interactive FHSZ viewer.

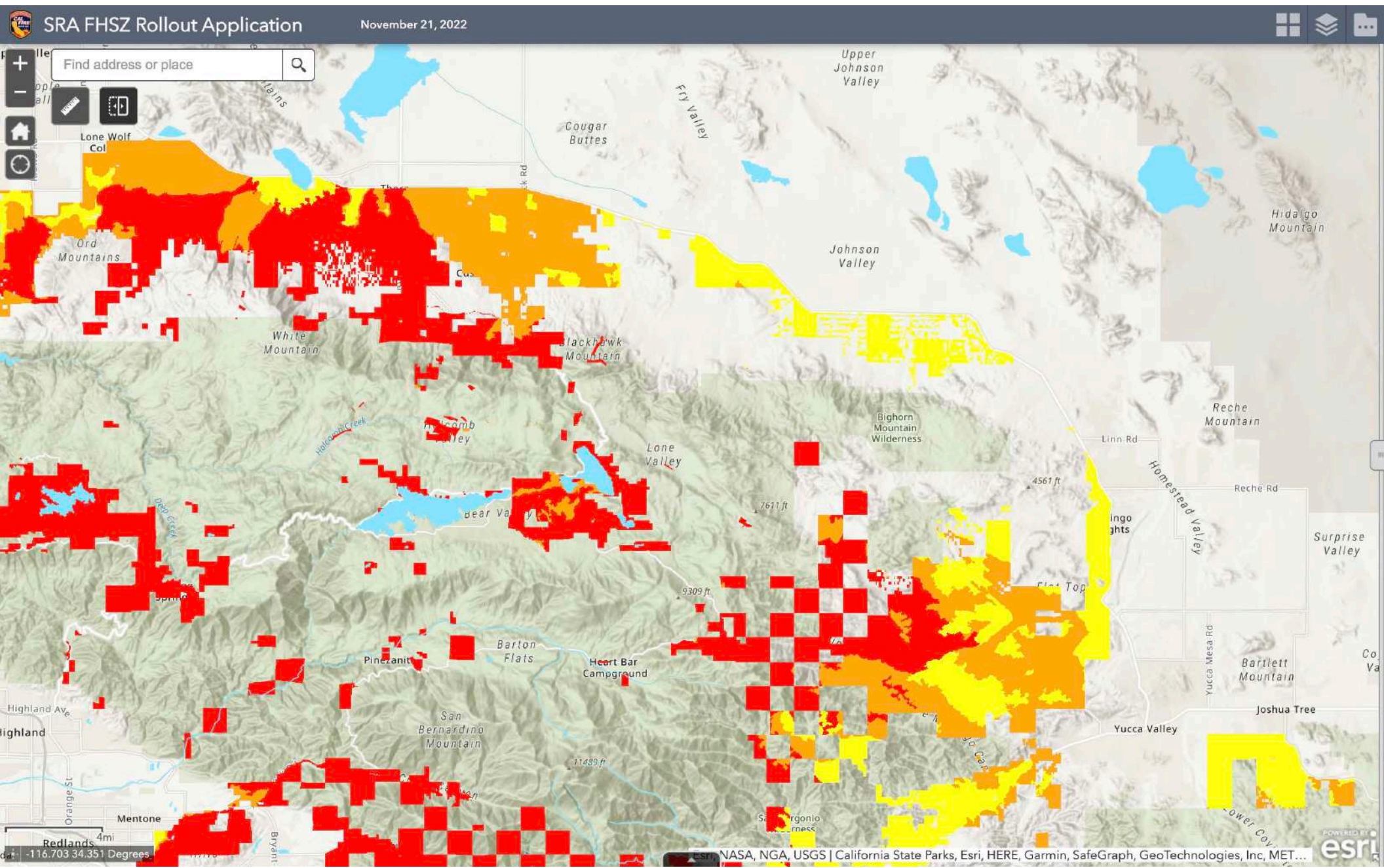
Obtain FRAP maps, data, metadata, and publications at <https://frap.fire.ca.gov>.
For more information, please call 916-633-7655 or email FHSZcomments@fire.ca.gov.

Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources,
California Natural Resources Agency
Mike Richwine, State Fire Marshal,
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Data Sources:
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones
(FHSZSRA_DRAFT_23_1)
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA22_2)

Use the interactive viewer to compare where FHSZ has changed in SRA

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



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT: *2022 Fire Hazard Severity Zones*



Fire Hazard Severity Zones Explained

- What is a “Fire Hazard Severity Zone,” or FHSZ?
 - **Answer:** Public Resource Code 4202; The State Fire Marshal shall classify lands within state responsibility areas into fire hazard severity zones. Each zone shall embrace relatively homogeneous lands and shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors present, including areas where winds have been identified by the department as a major cause of wildfire spread. Government Code 51178; The State Fire Marshal shall identify 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. Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread.

When were the maps last updated?

- **Answer:** In 2007, CAL FIRE updated the FHSZs for the entire State Responsibility Area (SRA). Between 2008-2011 the department worked with local governments to make recommendations of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA).

- **When will the maps be updated?**

- **Answer:** Over the past few years, CAL FIRE has been building the new model for a 2022 update. The latest technologies will be used in the mapping and will include new factors now available including land use changes, recent fire history, new significant wind event data, as well as a model that is more spatially detailed.

- **Why are fire hazard severity maps being updated?**

- **Answer:** The hazard maps are being updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire. The hazard mapping process will incorporate new science in local climate data and improved fire assessment modeling in determining hazard ratings.

- **What do Fire Hazard Severity Zones measure?**

- **Answer:** The Fire Hazard Severity Zone map evaluates “hazard,” not “risk”. The map is like flood zone maps, where lands are described in terms of the probability level of a particular area being inundated by floodwaters, and not specifically prescriptive of impacts. “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.

- **Where do Fire Hazard Severity Zones apply?**

- **Answer:** Fire Hazard Severity Zones are found in areas where the state has financial responsibility for wildfire protection and prevention, called the State Responsibility Area. More than 31 million acres are in this area. Under Senate Bill 63 (Stern, 2021) Government

Code 51178 was amended to add the Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones with the Very High in local jurisdictions.

- **What are the uses of Fire Hazard Severity Zones?**
 - **Answer:** The zones are used for several purposes including to designate areas where California's defensible space standards and wildland urban interface building codes are required. They can be a factor in real estate disclosure, and local governments may consider them in their general plan.
- **Is there an easy way to determine the Fire Hazard Severity Zone of my property?**
 - **Answer:** You can search by address to find your current designation on the web at: osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ
- **What are the key elements of the Fire Hazard Severity Zone model?**
 - **Answer:** The fire hazard severity model for wildland fire has two key elements: probability of an area burning and expected fire behavior under extreme fuel and weather conditions. The zones reflect areas that have similar burn probabilities and fire behavior characteristics. The factors considered in determining fire hazard within wildland areas are fire history, flame length, terrain, local weather, and potential fuel over a 50-year period. Outside of wildlands, the model considers factors that might lead to buildings being threatened, including terrain, weather, urban vegetation cover, blowing embers, proximity to wildland, fire history, and fire hazard in nearby wildlands. FHSZs are not a structure loss model, as key information regarding structure ignition (such as roof type, etc.) is not included.
- **How do the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps differ from California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) High Fire Threat District Maps?**
 - **Answer:** The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) sponsored map, known as "CPUC High Fire Threat District Map" (HFTD), includes similar factors as those in the FHSZ maps, however the CPUC HFTD Map is designed specifically for identifying areas where there is an increased risk for utility associated wildfires. As such, the CPUC map includes fire hazards associated with historical powerline-caused wildfires, current fuel conditions, and scores areas based on where fires start, as opposed to where potential fires may cause impacts.
- **Why is my property in a different zone than the adjacent area, which looks similar?**
 - **Answer:** In non-wildland areas, zone edges occur based on distance to the wildland edge. Because hazard in these areas is largely determined by incoming embers from adjacent wildland, urban areas that are similar in vegetation type and housing density may have a change in FHSZ class as the distance to the wildland edge increases. Areas immediately adjacent to wildland receive the same FHSZ score as that wildland where fire originates, and the model then produces lower scores as the distance to wildland edge increases.

In wildland areas, zone edges are a result of the way zones are delineated. Specifically, zones represent areas of similar slope and fuel potential. Zone boundaries divide zones based on geographic and vegetation features that align with fire hazard potential; although, at a local scale, it may appear that the immediate area is similar on both sides of the edge. The class value within a zone is based on the average hazard score across the whole zone, so areas that are in the same zone but not immediately adjacent to a local area can have an influence on the final zone classification.

Data Related Questions

- **How are Fire Hazard Severity Zones determined?**
 - **Answer:** CAL FIRE used the best available science and data to develop, and field test a model that served as the basis of zone assignments. The model evaluated the probability of the area burning and potential fire behavior in the area. Many factors were included such as fire history, vegetation, flame length, blowing embers, proximity to wildland, terrain, and weather.
- **What new data will be included in the new model, and how does this differ from the previous model?**
 - **Answer:** A 2 km grid of climate data covering the years 2003-2018 is being used in the update. The previous model used stock weather inputs across the state to calculate wildland fire intensity scores. The updated model will adjust fire intensity scores based on the most extreme fire weather at a given location, considering temperature, humidity, and wind speed. In addition, ember transport is being modeled based on local distributions of observed wind speed and direction values instead of using a generic buffer distance for urban areas adjacent to wildlands.
- **What is the difference between the various Fire Hazard Severity Zones?**
 - **Answer:** Classification of a wildland zone as Moderate, High or Very High fire hazard is based on the average hazard across the area included in the zone, which have a minimum size of 200 acres. In wildlands, hazard is a function of modeled flame length under the worst conditions and annual burn probability. Both these factors generally increase with increasing hazard level, but there may be instances where one value is Very High and the other is low, pushing the overall hazard into a more intermediate ranking. On average, both modeled flame length and burn probability increase by roughly 40-60% between hazard classes. Classification outside of wildland areas is based on the fire hazard of the adjacent wildland and the probability of flames and embers threatening buildings.
- **Why does the model place an emphasis on the spread of embers?**
 - **Answer:** Embers spread wildfire because they can travel long distances in the wind and ignite vegetation, roofs, attics (by getting into vents), and decks.
- **Is the GIS data for Fire Hazard Severity Zones available for download?**
 - **Answer:** The data inputs used to develop the Fire Hazard Severity Zones are identified in the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) Title 19 Development (ca.gov). Geospatial data files of FHSZ are currently not available during the adoption process. The regulation incorporates the map by reference, and it is presented as an accurate and tractable representation of the data; release of the geospatial data files could compromise the integrity of the files, causing misrepresentation of the map and regulation. Upon completion of this process, the FHSZ maps will become formally adopted; at that time geospatial data files will become available. We have provided a web map service for you to view the zone classifications at osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ.
- **Why do waterbodies have a Fire Hazard Severity Zone Classification?**
 - **Answer:** All areas in State Responsibility Area, including water bodies, require a fire hazard severity zone designation. The 2007 FHSZ maps zoned all water as moderate by default. In the 2022 FHSZ model we added a buffer of FHSZ from the surrounding wildland into water bodies to account for potential threat of embers to buildings on docks and house boats, as well as variation in reservoir height that occurs with drought.

State Regulated Area Questions

- **What is “State Responsibility Area,” or SRA?**
 - **Answer:** 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.
- **How is state responsibility area determined?**
 - **Answer:** The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) classifies land as State Responsibility Area. The legal definition of SRA is found in the Public Resources Code Section 4125. The Board has developed detailed procedures to classify lands as State Responsibility Area. Lands are removed from SRA when they become incorporated by a city, change in ownership to the federal government, become more densely populated, or are converted to intensive agriculture that minimizes the risk of wildfire. While some lands are removed from SRA automatically, the Board typically reviews changes every five years.
- **What Fire Hazard Severity Zones are in State Responsibility Area?**
 - **Answer:** All of the State Responsibility Area is in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Lands are either ranked as Moderate, High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- **What are the wildland urban interface (WUI) building codes in State Responsibility Area?**
 - **Answer:** The WUI building codes (California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 7A) reduce the risk of embers fanned by wind-blown wildfires from igniting buildings. The codes for roofing, siding, decking, windows, and vents apply throughout all state responsibility area regardless of the fire hazard severity ranking. Ember-resistant building materials can be found at: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/fire-engineering-and-investigations/building-materials-listing/>

Local Regulated Area Questions

- **What is “Local Responsibility Area”, or LRA?**
 - **Answer:** Local Responsibility Areas (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.
- **What is the “Bates Bill”?**
 - **Answer:** The “Bates Bill” (AB 337), Government Code Section 51175, was prompted by the devastating Oakland Hills Fire of 1991. This mid-1990s legislation calls for CAL FIRE to evaluate fire hazard severity in local responsibility area and to make a recommendation to the local jurisdiction where very high FHSZs exist. The Government Code then provides direction for the local jurisdiction to take appropriate action.
- **How are Fire Hazard Severity Zones determined in local responsibility areas?**
 - **Answer:** CAL FIRE uses an extension of the state responsibility area Fire Hazard Severity Zone model as the basis for evaluating fire hazard in Local Responsibility Area. The Local Responsibility Area hazard rating reflects flame and ember intrusion from adjacent wildlands and from flammable vegetation in the urban area.
- **What are the requirements for landowners in FHSZs in local responsibility areas? GC51189**

- **Answer:** California’s WUI building codes (CBC Chapter 7A) apply to the design and construction of new buildings located in High and Very High FHSZs in Local Responsibility Areas. Local ordinances may require ignition resistant construction for remodel projects. Check with your local building department to determine which ignition resistant building codes apply to your project. In addition, Government Code Section 51182 calls for defensible space clearance and other wildland fire safety practices for buildings. Owners are also required to make a natural hazard disclosure as part of a real estate transfer. For information regarding “home hardening” and defensible space clearance, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.
- **Does the designation of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area trigger the 100-foot clearance requirement?**
 - **Answer:** Yes, per Government Code 51182 unless a local government has passed a more stringent requirement, the 100-foot defensible space clearance applies. For information regarding “home hardening” and defensible space clearance, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.
- **How does CAL FIRE assist Local Governments in Fire Hazard Severity Zones?**
 - **Answer:** CAL FIRE’s Land Use Planning Program is a specialized unit that provides support to local governments by providing fire safety expertise on the State’s wildland urban interface building codes, wildfire safety codes, as well as helping in the development of the safety elements in general plans. Currently there are 189 cities and 56 counties with FHSZ.
- **What is the process for developing Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area?**
 - **Answer:** CAL FIRE uses the same modeling data that is used to map the State Responsibility Area. The department works with local jurisdictions for validation of the mapping. The map, along with a model ordinance, are then sent to the governing body for adoption.
- **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.
- **When will the Local Responsibility Area Map be released?**
 - **Answer:** The Local Responsibility Area Map Process will happen after the State Responsibility Area process has been completed, which is estimated to occur in Spring or Summer of 2023.

Insurance Related Questions

- **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, because they consider the susceptibility of a structure to damage from fire and other short-term factors that are not included in hazard modeling. It is unlikely that insurance risk models specifically call out CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones as a factor, but much of the same data that is used in the fire hazard severity zone model are likely included in the insurance companies’ risk models. However, insurance risk models incorporate many additional factors and factors that change more frequently than those that CAL FIRE includes in its hazard mapping, which is built to remain steady for the next 10+ years.

Resources, Additional Information, and Contact Information

- To find the current FHSZ designation for a property, visit FHSZ Map Viewer (ca.gov).
- Helpful links:
 - FHSZ Website:
 - osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ
 - FHSZ Map Viewer:
 - [FHSZ Map Viewer \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Contacts for FHSZ for Public Questions:

(916) 633-7655

FHSZinformation@fire.ca.gov

Solar PEIS

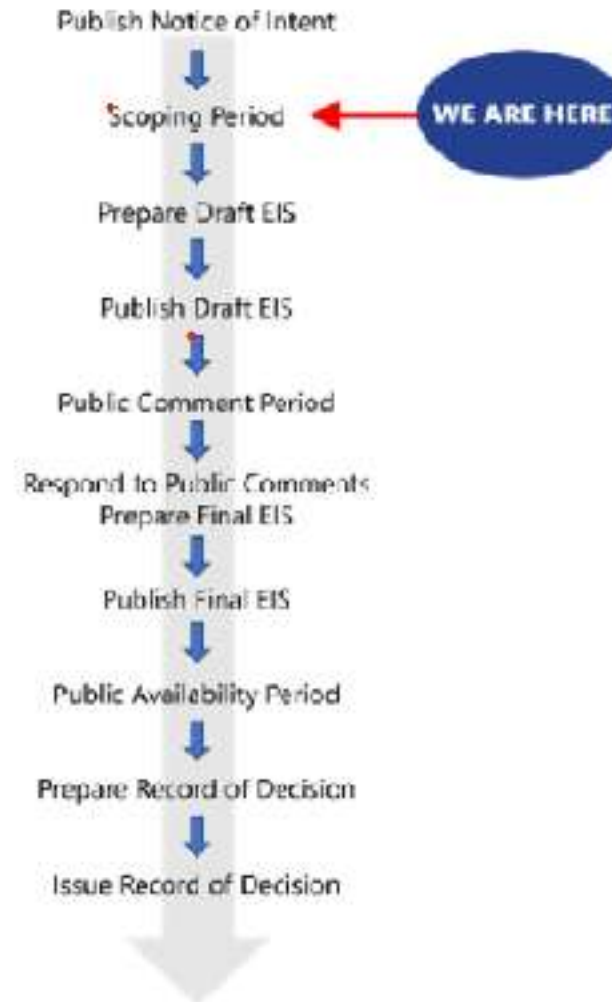
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
Bureau of Land Management

What is a PEIS?

- A programmatic EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] evaluates impacts or effects of broad agency actions, such as development of programs or setting of national policies
- It does not evaluate specific projects
- In this case, of utility scale solar development

We are in the Scoping Period of the EIS Process

National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement Process



Overview

- In 2012, the Bureau of Land Management developed a utility scale solar energy plan for public lands within 6 western states.
- These states included :
Arizona, **California**, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah

5 More States Proposed to be Added: OR, WA, ID, MT, WY



Purpose and Need for Updates and Changes

- Advance current and future renewable energy goals and support conservation and climate priorities
- The BLM's initial utility scale solar energy planning was completed in 2012
- Solar energy technology has advanced

How the 2012 Solar Plan was Structured

- **Designated lands as:**
- **Priority areas** called solar energy zones or SEZ (285,000 acres)
- **Areas excluded** based on 32 exclusion criteria (78.6 million acres)
- **Variance areas** open to development (19.3 million acres)

2012 Solar Plan Acreage in California

Total State Acreage. Public + Other Lands	BLM-Administered Lands Potentially Available for Solar Development	Exclusion Areas	Variance Areas	SEZ Areas Solar Energy Zone
100,200,000	10,815,285	9,895,580	766,078	153,627

Solar Energy Projects in CA as of December 2022

- Only includes projects on BLM-Administered Land
 - 11 Operational
 - 8 Pending Construction

Questions?

- Please contact Susy Boyd, Public Policy Coordinator with Mojave Desert Land Trust: susy@mdlt.org
- Notes on slides outlining Solar PEIS were taken primarily from BLM Presentation: https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2022371/200538533/20073827/250080009/FINAL%202nd%20Solar%20PEIS%20Scoping%20Presentation%20Virtual%20Meeting_508compliant.pdf
- Talking Points for Solar PEIS have been shared with HVCC President Justin Merino.
- Comment Letters are due by Wednesday March 1st. Details/address can be provided.