Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R26-0625

OCT 27 2026

REPORT RE:

DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 57.1.302.6 OF ARTICLE 7.1, CHAPTER 5 OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT THE NEW FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 10-2468-S1

Honorable Members:

This Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. Pursuant to your request, the draft ordinance adopts a new Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) map applicable to the City of Los Angeles. As proposed in the draft ordinance, the new FHSZ map would be codified into Section 57.1.302.6 of Article 7.1, Chapter 5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC).

Section 57.1.302.6 is currently proposed to be added as new section of the LAMC in a separate draft ordinance pending consideration by the City Council in Council File No. 25-1363, which concerns the creation of the proposed Los Angeles California Wildlife Urban Interface Code. To avoid inadvertently undoing the creation of the new FHSZ map, the City Council should consider both of these matters in sequential order, taking up the draft Wildlife-Urban Interface Code ordinance in Council File No. 25-1363 before considering enclosed draft ordinance adopting the FHSZ map.

Background

State law requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to 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 (the "FHSZ Map"). State law also requires the City to adopt the portion of the FHSZ map recommended by the OSFM that is applicable to the City of Los Angeles. While the City may increase the FHSZ level recommended by the OSFM, it may not decrease the recommended FHSZ level.

The current FHSZ Map applicable to the City was adopted by the City in 2011.

In 2025, the OSFM released the new FHSZ Map for the City of Los Angeles, which is what prompted the original motion (Lee, Park – Yaroslavsky) in this Council.

The draft ordinance does not, however, incorporate the City Council's instruction to include language that would automatically adopt future FHSZ Map changes released by the OSFM. This is because state law requires the City to have a public comment period for any new FHSZ Map prior to adoption. Once the public comment period is completed, state law further requires the City to adopt the new map "by ordinance."

Council Rule 38 Referral

Pursuant to Council Rule 38, a copy of the draft ordinance has been sent to the Los Angeles Fire Department with a request that any comments concerning the ordinance be presented directly to the City Council or its Committees when this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Linda Nguyen at (213) 978-8393. A member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By
MICHAEL J. DUNDAS
Chief Assistant City Attorney

MD:LNN:pg
Transmittal