



MILLAGE PEAKS
FIRE CHIEF

June 25, 2010

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. **10-062**

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Millage Peaks, Fire Chief *will*.

SUBJECT: **APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE, SEC. 57.02.02, 57.25.01, AND 57.25.25 TO REVISE THE VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE (VHFHSZ) MAP**

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Recommendations:

In accordance with Section 57.25.01, Subsection C of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.), the Fire Chief is responsible for establishing the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) and any future amendments of the map with the approval of the Board. The State has currently mandated the City to revise their VHFHSZ map. Therefore, to comply with the State's mandate, the following recommendations are submitted to the Board for consideration and approval:

1. Approve an amendment to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.) Sections 57.02.02, 57.25.01, and 57.25.25.
 - a. To establish a new revised map by replacing the current map (Ordinance No. 176,943, Effective date 10/5/05) with a new Ordinance that reflects the revised map.
2. Subject to the approval of the City Council and Mayor, request the City Council to instruct the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance within 30 days amending L.A.M.C. Sections 57.02.02, 57.25.01, and 57.25.25 to establish a revised VHFHSZ map.

Summary:

Cal Fire, the primary wildland firefighting resource in the State, is mandated to periodically review and update the Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) and makes it available to all authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ) within the State. The assessment of the State's FHSZ is based on the advanced GIS mapping technology and the following factors:

- Type and density of fuels,
- Weather,
- Topography,
- 50-year area fire history, and
- Wind component

Note: Ember travel was the significant factor in expanding the VHFHSZ.

In 2007, the State updated the FHSZ map mandating the AHJ's to review their current VHFHSZ map and officially adopting a revised map (if it changed the existing map), within 120 days of receiving the recommendations. In addition, the AHJ is required, at least 45 days prior to the adoption of its revised map, to submit their map to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Following a review and hearing, the Board of Supervisors then sends the map to the Director of Forestry for adoption.

The FHSZ incorporates three degrees of severity: Very High, High, and Moderate. The Fire Department has reviewed Cal Fire's map and incorporated their recommended boundaries for the "Very High" areas (the only zone that the City represents on their map). The new boundaries were established along reasonable borders (streets and not parcels) while the additional parcels that were added beyond the "Very High" boundary were in the "High" zone, resulting in the following changes:

- 5% increase in the number of parcels (129,639 to 136,345 parcels = 6,706 parcels) and
- Increase in the number of inspections per Brush Inspector by 480 parcels,
- Increase in total acreage of 3,896 (105,840 to 109,737 acres).

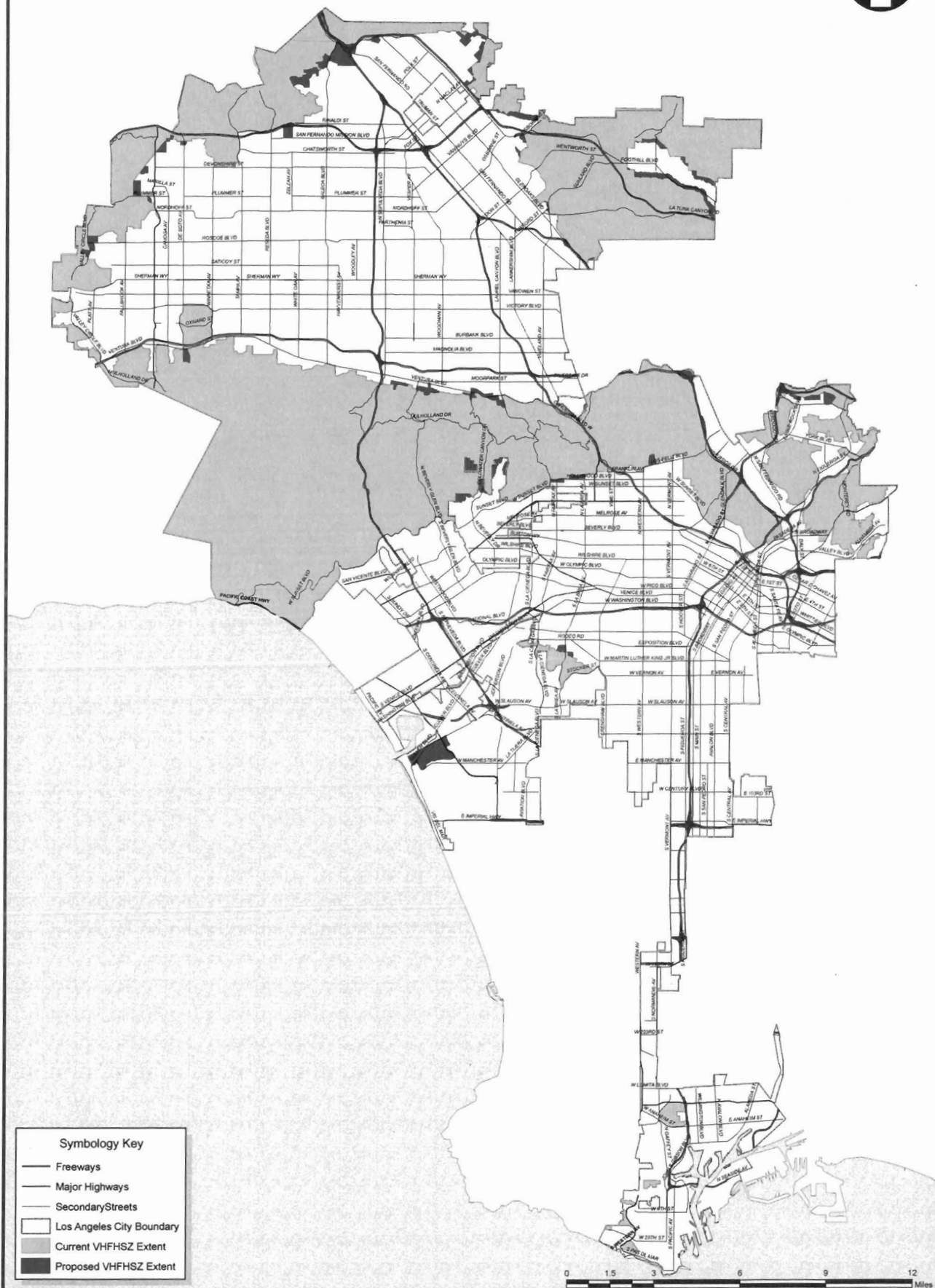
The Ordinance needs to be approved in a timely manner given that the mailing list of the parcel owners in the VHFHSZ must be established by November 1, 2010 and sent out by April 1, 2011. The impact of increasing the VHFHSZ is the \$13 a year fee that an additional 6,706 parcel owners will be assessed and the potential increase in their homeowner's insurance.

Conclusion:

The State has mandated the City to revise its VHFHSZ. The Fire Chief is given the responsibility to establish and amend the boundaries of the VHFHSZ with the approval of the Board. The City's revised VHFHSZ map has already been defined and is prepared for adoption.

Board report prepared by Lloyd Fukuda, Inspector I, Research Unit, FPB.

Attachments: Proposed Map, Draft Ordinance



Proposed Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone [VHFHSZ]

Revised: June 30, 2010

ORDINANCE NO. _____

DRAFT

An ordinance amending Sections 57.02.02, 57.25.01.A, and 57.25.25. of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to provide for a revised Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) map.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Sec. 57.02.02 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read:

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone – Any area within the City ... (Added by Ord. No. ~~176,943~~ _____, Eff. ~~10/5/05~~ _____.)

Sec. 57.25.01. VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE ESTABLISHED.
(Title and Section Amended by Ord. No. ~~176,943~~ _____,
Eff. ~~10/5/05~~ _____.)

A. Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones are hereby ... Ordinance No. ~~176,943~~ _____ which is incorporated ...

Sec. 57.25.25. VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP.
(Added by Ord. No. ~~176,943~~ _____, Eff. ~~10/5/05~~ _____.)