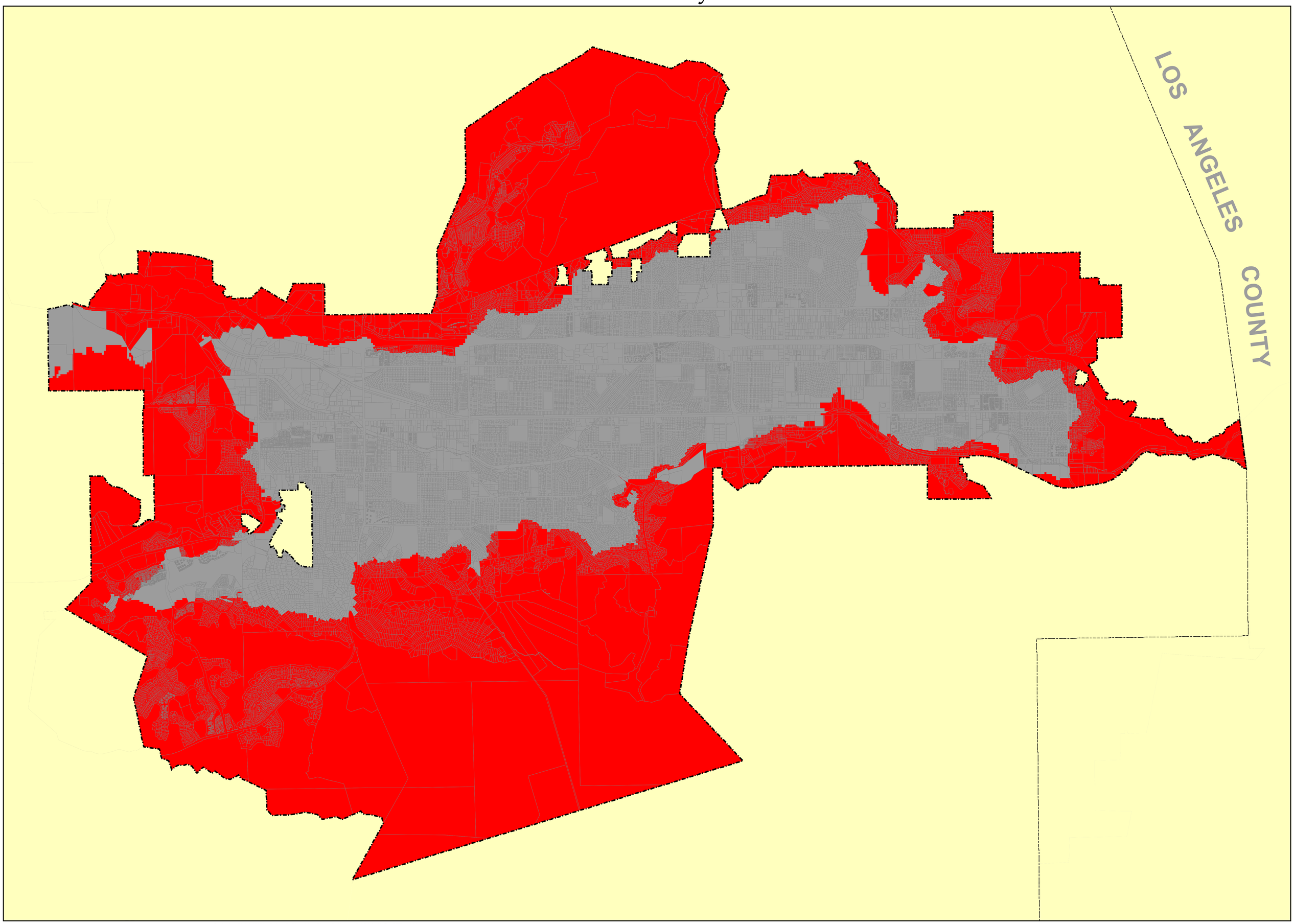
Fire and Resource Assessment Program
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Simi Valley

VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES IN LRA

As Recommended by CALFIRE



FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

Local Responsability Area	State Responsibility Area
VHFHSZ	VHFHSZ
Non-VHFHSZ	Non-VHFHSZ

City Boundary
Counties
Parcels

Government Code 51175-89 directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) to map areas of very high fire hazard within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). Mapping of the areas, referred to as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), is based on relevant factors such as fuels, terrain, and weather. VHFHSZ maps were initially developed in the mid-1990s but are now being updated based on improved science, mapping techniques, and data.

The California Building Commission adopted the Wildland-Urban Interface codes in late 2005 to be effective in 2008. These new codes include provisions to improve the ignition resistance of buildings, especially from firebrands. The updated fire hazard severity zones will be used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the Wildland-Urban Interface. The updated zones will also be used by property owners to comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at time of property sale and 100 foot defensible space clearance. It is also likely that the fire hazard severity zones will be used for updates to the safety element of general plans.

This map has been created by CALFIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) using data and models describing development patterns, **potential** fuels over a 30-50 year time horizon, expected fire behavior, and expected burn probabilities to quantify the likelihood and nature of vegetation fire exposure (including firebrands) to new construction. Initial data was then modified based on recent (2009) aerial photography and local information regarding future land-use change. Details on the project and specific modeling methodology can be found at: http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/methods.html

This specific map is based on a geographic information system dataset that depicts final CALFIRE recommendations for Very High FHSZs within the local jurisdiction. The process of finalizing these boundaries involved an extensive local review process, the details fo which are available at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/btnet (click on "Continue as guest without logging in"). Local government has 120 days to designate, by ordinance, very high fire hazard severity zones within its jurisdiction after receiving the recommendation. Local government can add additional VHFHSZs. There is no requirement for local government to report their final action to CALFIRE when the recommended zones are adopted. Consequently, users are directed to the appropriate local entity (county, city, fire department, or Fire Protection District) to determine the status of the local fire hazard severity zone ordinance.

This map was developed using data products such as parcel and city boundaries provided by local government agencies. In certain cases, this includes copyrighted geographic information. The maps are for display purposes only - questions and requests related to parcel or city boundary data should be directed to the appropriate local government entity.

N
W E
S

0 2 Miles
0 2 Kilometers

Projection Albers, NAD 1983
Scale 1: 22,000
at 36" x 36"
October 6, 2010

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Obtain FRAP maps, data, metadata and publications on the Internet at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov
For more information, contact CAL FIRE-FRAP, PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, (916) 327-3939.

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State of California
Lester Snow, Secretary for Resources,
The Resources Agency
Del Walters, Director,
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MAP ID: FHSZL_c56_SimiValley

DATA SOURCES:
CALFIRE Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA(c56fhzl06_3)
CALFIRE Incorporated Cities (Incorp10_2)
CALFIRE County Boundaries (cnty24k09_1)
CALFIRE Parcel Boundaries (c56_parcel)