

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

July 1, 2025

Addressing Homeless Encampments under the State’s New VHFHSZ Maps

On August 10, 2021, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion prohibiting homeless encampments in Unincorporated County areas designated by the State as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ)s. The motion directed the Chief Executive Office Homeless Initiative (HI), Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) Homeless Outreach Sheriff Team (HOST) to conduct outreach to encampment residents in designated VHFHSZs, communicate County restrictions against encampments in VHFHSZs, and identify housing placements for encampment residents.

To carry out the directives in this report including providing appropriate outreach and services to people experiencing homelessness in the VHFHSZs of the unincorporated areas of the County, the County invested additional funding to support both LASD and LAHSA HOST. This included \$500,000 in Phase Two of the County’s allocation of the American Rescue Plan, \$912,000 in one-time AB109 funding, and \$1.2 million in one-time Measure H funding to be used to support new LAHSA HOST. These investments have ensured that hundreds of people experiencing homelessness in VHFHSZs have been engaged, warned of potential fire dangers, and offered linkages to

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housing resources. These efforts have significantly reduced the threat of fires in VHFHSZs.

In March 2025, the State of California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection (CAL FIRE) released updated maps designating new areas across the State as VHFHSZs. The maps show the increased risk fire hazard in some of Los Angeles County's most populous areas. Across Southern California, VHFHSZs increased 26%. Many of these areas have limited accessibility for first responders due to difficult and challenging terrain. Also, while the County has the responsibility for maintaining the safety of residents in unincorporated VHFHSZs, there are many VHFHSZs not in unincorporated areas that pose a risk to the lives and property of County residents. In the aftermath of the Eaton and Palisades fires, it is imperative that the County ensure it has the resources to address the increase in VHFHSZs, including working with jurisdictional partners who have the responsibility to address encampments in their own VHFHSZs. This will ensure that the County is taking proactive measures to mitigate fires in newly designated VHFHSZs and prevent loss of life and property for housed and unhoused residents alike.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) in partnership with the Departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation to:

1. Review the 2025 State Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps to
 - a. Identify new areas that have been re-classified as VHFHSZ, and

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- b. Determine which VHFHSZs are under County jurisdiction, and which are the shared responsibility of multiple jurisdictions including cities, County, Cal Trans, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, California State Parks, and Army Corps of Engineers.

2. Report back in writing in 30 days on Directive 1.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office Homeless Initiative (HI) in collaboration with the Los Angeles Sheriff Department Homeless Outreach Sheriff Team (HOST), the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and the Departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation to:

3. Identify what additional resources, including funding and maintenance plans, are necessary to keep newly and previously designated unincorporated VHFHSZs clear of encampments, especially for adjacent properties where jurisdiction is shared, and to better support jurisdictional partners in keeping their VHFHSZs clear of encampments as well.
4. Identify and develop strategies to inform on and execute the County's existing prohibition on encampments in unincorporated VHFHSZs to prevent occurrences of fire and loss of life.
5. Report back in writing in 90 days on Directive 3.

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