August 1, 2023

Office of the State Fire Marshal

C/O: FHSZ Comments

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

P.O. Box 944246

Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

SENT VIA EMAIL: FHSZcomments@fire.ca.gov

**Subject: Comments – Updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Map**

Dear Acting Fire Marshal Berlant:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is writing this letter to provide our comments regarding the recently updated FHSZ map. We appreciate the work the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Office of the State Fire Marshal have dedicated to updating the map.

Based on our evaluation of the updated map, Siskiyou County is set to have 1,020 acres moved from "Very High" and "High" fire hazard severity to "Moderate" fire hazard severity. We support this shift in acreage and believe that it accurately reflects the on-the-ground conditions in these locations. We recognize that this shift may reflect the landscape changes resulting from recent wildfires; however, we are also hopeful that the shift reflects proactive forest management activities that Siskiyou County is actively pursuing with allied agencies and non-governmental Organizations.

Recently, the Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County has received a $9.8 million grant to perform fuel mitigation projects within high-hazard threat areas of the County. The funding has increased the previously existing scope of work in these high-severity zones and has been obligated to shovel-ready projects that will help build Firewise Communities. These preventive, protective, and mitigation measures are anticipated to be completed over three years Additionally, the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District received a $3 million CalOES Home Hardening grant which has been obligated to high-severity and high-priority areas, This project will aide in fuels reduction and home defensible space projects.

These projects, and others like them, in addition to addressing forest management and fire risk concerns, should also allow for additional "Very High" and "High" severity acreage to be shifted to a lower category through fuels reduction and long-term maintenance of these projects. We hope that

the County and the State Fire Marshal's office can work together following the conclusion of this project to determine any needed updates to the FHSZ map.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this manner, and we look forward to working with your office in the future. If you have any questions or want to discuss this further, please contact Bryan Schenone, Office of Emergency Services Director, at bschenone@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 841-2155. This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on August 1, 2023, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Ed Valenzuela

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Brian Dahle

 Assemblymember Megan Dahle

 Rural County Representative of California (RCRC)

 California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

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