

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING AND AMENDING)	RESOLUTION NO. 25- <u>250</u>
THE 2025 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE AND MAKING)	
EXPRESS FINDINGS THAT MODIFICATIONS ARE)	
REASONABLY NECESSARY DUE TO LOCAL)	
CONDITIONS FINDINGS SUPPORTING LOCAL)	
AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE)	
_____)	

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2025, the Board of Supervisors introduced an Ordinance adopting and amending the 2022 California Fire Code; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of 50022.2 of the Government Code and Sections 17922, 17958, 17958.5, 17958.7 and 18941.5 of California Health and Safety Code, the County may adopt amendments, exceptions, modifications and additions to the provisions of the 2025 California Fire Code which are reasonable and necessary due to the unique characteristics of the local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions; and,

WHEREAS, amendments, exceptions, modifications and additions to the 2025 California Fire Code comprises a portion of the Santa Barbara County Code, specifically Chapter 15, Fire Prevention; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara finds and declares, as required by Sections 1798.5, 17958.7, and 18941.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, that there exists in certain areas of Santa Barbara County conditions and situations that require modification of the 2025 California Fire Code for buildings and related construction, vegetation management, events and various activities requiring permits, and enforcement actions; and further, that these conditions and situations require specific legislative action to provide for the safety and health of the populace of the County; and,

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2025, the Board of Supervisors held a hearing to consider the proposed ordinance containing the amendments in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference; and,

WHEREAS, the following unique characteristics of the local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions exist in the County of Santa Barbara:

- a) That Santa Barbara County is prone to extreme weather conditions, from hot, dry winds from the north and the east (Sundowner and Santa Ana winds), to strong westerly (coastal) winds, which greatly enhance the ability for fire to spread as reflected in devastating recent fires. In addition, the topographical layout and features of the county make the area subject to isolation should a flood or earthquake occur, which would prevent or severely limit and delay the north and south entities from giving or receiving mutual aid and emergency assistance;
- b) The present firefighting resources of this county are constrained in their efforts to control fires in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and all buildings outside of the urban limit boundary as designated in the county comprehensive plan;
- c) Geologic and topographic conditions in the county result in extended response times for firefighting resources, which may contribute to greater life and property loss in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and in all structures outside of the urban limit boundary; and

- d) Climatic conditions and flammable vegetation contribute to the extreme high fire hazard severity in the county, resulting in numerous wildland fires, which draw existing fire department resources from their structure protection areas for extended periods of time. This in turn extends response times, which may contribute to greater life and property loss in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and in all structures outside of the urban limit boundary.

WHEREAS, code amendments listed in Exhibit A are necessary and consistent with the intent of the 2025 California Fire Code based on the unique characteristics of the local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions; and

WHEREAS, a modification from the 2025 California Fire Code is reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HERE BY RESOLVED, by the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors:

1. The above recitations are true and correct.
2. The Board of Supervisors makes the findings, attached in Exhibit A, that changes contained in the Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 15, Fire Prevention, 2025 are required in order to provide specific and greater protections to the public health, safety and welfare than are afforded by the California Fire Code. These changes are necessary due to the unique characteristics of the local climatic, geological or topographical conditions.


PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 18th day of November 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Lee, Capps, Hartmann, Nelson and Lavagnino

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None


LAURA CAPPS, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: 
Deputy Clerk

Signed by:
By: 
Deputy County Counsel

Exhibit A

Non-Administrative Code Amendment Justification Matrix.

<i>ARTICLE I — SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE</i>		
Section Number	Amendment Description	Justification
Section 15.2 (k) – Minor FPC 1-10 through Major FPC 1-8	Amending Chapter 15, Rules of construction to redefine projects requiring a Minor and Major Fire Protection Certificate and review by the Fire Department.	Footnotes (b), (c) & (d)
Section 105	Amended the 2025 CFC by defining expiration and adding permit types.	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)
Section 202	Amended area calculation language for consistency with Chapter 10.	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)
Section 503.2.5	Added language to allow for requirement of turnarounds in fire prone areas.	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)
Section 505.1	Amend language for consistency with SBC Fire Development Standard language.	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)
Section 903.4.3.1	Amend language for consistency with SBC Fire Development Standard language.	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)
Section 3307	Amend language for consistency with SBC Fire Development Standard language	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)
Chapter 49	Deleted from 2025 California Fire Code and now in the 2025 California Wildland Urban Interface Code	N/A
Appendix B	Amend language for consistency with SBC Fire Development Standard language.	Footnotes (a) (b), (c) & (d)

Section 15-49	Amended language to account for broader scope of development and Fire Department technology needs	Footnotes (a) (b), (c) & (d)
Section 15-51	Amended language to account for broader risks and hazards of	Footnotes (a) (b), (c) & (d)
Section 15-66 and 15-67	Amended language at the request of the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District for applicability to current practices	Footnotes (a) (b), (c) & (d)
Section 15-101	Added fee matrix for all Fire Prevention fees requested by public. Deleted fee types not related to occupancies in the County, while adding types with no fees associated.	Footnotes (a) (b), (c) & (d)

Footnotes:

- (a) That Santa Barbara County is prone to extreme weather conditions, from hot, dry winds from the north and the east (Sundowner and Santa Ana winds), to strong westerly (coastal) winds, which greatly enhance the ability for fire to spread as reflected in devastating recent fires. In addition, the topographical layout and features of the county make the area subject to isolation should a flood or earthquake occur, which would prevent or severely limit and delay the north and south entities from giving or receiving mutual aid and emergency assistance;
- (b) The present firefighting resources of this county are constrained in their efforts to control fires in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and all buildings outside of the urban limit boundary as designated in the county comprehensive plan;
- (c) Geologic and topographic conditions in the county result in extended response times for firefighting resources, which may contribute to greater life and property loss in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and in all structures outside of the urban limit boundary; and
- (d) Climatic conditions and flammable vegetation contribute to the extreme high fire hazard severity in the county, resulting in numerous wildland fires, which draw existing fire department resources from their structure protection areas for extended periods of time. This in turn extends response times, which may contribute to greater life and property loss in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and in all structures outside of the urban limit boundary.