

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF HEARING

May 8, 2013

State responsibility Area Focused Review 2013

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) proposes to adopt the proposed changes to the State Responsibility Area Maps after conducting a focused review. Focus areas were primarily identified as a result of inconsistencies brought to the Department's attention through the Fire Prevention Fee Petition process and calls received by CAL FIRE and the fee administrator.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 starting at 9:00 a.m., at the Resources Building Auditorium, 1st Floor, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California. At the hearing, any person may present statements or arguments, orally or in writing, relevant to the proposed action. The Board requests, but does not require, that persons who make oral comments at the hearing also submit a summary of their statements. Additionally, any information presented to the Board during the open hearing in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration becomes part of the public record. Such information shall be retained by the Board and shall be made available upon request.

Written comments shall be submitted to the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: George Gentry
Regulations Coordinator
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Written comments can also be hand delivered to the contact person listed in this notice at the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Room 1506-14
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA

Written comments may also be sent to the Board via facsimile at the following phone number:

(916) 653-0989

Comments may also be delivered via e-mail at the following address:

board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

The Board's SRA Classification System provides direction on how to implement PRC 4125-4128. This SRA Classification System review process involves the following steps:

1. Field Evaluation
2. Regional Review
3. State Review
4. Department's recommendations to Board
5. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection approval

The field evaluation is accomplished at the Unit or Contract County in which the Local Unit Chief consults with cooperators. The Regional review ensures that the system has been consistently applied at the Unit or Contract County level. The State Review Team reviews the documentation. State level review assures consistent application of regulations and criteria across all 31 million acres of the SRA.

Under PRC Section 4125, the Board is the final authority for approving changes in classification of SRA.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

CAL FIRE is required to maintain official maps of State Responsibility Areas (SRA), where the State has financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires as determined by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (PRC 4102).

CAL FIRE conducts a 5 year review of SRA maps as required by PRC 4125 to capture changes in land use, such as conversion in or out of agriculture, areas of densification due to development, and other relevant changes. SRA data are updated on a more frequent basis to capture annexations and changes in federal ownership that affect SRA status.

Reviews may occur at sooner intervals if the Board determines that certain conditions exist that require review.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE HEARING

This action is to address areas that were primarily identified as a result of inconsistencies brought to the Department's attention through the Fire Prevention Fee Petition process and calls received by CAL FIRE and the fee administrator.

CONTACT PERSON

Requests for copies of the proposed text of the regulations, the *Initial Statement of Reasons*, modified text of the regulations and any questions regarding the substance of the proposed action may be directed to:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: George Gentry
Executive Officer
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
Telephone: (916) 653-8007

PROPOSED CHANGES

The proposed changes are available on-line at the following address:

http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/sra_review/sra_review_2013.html.

After holding the hearing the Board may adopt the proposed changes or make such modification as it deems necessary.