

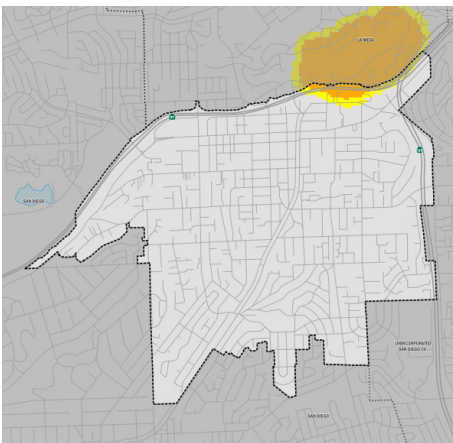
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MAY 2025// Issue 35



CAL FIRE FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES



On Monday, March 24, 2025, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) released updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps. These maps play a crucial role in wildfire preparedness by identifying areas at Moderate, High, or Very High risk of wildfire based on vegetation, terrain, weather patterns, and fire history. These updated maps help guide building codes, emergency planning, and wildfire mitigation strategies statewide—making

them a vital tool for both residents and local governments.

FHSZs are classifications defined by the State to inform where stricter fire safety regulations apply. They also clarify the roles of city and county fire departments in wildfire response.

Under California Government Code Section 51178, the State is required to identify Moderate, High zones, and Very High zones. The last map update was in 2007.

As a Local Responsibility Area (LRA), the City of Lemon Grove is responsible for making the maps available for public review and comment in the first 30 days. Within the first 120 days, the City must adopt an official ordinance designating "Moderate," "High," and "Very High" zones based on the State's recommendations.

KEY INFO

Zones cannot be downgraded: The City cannot remove or reduce zones recommended by CAL FIRE.

Additional zones can be added: Local agencies may include more areas than what's shown on the State maps.

As a community member we value your feedback. Share your thoughts via the City's online portal at <https://buff.ly/avD7j56>



CITY OF LEMON GROVE
3232 Main Street,
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
619.825.3200
www.lemongrove.ca.gov

Find us on these social networks!



CITY HALL SPOTLIGHT



Met Justin Nakhonthap, a Development Services Technician in the City's Community Development Department.

His career in Lemon Grove began in October 2023 as a Permit Technician. He is passionate about development, housing, land use, and zoning often drawing inspiration from his undergraduate studies in Urban and Regional Planning at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Justin eagerly anticipates a daily routine consisting of assisting residents, business owners, and designers in navigating their projects and looks forward to bringing their vision to reality. He says, "It is a joyous feeling to witness projects come to completion whether it is a homeowner obtaining their dream home or seeing a newly opened businesses thriving. I truly admire Lemon Grove's small town character, both in and outside of City Hall. I believe that building strong relationships within the community is crucial as a Planner because it allows me to better understand and serve its needs."

At the office, in collaboration with fellow staff members, Justin is well-known for his unique approach to daily challenges. He adopts a forward-thinking strategy in determining an appropriate solution to the task at hand...even prepping the City's official Mascot, Princess Tyga (City Kitty) for her latest shoot.

Outside of the office, Justin is a capable chef spending hours developing new recipes as a culinary enthusiast and working on DIY projects. As a native to San Diego County, I enjoy our beautiful weather by exploring new hiking trails and going to the beach.

SUMMER CAMP

GET READY FOR A SEASON
FULL OF ADVENTURE,
CREATIVITY, AND UNFOR-
GETTABLE MEMORIES!

CAMP DATES:
JUNE 16 - AUG 08

REGISTRATION IS

**NOW
OPEN**



MONTEREY HEIGHTS STEAM ACADEMY INSPIRES YOUTH WITH A MULTI-AGENCY SAFETY AWARENESS EVENT



Monterey Heights STEAM Academy was overwhelmed with excitement as students and staff gathered for a special Multi-agency Safety Event. Featuring the San Diego County Sheriff's Lemon Grove Substation, Search and Rescue teams, and EMT personnel, the event provided a hands-on learning experience designed to teach students about safety, emergency response, and the latest technology used in law enforcement.

The highlight of the day came when deputies from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department unveiled their state-of-the-art drone technology. Students got a close-up look at the drones used in search operations, surveillance, and emergency response. Officers explained how the drones assist in locating missing persons,

mapping accident scenes, and improving officer safety—all while reducing risk to personnel on the ground. Sheriff's Deputy Mejia says, "Drones have enhanced law enforcement's capabilities, making operations more efficient, safer, and more effective for our deputies. This includes the drones ability to monitor dangerous situations from a safe distance, search and rescue subjects who cannot easily be accessed on foot or in a vehicle, along with taking photos or videos from an aerial view to help improve the documentation of evidence."

Students also had the opportunity to interact directly with the Search and Rescue teams. They learned about the challenges of locating missing individuals in rugged terrain, the tools used in rescues, and even got to try on some of the gear used by the teams

in the field. The interactive setup allowed children to ask questions, explore equipment, and understand the real-life impact of teamwork and training in critical situations.

The event was not only educational but inspiring, sparking curiosity and a sense of civic responsibility among students. "We want our students to feel empowered," said a Monterey Heights STEAM Academy staff member. "Today showed them that safety is a team effort—and that someday, they could be part of that team."



NOW THATS A...DOG OF A DIFFERENT COLOR.



Bring your furry friends and join the City of Lemon Grove for a tail-wagging good time at Paws in the Park! This pet-loving event is all about celebrating the special bond between pets and their people. Whether you're a lifelong pet owner or just looking to enjoy a day surrounded by adorable animals, there's something for everyone.

It'll be a puurrrrr-fect day with:

Dog Licensing
Pet Adoptions
Micro-chipping
& Much more!!

Paws in the Park kicks off on May 31st @ 9:00 A.M.

Reminder:

Keep all friends of the four-legged type on a leash at all times.

SCAN HERE FOR THE
LATEST SQUEEZE ON ALL
THINGS LEMON GROVE



LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL
Mayor Alysson Snow
Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Mendoza
Councilmember Jessyka Heredia
Councilmember Sitivi "Steve" Faiai
Councilmember Yadira Altamirano

Let us know what you think of *The Zest!*
Email us at cityoflemongrove@lemongrove.ca.gov

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

PAWS IN THE PARK
MAY 31, 2025

CONCERTS IN THE PARK
JUNE 26, 2025

CONCERTS IN THE PARK
JULY 03, 2025

LEMONGROVE.CA.GOV/PARKS-EVENTS/

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FREE DISPOSAL

JUNE 14
JULY 26
SEPTEMBER 20
OCTOBER 18
DECEMBER 6

[LEMONGROVE.CA.GOV/LIVING-IN-LEMON-GROVE/
TRASH-RECYCLING/](http://LEMONGROVE.CA.GOV/LIVING-IN-LEMON-GROVE/TRASH-RECYCLING/)



City Council meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month