



# Zone Zero

Private Property Example

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## Learn about landscape architecture



American Society of  
Landscape Architects

The **American Society of Landscape Architects** (ASLA) is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States of America.

Established in 1899  
Frank Law Olmstead



**CSLA | AAPC**  
Canadian Society of Landscape Architects  
Association des architectes paysagistes du Canada

The **Canadian Society of Landscape Architects** / Association des architectes paysagistes du Canada (CSLA / AAPC) is the association for landscape architects in Canada.



**IFLA**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

The **International Federation of Landscape Architects** (IFLA) is the body representing landscape architects worldwide, with 78 Member Associations in Africa, Americas, Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Europe.

California licensed **Landscape Architects** (Division 3, Chapter 3.5 [BPC Section 5615-5615](#)) are licensed professionals by the California Architects Board – Landscape Architecture Committee in compliance with [Landscape Architect's Practice Act](#), which includes education and licensure eligibility at the **National level** under the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), and five exams, the National Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) and the **California** Supplemental Examination (CSE) to practice in California.

- Legal Practice and Administration
- Land Grading and Stormwater Drainage
- Site Planning and Design Plan Preparation
- CEQA/NEPA Environmental Analysis and Compliance
- Construction Estimation and Specifications
- Construction Detail Preparation
- California-Specific Standards, including Water Conservation, Energy Conservation

Applying the Zone Zero standards to a private property (example) was a voluntary effort to use knowledge, skills and abilities from professional practice to a Property Level - Wildfire Mitigation Discount program (State Farm)

## PERMITTED PRACTICES IN CALIFORNIA

### Permitted Practice for Professionals, Practitioners, and Unlicensed Persons

This document has been prepared by the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC), the licensing and regulatory agency for the practice of landscape architecture in California. The purpose of this document is to provide a quick reference regarding the various professionals, practitioners, and unlicensed persons who may offer landscape design services and the permitted scope and/or limitations that pertain to each. Please note that a licensed professional is required when the scope of a particular project demands the applicable professional services. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this document, it does not have legal effect. Should any difference or error occur, the law will take precedence. For more information, contact the LATC at (916) 575-7230 or [latc@dca.ca.gov](mailto:latc@dca.ca.gov), or visit [www.latc.ca.gov](http://www.latc.ca.gov).

### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Hold a professional license to practice landscape architecture

May perform professional services for the purpose of landscape preservation, development, and enhancement, such as consultation, investigation, reconnaissance, research, planning, design, preparation of drawings, construction documents and specifications, and responsible construction observation

**APPLICABLE STATUTE:** Section 5615 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC)

### ARCHITECTS

Hold a professional license to practice architecture

May offer, perform, or be in responsible control of, professional services which require the skills of an architect in the planning of sites

Are exempt from the Landscape Architects Practice Act insofar as they are providing services in which they are licensed to do so which may include landscape construction documents and landscape drawings with specifications and details

**APPLICABLE STATUTES:** Sections 5500.1 and 5641.3 of the BPC

### PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Hold professional registration to practice professional engineering

Are exempt from the Landscape Architects Practice Act insofar as they are providing services in which they are licensed to do so

May perform professional services, as defined under BPC 5615, as long as the work is incidental to an engineering project and may include landscape construction documents and landscape drawings with specifications and details

**APPLICABLE STATUTES:** Sections 5615, 5641.3, and 6701 et seq. of the BPC

### LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

Hold a C-27 (landscaping contractor) license

May design systems and facilities for work to be performed and supervised by that contractor which may include landscape construction documents and landscape drawings with specifications and details

Are exempt from the Landscape Architects Practice Act insofar as they are providing services in which they are licensed to do so

**APPLICABLE REGULATION/STATUTES:** Section 832.27 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 8 and Section 5641.4 and 7027.5 of the BPC

### NURSERY PERSONS

Hold a license to sell nursery stock May prepare planting plans or drawings as an adjunct to merchandizing nursery stock and related products

**APPLICABLE STATUTES:** Section 5641.2 of the BPC and Section 6721 et seq. of the Food and Agriculture Code

### UNLICENSED PERSONS

*Landscape/Garden Designers, etc.*

May prepare plans, drawings, and specifications for the selection, placement, or use of plants for single-family dwellings

May prepare drawings for the conceptual design and placement of tangible objects and landscape features for single-family dwellings

May **NOT** prepare construction documents, details, or specifications for tangible landscape objects or landscape features

May **NOT** prepare grading and drainage plans for the alteration of sites

*Personal Property Owners*

May prepare any plans, drawings, or specifications for any property owned by that person

*Golf Course Architects*

May engage in the practice of, or offer to practice as, a golf course architect

May perform professional services, such as consultation, investigation, reconnaissance, research, design, preparation of drawings and specifications and responsible supervision, where the dominant purpose of such services is the design of a golf course, in accordance with accepted professional standards of public health and safety



# Where do I begin?

- Start walk-around “360 planning”
  - Obtain legal parcel map and review property boundaries
  - Understand basic Municipal Land Use law for private property and regulations related to local jurisdiction
  - Communicate 1:1 with adjacent property owners
  - Evaluate natural resource protection requirements
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# Disclaimer

- Property owners have intrinsic rights to modify their landscape, but renters of property do not without the owner's written permission
- State law requires vegetative clearing up to 100' from the structure in Zones to establish defensible space, ending at the legal property line.
- Zones are measurable
- The first 0-5' around a home are especially vulnerable to ignition
- Residential property owner is the recorded "owner-of-record," available through the County tax assessor
- Property-level fire risk scores are not public information. A property's Fire Factor (risk score) is assigned by a homeowner's insurance company. More specific probabilistic risk of wildfire is based on vegetation, topography and fire weather in the surrounding area.

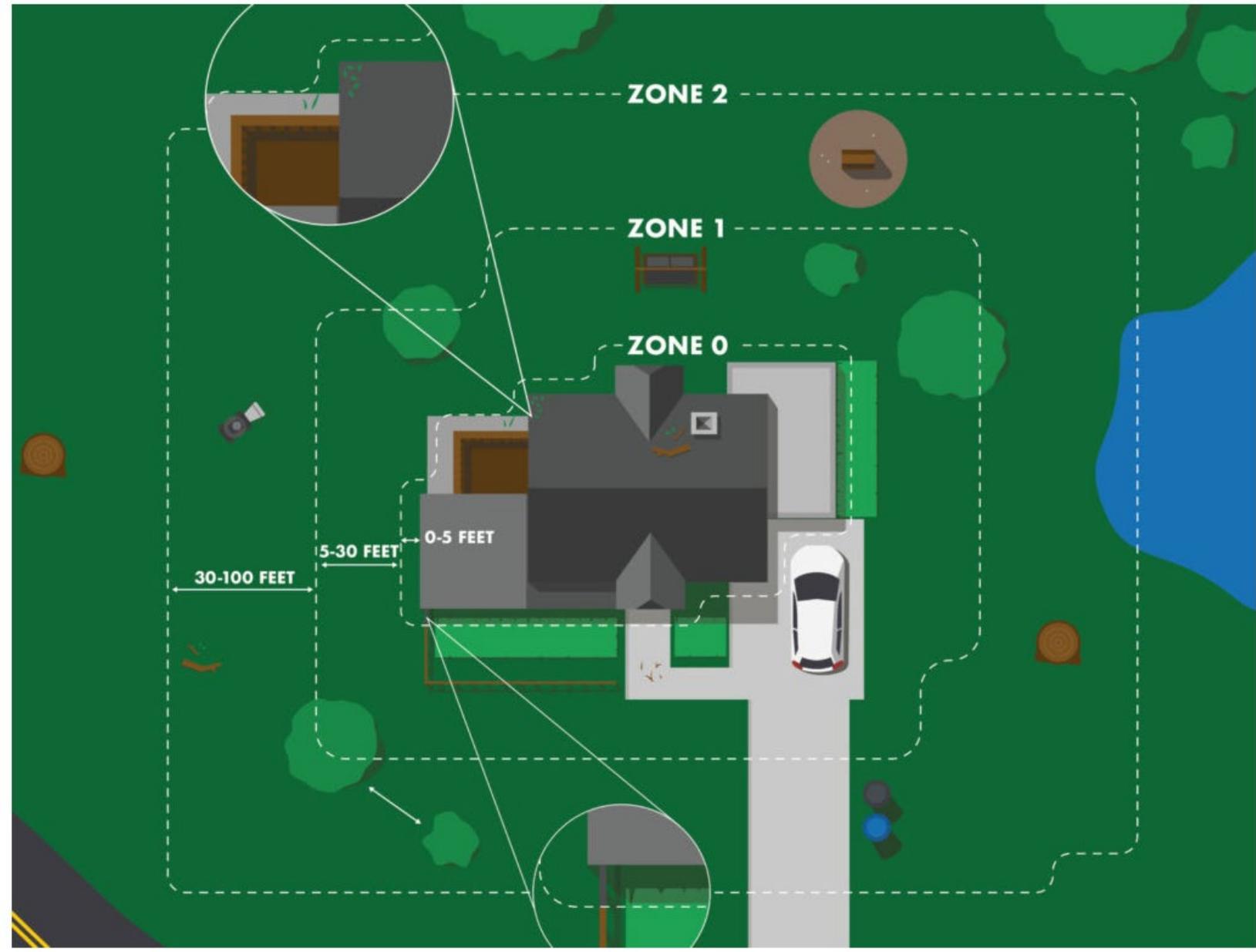
# Wildfire Adaptation

Collective Action - Community Members



# Wildfire Adaptation

Zone Zero =  
Property Level Adaptation



## Example Property

1. 1 Year (2023)
  2. Placer County, City of Auburn
  3. HOA 227 +/- homes adjacent to 40,000 acres State Park lands in American River Canyon
  4. Fire Wise Community Certification completed for perimeter of neighborhood
  5. Home values \$650,000 - \$1.2M
  6. Neighborhood includes Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) areas
  7. All Zone Zero principles were considered in redesign
  8. Property size = .45 acre 150' x 126'
  9. 5 months - \$9,000 **Home Hardening** elements completed first (August to December)
  10. 7 months - \$13,000 **Zone Zero** Defensible Space elements completed (January to July)
- Total budget - \$22,000



# Find your Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) and local public contacts

[CLICK TO COMPARE OLD & NEW FHSZ IN LRA](#)

Results:3

### Your Responsibility Area

This property is in **Local Responsibility Area (LRA)**, meaning the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing wildfires is primarily the responsibility of a Local agency (city, county, city and county, or district).

View additional information about your local jurisdiction below.

### Your Recommended Fire Hazard Severity Zone

The geographic center of this parcel is located in an area that the State Fire Marshal has identified as having no Fire Hazard Severity Zone in Local Responsibility Area, per Government Code section 51178. Please inspect the map visually to determine if other zone recommendations exist in your parcel.

Local jurisdictions are currently reviewing the recommended FHSZs in LRA prior to adoption; the final adopted zones may differ from what is currently shown on this map.

[See how FHSZ in LRA has changed](#) (link opens in new window).

### Your Jurisdiction

Based on CAL FIRE's statewide jurisdictional layer, your local jurisdiction is **Auburn** in Placer County.\*

Please find more information and/or submit your LRA FHSZ comments using the information below.

### Jurisdictional Boundaries

- Incorporated City
- Unincorporated County

### Responsibility Area, as Recommended by the State Fire Marshal

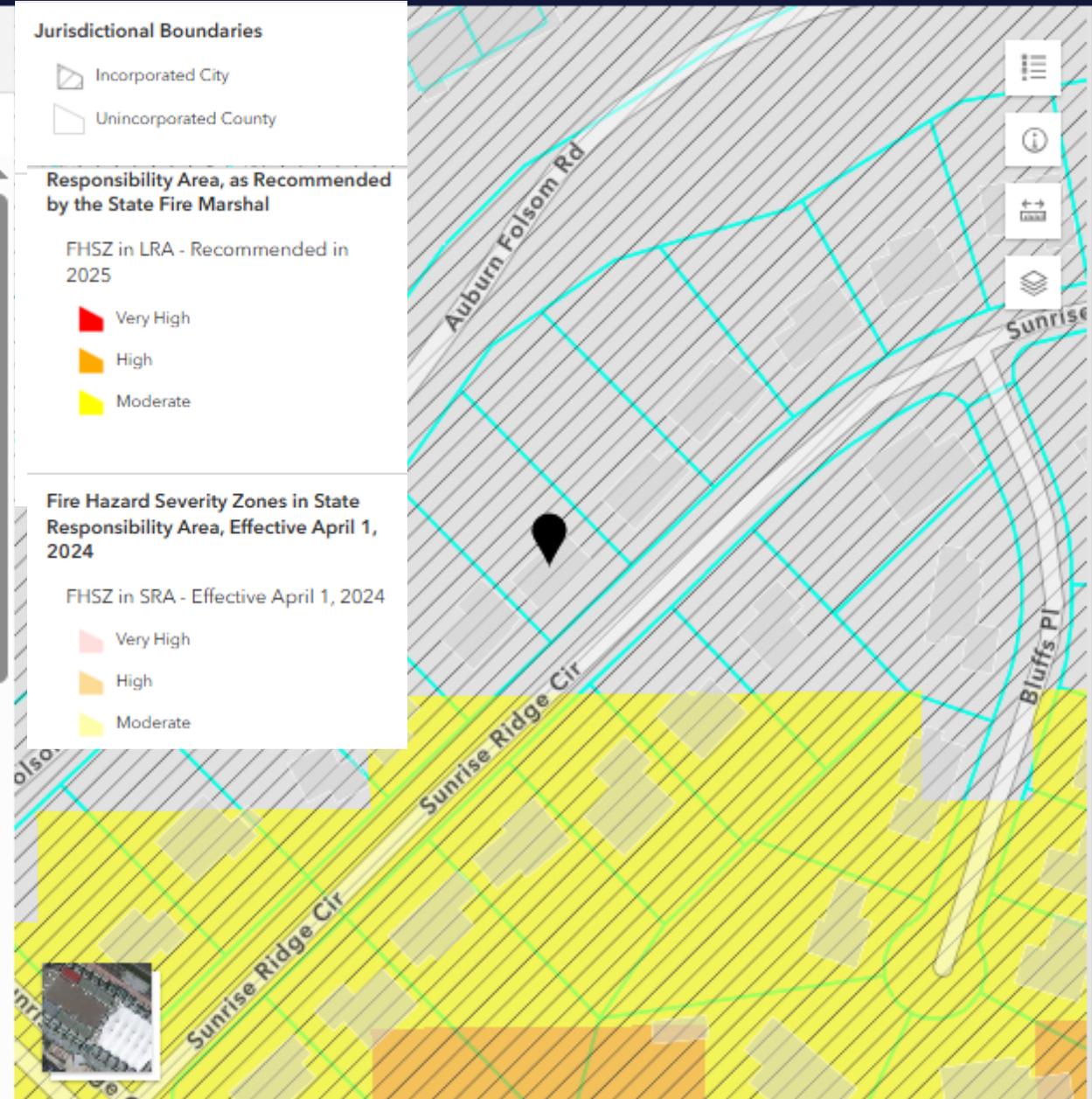
FHSZ in LRA - Recommended in 2025

- Very High
- High
- Moderate

### Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area, Effective April 1, 2024

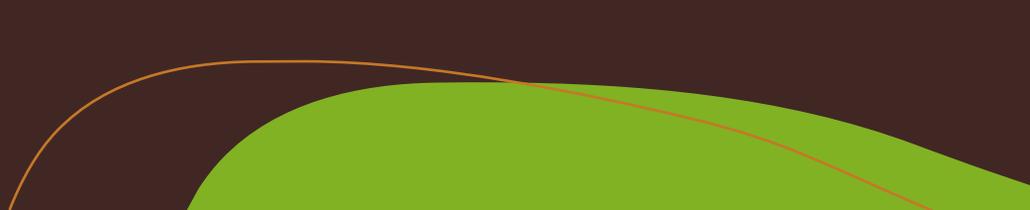
FHSZ in SRA - Effective April 1, 2024

- Very High
- High
- Moderate









## Example Property

### Zone Zero Scope of Work - STEP 1

- Stake property lines and 5' Zone Zero boundaries around entire structure
- Complete 511 underground utility line marking
- Complete 360 walk-thru and identify weaknesses
- Determine risk tolerance, budget, time frame, hiring professionals to support adaptation vision
- Maximize focus and investment in Zone Zero plus expand active outdoor space
- Target other benefits, such as reducing irrigation water use by at least 50% property-wide
- Evaluate pathways/circulation patterns - opportunity to widen or add ADA compliance