



# County of Tulare

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## **Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) 2021 Board of Forestry revisions FAQ for Tulare County**

### **What is Title 14?**

Title 14 refers generally to the section of the California Code of Regulations regarding [Natural Resources](#).

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is proposing changes specifically to Division 1.5., Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, [Articles 1-5 regarding SRA/VHFHSZ Fire Safe Regulations](#).

These changes would implement “state minimum wildfire protection standards of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection” for SRA areas and LRA areas that are designated as VHFHSZ.

### **What are SRA or State Responsibility Areas?**

SRA is land on which CAL FIRE has a legal responsibility to provide fire protection.

An interactive map showing California SRA lands can be found here: [SRA lands](#). A PDF of the areas can be found [here](#).

### **What are LRA or Local Responsibility Areas?**

LRA is land on which Tulare County Fire or other local fire departments have a legal responsibility to provide fire protection. Only those LRA areas that are also designated VHFHSZ (Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones) by CAL FIRE or the State of California would be affected by these proposed changes. As of May 2021, Tulare County has zero areas of LRA that are designated as VHFHSZ, however, CAL FIRE or the State of California can change that determination at any time.

### **What authority does the State of California have to adopt Title 14 revisions?**

Under various statutes, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is authorized to adopt regulations to implement specified programs. To become effective, the Office of Administrative Law must approve these regulations. They must meet tests of necessity, authority, clarity, consistency, reference, and non-duplication as spelled out in Section 11349.1 of the Government Code.

Once adopted, Board regulations are placed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Departments and County Departments are then required to implement and enforce these regulations.

### **What does this mean for Tulare County?**

Tulare County must implement the Title 14 regulations in any SRA and LRA VHFHSZ areas designated within the County. The County has no control over the changes or the adoption of the regulations.

However, as drafted, a landowner or developer seeking to develop property within the defined areas must comply with all the regulations prior to receiving a building permit from the County. Furthermore, if the regulations go into effect, the County will not be permitted to provide exceptions or variances unless explicitly permitted.



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## **What do these regulations address?**

**ARTICLE 1. Administration:** Definitions, Purpose, Scope, Local Regulations, Inspections, Exceptions to Standards, and Distance Measurements.

**ARTICLE 2. Ingress and Egress:** Horizontal and Vertical Curves/Curb Radii, Road and Driveway Surfaces, Bridge and Elevated Structures on Roads and Driveways, Road and Driveway Grades, Road and Driveway Traffic Lane Width and Clear Width, Road and Driveway Vertical Clearances, Maximum Lengths of New One-Way Roads, Maximum Lengths of New Dead-End Roads, Road and Driveway Turnouts, Road and Driveway Turnarounds, Gates, Standards for Existing Roads, and Secondary Routes for Existing Roads.

**ARTICLE 3. Signing and Building Numbering:** Road name signs and Addresses for Buildings.

**ARTICLE 4. Water Supply:** Application, Approved water supply, Identification of Water Sources, Secured Water Sources, Municipal-Type Water System Hydrants, Dry Hydrants, Mobile Water Supply (Water Tenders,) and Protection of Water Supply Infrastructure from Wildfire.

**ARTICLE 5. Building Siting, Setbacks, and Fuel Modification:** Applicability, Building and Parcel Siting and Setbacks, Ridgelines, Fuel Breaks, Greenbelts, Greenways, Open Spaces and Parks, Maintenance of Fuel Breaks and Disposal of Flammable Vegetation and Fuels.

## **Where can I get more information?**

You can view the State Board of Forestry's 45-day Notice, Initial Statement of Reasons, and Draft Regulations at their [Proposed Rule Packages](#) website. On that site, select the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations drop down. The Regulations are listed as "3. Rule Text."

## **How can I submit public comments?**

The comment period regarding these changes began on April 23, 2021 and ends at the close of the public hearing on June 22, 2021. Email comments, or comments as attachments to emails, are preferred. They can be sent to the State Board of Forestry at [PublicComments@bof.ca.gov](mailto:PublicComments@bof.ca.gov).

A State Board of Forestry public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. You may register for the hearing [here](#).

## **What is Tulare County doing regarding these revisions?**

Tulare County is preparing public comments to submit to the Board of Forestry and we encourage residents to submit their own commentary, as well. Tulare County is following this revision process very closely and we are committed to updating the public to the best of our ability. At this point, Tulare County has more questions than answers.