

local agencies decided not to acknowledge it. Thus the actual number of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones is much higher than total provided as part of the original Bates review.

4.4 Previous Fire Hazard Maps for Riverside County

In addition to the comprehensive County map done for this study, two other fire hazard maps exist for the western portion of Riverside County.

4.4.1 Environmental Hazards Map for Riverside County

The ***Environmental Hazards Map*** for Riverside County, dated June 10, 1997, scale 1"=6 miles, was prepared by the County of Riverside, Transportation and Land Management Agency. This map illustrates "Highfire Areas" for the portion of Riverside County west of the Coachella Valley, and is cited by the County Board of Supervisors in the adoption of Ordinance 787, the amended 1997 Uniform Fire Code (Riverside County, 1999). The map is applicable to real estate disclosure requirements for fire hazards, but does not include a more detailed severity ranking.

Riverside County (1999) amended the 1997 Uniform Fire Code to define "Hazardous Fire Areas". The Hazardous Fire Areas are delineated on the Environmental Hazards Map and defined as land which is covered with grass, grain, brush, or forest, whether privately or publicly owned, which is so situated or is of such inaccessible location that a fire originating upon such land would present an abnormally difficult job of suppression or would result in great and unusual damage through fire or resulting erosion. Such areas are designated on the maps entitled "Hazardous Fire Areas of Riverside County" on file in the office of the Fire Chief (County of Riverside, Transportation and Land Management Agency, 1997). The hazardous fire areas shall be reviewed from time to time to determine whether any changes in classification are appropriate.

4.4.2 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Hazard Mapping

The California Department of Forestry (CDF) and Fire Protection Map of West Riverside County, ***Natural Hazard Disclosure (Fire)***, dated January 6, 2000, available from <http://www.fire.ca.gov/ab6/ab6lst.html> in Arcview® or Adobe Acrobat® formats. It defines "Wildland Areas" and "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones" within the western portion of Riverside County including the Coachella Valley.

