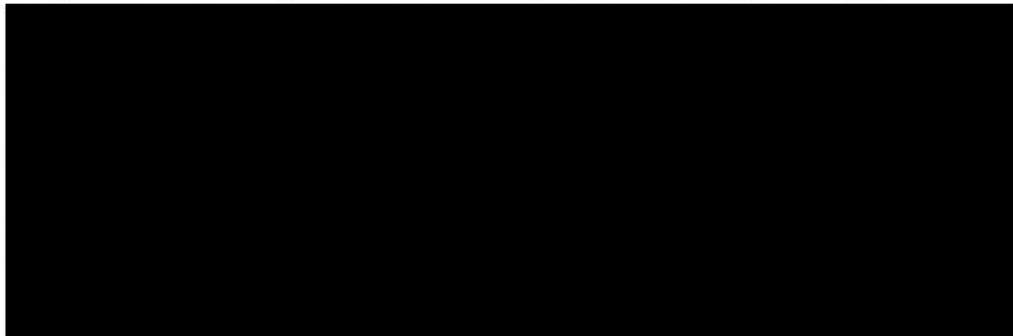


3/19/2026

Council Business A
Correspondence 15

Maria Morris

From: Lukasz Czerwinski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 11:23 PM
To: Vanessa Garcia; Maria Morris
Cc: Jerry and Kanya Chrisco; Brian Berkson; Chris Barajas; Armando Carmona; Guillermo Silva; Veronica Sanchez; [REDACTED]



Subject: Re: RVC FHSZ

Good evening Maria,

Please make sure this goes on a public record. Thank you kindly.

Dear Mayor Berkson and Members of the City Council,

In light of recent correspondence from the California Natural Resources Agency - an office of Governor Gavin Newsom - confirming that the City of Jurupa Valley has full legal authority to amend the Fire Hazard Severity Zoning for parcels 185-470-001, 185-470-002, and 185-460-001, I am updating the community's position as follows:

1. Reinstate the Fire Hazard Severity Zone

The Fire Hazard Severity Zone was improperly downgraded by two levels - from "High" to "Zero." It must be reinstated based on well-established risk factors: documented fire history, terrain and topography, Santa Ana wind conditions (which can reach hurricane level 3-force intensity), vegetation, and available fuel sources.

The City can and should apply a consistency standard with surrounding communities - such as Lakeside Drive, Ridgeline Drive, Sundance Drive, and Pebblewood Court - which remain designated as High Fire Hazard Severity Zones under the 2025 statewide update. These zones prohibit high-density development for a fundamental reason: public safety and the protection of human life.

2. Failure to Follow State-Mandated Procedures

Per the California State Fire Marshal, local jurisdictions were required to follow specific procedures for the 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone updates, including:

- Mandatory public hearings within 120 days of the March 24, 2025 release
- Direct notification to affected property owners regarding classification changes

The City of Jurupa Valley and the Riverside County Fire Department failed to meet these legal requirements. As a result, the community urges you to exercise the authority explicitly granted by the State, including guidance from Ms. Emily Smith, Staff Chief of CAL FIRE's Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Because of this complete and utter failure, the applicant, Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation, was able to downsize and amend its proposal and advance it as a viable project under flawed conditions.

Mayor Berkson, under your leadership, the City did not fulfill its legal obligations as mandated by the State Fire Marshal. More critically, this lapse created an opening for a development proposal that would not have otherwise advanced under proper fire hazard severity zoning and safety standards.

You now have the opportunity - and the responsibility as public official - to correct this course and uphold your duty to protect and serve the community.

Thank you,
Lukasz Czerwinski

On Tue, Mar 17, 2026 at 9:43 AM Vanessa Garcia <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mayor Berkson and City Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to the Camino Terrace project and in full support of my community.

For over a year, residents—not the City—have carried the burden of investigating and exposing the serious fire safety risks tied to this land and proposed development. We have done the work that should have been completed from the outset. We have invested our own time, energy, and resources to research, document, and present clear evidence of these dangers. That responsibility was yours—and it has not been met.

The risks are not minor, speculative, or exaggerated. They are severe and undeniable: powerful Santa Ana winds, steep and volatile terrain, rapid ember-driven fire spread, and dangerously limited evacuation routes. These conditions create a high-risk environment where lives—not just property—are at stake.

Yet despite being presented with this information, the City appears more concerned with the potential consequences of denying this project than with the very real threat to public safety. Let's be clear: choosing to move forward under these conditions is not just negligent—it is reckless.

It is also increasingly apparent that concern over potential legal action from the developer may be influencing the City's decision-making. If so, it represents a failure of leadership. The safety of residents

is not negotiable and must never be outweighed by legal or financial pressure. We trust the City recognizes that our community stands ready to protect itself and ensure accountability.

CAL FIRE has made it clear that current hazard mapping relies on generalized modeling and does not fully capture the severity of conditions in this area. They have also confirmed that the City has both the authority and the responsibility to assign a higher fire risk classification. The question is whether you will act.

We strongly urge you to exercise that authority and place this project on hold until a thorough wildfire risk assessment and appropriate reclassification are completed to adequately address public safety concerns.

Continuing to advance this project as if these issues do not exist is unacceptable. This area should be classified as a high fire severity zone and is fundamentally incompatible with a development of this scale.

Protect the community you were elected to serve.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Garcia

On Mar 17, 2026, at 8:26 AM, Lukasz Czerwinski [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning Maria,

Thank you so much, have a great day as well!

Lukasz

On Tue, Mar 17, 2026 at 8:21 AM Maria Morris <mmorris@jurupavalley.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for your correspondence. It will be distributed and made part of the record.

Have a great day!!

<image001.png>

Maria Morris, CMC | City Clerk

CITY OF JURUPA VALLEY T: 951.332.6464 ext. 172
8930 Limonite Avenue, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

mmorris@jurupavalley.org | jurupavalley.org

Connect with us on social media:

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#)

From: Jerry and Kanya Chrisco <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 7:55 PM
To: Lukasz Czerwinski <czerwinski.lp@gmail.com>; Maria Morris <mmorris@jurupavalley.org>; Brian Berkson <bberkson@jurupavalley.org>; Chris Barajas <cbarajas@jurupavalley.org>; Armando Carmona <acarmona@jurupavalley.org>; Guillermo Silva <gsilva@jurupavalley.org>; Veronica Sanchez <vsanchez@jurupavalley.org>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: RVC FHSZ

Hi Maria,

Will you please confirm the receipt of the emails below and attached letter from the Office of the State Fire Marshal?

Best,

Kanya

On Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 7:44 PM Jerry and Kanya Chrisco <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mayor Berkson and Jurupa Valley City Council,

Again, thank you for everything you do for Jurupa Valley. Below and attached are responses from the Office of the State Fire Marshal that address key questions and issues I shared with you in my [email dated March 12, 2026](#). In the attached letter, page 2 includes the following statement regarding the reduced Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) classification of our area, including the proposed site of the Camino Terrace project:

“While there are open areas with natural fuels they are limited in extent, and in this particular case do not meet that model size limit (50 acres). The City of Jurupa Valley could amend their ordinance to include this area as FHSZ under their authority in Government Code statute.”

Please also refer to my March 12 email in which I cited an email from Assistant Fire Marshal Kylie Tillema, who indicated that the wildfire safety construction standards applied to the Camino Terrace project may change due to the property no longer being classified within an FHSZ.

In addition, during my telephone conversation on March 12, 2026, with Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director – Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, he confirmed that the construction standards applied to the Camino Terrace project would not reflect wildfire-specific safety requirements because the property is no longer classified as being within an FHSZ. As a result, the development may not be constructed to meet Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) standards that are more appropriate for the area’s environmental characteristics.

This situation raises an ongoing public safety concern. If the project proceeds without WUI-aligned wildfire safety construction standards, the community – including the new residents at Camino Terrace, our community, Indian Hills, and homes off Lakeside – will face long-term wildfire hazards and risks that could otherwise be mitigated through appropriate FHSZ classification prior to project approval and construction. It must be underscored that once this project is approved by the City, the construction standards applied will automatically be those for areas not in an FHSZ; this approval will give the green light for construction of buildings at Camino Terrace with deficiencies for a Very High or High Severity hazard zone, which, if constructed in such a manner, will create a perpetual increased wildfire risk.

Therefore, I respectfully ask the City to follow up on Mayor Pro Tem Chris Barajas’ comments during the last public hearing. As he stated, the mountains, topography, winds, and fuel sources that contribute to wildfire risk still exist despite the recent CAL FIRE map change.

Based on the information provided in the attached letter from CAL FIRE, the City has the authority to conduct its own risk assessment and potentially amend its ordinance to designate this area as an FHSZ and restore its historic classification to Very High Severity. I respectfully request that the City consider exercising that authority and place the Camino Terrace project on hold while a thorough wildfire risk evaluation and potential reclassification is completed in order to address these public safety concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kanya Chrisco

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bigelow, Frank@CALFIRE** <Frank.Bigelow@fire.ca.gov>

Date: Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 4:41 PM

Subject: RVC FHSZ

To: thechriscos@gmail.com <thechriscos@gmail.com>

Kanya,

Thank you for reaching out with your questions. I'm glad we had a chance to connect last week. After reviewing your emails, our FHSZ team has provided a response, which I have attached. Please reach out if you have further questions.

<image002.png>

Frank Bigelow

Deputy Director - Community Wildfire

Preparedness and Mitigation

Office of the State Fire Marshal

[855 M St., Fresno, CA 93721](https://www.fire.ca.gov/855-M-St-Fresno-CA-93721)

(559) 259-5591 Cell

<[image003.png](#)>

<image004.png>

<image005.png>

<image006.png>

For wildfire preparedness and prevention tips, visit:

[ReadyForWildfire.org](https://www.fire.ca.gov/ready-for-wildfire).

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION****OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

P. O. Box 944246

SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460

(916) 568-3800

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

March 11, 2026

Kanya Chrisco
7480 Mountain Shadow Drive
Jurupa Valley, Ca 92509

Dear Kanya Chrisco,

Thank you for reaching out about your concerns about the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps and the planning of Camino Terrace.

As discussed in your email, the concerns of wind factors, Fire History and Access/Egress in Camino Terrace.

Wind is used extensively in the FHSZ model but only for days that are conducive for fire spread (i.e., fuels are dry enough to support fire spread).

These are used as inputs to impact both expected fire behavior and ember production from wildland areas, as well as drive the transport of embers into non-wildland/developed areas. The data provided from the weather aggregation source Visual Crossin includes both measured and modeled data, but does not filter for dryness, and appears to be spatially generalized but assigned to very specific parcels. Downscaled winds at this level present false precision. That said, this area is characterized by both very high magnitude dry winds and more generally extreme fire weather conditions at high relative frequencies when compared to the average conditions across the state.

Fire history is used in FHSZ modeling to estimate burn probability. Records of small fires that are not within the state or federal protection areas can be missing, but individual fires influence the model by their areal size and are averaged over hundreds of thousands of acres within a given fire rotation stratum, and over the entire period of record (30 years). All large fires are captured and used. The 2022 fire referenced is a) an LRA fire that is not required for reporting but are desirable to include and b) outside the time domain for records used (1991-2020).

The specific area defined for the Camino Terrace Development Project as determined from the project plan (<https://www.wakelandhdc.com/camino-terrace.html>) has not changed due to recent 2025 FHSZ map recommendations.

Access/Egress and safety related to individual development are controlled via local zoning and building requirements.

The area in question is unzone in FHSZ due to not meeting the model requirement for area size of embedded wildlands (i.e., islands of wildlands fully surrounded by non-wildland/urbanized land cover). While there are open areas with natural fuels they are limited in extent, and in this particular case do not meet that model size limit (50 acres). The city of Jurupa Valley could amend their ordinance to include this area as FHSZ under their authority in Govt. Code statute.

Per GC 51179(b) (1) A local agency may, at its discretion, include areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency, not identified as very high fire hazard severity zones by the State Fire Marshal, as very high fire hazard severity zones following a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of Section 51182 are necessary for effective fire protection within the area.

(2) A local agency may, at its discretion, include areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency, not identified as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones by the State Fire Marshal, as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones, respectively.

(3) A local agency shall not decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency, and, in exercising its discretion pursuant to paragraph (2), may only increase the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the jurisdiction of the local agency.

If your local agency has adopted the maps as recommended by the State Fire Marshal, this concern needs to be addressed with them as this is their discretion. You can contact your local agency by utilizing these websites:

<https://jurupavalley.org/>
CityClerk@jurupavalley.org

Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Emily Smith
CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Staff Chief, Wildfire Planning and Statistics