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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-13
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
300 PM EST Thu Jan 6 2022

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Kimberly McMahon, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Reconfiguration of Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones by WFO
San Francisco Bay Area, CA: Effective March 22, 2022

On or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 1:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time, 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office San Francisco Bay Area, CA (WFO MTR) will divide the North Bay Mountains and the East Bay Hills public and fire weather forecast zones into five new zones.

If March 22, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 29, 2022.

The North Bay Mountains and the East Bay Hills forecast zones will be divided to more accurately represent meteorological and climatological conditions. This change will allow for more refined watches and warnings in these zones and are expected to reduce over-warning in areas that otherwise would not need to be under a watch or warning.

The North Bay Mountains currently include the Marin and Sonoma County coastal ranges, the Mayacamas of Sonoma and Napa Counties and the Napa county side of the Vaca Range, 1,000 foot elevation and above. The new zones will subdivide this large geographical zone into three distinct climate zones. These will be the interior mountains, comprising the Napa County side of the Vaca Range and the Mayacamas of Sonoma and Napa Counties, the Sonoma County Coastal Range and the Marin County Coastal Range, all 1,000 foot elevation and above.

The East Bay Hills currently include areas in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties and Eastern Santa Clara County that have elevations of 1,000 feet and above. The new zones will bifurcate this latitudinally large zone. The new northern zone, East Bay Hills, will consist of areas in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties that are 1,000 foot elevation and above. The new southern zone, Eastern Santa Clara Hills, will consist of areas East of highway 101 in Santa Clara County that are 1,000 foot elevation and above.

The tables below detail the zone changes.

Table 1: Current Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs): Current Public and Fire Weather Zone Forecast Name

 CAZ507: North Bay Mountains
 CAZ511: East Bay Hills and Diablo Range

Table 2: New UGC: New Public and Fire Weather Zone Forecast Name

 CAZ502: Marin Coastal Range
 CAZ503: Sonoma Coastal Range
 CAZ504: North Bay Interior Mountains
 CAZ514: Eastern Santa Clara Hills
 CAZ515: East Bay Hills

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO San Francisco Bay Area, CA Public and Fire Weather Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Zone Forecast Product	FPUS56 KMTR	ZFPMTR
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS56 KMTR	PFMMTR
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS66 KMTR	SFTMTR
Public Information Statement	NOUS46 KMTR	PNSMTR
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS76 KMTR	NPWMTR
Flood Watch	WGUS66 KMTR	FFAMTR
Special Weather Statement	WWUS86 KMTR	SPSMTR
Winter Weather Message	WWUS46 KMTR	WSWMTR
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS66 KMTR	AFDMTR
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS56 KMTR	FWFMTR
Fire Weather Message	WWUS86 KMTR	RFWMTR

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Updated public zone shapefiles are online at:

- <https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>
- <https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/mtr/2022BayAreaZoneChanges>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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