

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Please support the creation of a Disaster Recovery District (DRD) for Pacific Palisades as the community rebuilds. A DRD (1) would enable the Palisades to use a small portion of its property tax dollars to rebuild, (2) would enable the Palisades to rebuild to the highest resiliency standards possible to protect the lives, property, and financial stability of our district and the City at large, (3) is fiscally responsible for all of Los Angeles, and (4) is supported by California precedent. A Palisades DRD would enable the Palisades to rebuild without raising property tax rates. A DRD would simply utilize a portion of the currently assessed property taxes to rebuild. CD 11 has discussed using a very small percentage of the current tax basis, a mere .25 per dollar of property tax dollars, towards the rebuild. The Palisades has suffered one of the most destructive California wildfires. It should be able to rebuild with a small portion of its own property tax dollars. A Palisades DRD would enable the community to rebuild to the highest resiliency standards to protect all of Los Angeles by reducing long-term wildfire and climate risks. Modernize aging infrastructure Underground overhead utilities to reduce ignition risk Expand and harden water systems to improve firefighting capacity and flow Enhance defensible space and fire-resistant landscaping in public areas Stabilize hillsides vulnerable to post-fire erosion and mudslides A Palisades DRD is a long-term fiscally responsible solution for all of Los Angeles. The City has estimated that the public infrastructure loss was approximately 350 million and emergency response cost the city about 24 million just during the first 10 days of the crisis. Once indirect costs are incurred it is estimated that the entire Palisades Fire will have cost \$25 billion in damage and loss. The cost of rebuilding to outdated standards—and facing repeated losses—is far greater than investing proactively in resilience. Furthermore, a DRD would provide a stable funding stream which would in turn accelerate rebuilding thereby restoring property taxes for the City as a whole. A Palisades DRD is supported by California precedent. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has already moved to create a Disaster Recovery Financing District for Altadena and the Unincorporated Santa Monica Mountains to support their wildfire recovery infrastructure and resilience planning. Additionally, in 2022, after Sonoma County suffered

the devastating wildfires Tubbs, Kincade, and Glass, smoke related public health emergencies, severe drought cycles, and flooding along the Russian River, the county realized it needed a long-term solution, and created the first Climate Resiliency District in California. Like Sonoma, Los Angeles City should move from disaster response to more proactive climate and infrastructure hardening. A DRD would enable the community to create long-term wildfire resiliency for the benefit of all of Los Angeles. Traci Park, our Councilwoman, supports the creation of a DRD because she sees the need firsthand. I respectfully ask Councilmembers from other districts to pause and consider what you would want for your own constituents if a fire, earthquake, or flood struck your neighborhood tomorrow. I believe you would want to build back not just the devastated areas the way they were but, better, stronger, more resiliently, so that the future for your district as part of the city as a whole would be more physically and financially secure. Los Angeles is one city. We are all Angelenos. In times of tragedy, we should support one another just as other California communities have done for the betterment of us all. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our city.