

Communication from Public

Name: Jake Levine

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Council File No: 25-0006-S38

Comments for Public Posting: Chair Park and Members of the Committee: I join Rob Lempert, Tony Hocking, Maryam Zar, and the Palisades community in supporting a Disaster Recovery District that uses public investment to mobilize private capital, creates accountable leadership, and brings fire survivors home. Thoughtfully executed, this DRD can give LA a repeatable playbook for rapid recovery from future disasters. Over 600 days after the fires, long-term federal rebuilding funds remain undelivered—the longest wait on record, according to After the Fire. Meanwhile, survivors face ALE coverage expirations, mounting debt, and exhausted savings. LA has the potential to alleviate these strains:

1. The DRD's capacity to catalyze affordable lending and private capital is essential. The IFP should pair infrastructure with a housing rebuild facility. California's \$100M program uses interest subsidies and loan-loss protection to unlock affordable private financing. CalHFA estimated assistance for 730 homeowners, but thousands need to rebuild. A DRD can expand that approach with CDFIs and banks, bringing future tax increment forward through prudent bonding. While the study assumes bonds in Year 5, the IFP should identify bridge financing, including upfront public, philanthropic, or private capital reimbursable from future DRD revenues, so affordable construction loans reach families sooner. Lendistry's pilot, backed by \$15 million from Bank of America and \$5 million from the California Community Foundation, is a scalable model for mobilizing innovation and capital. DRD-supported programs will develop underwriting expertise that can benefit Altadena programs, and stand ready to service future regional needs. SB 782 permits low-interest construction loans and small-business capital access. Revolving funds, interest subsidies, and limited guarantees could help close financing gaps; coordination with insurers could allow IBHS resilience standards to unlock coverage and lower premiums. Eligibility for low-cost financing should reflect income and repayment ability, protecting fixed-income survivors. Financing should also support renters' return and multifamily rebuilding, serving a significant share of the survivor community.
2. Faster recovery in the Palisades is an investment in the whole City's economic future. UCLA Anderson estimated that the fires would reduce LA County's 2025 economic output by \$4.6 billion and cost \$297 million in wages. Rebuilding

restores commerce, good-paying work, and revenues supporting citywide services. It also restores confidence in the City's ability to confront hard problems. The City's feasibility study projects net fiscal surpluses of \$1.4 billion for the City and \$1.3 billion for the County, in present value over 50 years, after district contributions and estimated service costs. Each contributes 25% of its tax increment while retaining 75% and its baseline revenues. General Fund concerns are legitimate, but our ambition should be to grow the City's economy and revenues. The right comparison is accelerated recovery vs. slow recovery, where delay has real costs, too. A higher DRD allocation would merit evaluation if it accelerated rebuilding and capital mobilization, with protections for citywide services and return of excess revenues. Palisades Village's rebirth is demonstrating the enormous value of recovery. It also implies the challenge of what remains, as the businesses along Swarthmore, Sunset, and in Marquez Knolls need support as well. 3. This recovery needs dedicated, empowered, accountable leadership. Your advocacy has been relentless, and the City has made major efforts. But survivors need one accountable recovery executive whose sole daily mission is accelerating their return home, backed by dedicated staff, DRD financing tools, and City-delegated authority to resolve obstacles and streamline recovery. That team should secure County participation to combine City and County tax increment contributions, mobilize State, philanthropy, banking, and insurance resources, and lead coordinated federal advocacy. It should also translate community priorities into the IFP through sustained engagement, drawing on the PRC's community-led process to build a clear mandate for decisive action, with delegated authority to deliver and transparent accountability for results. From the federal perspective, an LA DRD would demonstrate local financial commitment, an essential ingredient to making the case for CDBG-DR and other federal funding. Accountability is paramount and should include a public dashboard showing ambitious goals with granular metrics, such as homes completed and occupied, loans closed and disbursed, businesses reopened, and infrastructure delivered, with targets and explanations of shortfalls. January 7, 2027 will be here soon. I am grateful for this body's work in accelerating a Resolution of Intention well before then. Jake Levine Launch Advisor, Department of Angels

Communication from Public

Name: Adam Wolman

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Comments for Public Posting: SUPPORT Honorable Chair Park and members of the Ad Hoc Committee on L.A. Recovery: I'm a Palisades property owner since 1996 and serve on the Palisades Recovery Coalition's advisory committee, as well as the Resilient Palisades steering committee and the executive board of the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club. I write in my individual capacity, though, not as a representative of these orgs, to ask you to establish the Pacific Palisades Disaster Recovery District. Without the recovery district designation and structure, I fear recovery will not be as expeditious as it needs to be. With the district structure in place, we can rebuild quickly and resiliently. Infrastructure renewed properly now will not need to be fixed again for years. A rebuilt Palisades will generate property taxes sooner, and at higher values than before the fire. And the structure we establish here will be ready for the next community in Los Angeles that needs it. Altadena and the Santa Monica Mountains already have their districts. The time available under state law to form ours is running out. Please move this forward ASAP.