

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle Ashley
Date Submitted: 11/30/2025 07:26 AM
Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, My name is Michelle Ashley. Our family home of over 20 years was destroyed in the Palisades fire. My husband Robert Ashley and I raised our two children in that home. They lost all of their treasured possessions as did we. Most of our neighbors lost their homes and our community was destroyed. We are hoping to rebuild but may need to take out loans to do it. We did not sign up for this. I find myself asking, "Where was the water to fight the fire?", "Where were the fireman to fight the fire?", "Where was the evacuation plan to help people escape the fire?", "Why didn't the fire department use IR to detect hot spots after the January 1st fire?". In short, I'm very disappointed with the city for having failed us. The least the city can do for us now is to support what Karen Bass has already promised. I am writing to implore you to vote to waive plan check and permit fees for the rebuilds of ALL homes (i.e., single family, duplex, condominiums, and townhouses) destroyed in the Palisades Fire. This matter is critical as the change impacts all homeowners whose homes were destroyed in the wildfires. Further, in the case of condominiums and townhouses, the costs additionally will be borne by all HOA members as they will be impacted through loss assessments levied by their respective HOAs. Early estimates indicate these fees could range from \$30,000 to more than \$100,000 per single-family homeowner/HOA. The City Council must include in this ordinance ALL impacted homeowners if you are truly committed to expediting the recovery effort until EVERY family is back home. As a community, we are interdependent and cannot fully recover when parts of the community are excluded. A high percentage of homeowners, particularly condominium and townhouse owners, are retired, on fixed incomes, underinsured, or have lower incomes. We all vote and pay property, income, and sales taxes and are entitled to the same public recovery resources. There is plenty of precedent in California for waiving these fees in response to natural disasters: In 1994, in response to the Northridge Earthquake, the Los Angeles City Council waived all plan-check and permit fees for repairing, demolishing, or rebuilding structures damaged or destroyed in the disaster. https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/los_angeles/latest/lamc/0-0-0-190107 In 2018, in response to the Woolsey Fire, the City of Malibu waived planning and building permit fees for properties destroyed in the disaster. <https://www.malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/24698/Fee-Waiver-FAQ> In 2020, in response to the Glass Fire in Northern California, the City of Santa Rosa waived planning and other permit fees. <https://www.srcity.org/2674/Resilient-City-Zoning> In 2021, in response to the Dixie Fire in Northern California in 2021, Nevada County waived planning and building permit fees for properties destroyed in the disaster. <https://yubanet.com/regional/nevada-county-provides-priority-permitting-and-fee-waiver-for-winter-storm-damage/> We are prepared to invest in our city's future, but we cannot move forward until we know that all rebuilding-related plan check and permit fees have been waived, not simply deferred. Please help us right this wrong and clear the way for the entire Palisades community to recover, rebuild, and restart our lives. Sincerely, John J Emerson —added address here— 16715 Bollinger Drive Pacific Palisades

Communication from Public

Name: Tracy McGeagh

Date Submitted: 11/30/2025 08:18 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: We suffered a total loss of our home from the Palisades Fires. We are trying to rebuild our home and lives and expenses are mounting and insurance payments are lagging. A waiver of permit fees will help tremendously in our efforts to rebuild our Palisades home so we can restore our lives pre-fire. City Council please help us all rebuild.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/30/2025 08:48 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council, I am a homeowner on the 1000 block of Embury Street in Pacific Palisades. Our home was destroyed in the January 7, 2025 Palisades Fire, and we had no homeowners insurance at the time. Every cost of demolition and rebuilding—design, materials, labor, and permits—is coming directly out of our pocket. What makes the situation even harder to accept is the growing evidence of governmental failures surrounding this disaster. The Palisades Fire has been linked to the smaller Lachman Fire on January 1, which was believed to be extinguished but was later allowed to smolder and reignite days later. Serious concerns have also been raised about the Santa Ynez reservoir not being fully repaired and available, water pressure problems that left firefighters and residents without sufficient water, and documented breakdowns in communication and coordination between agencies during the fire itself. These are not issues created by residents, yet we are being asked to shoulder the full cost of rebuilding, including substantial permit fees. Under these circumstances, charging families thousands of dollars in planning, building, and related permit fees feels less like routine administration and more like a surcharge on victims of a preventable catastrophe. For those of us without insurance, it is especially crushing. I respectfully ask the Council to: 1. Waive all planning, building, and related permit fees for homes damaged or destroyed in the Palisades Fire; 2. Apply this waiver retroactively to residents who have already paid these fees; and 3. Prioritize and streamline fire-rebuild permits so families can return home as quickly and safely as possible. Waiving these fees is a simple, concrete way to support fire victims—especially those rebuilding without insurance—and to show that, regardless of ongoing investigations or legal positions, the City is willing to stand with its residents in the aftermath of this disaster. Sincerely, Pali Fire Victim