

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Caroline Nick

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**Council File No:** 25-0006-S57

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello Budget Committee Members, I am sure you have read many emails coming your way with the numbers that support waiving our permit fees. For example, if 40% of properties are rebuilt by original owners and the remaining 60% are sold and rebuilt at or near the maximum allowable size, the City would generate approximately \$166.8 million in permit and plan check fee revenue based on the CAO's own \$278 million estimate even after waiving building permit fees for original owners who rebuild. This represents \$166.8 million in incremental revenue attributable solely to post-fire rebuilding and property turnover which is revenue that would not exist if the fire didn't happen. Those numbers above are numbers showing what you would GAIN by allowing more people to rebuild by waiving the fees. What you have been focused on is what you will LOSE if you waive them. I was at the City Council mtg where it was brought up how much money would have to be taken out of the general fund to cover the cost. The thing is, our permit fees are not money you should ever have in your budget. The fire should never have happened, so that money is not yours to already have earmarked for anything. The argument of how much this will cost the city is not a valid one. Permit fees should not be paying the salaries of the city employees that will be working on our home rebuilds. So essentially, waiving the fees costs you nothing. I trust you will see how logical this is. Fees have been waived in other disasters because their city governments understood the logical points above. This disaster has come at a huge cost to everyone involved. We respectfully ask that permit fees are not another to add to the very long list of physical and emotional costs we have. Thank you for your consideration, Caroline Nick 619 Baylor St. Pacific Palisades, CA 90272