

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Reiff

Date Submitted: 11/28/2025 10:50 PM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: URGENT – Palisades Fire Rebuild Permit Fee Waiver Office of the City Clerk Los Angeles City Council Re: Support for Waiving Plan & Permit Fees for Palisades Fire Victims Dear Council President and Honorable Councilmembers, We are homeowners who lost our entire home at 690 Palmera Ave. in the Palisades fire. Our house, everything we owned, and all of our family memories are gone. What we have now is simply a burned, empty lot. We are in our 70s and, like many others, we did not receive enough money from insurance to cover the full cost of rebuilding. We are already struggling just to figure out how we can ever return home. The additional cost of plan check and permit fees is a serious financial burden. Without these fees being waived, we may simply not be able to rebuild at all. We strongly support the Mayor's bill to waive plan and permit fees for fire victims, and we urgently ask you to approve it. Please ensure that the waiver applies to all homes being rebuilt, including: • Condos • Townhomes • Mobile homes • Small apartment buildings • Houses that might otherwise be disqualified on technicalities Everyone who lost their home in this fire deserves the same opportunity to rebuild, regardless of the type of structure or minor paperwork issues. We are begging you to help us and our neighbors come home. Please vote YES to waive plan and permit fees for all Palisades fire victims. Thank you for your time, your compassion, and your service to our community. Sincerely, Robert Reiff & Joan Van Horn Former homeowners at 690 Palmera Ave, Pacific Palisades 90272 310-283-8772 Robert@magiclight.com

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/28/2025 08:12 PM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't charge any permit fees in Palisades. The community needs support from this city in order to rebuild and return.

Communication from Public

Name: Lexi Montee

Date Submitted: 11/28/2025 08:51 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, thank you for the opportunity to comment. As a multigenerational Palisadian who lost my own home and my parents' home, I am deeply concerned that the numbers referenced in recent discussions about waiving building permit fees do not add up, and that these inaccuracies are affecting the City's decisions about our community's recovery. During the Budget & Finance Committee meeting, it was stated that waiving all building permit fees for fire victims would cost the City \$278 million. This figure implies that each permit would COST approximately \$55,600 to issue. That is dramatically inconsistent with both historical LADBS data and the numbers shared elsewhere in the same discussion. If this figure refers to lost revenue rather than true cost, the City should state that clearly. If it is meant to represent the break-even cost of permit processing, then residents deserve to see the methodology. LADBS issued roughly 17,000 permits in 2024 with a staff of 1,129 employees. The Palisades will need to rebuild approximately one-third of that volume. By the City's own logic, that would require about 376 employees working full-time on our rebuild. If permit processing for our community truly costs \$278 million, that would equate to an average of \$739,000 per employee, a number that is plainly unrealistic. Further, Councilmembers also referenced 560 permits currently subject to conditional fee deferral, with an estimated cost of \$6 million. That equates to roughly \$10,700 per permit, not \$55,000, another indication that the math presented is inconsistent. Similarly, we were told that limiting fee waivers only to those rebuilding within 110% of their original square footage would cost \$86 million and require 800 layoffs. That figure implies an average staff cost of about \$107,000, which is far more plausible and calls into question why the earlier \$278 million estimate was so much higher. The City owes the public a transparent explanation of these discrepancies. It is also important to note that restricting fee waivers to those rebuilding small, outdated homes effectively incentivizes recreating 1950s-sized housing stock in 2027 and beyond. This is not only impractical for families recovering from disaster, it also permanently limits future property tax revenue. Larger, updated homes generate meaningfully higher long-term tax assessments, which benefit the entire City of Los Angeles for decades to come. And this leads to

the most important fiscal reality: Los Angeles faces a \$1 billion budget deficit. The Palisades can help close that gap, but only if rebuilding is swift. Before the fire, our community generated approximately \$500 million in property tax revenue. Even if only 35% flows directly to the City, that is \$175 million annually—nearly one-fifth of the projected deficit. That number will only increase as older homes are replaced and reassessed at current market value. The sooner rebuilding occurs, the sooner the City regains this critical revenue stream. Moreover, a functional, repopulated town revives local commerce and boosts sales tax revenue as well. There is also clear precedent for waiving fees entirely for victims of catastrophic loss. After the 1994 Northridge earthquake, LADBS was required to waive all fees for work related to repairing or rebuilding homes destroyed in the disaster (Articles 1–8, Chapter IX of the LAMC). That program covered approximately 13,800 housing units. The Palisades has roughly 5,000 homes, far fewer than the City assisted in 1994. For the sake of transparency, fiscal responsibility, and the speedy recovery of an entire community, I respectfully request that the Council:

1. Provide clear, publicly verifiable accounting behind all cost estimates referenced.
2. Reconsider the proposal to limit fee waivers by square footage, which undermines both recovery and long-term revenue.
3. Uphold the precedent established after the Northridge earthquake and waive building permit fees for all fire victims.

Our community wants to rebuild. The City needs the revenue that will follow. A fee waiver accelerates both goals. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to helping the Palisades recover.

Communication from Public

Name: John Emerson
Date Submitted: 11/28/2025 08:56 AM
Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, My name is John Emerson. Our family home of over 30 years was destroyed in the Palisades fire. My wife Annette Yu and I raised three beautiful daughters in that home. They lost all of their treasured possessions as did we. Most of our neighbors lost their home and our community was destroyed. Before the fire, Annette and I were content knowing that the house was paid off, the kids grown, and we would finally be able to enjoy retirement. Now we're looking at a thirty year mortgage on a fixed income to be able to rebuild our home. 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 upset 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 17030 Bollinger Drive Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Communication from Public

Name: Danielle Greenberg

Date Submitted: 11/28/2025 11:17 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: My home was destroyed in the Palisades. I'm a mom to two young children. We have lost everything, but we are determined to rebuild. We are underway and are investing in returning to our town. We are underinsured and have spent over \$17,000 so far on our permit fees to rebuild our small home at 110%. Our fees have not been deferred. It would go a long way for the city to waive permit fees and reimburse those of us who have already paid. That \$17,000 is much needed for our family and for many others. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Mark Alan Smith
Date Submitted: 11/28/2025 12:03 PM
Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council: 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 through loss assessments levied by their respective HOAs. 407 condominium and townhome units were destroyed by fire but more than 1,200 residents could be impacted as the gap between insurance and rebuilding cost is borne by all HOA homeowners through assessments. Our financial models, drawn from government information, shows that fees from our segment represent an estimated \$1.2 million in revenue to the City. Why forsake us for so little? My condominium, and those of five neighbors, were destroyed by fire. One neighbor recently died, his frail condition pressed to finality by his loss. Condominium and townhome owners represent one of the least affluent and most vulnerable segments of our community but have been excluded from the fee waiver proposal. A high percentage of us are retired, on fixed incomes, and underinsured. We all vote and pay taxes and are entitled to the same recovery resources. We suffer the trauma of having lost everything we've ever owned: personal heirlooms passed down through generations and items now too expensive to replace. We suffer daily stress of not knowing how long we will be displaced while our HOAs struggle to navigate a complex rebuild process. Please re-include us and pass this important initiative. 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, Mark Alan Smith Team Palisades Neighborhood Representative for Condominium and Townhome Owners

To: Los Angeles City Councilmembers Eunisses Hernandez, Adrin Nazarian, Bob Blumenfield, Nithya Raman, Katy Yaroslavsky, Imelda Padilla, Monica Rodriguez, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Curren D. Price Jr., Heather Hutt, Traci Park, John Lee, Hugo Soto-Martinez, Ysabel J. Jurado, and Tim McOsker

CC: Supervisor Lindsey Horvath

Subject: Request to waive plan check and permit fees for all homeowners impacted by the Palisades Fire (including condominium and townhouse owners)

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

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 through loss assessments levied by their respective HOAs.

407 condominium and townhome units were destroyed by fire but more than 1,200 residents could be impacted as the gap between insurance and rebuilding cost is borne by all HOA homeowners through assessments. Our financial models, drawn from government information, shows that fees from our segment represent an estimated \$1.2 million in revenue to the City. Why forsake us for so little?

My condominium, and those of five neighbors, were destroyed by fire. One neighbor recently died, his frail condition pressed to finality by his loss. Condominium and townhome owners represent one of the least affluent and most vulnerable segments of our community but have been excluded from the fee waiver proposal. A high percentage of us are retired, on fixed incomes, and underinsured. We all vote and pay taxes and are entitled to the same recovery resources.

We suffer the trauma of having lost everything we've ever owned: personal heirlooms passed down through generations and items now too expensive to replace. We suffer daily stress of not knowing how long we will be displaced while our HOAs struggle to navigate a complex rebuild process. Please re-include us and pass this important initiative.

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,

Mark Alan Smith

Team Palisades Neighborhood Representative for Condominium and Townhome Owners

1645 Michael Lane
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
805.341.9611

Communication from Public

Name: Shamon Shamonki

Date Submitted: 11/28/2025 12:19 PM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council: When I was a very young child, my family immigrated to Los Angeles in 1975 and we settled in Pacific Palisades in 1976. I grew up in this beautiful little town with my older brother and younger sister. We all attended the local schools, including Marquez Elementary, Paul Revere middle school and Palisades High.. After getting married, my wife and I bought our own house and started our life in the Pacific Palisades. We lost our home to the Palisades Fires and are fighting our way back to rebuild, which has proven to be very expensive and very difficult. We are raising three young children here, who have also lost everything; their schools, friends, and all their personal belongings. On behalf of our family and every other resident of the Palisades, who are in anguish, traumatized, exhausted and underinsured, we implore you to waive the building and permitting fees for our rebuild. We believe it's the least the City should do, so we can try to reclaim our lives and rebuild our community. Shamon Shamonki and Family

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Magur

Date Submitted: 11/28/2025 12:41 PM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Officials, Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. As a resident of Los Angeles for over 60 years, and a homeowner and a business owner in Pacific Palisades for 36 of those years, I am writing to respectfully urge the City of Los Angeles to waive permit fees for homeowners rebuilding after the recent devastating fires. Pacific Palisades reflects the sense of community and character that makes Los Angeles so special to me. Sadly, like so many others, my family lost our home and business in the fires and is now facing the overwhelming task of rebuilding. Like many others in the community, our family is underinsured and is struggling to manage construction costs. Waiving permit fees would provide much-needed financial relief and help residents return home. We are deeply grateful for your time and consideration we all work to rebuild our homes, our lives and our beloved community. Sincerely, Wendy Magur