

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 25-0043

Comments for Public Posting: Support for Expedited Permitting Mechanisms for Wildfire Recovery in Los Angeles On behalf of AIA Los Angeles and our 4500+ members and AIA California, representing over 11,000 licensed architects throughout the state, we express our strong support for the goals of the motion introduced by Councilmembers Raman and Blumenfield (Council File 25-0043). This motion, which seeks to explore options for a Citywide self-certification program, aligns with AIA California's commitment to facilitating rapid, safe, and cost-effective rebuilding efforts for the communities impacted by the recent wildfires. We understand the urgency of this situation and the critical need to support homeowners and businesses in their recovery. A well-structured Professional Certification program can streamline the permitting process without compromising public health, safety, and welfare. AIA California believes that architects, with their extensive education, licensure, and adherence to professional standards of care, are uniquely qualified to self-certify the conformance of their designs to applicable building codes and regulations. This approach can: Expedite Permitting: Reduce the burden on City staff, allowing them to focus on more complex projects. Enhance Public Safety: Ensure that projects are designed and built to the highest standards by licensed professionals. Improve Efficiency: Streamline the process for both homeowners and architects. We are prepared to work closely with the City of Los Angeles, LADBS, City Planning, and other relevant stakeholders to develop a robust and effective Professional Certification program that meets the specific needs of wildfire recovery. We urge the City of Los Angeles, as well as, The County of Los Angeles to seriously consider this approach as part of its overall strategy to support the swift and equitable recovery of the affected communities.



January 27, 2025

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Professional Certification

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of AIA California's 11,000 dedicated design professional members, we support our local AIA Components and the many others working to assist in recovery and rebuilding after the recent fires. We recognize the critical importance of facilitating rapid, safe, and cost-effective rebuilding and recovery efforts for the communities impacted.

Among the concepts being considered is the development of a Professional Certification program. We believe this program can simplify and speed up the issuance of the necessary building permits without compromising public health, safety, and welfare. We applaud the quick actions of Mayor Bass, Councilperson Blumenfield, and others in calling for detailed consideration of Professional Certification. We look forward to supporting our design professional members as they collaborate with LADBS and Planning in the careful development of a program that can streamline permitting while also avoiding unintended negative consequences for the project owners and those working on their behalf.

We stand ready and willing to help. Please let us know how AIA California can best support these initiatives, whether through providing technical expertise, participating in task forces, or assisting with public outreach. We would be happy to coordinate further discussions.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing the challenges posed by this emergency. We look forward to working together to rebuild these communities stronger and safer. If you have any questions, please reach out to Scott Terrell, Director of Government Relations at sterrell@aiacalifornia.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Terrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Terrell" clearly legible.

Scott Terrell
Director of Government Relations

The American Institute of Architects

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