

MOTION

In recent years, Los Angeles has experienced multiple disasters, including wildfires such as the 2017 La Tuna Canyon and Creek Fires, the Northridge Earthquake of 1994, and the 2025 Palisades, Hurst, Archer, Kenneth and Sunset Fires, which have caused significant damage to homes and property. Following the 2017 La Tuna Canyon and Creek Fires, affected residents were not granted waivers of building, plan-check, and related fees, creating financial hardship for disaster survivors.

Currently, the City is considering waiving certain fees for the January 2025 Wildfires rebuilding projects, highlighting the need for a consistent, equitable, and transparent City-wide policy to guide disaster recovery fee waivers and ensure all residents impacted by these emergencies are treated fairly.

A permanent policy would provide clear guidance to departments, legal safeguards for the City, and mechanisms to coordinate with federal and state disaster recovery funding, while ensuring fiscal responsibility and equity across all districts.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of the City Attorney and all relevant departments, to develop and report back on a permanent City policy for fee waivers for disaster-impacted residents, including those affected by wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and other declared emergencies. The report should include the following:

- Identify eligible fee types, including building, plan-check, development impact, and related fees, and define eligibility criteria for affected property owners;
- Include considerations to differentiate benefits based on whether property owners are insured, underinsured, or uninsured;
- Establish safeguards, such as fee caps or project scope limitations, to prevent unintended fiscal impact on other residents or departments; and
- Provide mechanisms to coordinate with FEMA, Cal OES, or other funding sources to recover waived fees where possible, and identify contingency funding sources if reimbursement is unavailable.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney report back to Council with a draft ordinance implementing this permanent disaster fee policy.

PRESENTED BY:   
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

DEC 02 2025 

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