

Communication from Public

Name: Zara Safarian

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Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of exempting wildfire survivors from the City of Los Angeles ULA (Mansion) Tax, and to share how the current application of this tax has personally affected me. I am a retiree and a widow. I lost my husband to cancer, a life-altering loss that reshaped my financial and emotional world. In 2023, I moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles to begin again and to establish stability for my retirement years. To do so, I sold my home in San Francisco and invested the proceeds into a townhouse in the Palisades Highlands, which I intended to be my long-term residence. Tragically, that home was destroyed in a wildfire. The townhouse burned to the ground, along with everything I owned. Because the purchase was recent, I was still in the process of finalizing my personal homeowner's insurance at the time of the fire, and I did not yet have coverage in place. As a result, the loss was total and unrecoverable. This was not a speculative investment or a luxury purchase—it represented the entirety of my savings from the sale of my former home and my plan for financial security in retirement. Overnight, I lost my home, my primary asset, and my financial safety net. In this context, applying the ULA (Mansion) Tax to fire survivors like myself creates an unintended and deeply inequitable burden. The tax does not distinguish between voluntary wealth transfers and forced transactions resulting from catastrophic loss. For retirees and widows who are already navigating profound hardship, this additional financial obligation significantly impedes recovery and stability. I support the intent of the ULA measure to address housing needs and community investment. However, exempting wildfire survivors would ensure the policy is applied with fairness and compassion, and that individuals who lost their homes through no fault of their own are not further penalized while trying to rebuild their lives. I respectfully urge you to support an exemption for fire survivors under the ULA (Mansion) Tax. Such an exemption would recognize the realities of disaster recovery and prevent additional harm to those already facing extraordinary loss. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community. I would be grateful for the opportunity to provide any additional information if needed. Respectfully, Zara Safarian 1459 Palisades dr. Pacific Palisades, CA 90272