

Communication from Public

Name: Mary McMurry

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Council File No: 26-0088

Comments for Public Posting: LA City Clerk, I am a homeowner in the Pacific Palisades Highlands whose home was destroyed in the Palisades Fire. While this loss has been devastating on a deeply personal level for me and for our community, it has also caused financial ruin for many homeowners who are now struggling to recover. I am writing today to respectfully request your consideration of an amendment or exemption to the ULA tax as it applies to our homeowners association, specifically the Upper Woodies (HOA 1) condominiums in the Pacific Palisades Highlands. Due to the financial realities created by the fire, our HOA has been forced to sell the land on which our homes once stood. This is not a voluntary sale. It is the result of catastrophic loss, insufficient funds to rebuild, and the absence of viable alternatives for many of us. We do not want to sell. We are individual homeowners who never would have sold — nor would have been able to sell — the property as a whole had it not been for the Palisades Fire. While the land sale technically includes all 46 units on the property, it is important to note that if each unit were sold separately, none would qualify for the ULA (mansion) tax. The application of the ULA tax in this case creates a severe and unintended hardship, effectively penalizing fire victims for circumstances entirely beyond their control. We are not developers or investors. We are residents who lost our homes, our stability, and in many cases our financial footing. Imposing the ULA tax on this forced sale compounds an already devastating situation and places an additional burden on homeowners who are simply trying to survive and recover. I respectfully ask that you consider granting an exemption from the ULA tax for the Upper Woodies (HOA 1) condominiums, we are homeowners who are being forced to sell due to catastrophic wildfire loss. Doing so would reflect both the intent of the law and the compassion our city has long stood for. Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of this request. I am hopeful that the City will stand with homeowners who have already lost so much. Sincerely, Mary McMurry Upper Woodies Condominiums (HOA 1)