



City of Malibu News

23825 Stuart Ranch Road • Malibu, California • 90265-4861
Phone (310) 456-2489 • Fax (310) 456-3356 • www.malibucity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2019

Contact: Lisa Soghor, Assistant City Manager

310-456-2489, ext. 224

LSoghor@malibucity.org

Malibu City Council Approves 2019-2020 Budget Including Fee Waivers for Rebuilding Homes Destroyed in the Woolsey Fire

(Malibu CA) – The City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget, waiving fees for residents who are rebuilding their homes destroyed in the Woolsey Fire during the Council meeting on Monday, June 24.

“The City will do everything possible to help Malibu residents rebuild the community and recover from the worst natural disaster in our history, and as this Budget shows, we are doing it while still providing all of the regular core services that our community needs every day, year-round,” said Mayor Jefferson “Zuma Jay” Wagner.

To encourage residents to rebuild homes that were lost or destroyed in the Woolsey Fire and help residents recover as quickly and safely as possible, the City Council approved a waiver for all City planning and building permit fees for eligible property owners. The fee waiver includes all City planning and building permit fees for properties that are being rebuilt as a “like-for-like” or “like-for-like plus 10%” rebuild and were used as a primary residence by the property owner as of November 8, 2018. The fee waiver extends until June 30, 2020 and applies retroactively to eligible property owners who have already paid permitting fees on their rebuild project.

The Proposed Budget totals \$48 million in revenue and \$55.11 million in expenses including the General Fund budget, which totals \$31.02 million in revenues and \$37.39 million in expenses. In order to waive fees, hire consultants to provide additional permitting services for fire rebuild projects, maintain existing levels of City services and achieve a balanced budget, the Council reprioritized the City’s Work Plan and approved a one-time appropriation from the General Fund Undesignated Reserve.

In addition, the adopted budget maintains a General Fund Undesignated Reserve of 66% of the annual operating budget. This is in keeping with the Council’s policy to maintain a minimum reserve of 50% for future emergencies and the Council’s goal of maintaining a 65% reserve to retain the highest credit rating for the City.

The Budget includes funding for contract planners, inspectors, plan checking and other services needed to facilitate the rebuilding of burned homes and the recovery efforts from the Woolsey Fire, allowing staff to continue to provide all of the regular services and programs not related to rebuilding activities. Temporary office staff have also been hired to help with the high volume of document research and public records requests. Additional advertising, website and printing costs have been included to make sure that all the necessary information is being communicated extensively with the community.

No City programs or services were cut in the Budget. Several steps were taken to allow for the waiving of fees and maintaining the 65% reserve, including:

- Postponing the City Hall Solar Carport capital project to a future year.
- Reducing Student Intern Program from 3.5 full-time equivalent positions to 0.5 positions.
- Reducing all Department operating expenses to the fullest extent possible.

- Replacing the use of the General Fund with Special Fund revenues, including Legacy Park Funds, South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funds and others, wherever possible.

As part of the Budget package, the Council approved the Annual Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and established the City's Work Plan priorities for the Fiscal Year as: 1) Public Safety, 2) Woolsey Fire Recovery, and 3) School District Separation.

To see the complete Budget and staff report, visit

<https://www.malibucity.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3789?fileID=8483>. To watch the Council meeting, including the presentation and discussion of the Budget, visit www.MalibuCity.org/TV.

###