



City of Malibu News

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For Immediate Release

June 24, 2020

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Malibu City Council Votes to Extend Woolsey Fire Fee Waivers to Help Residents Rebuild

(Malibu, CA) – The Malibu City Council voted on Monday, June 22, 2020 to extend for six months the permit fee waivers that the City enacted to help homeowners who lost properties during the 2018 Woolsey Fire. The deadline to apply for fee waivers has now been extended to December 30, 2020.

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 City is committed to doing everything possible to help residents rebuild and recover after the Woolsey Fire ravaged our community even amidst the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Mayor Karen Farrer. “I am proud that we can keep that commitment and extend the fee waivers to help the homeowners who are still working to rebuild.”

Despite the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders, the City was able to use a combination of cost cutting, using staff rather than consultants, and applying a large portion of the City’s Woolsey Fire settlement from Southern California Edison (SCE) to cover the cost of extending the fee waivers.

To date, the City has waived or refunded approximately \$2.22 million in fees associated with the Woolsey Fire. Assuming the City approves 200 building permits for eligible rebuild projects in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the total amount of fees to be waived in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 under the terms of the proposed resolution could exceed \$3.6 million for a total waived over multiple years of \$5.8 million. The staff report is available at: <https://www.malibucity.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/4380?fileID=13548>.

The City Council originally approved the fee waiver in June, 2019 to encourage residents to rebuild homes that were lost or destroyed in the fire and help residents recover as quickly and safely as possible.

On June 8, 2020, in response to concerns raised from homeowners whose efforts to rebuild and meet the fee waiver deadlines have been negatively impacted by ongoing insurance claims, the COVID-19 pandemic and other circumstances beyond their control, Council directed staff to bring back a resolution to extend the fee waiver deadlines by six months.

The City Council made Woolsey Fire rebuild work the City’s second priority after ensuring public safety in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget and has continued that priority for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

With the six-month extension that the City Council approved on June 8, applications for fee waivers must be received by December 30, 2020. All required Planning Department applications for the project must be deemed complete by December 30, 2020. All required building permits must be pulled by June 30, 2021.

If a waiver is obtained, a Certificate of Occupancy will only be issued to the property owner who filed the affidavit establishing primary residence at the time of the Woolsey Fire with the City. All fees that were waived must be paid to the City before a Certificate of Occupancy will be issued to an owner other than the one listed on the fee waiver.

For rebuilding information and resources, visit www.MalibuRebuilds.org. To request help with your Woolsey Fire rebuild, contact the Fire Rebuild Team at ashah@malibucity.org or call 310-456-2489, ext. 385.

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