CITY OF MALIBU
Official Press Release

February 18, 2026

City of Malibu Files Legal Action to Protect Taxpayers and Community Resources

(Malibu, CA) — February 18, 2026. The City of Malibu has filed a civil complaint in Los Angeles County Superior Court seeking to recover significant financial losses sustained as a result of the Palisades Fire. The action reflects the City's responsibility to protect public funds and address the substantial impacts the fire had on residents, businesses, infrastructure, and natural resources.

The lawsuit names multiple governmental entities, including the State of California, the City of Los Angeles, and related agencies. The City's decision to pursue legal action follows extensive evaluation of the damages incurred and the long-term fiscal implications for Malibu and its taxpayers.

"This decision was not made lightly," said Mayor Bruce Silverstein. "The City has an obligation to act in the best interests of our residents and taxpayers. The lawsuit seeks accountability for the extraordinary losses suffered by our community while recognizing that Malibu must continue to work collaboratively with our regional partners going forward."

The Palisades Fire caused widespread destruction throughout Malibu, including the loss of homes, businesses, public facilities, and critical infrastructure. The City also experienced damage to roads, stormwater systems, public buildings, and open-space lands, as well as significant disruption to tourism, employment, and local revenue.

The complaint alleges that a series of failures related to dangerous fire conditions, inspection, and emergency preparedness contributed to the scope and severity of the damage. Through this action, the City seeks to recover costs associated with emergency response, infrastructure repair, environmental restoration, and lost revenues.

The City emphasizes that filing this lawsuit does not alter its commitment to regional cooperation, wildfire preparedness, and rebuilding efforts. Malibu remains focused on recovery, resilience, and protecting the long-term health and safety of the community.

The full complaint is available here:
https://malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37305/City-of-Malibu-Legal-Action-Palisades-Fire-Losses-2172026

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