



# Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Riggins and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Susan Duenas, Public Safety Director

Approved by: Rob DuBoux, Acting City Manager

Date prepared: December 8, 2025 Meeting date: January 12, 2026

Subject: Termination of the Declaration of a Local Emergency

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. 26-01 terminating the declaration of local emergency as a result of the risk of fires associated with individuals engaged in unpermitted camping.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:** This item supports the City's 2025 Strategic Plan Goal 4. Improve Public Safety, Objective 4.3: Reduce Homeless Encampments.

**DISCUSSION:** The California Government Code Section 8630 empowers the City Council to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when there is extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the City. At the June 24, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting, the Council adopted Resolution No. 24-30 which established criteria for declaring the existence of a local emergency and initiating a program for reducing the risk of fires associated with individuals engaged in unpermitted camping in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ). The criteria for declaring the existence of a local emergency was set at a Live Fuel Moisture (LFM) of 65% or less as determined by the Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division for Santa Monica Mountains Chamise.

On September 10, 2025, the Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division posted an LFM of 63% for Santa Monica Mountains Chamise. On September 29, 2025, the Council adopted Resolution No. 25-49, declaring the existence of a local emergency and initiating a program for reducing the risk of fires associated with individuals engaged in unpermitted camping.

Resolution No. 24-30 also sets minimum criteria for terminating the local emergency, which includes:

- When the City has received a minimum of 2" of recorded rainfall as determined by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Season Total (October 1- May 1) for the Big Rock Mesa site; and
- The Live Fuel Moisture is 80% or greater as determined by the Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division for Santa Monica Mountains Chamise; and
- There has been no Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning in the previous two weeks; and
- When there is no Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning in the extended forecast as determined by the National Weather Service (NWS) California Fire Weather Forecast for either the Malibu Coast or Santa Monica Mountains NRA.

As of the date of this report, all the conditions for termination have been met. On November 26, 2025, the Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division posted an LFM of 98% for Santa Monica Mountains Chamise. As of November 21, 2025, Malibu has received 7.72" of rain, per the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. There has been no Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning in the previous two weeks and there is no Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning in the extended forecast.

Additionally, the Government Code Section 8630 requires that the governing body proclaims the termination of the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant. Since the fire risk conditions that prompted the emergency declaration have improved and the termination criteria described in Resolution No. 24-30 have been met, staff recommend adopting Resolution No. 26-01 terminating the state of local emergency.

ATTACHMENTS:  
Resolution No. 26-01

## RESOLUTION NO. 26-01

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MALIBU TERMINATING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND INITIATING A PROGRAM FOR REDUCING THE RISK OF FIRES ASSOCIATED WITH INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN UNPERMITTED CAMPING

The City Council of the City of Malibu does hereby find, order and resolve as follows:

#### SECTION 1. Recitals.

A. Resolution No. 24-30 established criteria for declaring the existence of a local emergency and initiating a program for reducing the risk of fires associated with individuals engaged in unpermitted camping in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) and established criteria for terminating the state of emergency. The criteria for declaring the existence of a local emergency was set at a Live Fuel Moisture (LFM) of 65% or less as determined by the Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division for Santa Monica Mountains Chamise.

B. On September 10, 2025, the Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division posted an LFM of 63% for Santa Monica Mountains Chamise

C. On September 29, 2025, the Council adopted Resolution No. 25-49, declaring the existence of a local emergency and initiating a program for reducing the risk of fires associated with individuals engaged in unpermitted camping.

D. The minimum criteria for termination the local emergency includes: 1)When the City has received a minimum of 2" of recorded rainfall as determined by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Season Total (October 1- May 1) for the Big Rock Mesa site; and 2) The Live Fuel Moisture is 80% or greater as determined by the Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division for Santa Monica Mountains Chamise; and 3)There has been no Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning in the previous two weeks; and 4) When there is no Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning in the extended forecast as determined by the National Weather Service (NWS) California Fire Weather Forecast for either the Malibu Coast or Santa Monica Mountains NRA.

E. As of December 8, 2025, all four criteria for termination have been met.

#### SECTION 2. The City Council does hereby terminate the state of a local emergency.

SECTION 3. This resolution and the actions taken and/or proposed herein are not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) since they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by section 21065 of the California Public Resources Code and section 15378(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed actions are organizational or administrative activities of government which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. In the alternative, find that the actions are exempt from CEQA as specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency pursuant to section 21080(b)(4) and section 15269(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

#### SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter

it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 12th day of January 2026.

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MARIANNE RIGGINS, Mayor

ATTEST:

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KELSEY PETTIJOHN, City Clerk  
(seal)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REVIEWED  
BY THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  

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TREVOR RUSIN, Interim City Attorney