City Council Meeting
04-27-26
Item
1.B.12.

Council Agenda Report

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

Prepared by: Kelsey Pettijohn, City Clerk

Approved by: Joseph D. Irvin, City Manager

Date prepared: April 10, 2026 Meeting date: April 27, 2026

Subject: Resolution Extending the Declaration of the Existence of a Local Emergency Regarding the Palisades Fire

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution No. 26-23, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action. The existence of the local emergency will potentially help qualify the City and its residents for reimbursement for certain disaster response expenditures.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: This item supports the City's 2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1 - Support Community Rebuilding and Long-Term Recovery.

DISCUSSION: On January 7, 2025, the Palisades Fire started in or around Pacific Palisades and was driven into City limits by a historic Santa Ana Wind event causing hurricane-strength winds in neighboring areas and the City. The strong Santa Ana Winds have created difficulties mitigating the fire and impaired the ability of airborne fire-fighting. The fire combined with high winds and power outages created conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property

On January 14, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-01, confirming the existence of a local emergency and ratifying the Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency.

On May 23, 2025, Pacific Coast Highway was opened to the public, and the California National Guard demobilized, leaving fire-impacted neighborhoods vulnerable as an influx of visitors began entering the city. Areas affected by disasters frequently become targets

of criminal activity, including the burglary of uninhabited homes and businesses due to damage and the theft of building materials during the reconstruction process.

The fire caused extensive damage to drainage systems in the Big Rock Mesa Landslide Maintenance District, which are still being repaired.

The fire caused major disruptions to Malibu's commercial areas, with many businesses experiencing temporary closures, reduced access, severe revenue losses, and some being completely devastated. Because local businesses provide essential services, jobs, and economic stability, the City finds that supporting their recovery is critical. Providing targeted assistance, such as small business grant funding, coordination with state and federal resources, and other temporary relief measures is needed to help affected businesses reopen, rebuild, and recover Malibu's local economy.

Government Code Section 8630 requires that the City Council review the need for continuing a local emergency at least once every 60 days until the City Council terminates the local emergency.

As such, City staff recommends adopting Resolution No. 26-23 extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency. If adopted, the City Council will review, and as needed renew, this action at least every 60 days.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution No. 26-23

RESOLUTION NO. 26-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MALIBU EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO THE PALISADES FIRE

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

SECTION 1. Recitals.

A. On January 7, 2025, the Palisades Fire started in or around Pacific Palisades and was driven into City limits by a historic Santa Ana Wind event causing hurricane-strength winds in neighboring areas and the City. The strong Santa Ana Winds created difficulties mitigating the fire and impaired the ability of airborne fire-fighting. The fire combined with high winds and power outages created conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property.

B. The Acting Director of Emergency Services of the City proclaimed the existence of a local emergency on January 8, 2025.

C. On January 14, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-01, confirming the existence of a local emergency and ratifying the Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency.

D. On March 10, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-09, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

E. On April 28, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-16, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

F. On June 23, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-34, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

G. On August 11, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-43, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

H. On September 29, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-48, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

I. On September 29, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-58, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

J. On September 29, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 26-04, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

K. On September 29, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 26-12, extending the declaration of the existence of a local emergency in response to the Palisades Fire.

L. On May 23, 2025, Pacific Coast Highway was opened to the public, and the California National Guard demobilized, leaving fire-impacted neighborhoods vulnerable as an

influx of visitors began entering the city. Areas affected by disasters frequently become targets of criminal activity, including the burglary of uninhabited homes and businesses due to damage and the theft of building materials during the reconstruction process.

M. The fire caused extensive damage to drainage systems in the Big Rock Mesa Landslide Maintenance District, which are still being repaired.

N. The fire caused major disruptions to Malibu's commercial areas, with many businesses experiencing temporary closures, reduced access, severe revenue losses, and some being completely devastated. Because local businesses provide essential services, jobs, and economic stability, the City finds that supporting their recovery is critical. Providing targeted assistance, such as small business grant funding, coordination with state and federal resources, and other temporary relief measures is needed to help affected businesses reopen, rebuild, and recover Malibu's local economy.

SECTION 2. The City Council has reviewed the staff report and conditions justifying the state of local emergency in the City and finds that the declaration of a local emergency remains valid and necessary due to the on-going recovery efforts. Such conditions result in extreme peril to the safety of persons and property located in the City.

SECTION 3. The local emergency shall be deemed to continue and exist until its termination is proclaimed by the City Council. As required by law, the City Council shall review the need to continue the state of emergency every 60 days until this resolution is terminated.

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 9th day of March 2026.

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BRUCE SILVERSTEIN, 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

TREVOR RUSIN, Interim City Attorney