City Council Meeting
06-08-26
Item 1.B.5.

Council Agenda Report

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

Prepared by: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Director

Approved by: Joseph D. Irvin, City Manager

Date prepared: May 26, 2026 Meeting date: June 8, 2026

Subject: Letter of Support for Los Angeles County's FY2024-25 BRIC grant application for the Santa Monica Mountains Infrastructure Wildfire Hardening Program

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the Mayor to sign a Letter of Support for Los Angeles County's FY2024-25 Build Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant application for the Santa Monica Mountains Infrastructure Wildfire Hardening Program.

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 4.2: Increase Wildfire Resiliency.

DISCUSSION: Los Angeles County is submitting a FY2024-25 BRIC grant application for the Santa Monica Mountains Infrastructure Wildfire Hardening Program. The program will harden 340 residential parcels located within the communities of Calabasas, Malibu, Topanga, Agoura Hills, and Pacific Palisades. The California Office of Emergency Services has advised the County that letters of support can significantly strengthen the application's competitiveness.

They are proposing a home hardening incentive program to eligible homes in Santa Monica Mountains communities, with a large portion of homes within the City of Malibu. Through the program, the County would offer up to $50k per single-family home, and homeowners would be expected to contribute 25% toward the total cost of their project. Program offerings would include defensible space, roof replacements, window retrofits, gutter guards and fire-resistant eaves and soffit upgrades. The County anticipates enrolling 340 homes into the program.

Staff recommend that the Council support this grant request that benefits the Malibu community and does not require City resources to implement.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support for Los Angeles County's FY2024-25 BRIC grant application for the Santa Monica Mountains Infrastructure Wildfire Hardening Program.

City of Malibu

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

June 8, 2026

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

RE: Letter of Support for FY 24-25 BRIC Grant Application – Internal Services Department
Santa Monica Mountains Infrastructure Wildfire Hardening Program

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Mayor of the City of Malibu, I submit this Letter of Support for Los Angeles County's FY2024-25 BRIC grant application for the Santa Monica Mountains Infrastructure Wildfire Hardening Program. The program will harden 340 residential parcels located in CAL FIRE designated high and very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the communities of Calabasas, Malibu, Topanga, Agoura Hills, and Pacific Palisades. This critical investment will help safeguard vital community infrastructure, located in close proximity to single-family homes, including above-ground power lines, water pumping stations, and cellular towers.

The 2025 wildfires underscored the growing fire threat in the region posed by longer warm, dry periods and Santa Ana wind events. Homes located within the Wildland-Urban Interface remain especially vulnerable to ember intrusion, radiant heat exposure, and structure-to-structure ignition. The proposed project represents a critical investment in proactive mitigation measures designed to reduce future losses, protect life and property, and strengthen long-term community resilience.

The proposed scope of work, defensible space implementation and ignition-resistant construction retrofits, aligns directly with FEMA's BRIC program objectives and the City's broader hazard mitigation priorities. This initiative is particularly important for parcels located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, where residents face elevated wildfire risk and recovery challenges. By prioritizing hardening investments in these vulnerable areas, the project will help reduce future disaster costs, improve emergency preparedness and emergency response rates, and enhance the safety and stability of affected neighborhoods.

The City recognizes the importance of regional collaboration in wildfire mitigation efforts and supports continued coordination among local, state and federal agencies, community organizations, emergency management professionals, and residents. We believe this project will serve as an important model for neighborhood-scale resilience strategies in fire-prone areas of California.

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For these reasons, the Malibu City Council fully supports this BRIC funding request and respectfully urges favorable consideration of the application.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Public Safety Director, Susan Duenas, at 310-456-2489 x313.

Sincerely,

Bruce Silverstein, Mayor
City of Malibu

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