



City of Malibu News

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Malibu Announces \$13.7 Million Settlement with Southern California Edison for Woolsey Fire Claims

(MALIBU, CA) – The City of Malibu reached a \$13.7 million settlement with Southern California Edison (SCE) to resolve wildfire claims resulting from the November 2018 Woolsey Fire.

“Malibu experienced one of the worst disasters in the City’s history and suffered millions of dollars in taxpayer losses from the Woolsey Fire,” said Mayor Karen Farrer. “This settlement will help the City continue to provide services to the community and keep moving forward with our recovery.”

Malibu’s settlement is part of a larger \$360 million settlement for a group of 23 public entities, but does not affect the claims of residents, individuals, or businesses affected by the fires.

Damages included lost taxpayer resources such as lost revenues, lost property, increased expenditures and lost community assets such as environmental and recreational resources as well as government infrastructure.

Judge Jay Gandhi (Ret.), a Mediator with JAMS, a private provider of mediation and arbitration services, presided over several days of in-person mediation sessions held in Los Angeles, California. Participants in the mediation process include 23 public entities with various claims from the 2017 Thomas and Koenigstein Fires, the 2018 Montecito Debris Flows, and the 2018 Woolsey Fire.

After multiple days of mediation, Judge Gandhi brokered settlements for a combined total of \$360 million, covering the fires and debris flows. Edison and all 23 public entities accepted the proposals.

Malibu is represented by the City Attorney, Christi Hogin and John Natalizio from Best, Best and Krieger, and by outside counsel, Baron & Budd attorneys Scott Summy, John Fiske, Torri Sherlin, and Stephen Johnston, who represent 45 public entities in wildfire settlements statewide.

This settlement resolves the legal damages asserted by the City of Malibu against SCE and its parent company for damages suffered as a result of the Woolsey Fire, and does not affect the claims of individuals, families, residents, or businesses.

Settlement funds will be paid in December 2019 and the public entities will dismiss their cases against SCE.

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