



City of Malibu News

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Malibu Continues to Help Residents Rebuild After Woolsey Fire, Urges Homeowners to Apply for Fee Waivers for Woolsey Rebuild Projects Before June 30 Deadline

(Malibu, CA) – The City of Malibu urges homeowners to submit applications for rebuild fee waivers before the June 30 deadline as it continues to work to help Malibu residents rebuild homes destroyed in the devastating Woolsey Fire..

“Malibu will never forget the loss and trauma that our community suffered during the Woolsey Fire, the worst natural disaster in our City’s history,” said Mayor Bruce Silverstein. “The City has been committed since day one to helping residents rebuild. I urge anyone who is still struggling to move their rebuild project forward to contact City Hall for one-on-one personal assistance, and to not miss the fee waiver application deadline.”

Rebuilding after the Woolsey Fire has been the Malibu City Council’s top priority since 2019 and it has voted unanimously every year to extend related fee waivers, which now total \$5.7 million.

In 2021, the deadline to apply for fee waivers was extended for another 18 months to June 30, 2023. All required Planning Department applications for a project must be deemed complete by June 30, 2023. All required building permits must be pulled by December 30, 2023. Fees will not be waived after December 30, 2023.

The fee waivers are available for eligible City planning and building permit fees for properties that are being rebuilt as a “like-for-like” or “like-for-like plus 10%” (no more than a 10 percent increase in square footage over the original structure) and which were used as a primary residence by the property owner as of November 8, 2018.

The City continues to do everything possible to help the owners of the approximately 488 homes destroyed in Malibu in the Woolsey Fire to rebuild, and the rebuild effort is still advancing steadily. As of March 13, 2023, 125 single-family homes have been completed; 353 single-family home rebuild projects have been approved by the Planning Department; 55 are in Building Safety Plan Review; and 129 are currently under construction. Out of multifamily homes, 12 have been completed, six have received permits.

“My number one goal has been to help families get back to their homes and to restore their lives,” said Environmental Sustainability Director and Building Official Yolanda Bundy, who leads the Woolsey Fire rebuild effort. “Those rebuilding have had to overcome many obstacles including the pandemic, delayed and higher cost construction materials, and a lack of available quality builders. From both the Thomas Fire and the Woolsey Fire, we have learned the importance of keeping residents informed. And that is what we are trying to do now by reminding people to take advantage of the fee waivers while there is still time.”

Out of the total number of homes lost or damaged in the fire, 72% have gone through the Planning Department process; 52% are fully built or are currently under construction; 13 are in review by the Planning Department; 44 have been approved by the Planning Department but have not yet submitted to Building Safety; 55 are under Building Safety plan review; and approximately 25% of the total 488 properties have taken no action to submit for rebuild.

For more information and resources related to the fee waivers, and instructions on how to submit an application, visit: <https://www.malibucity.org/958/Fee-Waiver-Deadlines>.

To request one-on-one personal assistance with a Woolsey Fire rebuild project, contact the Fire Rebuild Team at ashah@malibucity.org or call 310-456-2489, ext. 385.

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