



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

June 15, 2025

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Hon. Traci Park, Los Angeles City Councilwoman, CD 11
Cynthia Stein, Senior Counselor to Governor Gavin Newsom

Via email to all addressees

Re: Immediate Pacific Palisades Funding Needs

Dear Mayor Bass, Councilwoman Park and Ms. Stein:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) thanks you for the attention and support you have provided for the Palisades community's recovery from the devastating consequences of the Palisades Fire.

As you know, recovery efforts in Pacific Palisades are ongoing, with much more needed to be done. Funding is required for all needs, and we now ask for your help to secure funding for *immediate critical recovery needs*.

Within the last few weeks, due to coverage from the local media, our community became aware that in January 2025, the State of California, via the Budget Act of 2024 (AB 4/the Act), allocated appropriations in the amount of \$2.5B for LA Wildfire Response and Recovery (<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/ABX14/id/3081861>). Those appropriations are currently due to expire on June 30, 2026. The applicable provisions of the Act, sections 90.00 (a) and (b), read as follows:

(a) For the purposes described in subdivision (b), the Director of Finance may augment the appropriation for any department or agency appropriation from any available source of funding, including, but not limited to, the General Fund. Augmentations pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed a total of \$1,500,000,000.

(b) Augmentations pursuant to subdivision (a) are hereby appropriated for use by state departments and entities for uses consistent with the purposes of the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account concerning areas of the state affected by wildfire states of emergency that were declared by the Governor in January 2025. **Those uses include, but are not limited to, emergency protective measures, evacuations**, sheltering for survivors, household hazardous waste removal, **assessment and remediation of post-fire hazards** such as flash flooding and debris flows, **traffic control**, air quality and water and other **environmental testing**, and **other actions to protect health, protect the safety of persons or property, and expedite recovery**. [Emphasis added.]

A January 2025 news release from the Office of the Governor explained:

“The funding [under the Act] will immediately help bolster ongoing emergency response efforts as well as **jumpstart recovery efforts**. . . . The special session legislation – ABx1-4 by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino) and SBx1-3 by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) – **provides funding to expedite firestorm response and recovery efforts**, streamline rebuilding efforts, and help **rebuild fire-damaged school facilities**.” [Emphasis added.]

The news release also quoted Governor Newsom, who stated:

“Thanks to our partners in the legislature, we’re providing over \$2.5 billion in immediate relief – expediting

initial firestorm response and recovery efforts. We're also directing millions of dollars to help local governments speed up building approvals – so folks can rebuild their homes faster. . . . [With this legislation] California is supporting our people **with no strings attached**. Together, we'll rebuild Los Angeles." [Emphasis added.]

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/01/23/governor-newsom-signs-2-5-billion-bipartisan-relief-package-to-help-los-angeles-recover-and-rebuild-faster-from-firestorm/>.

The Act was amended in July 2025 to state, in pertinent part:

“The Director of Finance may also augment any appropriation for the Office of Emergency Services to provide funding to be disbursed **to Los Angeles County or cities within the county for unmet response and recovery needs resulting from damage caused by the Eaton Fire and Palisades Fire** in Los Angeles County in January 2025.” [Emphasis added.]

The PPCC Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the PPCC Board as authorized by PPCC's Bylaws, hereby requests and respectfully urges the City of Los Angeles, Mayor Bass, Councilwoman Park and Governor Newsom to take whatever steps are necessary to secure funding for all "unmet recovery needs" in Pacific Palisades, beginning with the following.

- 1) Emergency repairs to damaged roadways and street substructures in and around Pacific Palisades as previously requested by the City of Los Angeles, in the amount of \$12,500,000.00;
- 2) No fewer than six (6) solar-powered mobile surveillance trailers to assist in deterring crime, including the theft of construction equipment and building materials and for the protection of homes and properties in Pacific Palisades, in the amount of \$133,200.00;
- 3) Vital resources to prepare for the upcoming El Niño conditions, including concrete flood barriers or concrete flood-control blocks, and removal and replacement of all wattles within Pacific Palisades on an as-needed basis (cost not yet determined);
- 4) All additional critical emergency repairs including repair of damaged sidewalks, and repair and replacement of damaged street lighting;
- 5) Vital funding needed for the stabilization of slopes in and around the impacted fire area; and
- 6) Clearance of debris at business properties and/or reimbursement to business property owners.

Please note: given the pending deadline of June 30, 2026, for use of the remaining funds, **time is of the essence**. Thus, we respectfully urge that funding be sought as immediately as possible and not later than June 21, 2026.

If funding for the cost of completing the tasks and projects identified above cannot be secured before June 30, we hereby request and respectfully urge that you take whatever action is necessary to obtain an extension of time for access to such funding. We also respectfully request that Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin commit to petitioning their colleagues on a bipartisan basis to continue access to these funds.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you again for your continued support and advocacy on behalf of Pacific Palisades.

Sincerely,

PPCC Executive Committee (term ending June 30, 2026):

President Sue Kohl, Vice-President Quentin Fleming, Treasurer Jenny Li, Secretary Beth Holden-Garland, Christina Spitz, Elected Representative (At Large), John Padden, Organizational Representative (PRIDE)

Concurrence: PPCC Officers-elect (term beginning July 1, 2026)

President Allison Holdorff Polhill, Vice-President Reza Akef, Treasurer Daphne Gronich, Secretary Caroline Nick

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Pacific Palisades Community Council
Mayor Bass, Councilwoman Park, Cynthia Stein
June 15, 2026

cc's (*via email*):

Hon. Ben Allen, State Senator, District 24

Hon. Jacqui Irwin, Assemblymember, District 42

Victor Reyes-Morelos, Deputy Regional Director, Governor Gavin Newsom

Randall Winston, Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure, Office of Mayor Bass

Marian Ensley, Deputy Director, Recovery & Community Engagement, Office of Mayor Bass

Sarah Flaherty, Legislative Deputy, CD 11

Arus Grigoryan, Palisades Deputy, CD 11