



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

October 26, 2026

Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President, Los Angeles City Council
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair, City Council Budget and Finance Committee (BFC)
Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Hon. Heather Hutt, Hon. Tim McOsler, Hon. Eunisses Hernandez, Members, BFC
Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD 11

Via email to all addressees and submission to City Clerk filing portal

Re: CF 25-0006-S38 / Support for Establishing a Disaster Recovery District (DRD) for Pacific Palisades

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson, BFC Chair Yaroslavsky and Honorable Councilmembers:

Since its founding in 1973, Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been and remains the most broad-based organization in Pacific Palisades – the community that was devastated by the Palisades Fire in January 2025.

Acting on behalf of the PPCC Board, in accordance with PPCC's bylaws, the PPCC Executive Committee respectfully urges the Los Angeles City Council to advance the establishment of a **Disaster Recovery District (DRD)** to support the long-term recovery and rebuilding of Pacific Palisades following the devastating Palisades Fire. PPCC's full position, supported by the overwhelming consensus opinion of the PPCC Board, is set forth in the Position Statement attached below.

The Palisades faces an extraordinary and complex recovery effort. Rebuilding our community requires not only the restoration of homes and businesses, but also the revitalization of our commercial corridors, infrastructure, public spaces, and essential services. We must pursue every available funding mechanism to ensure that recovery is sustainable, comprehensive, and responsive to the needs of our residents, businesses, and property owners.

A DRD represents an important opportunity to direct financing toward disaster recovery and rebuilding. By helping accelerate reconstruction, restore commercial activity, and encourage investment, this mechanism has the potential to benefit both the Palisades community and the City of Los Angeles as a whole.

Importantly, rebuilding Pacific Palisades is also an investment in the City's fiscal recovery. The sooner homes are rebuilt, businesses reopen, and residents return, the sooner the City can begin restoring the property tax, sales tax, and other economic revenues associated with a thriving community. A swift and comprehensive recovery will help restore the City's revenue base while reducing the prolonged economic consequences of a devastated neighborhood. Supporting the Palisades is therefore not simply a local recovery priority; it is an opportunity to strengthen the City's long-term economic health.

We recognize that establishing a DRD requires careful consideration and coordination. However, adopting a Resolution of Intention (ROI) is a necessary first step to advance the process for further consideration. We urge

the City Council to adopt the Resolution of Intention by January 7, 2027, to preserve this opportunity and maintain momentum in the recovery process.

This position is consistent with the recommendations of the Community Recovery Coordinating Council (CRCC) and the Recovery Financing Advisory Task Force, whose work has highlighted the importance of identifying and pursuing viable recovery financing strategies. Moving forward with the ROI would allow the City to further evaluate this mechanism and its potential benefits for our community.

The people of Pacific Palisades have demonstrated extraordinary resilience, determination, and commitment to rebuilding. Our residents, businesses and community organizations are working tirelessly to restore what was lost. They deserve a City that is equally committed to identifying innovative financing solutions, removing barriers to recovery, and helping our community return as quickly as possible.

We respectfully ask the members of the BFC and full City Council to take this important first step and advance the DRD process. **Delaying recovery financing risks delaying the return of residents, the reopening of businesses, and the restoration of the economic activity that benefits the entire City.** The opportunity to secure meaningful recovery resources should not be lost to inaction.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. PPCC looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the City of Los Angeles to rebuild a stronger, more resilient Pacific Palisades—for the benefit of our residents, our businesses, and the City as a whole.

Sincerely,

Pacific Palisades Community Council Executive Committee:

Allison Holdorff Polhill, President; Reza Akef, Vice-President; Daphne Gronich, Treasurer

Caroline Nick, Secretary; Sue Kohl, Chair Emeritus; Chris Spitz (At-large), Elected Representative;

Jim Kirtley (Recreation), Organizational Representative

cc (via email): Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles; Susan Ambrosini, Principal, AECOM

Attachment:

**Position of Pacific Palisades Community Council
on a Disaster Recovery District (DRD) for Pacific Palisades**

Based on the recommendations of the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) Recovery Financing ATF and the Community Recovery Coordinating Council (CRCC), PPCC hereby takes the following position:

- I. Support Formation of a DRD. PPCC supports the City of Los Angeles in establishing a Disaster Recovery District for Pacific Palisades, subject to meaningful community representation, fiscal safeguards, transparency, and accountability.

2. Act Before the Statutory Deadline. PPCC urges the City Council to adopt a Resolution of Intention well in advance of January 7, 2027, preserving the City's ability to form a DRD. Adoption does not obligate the City to complete formation.
3. Insist Upon Community Representation. PPCC requests that any public seats on the governing board be filled by Pacific Palisades residents selected by the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) through a transparent, inclusive, and community-driven process, with final appointments made by the participating legislative entity or entities, as required by law. As the community's established representative body, PPCC should play a central role in identifying and selecting individuals who reflect the diverse interests and needs of Pacific Palisades. Encourage broader community participation and promote accountability through advisory committees, regular public reporting, and a meaningful public engagement process that goes beyond minimum statutory requirements.
4. Develop Community Messaging. PPCC should establish official talking points to effectively demonstrate that the DRD provides financial benefits to both the City of Los Angeles and the Pacific Palisades community.
5. Authorize Broad Recovery Priorities. The DRD should be authorized to fund all eligible uses under applicable law, including the purposes set out in Government Code Section 62313(f) (added by SB 782, 2025).
6. Include Fiscal Safeguards. A DRD investment plan should be recommended with a clearly defined project scope, appropriate funding and time limits, and provisions that commit tax increment revenues only as necessary to complete approved recovery and risk reduction projects and investments and satisfy financial obligations.
7. Require Transparency and Accountability. Mandatory periodic public reporting should be established on revenues, expenditures, funded projects, completion timelines, and measurable recovery outcomes, with opportunities for ongoing community review and input.
8. Require Checks and Balances. A framework of checks and balances should be established that facilitates the two community representatives remaining accountable to the community, with clear expectations for transparency, regular communication, and meaningful community input into their decision-making.
9. Request of AECOM regarding the LTRP: PPCC respectfully requests and demands that AECOM set forth in the LTRP a recommendation that the City take all steps necessary to establish a DRD to address and fund all eligible recovery needs.