



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

October 22, 2026

Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President, Los Angeles City Council
Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Chair, Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD 11
Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

Re: Council File 09-0969-S4 – OPPOSE

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has for 53 years been the most broad-based organization and voice of the Palisades – the community destroyed in the 2025 Palisades Fire.

In 2021, PPCC adopted a position in opposition to an appeals fee increase proposed in CF 09-0969-S3: <https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/PPCC-Letter-re-Appeal-Fee-Increase.pdf>. As explained in our position letter, the then-proposed appeals fees “leave all but the wealthiest of Angelenos with no means to appeal even the most egregious of Land Use decisions.”¹

Now, in 2026, the City is proposing another large increase in appeals fees, from the current \$229 for non-applicants,² to \$1,145 for non-applicants within the noticing/mailing radius (a five-fold increase), and \$2,289 for non-applicants outside the noticing/mailing area (a ten-fold increase) (Option B23 in the CAO report³); recommendation by Planning and Land Use Management Committee, 8/25/25; concurrence by Budget and Finance Committee, 10/6/26).

Consistent with our position taken in 2021, PPCC opposes the proposal to raise non-applicant fees for appeals of land use decisions to the levels now recommended in CF 09-0969-S4, as we believe this increase will prohibit City stakeholders from having meaningful access to City land use procedures.

Thank you for your consideration.

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, Elected Representative (At-large);
Jim Kirtley, Organizational Representative (Recreation)

¹ We note the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils’ opposition to proposed appeals fees hikes in 2021 and again in this CF: https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2009/09-0969-S4_PC_PM_10-20-2026.pdf ; we also note the comments submitted by the Little Tokyo Community Council, in particular, that “cost recovery should not come at the expense of civic participation.” https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2009/09-0969-S4_PC_PM_10-07-2026.pdf.

² <https://zoning.lacity.gov/browse/15>

³ https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2009/09-0969-s4_rpt_cao_3-24-26.pdf