

Building and Safety Division
Ruben Barrera, Director

Code Compliance Division
Doug Leeper, Director

Environmental Health Division
William C. Stratton, Director

Operations Division
Jennifer Orozco, Director

Planning Division
Kimberly L. Prillhart, Director

December 4, 2018

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolutions to Waive Certain Planning, Building & Safety, Environmental Health, and Fire Protection District Fees Related to the Rebuilding of Structures Damaged in the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey Fire Disasters.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Resolution attached as Exhibit 3, and the Board of Directors of the Fire Protection District adopt the Resolution attached as Exhibit 4, to waive certain Planning, Building & Safety, Environmental Health and Fire Protection District fees related to rebuilding structures damaged in the Thomas, Hill, and Woolsey fire disasters.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	General Fund
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on Other Departments:	None



Fee waivers are not eligible for federal or state reimbursements; general fund monies would be required to off-set the expenses. To date, it is estimated that approximately \$21,000 in fees have been waived for rebuilding efforts for the Thomas Fire.

DISCUSSION:

On December 26, 2017, your Boards adopted a number of fee waivers related to the permitting of temporary housing on properties where residential units have been destroyed or significantly damaged. Shortly thereafter, on January 23, 2018 your Boards approved the resolutions (Exhibits 1 and 2) waiving certain Planning, Building & Safety, Environmental Health, and Fire Protection District fees related to rebuilding structures damaged in the Thomas Fire.

On November 9, 2018, the Lieutenant Governor, serving in the capacity of Acting Governor of the State of California, proclaimed a State of Emergency existing in Ventura County due to the Hill and Woolsey Fires. The Board of Supervisors ratified the proclamation of local emergency by the Ventura County Sheriff, acting as the County Director of Emergency Services. Subsequently, a local health emergency was declared by the Ventura County Health Officer and Ventura County Environmental Health Director on November 9, 2018, which the Board of Supervisors also ratified and extended.

Fees related to temporary housing options as well as rebuilding destroyed, or damaged structures were waived for homeowners in the Thomas Fire. The Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO) and Building Code (VCBC) both contemplated the potential for disaster-related loss of structures and therefore include provisions to permit the location of temporary housing on properties where homes were destroyed by the fires. Additionally, on October 30, 2018 the Board of Supervisors approved revisions to the NCZO that allowed for more flexible temporary housing options for those impacted by the fires.

As a result of the recent Hill and Woolsey fires, it is recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the Resolution attached as Exhibit 3 and the Board of Directors of the Fire Protection District adopt the Resolution attached as Exhibit 4 to expand the fee waiver program beyond the Thomas Fire and include Hill and Woolsey fire homeowners with damaged or destroyed residential structures. In addition, the revised Resolution attached as Exhibit 3 includes a correction to the fee amounts associated with the County's Technology Fee and General Plan Surcharge as they relate to these permits. As it is expected that activities associated with these fees would take place early in the recovery phase, it is recommended the Resolutions be in effect until December 31, 2020. This also extends the fee waiver period for Thomas Fire property owners as the rebuilding process can take a few years.

Should unforeseen circumstances dictate the need for an extension, staff can return to your Boards for such action. In addition, if as the recovery phase progresses it is determined that additional fee waivers should be considered, staff can return with further information and recommendations for your Boards' consideration.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, the Public Health Officer, Fire Protection District, and the Auditor-Controller's Office. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Stephens, Resource Management Agency Director, at 654-2661.



CHRIS STEPHENS

Resource Management Agency Director



MARK LORENZEN

Fire Chief

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit 1 - Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura Waiving Certain Planning, Building & Safety and Environmental Health Division Fees Related to Rebuilding of Structures Damaged or Destroyed in the Thomas Fire
- Exhibit 2 - Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Ventura County Fire Protection District Waiving Certain Fees Related to the Rebuilding of Structures Damaged or Destroyed in the Thomas Fire
- Exhibit 3 - Resolution Waiving Certain Planning, Building & Safety and Environmental Health Division Fees Related to the Temporary Dwellings and Rebuilding of Structures Damaged or Destroyed in Natural Disasters
- Exhibit 4 - Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Ventura County Fire Protection District Waiving Certain Fees Related to the Rebuilding of Structures Damaged or Destroyed in Natural Disasters