

PALI RECOVERY COALITION MEETING NOTES:

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

The first meeting of the Pali Recovery Coalition, hosted by Councilmember Park and Steve Soboroff, brought together community leaders to discuss strategies for rebuilding after the recent fires. Key points included streamlining the permitting process, making old building plans easily accessible, and addressing insurance shortfalls to help homeowners rebuild without having to sell. Discussions also covered managing contractors, staging materials locally, and ensuring new construction maintains the authentic character of the Palisades. There was strong emphasis on resilience, such as setting up recovery districts to improve infrastructure like undergrounded utilities and fire-hardened homes, and creating defensible landscaping guidelines with help from the Palisades Forestry Committee.

The group also discussed legislative efforts at the city, county, and state levels to secure funding and infrastructure improvements, including forming disaster recovery districts and reviving Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts (EIFDs). Other ideas included using charitable funds to close rebuilding gaps, setting up community resource centers, and establishing a common communication platform. Future priorities include rebuilding the library and park with support from public and private partners, creating staging areas for building materials, developing modular fire-resistant housing options, and revising local businesses to serve residents and workers. The coalition plans to meet regularly moving forward.

MARCH 4, 2025:

The Palisades Recovery Coalition met again on March 4, 2025, at the Riviera Country Club with Councilwoman Traci Park and over 50 stakeholders to strategize recovery efforts. The group broadly agreed on the need for major logistics planning, proposing leasing lots for worker housing, setting up temporary cement and lumber yards, exploring drone or helicopter delivery of materials, and using county parking lots with shuttles for workers. They supported after-hours material deliveries, updating building codes for fire resilience, and involving insurance companies to define standards for insurable homes. Mapping available land for staging areas and improving traffic flow were also key points, with the City's Lead Engineer and LADOT scheduled for future discussions.

Additional discussions included Councilwoman Park's legislation impacting recovery, such as creating Climate Resilience Districts and linking density bonuses to evacuation safety. Philanthropy groups like Steadfast LA and Department of Angels were invited to aid communication, advisory structuring, funding gaps, and rebuilding public spaces. The Council emphasized the need for State involvement, including the creation of Recovery Districts, addressing insurance gaps, and securing fire-safe construction practices. The next meeting is set for March 18, focusing on logistics, state legislation, and fundraising efforts.

MARCH 18, 2025:

At the March 18 Palisades Recovery Coalition meeting, Army Corps of Engineers officials updated progress on debris removal and rebuilding logistics. The current rate is about 30–35 properties cleared daily, aiming to scale to 1,200 properties per month with 100 crews by June and completion by July. Of 6,500 parcels, about 3,800 have opted into debris removal, with a final Right of Entry (ROE) deadline set for March 31. Traffic coordination remains critical, with LAPD, National Guard, and Caltrans working to streamline hauling routes and checkpoints, aiming to reopen PCH by May 31. Workforce scaling, staging areas, and

extended work hours were discussed to speed rebuilding, alongside addressing trucking capacity, landfill operations, and communication needs for both contractors and residents.

The group emphasized improving communication through block captains, a contractor coordination platform, and a Palisades-specific survey on repopulation plans. Early focus areas include Marquez, Alphabets, La Casas, and Via Bluffs, where destruction was greatest. Key infrastructure concerns include ensuring utilities are ready for early rebuilders and considering a local concrete plant to save costs and speed construction. Other next steps include evaluating extended work hours, securing staging areas, clarifying agency roles, and continuing community outreach to encourage ROE participation and clarify misinformation. The next meeting, scheduled for March 25, will include Mayor Bass, Councilmember Park, and Hagerty.

MARCH 25, 2025:

Thank you to everyone who attended the March 25th Palisades Recovery Coalition meeting with Mayor Bass, TLC Nathaniel Weander, the Hagerty team, Councilwoman Traci Park, and Craig Bullock. While it wasn't a traditional working meeting, it was a powerful conversation that made it clear Palisadians will have a seat at the table in rebuilding efforts. We've made great progress as a grassroots group, and your feedback has been invaluable. Please mark your calendars for April 10th (PPCC meeting) and April 15th (Senator Ben Allen meeting) as we continue advancing our work.

After four months of collaboration, we've drafted a recovery logistics plan focused on speeding up and coordinating rebuilding efforts. Key strategies include establishing local material staging sites, creating temporary workforce housing, enhancing security, managing traffic, and exploring a local concrete plant to control costs and boost sustainability. We've shared the plan with Councilwoman Park's office, and it will soon be presented to the broader community. Thank you all for being part of this incredible, forward-thinking effort to ensure the Palisades rebuilds quickly, safely, and resiliently.