



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: P&D  
Department No.: 053  
For Agenda Of: 12/1/09  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: NA  
Continued Item: NA  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Glenn Russell, Ph.D., Director, P&D 568-2085  
Director Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief, 560-1081  
Contact Info: Dianne Black, Director, Development Services, P&D 568-2086  
**SUBJECT:** Status of Rebuilding Efforts following the Tea and Jesusita Fires

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: NA

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: NA

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: NA

**Recommended Actions:** Receive and file a report on the status of the rebuilding efforts following the Tea and Jesusita Fires.

**Summary Text:**

A year has passed since the Tea Fire and six months since the Jesusita Fire. The purpose of this report is to summarize progress in the rebuilding efforts.

**Background/Discussion:**

**Tea Fire:** The Tea Fire broke out at approximately 5:50 pm on November 13, 2008. Sixty-nine homes in the County's jurisdiction were lost, as well buildings and vegetation at Westmont College, all the structures at the Mount Calvary Monastery, and some communication facilities at Gibraltar Peak. The total number of homes lost as a result of the Tea Fire with inclusion of those in the City of Santa Barbara totaled 220 homes.

As your Board is aware, to assist residents affected by the Tea Fire, the County Executive Officer immediately formed the Tea Fire Recovery Team, which provided a forum for departments to work collaboratively to deliver needed services in a timely and coordinated fashion. The Planning and Development Department also immediately assigned case managers for each affected property to assist the property owners through the rebuilding process. Initial efforts focused on permitting debris clearance and trailers for temporary housing. Since those initial efforts, the case managers have been assisting residents in permitting rebuilding of their homes. The following is a summary of permits issued to date:

141 demolition permits issued/all 81 sites cleaned up  
19 building permits have been issued for residences

- 16 exempt rebuilds
- 3 new land use permits

7 building permits are in plan check review for residences  
2 building permits have been issued for accessory structures  
2 building permits have been issued for repair work  
1 building permit has been issued for an addition to a residence  
1 land use permit is under review for a residence  
1 exemption from land use has been approved, but no building permit has been submitted

The P&D case managers are working with many other property owners that have been delayed by insurance, access, and other personal issues.

Jesusita Fire: On May 5, 2009, during the recovery efforts for the Tea Fire, the Jesusita Fire broke out. Seventy-four homes in the County's jurisdiction were lost, as well buildings and vegetation at the Botanic Garden and a communication building at Gibraltar Peak. The total number of homes lost as a result of the Jesusita Fire with inclusion of those in the City of Santa Barbara totaled 79.

The County Executive Officer formed the Jesusita Fire Recovery Team, modeled after the successful Tea Fire Recovery Team. The Planning and Development Department assigned case managers to assist those residents affected by the Jesusita Fire. Again, initial efforts focused on permitting debris removal and trailers for temporary housing (far fewer trailers were requested by Jesusita Fire residents when compared to Tea Fire residents). Since those initial efforts, the case managers have been assisting residents in permitting rebuilding of their homes. The following is a summary of permits issued to date:

98 demolition permits issued (multiple permits on parcels)  
93 sites cleaned up/14 sites not yet completely cleaned up  
5 building permits issues for residences (all exempt rebuilds)  
2 building permits in plan check for residences  
8 building permits issued for accessory structures  
1 building permit issued for repair work  
1 land use permit under review for a residence  
3 exemptions from land use approved for a residence, but no building permit has been submitted  
1 land use exemption for use of a guest house as the primary residence issued

Case managers continue to work with property owners that are in the process of rebuilding from the Jesusita Fire.

The County hired an independent consultant to serve as Ombudsman for the Tea Fire and later for the Jesusita Fire. This person has worked with people affected by the fires to help solve problems that arise and to help get them back in their homes as soon as possible. In addition to Planning & Development, many other County departments and special districts have been involved in helping those affected by the fires. County Fire, Public Works, Flood Control, and Public Health staff as well as Montecito Fire,

Montecito Sanitary and Montecito Water District staff has done a tremendous amount of work in both communities to address potential flooding, erosion, fire prevention, water service, and septic disposal issues, often working with other agencies including the city of Santa Barbara, Natural Resources Conservation Service and US Forest Service. Many public forums have been held in the last year, including some co-sponsored by the County and Mountain Drive and Mission Canyon Associations, to provide needed information to those affected by the fires. These efforts continue on an as-needed basis as the fire recovery effort continues.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving and filing this report. Fees for P&D permitting cover staff costs associated with the rebuilding efforts. Fees are deferred for all P&D permitting until issuance of building permit.

**Attachments:**

None

**Authored by:**

Dianne Black, Director of Development Services, 568-2086