

# Debris Removal Update & L.A. County MOU - ROE

City Council  
March 3, 2025





# Debris Removal Update

Planning & Community Development Department

## EPA - Phase 1

 **COMPLETE**



## U.S.A.C.E. - Phase 2

Crews remove eligible debris within the structural ash footprint using lined dump trucks to approved landfills.



US Army Corps of Engineers



Trees that are determined dead, or dying by a California licensed arborist will be removed.

## County of Los Angeles - ROE

recovery.lacounty.gov

### RIGHT OF ENTRY FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

As a resident affected by the wildfires, you have two choices for managing debris removal on your property:

- Opt-in to the government-run debris removal program.
- OR**
- Opt-out and manage cleanup without government assistance.

LA County Recovers 

## Pasadena - Local (Opt-Out) PPDR



### Commercial/Non-Residential - Demolition permit for 2025 Disaster

[Apply](#)

Category Name:  
Building Commercial/Non-Residential

Description:  
Apply here for a demolition permit related to the 2025 Disaster. Please call (626) 744-6903 or email [BuildingRecovery@CityofPasadena.net](mailto:BuildingRecovery@CityofPasadena.net) for any questions.

PASADENA



# Debris Removal - Phase 1 Update

Planning & Community Development Department

- Scope of Work: EPA removal of Household Hazardous Materials (HHM), including paint, paint thinners, pool chemicals, oils, pesticides, cleaners, lithium batteries, propane tanks, and other items
- HHM removal commenced on January 27<sup>th</sup>
- Phase 1 completed in Pasadena
  - > 52 deferred properties
  - > USACE will complete Phase 1 for deferred properties



# Debris Removal - Phase 2 Update

## Planning & Community Development Department

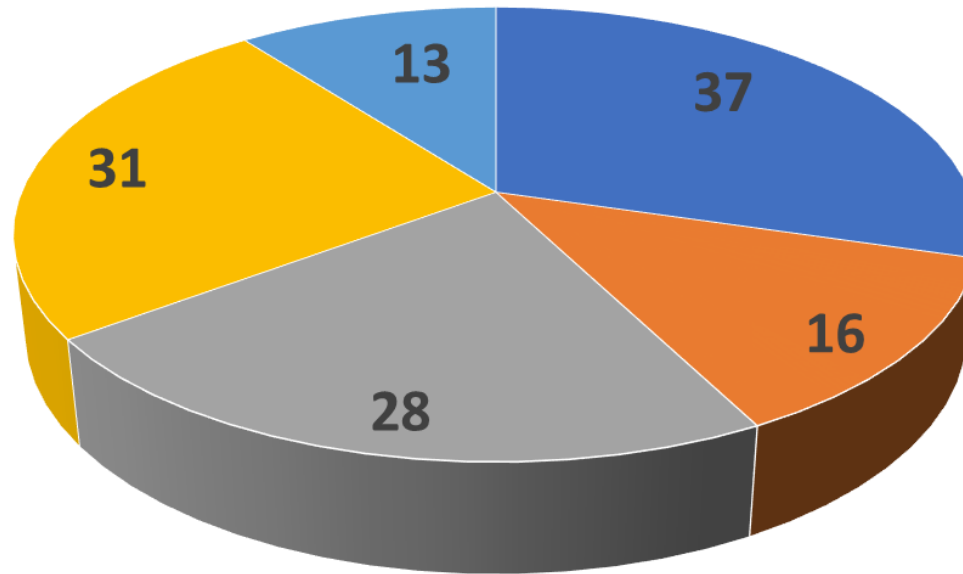
- **Scope of Work: Removal of fire damaged debris, foundations (optional), vehicles, and hazardous trees.**
  - > Not Included: structures less than 120 SF, pools, driveways, planters,
  - > Commercial properties are not eligible
- **ROE applications opened on January 28<sup>th</sup>**
  - > Pasadena: 125 applications received and 37 transmitted to USACE (30%)
  - > County-wide: 9,910 applications received and 2,016 transmitted to the USACE (20%)
- **Phase 2 commenced in Pasadena on February 22<sup>nd</sup>**
  - > Work has commenced in D1 and D4



# Debris Removal - Phase 2 Update

Planning & Community Development Department

## Right of Entry (ROE) Forms Submitted - 125



■ Transmitted to USACE

■ Submitted But Unconfirmed

■ Under Review

■ Received

■ Additional Information Required





# Debris Removal - Phase 2 Update

Planning & Community Development Department





# Local (Opt-Out) Program

## Planning & Community Development Department

- Local (Opt-Out) Program applications opened on February 24th
  - > Deadline to submit the application is March 31<sup>st</sup>
  - > 4 Opt-Out forms have been submitted to the County of Los Angeles
    - County's role is limited to verifying ownership
  - > 1 Opt-Out permit application has been received
  - > Not eligible for federal reimbursement
  - > Requirements generally align with USACE and County of Los Angeles
    - Pasadena is requiring a site plan with a tree inventory
      - » Removal of non-hazardous protected trees requires Tree Removal Permit
    - Designated haul routes



# MOU with Los Angeles County

## Planning & Community Development Department

- USACE required a centralized ROE program designating L.A. County as lead agency
- Phase 2 PPDR requires MOU between the City and the County of Los Angeles
- MOU is for the ROE program administration





# MOU with Los Angeles County

## Planning & Community Development Department

- **City Responsibility: Cost-share with L.A. County for ROE program administration:**
  - Proportional cost-share formula: Total Pasadena opt-in properties divided by total County-wide properties multiplied by the total cost
- **Key County Responsibilities:**
  - > Collect, review and transmit ROEs to USACE on behalf of the cities of Pasadena, Los Angeles, Malibu, Sierra Madre and L.A. County
  - > City and County will work collaboratively on haul routes and hours, construction hours and notifications, watershed protection and environmental protection measures
  - > Facilitation of City meetings with state and federal agencies
  - > City will have access to detailed ROE information



# ROE Outreach

## Planning & Community Development Department

- Webinar held on February 5<sup>th</sup>
- Second webinar scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>
- Additional Outreach:
  - > Verified contact for red-tagged properties
  - > Contact made with all property owners that have not submitted an ROE or opt-out application
  - > Contact made with property owners intending to keep foundations, providing additional information, including guidelines and requirements for foundation reuse
  - > Contact made with properties intending to opt-out
  - > Continuous follow-up



# Staff Recommendation

Planning & Community Development Department

That the City Council:

- Find that the action proposed herein are not a project and otherwise exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378(b)(5), 15269(c), and 15061(b)(3);
- Authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, with the County of Los Angeles for administration of the Right of Entry (ROE) Program required for the Phase 2 Private Property Debris Removal Program; and
- The proposed memorandum of understanding is exempt from competitive bidding, pursuant to City Charter, Section 1002 (H), and Pasadena Municipal Code, Section 4.08.049 (A)(3), contracts with other government entities.

# Debris Removal Update & L.A. County MOU - ROE

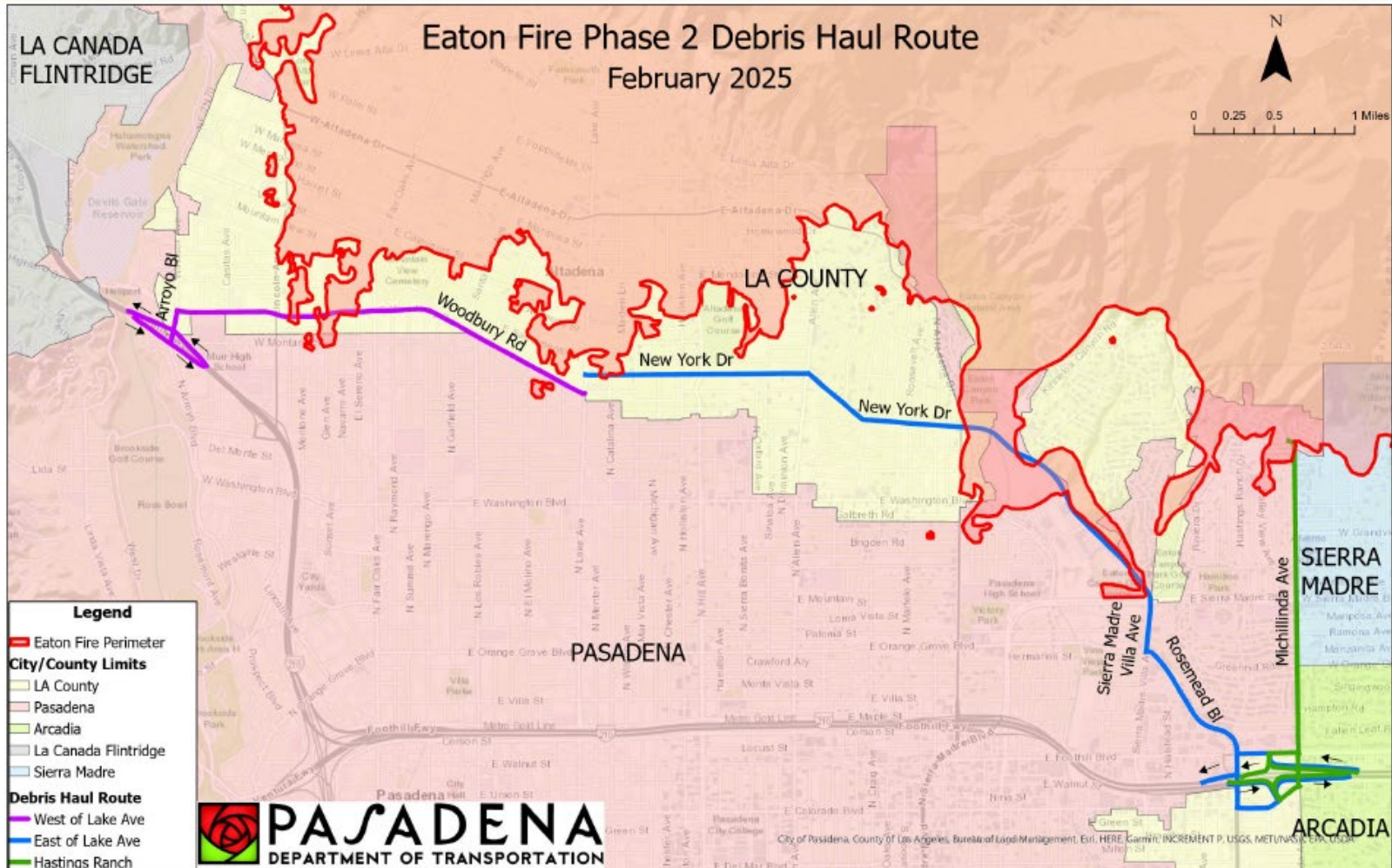
City Council  
March 3, 2025





# Supplemental Information

## Planning & Community Development Department







# Supplemental Information

Planning & Community Development Department

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**WILDFIRES**  
DEBRIS RECOVERY 2025

## HAZARD TREES DEFINED

### HAZARD TREE

Any tree that presents an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety, or improved property; this includes trees that present a risk to the safety of crews performing Household Hazardous Material (HHM) and debris removal.

### INCIDENT-DAMAGED HAZARD TREES

Trees are deemed hazardous and eligible for removal if **all** of the following criteria are met:

- The tree's diameter is 6 inches or greater, measured 4.5 feet above ground level, and
- The tree is a distance less than 1.5 times the tree height from a structure, such as improved infrastructure, a neighboring home; or if the tree presents a hazard to debris removal crews, and
- The tree is dead or will die within 5 years based on an evaluation by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist with Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

#### Note:

- Trees on a parcel that do not meet the criteria above will be left in place.
- Trees **already down** within the ash footprint will be disposed of with the ash/debris.
- Trees that would not hit a structure if they were to fall, **will not** be removed. Hazardous trees that **would** hit a structure if they were to fall **will** be removed.





# Supplemental Information

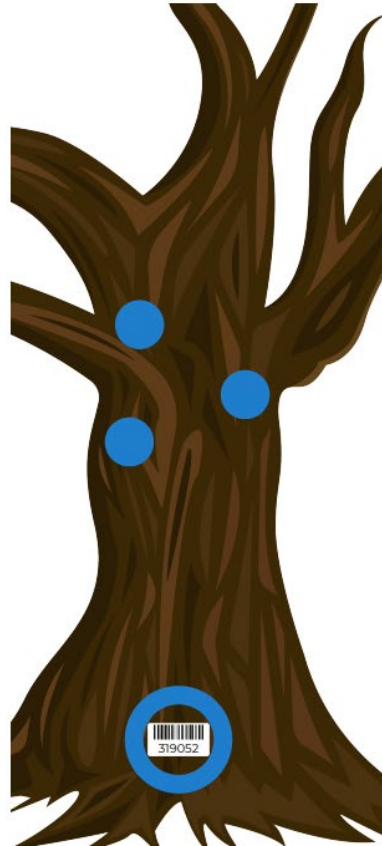
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## Hazardous Tree Markings



Trees that pose an **imminent or immediate hazard** will have a bar tag with unique ID number and barcode, surround by a **blue circle**, placed less than 6" from the ground.



Three **blue dots**, marked about 4.5 feet above the ground, help ensure visibility from multiple angles.

Not all marked trees will be removed. Property owners may submit paperwork to request certain trees remain.



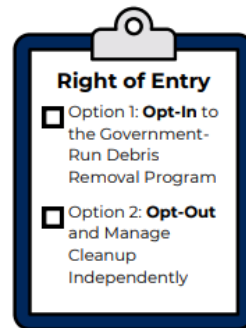
# Supplemental Information

Planning & Community Development Department

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Phase 2

### 1) Enrollment

Sign an Right of Entry form to enroll in the Private Property Debris Removal Program at: [recovery.lacounty.gov](http://recovery.lacounty.gov)



### 3) Erosion Control

Once work is completed and erosion control measures are installed, LA County and you will be notified that the work is complete.



### 2) Debris Removal

Crews remove eligible debris within the structural ash footprint using lined dump trucks to approved landfills.



Trees that are determined dead, or dying by a California licensed arborist will be removed.

Eligible, titled vehicles and vessels will also be removed.







# Supplemental Information

## Planning & Community Development Department

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE  
CITY OF PASADENA REGARDING THE 2025 LOS ANGELES  
WILDFIRES DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM

I. RECITALS

WHEREAS, beginning on January 7, 2025, the County of Los Angeles (County) was impacted by critical fire weather, severe straight-line winds, and catastrophic wildfires (January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events), including the Palisades Fire, Eaton Fire, Hurst Fire, Kenneth Fire, Hughes Fire, and multiple other fires (Critical Fire Areas). These unprecedented simultaneous events caused loss of life, widespread damage, and destruction to residential structures, businesses, public facilities and infrastructure, power outages, downed trees, road closures, rockslides, and significant debris. The Windstorm and Critical Fires Events affected public and private properties in multiple jurisdictions, including the Cities of Malibu, Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre (Cities) and unincorporated County areas (together with the Cities, the Affected Jurisdictions).

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2025, the Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) proclaimed the existence of a local emergency (Proclamation of Local Emergency) in response to the January Windstorm and Critical Fire Events.

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2025, the Governor of the State of California (Governor) proclaimed a state of emergency for the fire and windstorm conditions in the County.

WHEREAS, on January 8, the City Manager of the City of Pasadena (City) declared the existence of a local emergency (Declaration of Local Emergency), pursuant to Chapter 2.370 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, in response to the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events.

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2025, the Governor issued Executive Order (EO) N-2-25, which suspended State environmental statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements to expedite debris removal and other fire recovery activities.

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2025, President Biden declared a major disaster exists in the State of California (State) and ordered federal aid for disaster response and recovery efforts in the County and Critical Fire Areas.

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2025, the County Health Officer issued a Declaration of a Local Health Emergency due to the serious health impacts of the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events in the County.

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2025, the Governor issued EO N-5-25 to coordinate debris removal and mitigate post-fire hazards and directing the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to develop a comprehensive plan for expeditiously removing debris from impacted properties, including the prompt execution of contracts for debris removal services.

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2025, the Pasadena City Council adopted a resolution ratifying the City Manager's Declaration of Local Emergency.



# MOU with Los Angeles County

Planning & Community Development Department

Timeline January 15<sup>th</sup> – City Council opted-in with L.A. County on FEMA Disaster Mitigation Program

- January 16<sup>th</sup> – California OES requested federal assistance to remove debris and hazardous trees from private property
- January 16<sup>th</sup> – USACE arrived and commenced mobilization
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – FEMA issued authorization letter also defining eligibility
- January 18<sup>th</sup> - Task Force meetings commenced
- USACE required a centralized ROE program designating L.A. County as lead agency
- January 28<sup>th</sup> - ROE applications opened county-wide





# Cost Share Example

Planning & Community Development Department

Illustrative example:  $150 \text{ (Pasadena properties)} / 10\text{K} \text{ (County-wide properties)} \times \$10.7\text{M} \text{ (Tetra Tech contract amount)} = \$159\text{K} \text{ cost-share}$