

ORDINANCE NO. 524U

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MALIBU APPROVING ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT NO. 25-001, AN AMENDMENT TO TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE MALIBU MUNICIPAL CODE UPDATING REGULATIONS TO FACILITATE THE REBUILDING OF STRUCTURES DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY NATURAL DISASTERS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE 2025 PALISADES FIRE, 2024 FRANKLIN FIRE, AND 2024 BROAD FIRE TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR THOSE AFFECTED, DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF, AND FINDING THE AMENDMENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The City Council of the City of Malibu does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Findings.

A. On November 6, 2024, the Broad Fire began and destroyed structures on at least 4 properties in Malibu leaving residents with an urgent need to rebuild.

B. On December 9, 2024, the Franklin Fire destroyed structures on at least 38 properties in Malibu leaving residents with an urgent need to rebuild.

C. On January 7, 2025, the Palisades Fire destroyed structures on over 700 properties in Malibu leaving residents with an urgent need to rebuild. The Governor of California has declared the event a State of Emergency and the President of the United States has declared the event a Federal Emergency.

D. On January 27, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-06 to: 1) initiate a Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendment and zoning text amendment to consider changes to the Malibu LCP and Title 17 (Zoning) of the Malibu Municipal Code (MMC) to facilitate the rebuilding of structures damaged or destroyed by the 2025 Palisades Fire, 2024 Franklin Fire, and 2024 Broad Fire and provide relief for those affected by the fires; 2) Bypass the Zoning Ordinance Revisions and Code Enforcement Subcommittee and directed the Planning Commission to schedule a public hearing regarding the same.

E. On February 13, 2025, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-20-25, which suspended requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and California Coastal Act for Palisades Fire rebuilds and related issues.

F. A third of the City of Malibu geographically was impacted by the 2024/2025 wildfires in southern California. In the City alone, over 700 properties have been affected, leaving many property owners and constituents without a place to live and work. The Palisades Fire resulted not only in the loss of property but the loss of lives.

G. The 2018 Woolsey Fire, which affected Malibu and other parts of Los Angeles County, consumed over 96,000 acres and destroyed at least 480 structures in Malibu. The City is still rebuilding properties that were lost in that fire.

H. Current regulations within Malibu regarding the rebuilding of structures that were damaged and destroyed by a natural disaster can be complicated and inefficient and may impede homeowners from getting back into their homes in a timely manner.

I. In an effort to speed up the development process, while still ensuring safety and compliance with the federal, state and local law, the City of Malibu is easing some of the regulations to allow property owners the ability to rebuild their lost structures by 110 percent, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order.

J. The amendments will also allow displaced residents to expeditiously return to their properties as fast as possible via a temporary home. Many residents are underinsured and don't have the financial means to support renting another property.

K. The Malibu City Council finds that this ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of residents living and working within the City and finds urgency to approve this ordinance immediately based on the facts described above and below.

SECTION 2. Amendment.

The City Council hereby amends Title 17 - Zoning in the MMC as follows:

A. Amend Section 17.02.060 related to definitions to include the following:

"Secondary development pad" means a building pad, disturbed area, or development area that is not connected to a primary development pad other than by a driveway or walkway.

"Primary development pad" means the main building pad, disturbed area, or development area which supported the primary building in which the principal use of the lot was situated or conducted, as distinguished from a secondary building pad or development area that is not attached to the main building pad or development area, for purposes of properties that were damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster. For beachfront lots, decks that were attached to the primary building shall be included in the primary development pad if replaced with another deck in the same footprint.

B. Amend Section 17.40.040(A)(18)(a) and (g) and add subsections (i), (j), and (k) to read as follows:

18. Temporary Housing. Temporary housing structures as used herein means mobilehomes, trailers, recreational vehicles or other structures which are self-contained units which include sanitary facilities, and facilities for normal daily routines including cooking and sleeping. Temporary housing structures do not include any structure placed upon a permanent foundation, nor do they include

tents, yurts, or similar fabric or textile installations. Temporary housing structures used as a residence during reconstruction or in anticipation of reconstruction of a residence destroyed due to natural disaster shall be permitted with a temporary housing permit approved by the Planning Director and shall comply with the following conditions:

- a. No more than two temporary housing structures which together total no more than 1,000 square feet shall be permitted.
 - g. Upon expiration of the temporary housing permit, the property owner shall obtain verification from the city that all temporary housing structures have been removed from the property. Failure to obtain this verification shall result in a fine of \$1,000 per day until the verification is obtained.
 - i. The temporary housing structures shall be occupied only by the property owner(s) or tenant(s) living on the property at the date of the natural disaster, or their families. Should this requirement be violated, the temporary housing structures must be immediately removed, the property will no longer be eligible to place temporary housing on the property for a period of 5 years, and the owner shall be subject to a fine of \$1,000 per day. Liens may also be imposed on the property by the City as a means of compliance.
 - j. The siting of temporary housing shall be supported by a limited geotechnical report prepared by appropriately licensed professionals which evaluates the location of the proposed temporary housing with respect to geologic and flood hazards that the specific location(s) may be exposed to during the proposed four-year use of the location. Specifically, the threat of post-fire debris flows and floods as described by the United States Geological Survey and identified by the Watershed Emergency Response Team Assessments. A finding is required that the specific location of the temporary housing is safe for its intended use for the duration of use. The report must be submitted to the City for review and accepted by the Building Official.
 - k. If the temporary housing is supported on anything other than wheels or a trailer which can be readily moved (i.e. a manufactured home), it shall comply with requirements for foundations as noted in Chapter 16, 18 and Appendix G – Flood proof Construction of the current California Building Code and requires a building permit from the City. Temporary housing supported on wheels shall be fastened to the ground.
- C. Amend Section 17.44.090(A)(1), to read as follows:
- 1. The maximum square footage of an ADU shall be 1,000 square feet. The maximum square footage shall include interior and exterior walls, finished and unfinished basements, mezzanines, storage space, and any space with a height clearance (floor to ceiling height dimension) above six feet. The area of a garage (400 square feet

maximum) provided as part of accessory dwelling unit and exterior decks or overhangs that are attached to the structure shall not be included in the 1,000 square foot limit.

D. Amend Section 17.45.150(B), to read as follows:

- B. Prohibition. All properties within a disaster area are temporarily prohibited from obtaining a new or updated primary view determination unless: (1) the request was submitted prior to the date the natural disaster began as declared or proclaimed by the City, State or Federal government, or as determined by the Planning Director if no declaration or proclamation has been made; or (2) the primary view determination would not impose any limitation on replacement landscaping or replacement structures.

E. Amend Section 17.53.090(C)(1)(a),(b),(c), (e), and (f) and add subsections (h), (i), and (j); and amend Section 17.53.090(C)(2), to read as follows:

- a. Palm trees and eucalyptus trees are prohibited.
- b. All vegetation is prohibited between zero and five feet from a structure.
- c. The following species are prohibited within 50 feet of structures: Pine (*Pinus* species), Cypress (*Cupressus* species), Cedar (*Cedrus* species), Ficus (*Ficus* species), and Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).
- e. Existing eucalyptus trees are allowed between five feet and 50 feet of a structure if a qualified expert, as determined by the director, identifies the tree(s) as a monarch butterfly habitat.
- f. The distances for trees and shrubs subject to (b) through (e) shall be measured from the dripline of the tree or shrub at its projected maturity to the outermost projection of the structure including eaves and overhangs. No tree canopy shall be within five feet of the outermost projection of the structure including eaves and overhangs at projected maturity. Smaller diameter tree branches less than two inches must be removed within five feet of the outermost projection of the structure including eaves and overhangs and within 10 feet above the roof.
- h. Only efficiently-irrigated plants and trees as allowed by this chapter shall be allowed between five feet and 30 feet of a structure.
- i. Irrigation shall be required and maintained on the site in all planting areas between five feet and 100 feet of a structure, except in geologic hazard areas in which irrigation may not be allowed. Any proposed irrigation shall be reviewed by the project geotechnical consultant and conform to existing surficial stability standards, not contribute to any geologic hazard, and not adversely affect offsite properties. The consultant shall include a statement regarding the impact of the proposed irrigation system in the required Section 111 statement. The city shall review analyses and findings provided by the project geotechnical consultant and determine whether irrigation is allowed or required in geologic hazard areas. All

vegetation within 100 feet of a structure shall maintain sufficient moisture content and be supported by appropriately designed irrigation.

- j. Plants listed in the City of Malibu 'Invasive Species List' are prohibited.
- 2. Mulch material proposed between zero and five feet from a structure must consist of nonflammable materials, such as gravel and decomposed granite. Flammable mulch material, including shredded bark, pine needles, and artificial turf, are prohibited between zero and five feet of a structure. Use of wood chips and shredded rubber is prohibited anywhere on the site. Non-continuous use of flammable mulch (excluding wood chips and shredded rubber) is allowed between five feet and 30 feet from a structure. Non-continuous mulched areas shall be separated with non-flammable materials such as gravel, rocks, decomposed granite, or stone. The distance shall be measured from the outermost projection of the structure including eaves and overhangs. The maximum application area of mulch located between five feet and 30 feet from a structure is 20 feet by 20 feet with a five-foot separation between application areas. Any mulch materials (excluding wood chips and shredded rubber), are allowed 30 feet or more from a structure with no limitation on application area. Organic mulch shall be maintained with at least a 3 inches depth, but must not exceed 6 inches in depth.

F. Amend Section 17.60.020(C) and add subsection (C)(1), to read as follows:

- C. Any structure, including any structure that was damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster, described in subsection A of this section, may be remodeled, or may be reconstructed in the general location and to the same height as it existed prior to damage or destruction, subject to obtaining planning verification. Structures that were damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster may be permitted, at the discretion of the planning director through approval of a planning verification, to increase the square footage, height or bulk permitted by this title by 10 percent of the existing or previously existing square footage, height or bulk of the structure. Increased height or bulk on non-beachfront properties shall not exceed 18 feet, unless a site plan review is obtained, and increased square footage shall not exceed the limits of Section 17.40.040(A)(13). The application for the reconstruction must be initiated with the city within six years of the date of damage or destruction, and a building permit must be diligently pursued and obtained within eight years from the date of damage or destruction and not become expired. A request for an extension of time past the six-year or eight-year periods may be granted by the planning commission where it finds, based on substantial evidence, that due to unusual circumstances, strict compliance with the six- or eight-year limit creates an undue hardship. Extensions for applications may not total more than three years for a maximum total of nine years from the date of the disaster. Extensions for building permits may not total more than three years for a maximum total of eleven years from the date of the disaster. Any reconstruction shall extend the termination date described in Section 17.60.040 for the use operating within such a structure.

1. Replacement structures on beachfront lots are allowed to meet the minimum increases necessary to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements but shall, to the maximum extent feasible, protect neighboring ocean views. Replacement structures shall seek increases in square footage laterally before they are allowed to increase vertically as viewed by neighboring properties. The height of the structure from the finished floor to the roof may remain the same as existed for the prior structure even if the prior structure was nonconforming in height. No additional height shall be allowed for the replacement structure if it has a nonconforming height. A conforming structure shall not be granted an additional height increase if it creates a nonconforming height.
- G. Delete Section 17.60.020(F).
- H. Amend Section 17.62.030(A), to read as follows:
- A. An administrative plan review shall be required for the following development projects, unless they fall under the provisions for a rebuild development permit as provided in Section 17.62.080. If the project meets the requirements of this title and is consistent with Chapter 17.40, the planning manager/ director shall issue a development permit.
- I. Amend Section 17.62.040(A) and (A)(10); and add subsection (A)(13) and (C)(1), to read as follows:
- A. The planning manager/director may approve a site plan review after consultation with all appropriate city staff and specialists including the building official, city engineer, city biologist, city geologist, city archeologist and city coastal engineer; and where substantial evidence supports the findings set forth in subsection D of this section for new construction or reconstruction of structures authorizing the following:
 10. Sea walls, bulkheads, or any other shoreline protective devices, except for those that meet the requirements for a De Minimis Waiver listed in LIP Section 13.4.11 or rebuild development permit listed in Section 17.62.080 as required;
 13. Non-beachfront development over 18 feet in height on a replacement structure where the previously existing structure was damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster and the replacement structure is not sited substantially in the same location on the affected property as the damaged or destroyed structure, so long as the new location is substantially superior after considering the impact of the relocation on ESHA, visual resources, and safety; with safety being the primary consideration.
 - C. Notice of Application Filing. Within 10 calendar days from the receipt date of a complete application, the planning manager/director shall notify in writing of the filing of the application to property owners and residents of all property within a

500 foot radius of the proposed project, but in no event fewer than the owners and occupants of 10 developed properties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for property in the RR-10 and RR-20 zones the notice radius shall be 1,000 feet. The purpose of the notice is to inform the surrounding property owners and residents of the filing of the application and provide an opportunity for comment on the application prior to the planning manager/director's decision. The notice shall describe the request, provide a map showing the specific location of the property, describe the review process and timeframes, and indicate how to contact the case planner assigned to the application.

1. For development over 18 feet in height where the replacement structure is not proposed to be sited in substantially the same location on the affected property as the damaged or destroyed structure, a notice of application shall be provided to all properties within a 1,000 foot radius of the development.

J. Add Section 17.62.080. Rebuild development permit, to read as follows:

§ 17.62.080. Rebuild development permit.

- A. A rebuild development permit shall be required for the following development projects related to structures being replaced after being damaged or destroyed in a natural disaster. It shall be issued by planning manager/director upon demonstrating by a preponderance of the evidence that all requirements of the municipal code are met, as applicable.
 1. Mechanized equipment or temporary shoring on the beach necessary to construct beachfront properties so long as construction activities do not enter the intertidal zone and in no case shall extend beyond the previously existing primary development pad.
 2. An onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) that replaces or improves an OWTS serving a structure that that was damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster.
 - a. OWTS replacements on a sandy beach or coastal bluff shall be sited the most landward feasible as determined by appropriate city staff, shall not impact existing public accessways, and shall not extend seaward of the previously existing primary development pad.
 - b. OWTS replacements shall be located in the least environmentally impactful area.
 3. New seawalls, as determined necessary by the planning director or building official to protect coastal resources, that protect an OWTS serving a structure that was damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster. New seawalls shall be sited only at the boundary of OWTS that it protects. New seawalls shall not extend into any existing public access easements or public access deed restrictions, excluding any such easements or deed restrictions on the seaward side of the OWTS it protects, and shall not expand further into previously approved public view corridors or further into open space deed restrictions.
 4. Any new structure or improvement (including, but not limited to, foundation systems, utilities, driveways, water tanks, and other water storage devices) that is necessary or recommended to construct, install, or use the replacement structure

described in subsection (A) in compliance with all applicable state and local laws and regulations.

5. Minor improvements to existing driveways or access roads that are required by the fire department after a natural disaster, such as minor changes to the width or grade of driveways or access roads. Accessory structures, such as retaining walls, necessary to accommodate the driveway or access road improvement shall also be allowed, including new cuts on slopes steeper than 3:1 but shall not exceed 1:1 or steeper. Retaining walls shall not exceed six feet in height for any one wall, nor twelve (12) feet for any combination of walls (including required freeboard), and which shall be separated by at least three feet. Improvements shall not extend into a public access easement or public access deed restriction and shall not expand further into a previously approved public view corridor (except for on-grade driveways), or further into open space deed restrictions. Access improvements that do not meet the requirements of this subsection may be processed as an administrative coastal development permit or as a regular coastal development permit as listed in the Malibu LIP.
- B. Application Submittal. An application shall be filed with the planning division and may be part of the planning verification application for replacement structures that were damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster. Applications shall be complete only after all required information is submitted; review by all appropriate city staff and specialists including review by the building official, city engineer, city biologist, city geologist, city archeologist, city coastal engineer and city environmental health specialist, as deemed necessary, is complete; and the application fee determined by resolution of the city council is paid.
- C. Action. The planning manager/director shall approve, deny, or approve with conditions a rebuild development permit within 15 calendar days from the date of a complete application. Complete application determinations shall be determined solely by the City. The City may include incomplete/or nonconforming plans as a basis for an incomplete application in addition to standard application requirements. No decision shall be subject to invalidation on the grounds that it is made after the deadline. The applicant shall be informed of the action by letter and/or approved plans. Action of the planning manager/director shall be final and not appealable.
- D. Expiration. An approved rebuild development permit shall expire three years from the date of final approval, unless a time extension has been granted, or work has commenced and substantial progress made (as determined by the building official) and the work is continuing under a valid building permit. If no building permit is required, the rebuild development permit approval shall expire after three years from the date of final planning approval if construction is not completed. If a rebuild development permit is included within a planning verification application pursuant to Section 17.60.020(C), then the rebuild development permit shall expire when the planning verification expires.

- E. Extension. The planning manager/director may grant up to four one-year extensions of the expiration of a rebuild development permit approval, if the planning manager/director finds, Based on substantial evidence, that due to unusual circumstances, strict compliance with the expiration date of the permit would create an undue hardship for the applicant.

SECTION 3. Environmental Review.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.9, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to activities and approvals by the City as necessary for the preparation and adoption of an LCP amendment. This application is for an amendment to the LCP, which must be certified by the California Coastal Commission (CCC) before it takes effect. LCP Local Implementation Plan (LIP) Section 1.3.1 states that the provisions of the LCP take precedence over any conflict between the LCP and the City's Zoning Ordinance. In order to prevent inconsistency between the LCP and the City's Zoning Ordinance, if the LCPA is approved, the City must also approve the corollary amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. This amendment is necessary for the preparation and adoption of the LCPA and because they are entirely dependent on, related to, and duplicative of the exempt activity, they are subject to the same CEQA exemption.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The Planning Commission determined that there is no possibility the amendment will have a significant effect on the environment and accordingly, the exemption set forth in Section 15061(b)(3) applies. The amendments to the MMC that are not corollary to the LCP can be seen not to have a significant effect on the environment as they merely create permit and fine requirements and allow structures that existed previously to be rebuilt in the same location with substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure that would be replaced, while also further protecting coastal resources and hazard protections.

SECTION 4. Urgency Finding.

The City Council finds and declares that the adoption of this Urgency Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The 2025 Palisades Fire, 2024 Franklin Fire and 2024 Broad Fire destroyed hundreds of properties causing a declaration of emergency from the President of the United States as well as the Governor of California and the City of Malibu. Property owners have been left displaced and many are underinsured or do not have the financial means to be off of their properties for extended periods of time. The Council therefore finds and determines that the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety requires that this Ordinance be enacted as an urgency ordinance pursuant to Government Code section 36937 and take effect immediately upon adoption by four-fifths of the City Council.

SECTION 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by four-fifths of the City Council.

SECTION 6. Severability.

Should any section, subsection, clause, or provision of this Ordinance for any reason be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality or the remaining portions of this Ordinance; it being hereby expressly declared and this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof would have been prepared, proposed, approved, and ratified irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

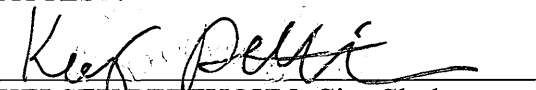
SECTION 7. Certification.

The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance.

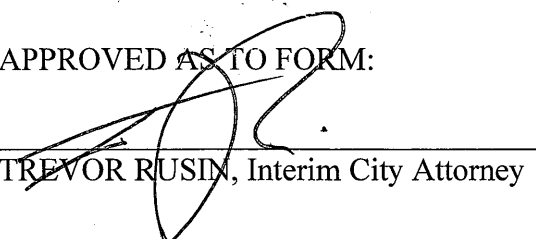
PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 6th day of March 2025.


DOUG STEWART, Mayor

ATTEST:



KELSEY PETTIJOHN, City Clerk
(seal) 3/19/25

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


TREVOR RUSIN, Interim City Attorney

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE NO. 524U was passed and adopted at the Adjourned Special City Council meeting of March 6, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:	4	Councilmembers:	Conrad Uhring, Riggins, Stewart
NOES:	0		
ABSTAIN:	1	Councilmember:	Silverstein
ABSENT:	0		


KELSEY PETTIBOHN, City Clerk
(seal)