



LIFELINES COUNCIL

Meeting 48: December 4, 2025

Agenda

Brian Strong, Office of Resilience and
Capital Planning

Chris Barkley, AECOM

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Agenda Review

10 minutes

2. Lessons from Los Angeles County Wildfire
Recovery: Presentation and Q&A

Luis Ramirez, Los Angeles County
Public Works

50 minutes

3. Updating the Lifelines Restoration Performance
Report

Melissa Higbee, Office of Resilience
and Capital Planning

10 minutes

4. Closing Discussion

5 minutes

Lessons from Los Angeles County Wildfire Recovery

Luis Ramirez, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Public Works

Los Angeles County Public Works

January 2025 Wildfires
Recovery

Prepared By:

Luis Ramirez, Deputy Director

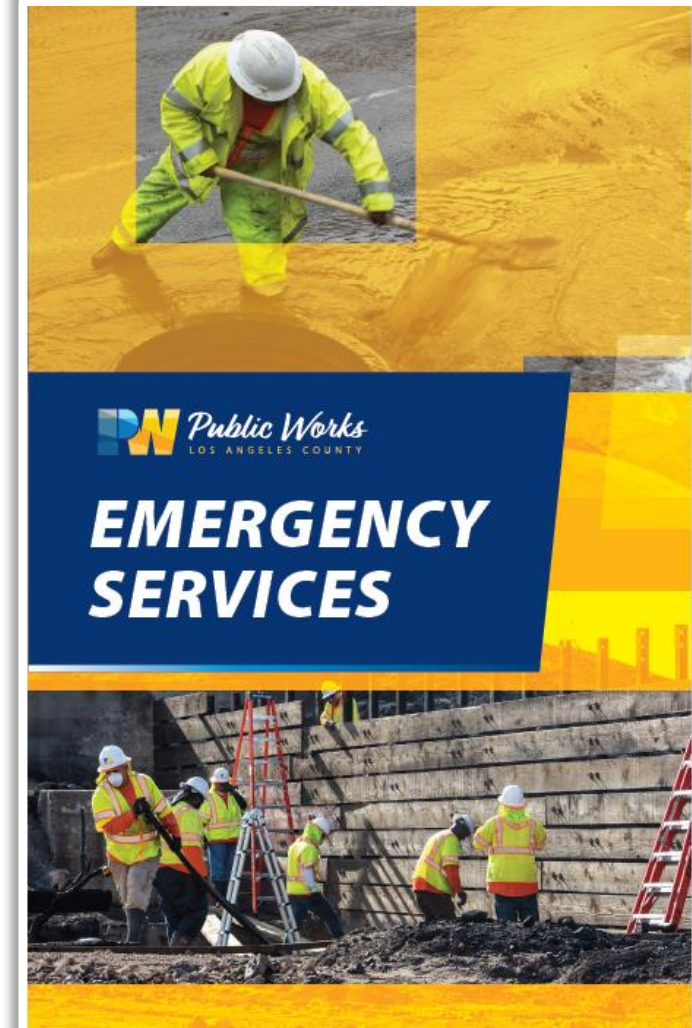
December 4, 2025



Los Angeles County Public Works

Public Works maintains...

- 4,200 miles of roads
- 400 bridges
- 2,000 traffic signals
- 94,000 streetlights
- 3,000 miles of storm drains
- 120,000 catch basins
- 5 Waterworks districts
- 4,500 miles of sanitary sewer lines
- 5 General aviation airports

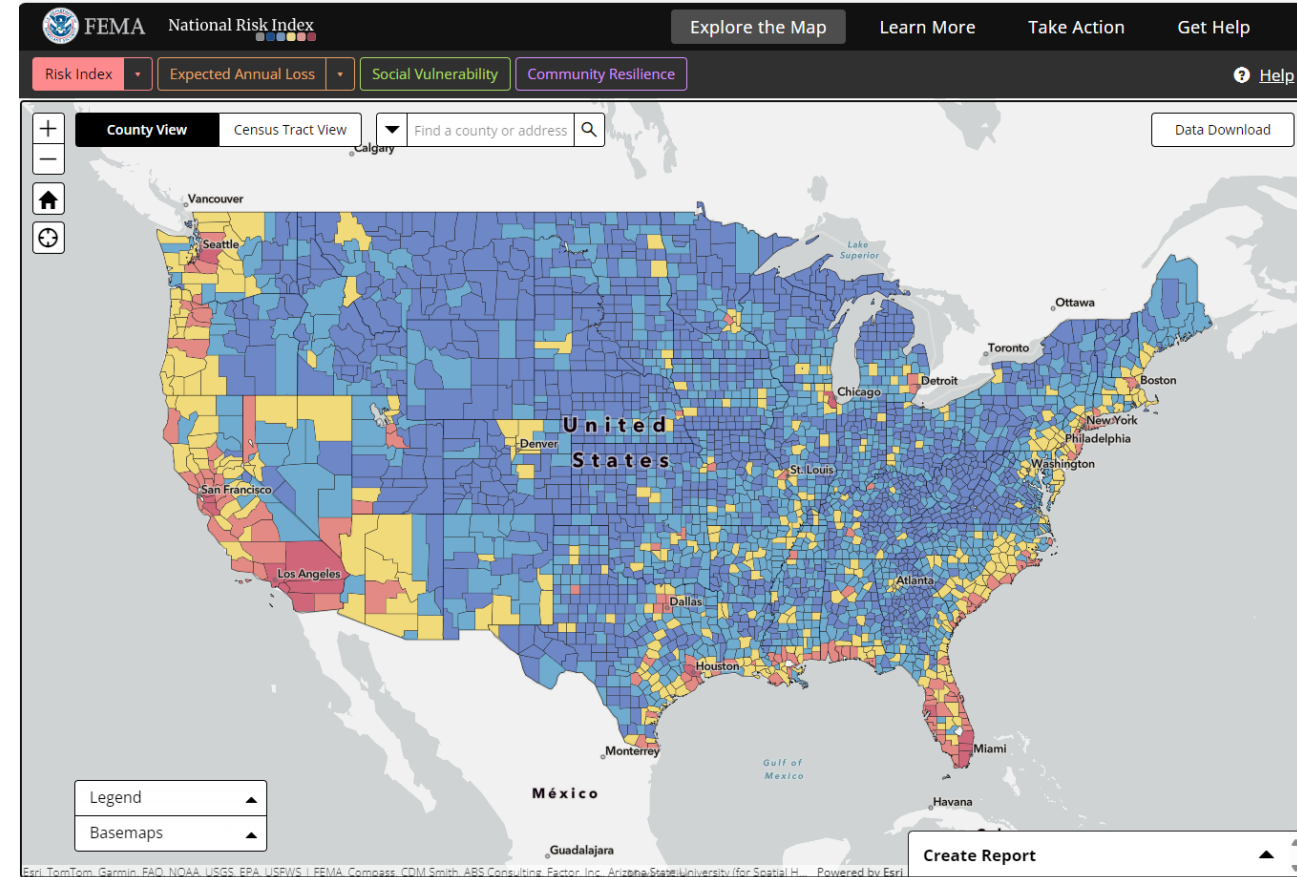


FEMA National Risk Index

<https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

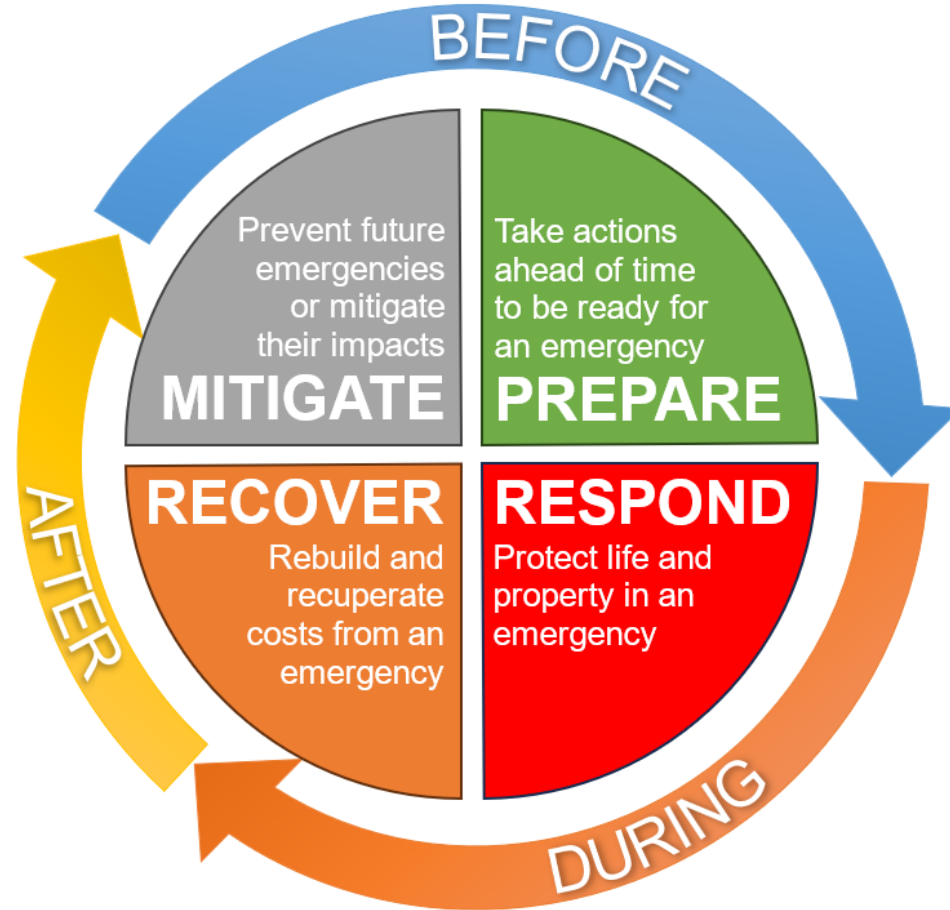
Los Angeles County is ranked #1 most at risk due to:

- Very high risk of catastrophic earthquake damage
- Low community resilience
- High social vulnerability



4 Phases of Emergency Management

1. Prepare
2. Respond
3. Recover
4. Mitigate



January 2025 Eaton and Palisades Fires

- NWS Weather Alert – PDS (Particularly Dangerous Situation)

LIFE-THREATENING & DESTRUCTIVE **WINDSTORM !!!**

Tues afternoon-Weds morning

EXTREME RISK – Take Immediate Action

LOCATIONS OF GREATEST CONCERN

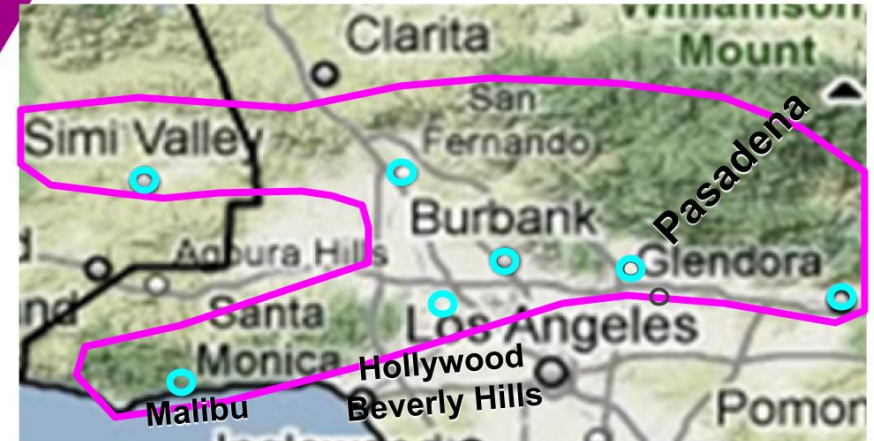
Areas within the magenta-outlined area, including...

*Highways 118/210 corridors, San Gabriel / Santa Susana / Santa Monica Mountains & Foothills;
San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys*

*Stay indoors & away
from windows
*Expect power
outages



*Pasadena, Burbank,
San Fernando, Hollywood,
Beverly Hills, Simi Valley,
Sylmar, Porter Ranch,
Altadena, La Crescenta,
Malibu*



***** Important: Damaging winds also expected
outside of magenta-outlined areas *****



weather.gov/LosAngeles

Weather Forecast Office · Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA

Updated: Monday January 6, 2025 at 10:30 am

Follow:    [nwslosangeles](https://twitter.com/nwslosangeles)

Listen: NOAA Weather Radio for Latest Warnings and Forecasts

January 2025 Eaton and Palisades Fires

- Extended dry spell and flammable vegetation led to Red Flag Warning
- Historic windstorm (100 mph/160 kph gusts)
- **Palisades Fire:** 23,000 acres, ~6,800 homes destroyed
- **Eaton Fire:** 14,000 acres, ~9,400 homes destroyed
- **100,000+ evacuated** across LA County
- Total property damage estimated between **\$28 and \$53.8 billion**
- More than **\$250 billion** in economic losses
- On track to become **one of the costliest natural** disasters in US history



Recovery: Overview

- Immediately set up **Coordinated Joint Information Center (CJIC)** to unify various sources of public information
- Established a regional **Private Property Debris Removal Program**
- Opened **One-Stop Permit Centers** for in-person guidance
- Established **Unified Permit Authority** to coordinate across County departments
- Rolled out various **tools, program, workshops and specific guidance** to help residents rebuild faster and more efficiently
- Creation of **Disaster Recovery Districts**

Debris Removal: Overview

- LA County and city, state and federal agencies, led the **fastest major debris cleanup in American history**
- More than **2.5 million tons of debris** were removed from more than **9,000 properties**
- Achieved roughly **six months faster** than similar disasters of this scale





Altadena after the Eaton Fire - January 23rd, 2025



Altadena after Phase 3 Removal - September 8th, 2025



Malibu after the Palisades Fire - January 14th, 2025



Malibu after the Palisades Fire - July 2nd, 2025

One-Stop Permit Centers

LA County is hosting One-Stop Permit Centers in both the Palisades and Eaton fire burn areas.

- Prepare plans for a rebuild project
- Obtaining entitlements and permits to begin construction
- Schedule building inspections
- Get answers to rebuilding questions



Unified Permitting Authority

- On April 8, 2025, the Board Approved establishing a Unified Permitting Authority for the Altadena One-Stop Recovery Permitting Center
- The Unified Permit Authority established to facilitate resolution of issues amongst permitting departments
- Simplified the application process by creating one unified application for all four permitting departments: County Fire, Public Health, Public Works and Regional Planning
- Applications now internally routed to all County departments for concurrent review, meaning applicants no longer need to follow up with each department

Unified Building Permit





- One application, one permit number, and one workflow for all County Permitting Departments
- The “Swiss Army Knife” of permits – “like-for-like” rebuild projects, “non-like-for-like” rebuild projects, ministerial review, and discretionary review, with a streamlined modification process
- Only seven fees, most of which were reduced after a fee study
- Codified as part of the Eaton Fire Disaster Interim Ordinance, which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on September 2

Pre-Approved Plans Program

- Standard plans are reviewed and pre-approved for compliance with current zoning and building codes
- Offers a more efficient, streamlined rebuilding process with reduced design costs compared to traditional builds
- Designers submit designs for review and inclusion in the standard plan catalogue
- To Date:
 - 68 pre-approved plans in our catalog
 - 6 pre-approved plan utilizations have been issued

STANDARD PLAN CATALOG

FOOTHILLS

Foothill Catalog Foundation	Plan No. 25-03: 1,259 sq ft SFR- 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms – 1-Story	 The Palm
SuperLA	Plan No. 25-04: 1,747 sq ft SFR - 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms - 1-Story	 Home N°1
Complete Package Drafting	Plan No. 25-05: 650 sq ft ADU - 1 bedroom / 1 bathroom - 1-Story	 ADU
Genesis Builders	Plan No. 25-06: 1,250 sq ft SFR - 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms - 1-Story	 R1 - California Bungalow

Pre-Approved Standard Plan Program



Fee Deferrals & Refunds

- Board Motion passed on June 17 to defer and/or refund permit fees for homeowners rebuilding from the fires
- To qualify, projects must be:
 - Fire rebuilds
 - Located in LA County
 - Single-family home or ADU
 - Owner-occupied on or before January 7, 2025
- To date (across all 4 departments):
 - Deferred: \$8,101,576
 - Refunded: \$1,365,840

JUNE 17, 2025

Barger Secures Board Support to Defer, Refund County Permit Fees for LA Wildfire Survivors

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

JUNE 17, 2025

REMOVING THE BURDEN OF COUNTY PERMIT FEES FOR REBUILDING AFTER THE 2025 LA COUNTY FIRES

The Eaton and Palisades Fires of January 2025 (January 2025 Fires) left a staggering human and financial toll in their wake, displacing thousands of families and decimating over 7,400 residential and commercial structures in Los Angeles County's unincorporated areas. For many homeowners, the fires took more than property—they erased decades of stability, disrupted community cohesion, and left in their place an overwhelming burden of grief, uncertainty, and cost.

As property owners begin the process of considering rebuilding, many find themselves significantly underinsured and facing challenges to receive the funds and proceeds from their homeowners insurance policies. Insurance companies are moving at a glacial pace to help impacted homeowners access the funds they have paid for through their premiums for years. As these families struggle to fund their existing relocation and immediate needs, the lack of support from insurance has significantly hampered their ability to get to the starting line for rebuilding.

Self-Certification Program

Who It's For:

- Licensed building industry professionals

What It Does:

- Allows professionals to self-certify that their plans meet building code
- Eliminates the need for full plan check review

How It Works:

- Design professionals enroll online and appear on LA County's registration list. Participants are responsible for code compliance. Other County department approvals still required

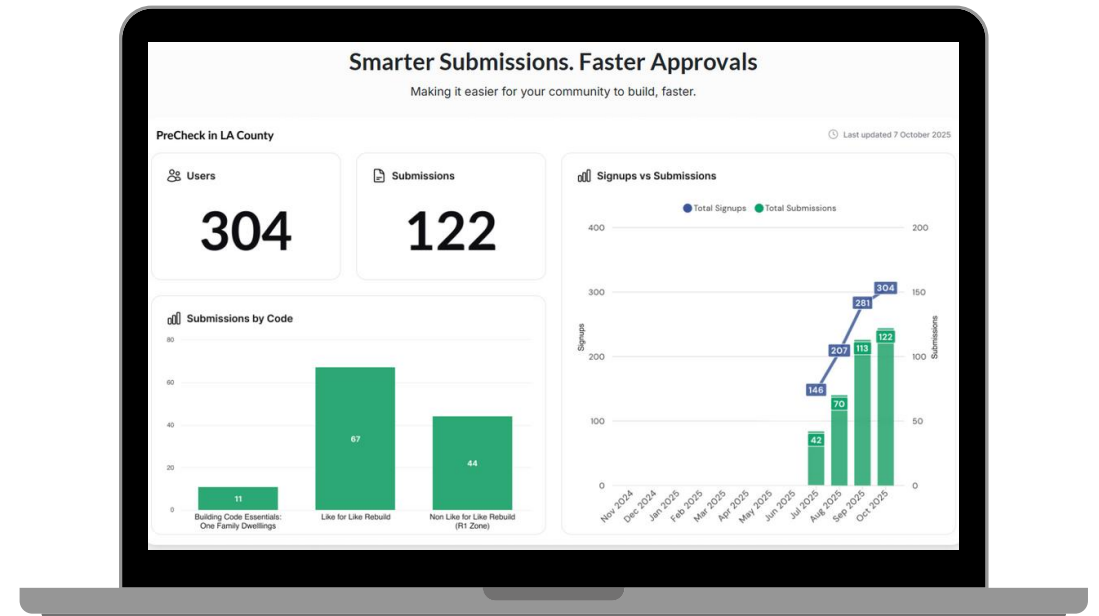
By the Numbers:

- **90** professionals have registered to self-certify and **23 self-certified structures have obtained permits.**



LA County e-Check

- LA County eCheck, powered by Archistar, is a customer-facing web application that reviews building plans before they are submitted.
 - Uses artificial intelligence to check for compliance with the LA County zoning and building codes.
 - Flags potential issues early, reducing errors and unnecessary delays.
 - eCheck is part of our effort to streamline rebuilding across LA County.



echeck.lacounty.gov

Rebuilding and Recovery



Rebuilding and Recovery



First Project Completed



First Residential Rebuild in Altadena completed on November 25, 2025
Certificate of Occupancy issued on December 3, 2025

First Project Completed



First Project Completed



Contact

Luis Ramirez, Architect

Deputy Director

LA County Public Works

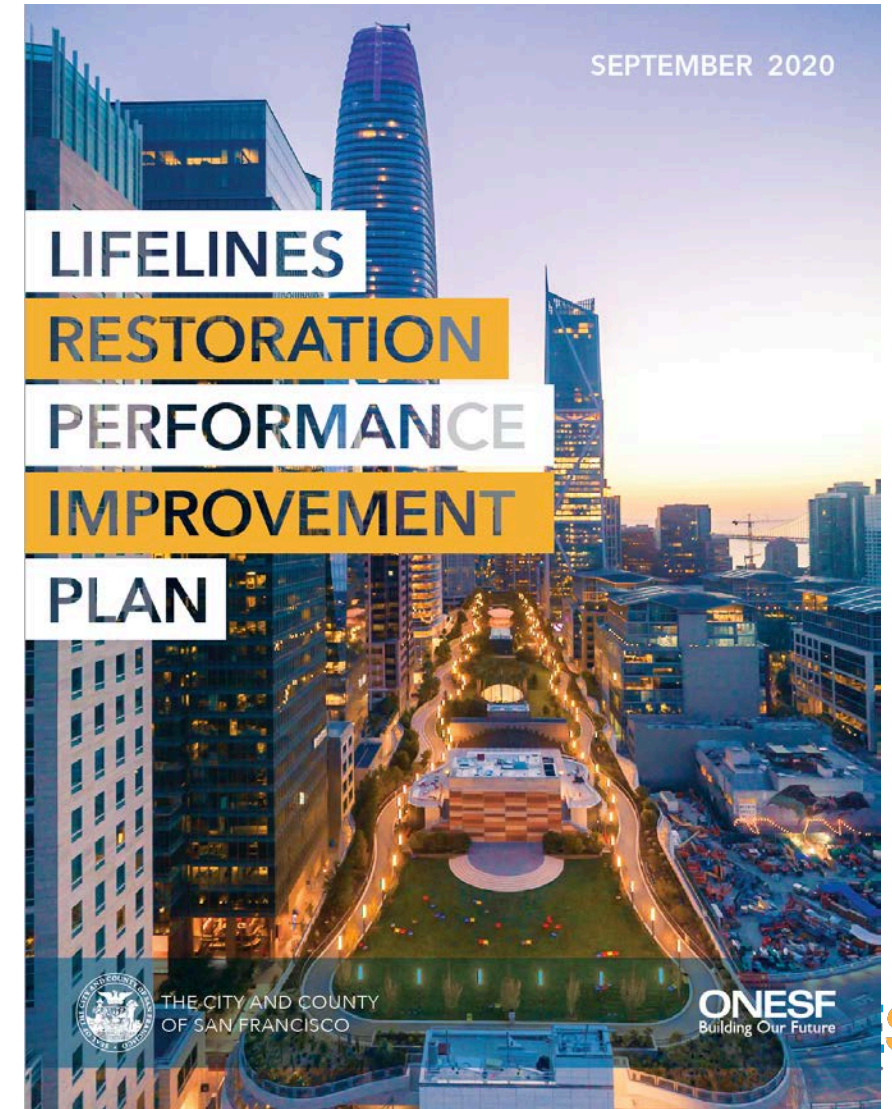
luramire@dpw.lacounty.gov

Updating the Lifelines Restoration Performance Report

Melissa Higbee, Office of Resilience and Capital Planning

Lifelines Restoration Performance Report

- This year we have been updating the Lifelines Restoration Performance Report.
- Report goal: Assess and improve restoration of lifeline services after a large earthquake.
- Scope of update:
 - **Agency Interviews** to understand new/updated information about restoration timelines and assumptions
 - **Meeting** to share out updated restoration goals and timelines
 - **Meeting** to prioritize recommendations
 - **Report Revision** to incorporate updated understanding of restoration timelines, considerations, and high priority follow-up actions



Outcomes from September Meeting to Prioritize Actions

Identified higher priority recommendations

- Cross-Sector: The Lifelines Council should identify cross-sector baseline actions and priorities for the first 72 hours after an event, so agencies can begin making progress while the EOC is ramping up.
- Cross-Sector: The Lifelines Council should conduct a yearly tabletop exercise to identify challenges to restoration and improve coordination between public and private lifelines providers.
- Electric Power: PG&E should develop a clear understanding of the reliance of other lifeline systems on power supply and the implications if these partners lose power.
- Communications: Communication providers should develop agreements to provide emergency mobile wireless to priority locations in the city within a specified time
- Firefighting water: SFPUC should complete studies and analysis, and implement capital projects to improve and expand the Emergency Firefighting Water System (EFWS), emphasizing capital investments in areas of the City with limited access to the EFWS.
- Highways and Local Roads: Public Works should update the city's map of priority debris clearance routes such that DPW staff can get started during first 72 hrs while EOC is ramping up.
- Port: The Port should identify additional resources, partnerships, projects, policies and actions necessary to continue to reduce the risk of seawall failure.
- Solid Waste: Recology and Public Works should identify alternate recycling, organics, trash, and debris processing locations.

Outcomes from September Meeting to Prioritize Actions

Several lower priority actions will be moved to an appendix, based on:

- Agency interviews
- Action completed
- 0 votes from prioritization exercise

Next Steps

- ▷ Please review revised sector chapters and let Melissa know if any revisions, comments, or questions by December 19th.
- Full report draft review period – February 2026
- Report release - Spring 2026

Closing Discussion

Adjourn