

From: [Anne Muth](#)
To: [HWREC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Building Permit Fees in the Almeda Fire Reconstruction Zone
Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:16:09 AM

To the Wildfire Recovery Committee:

I am attaching a letter sent by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) of Old Bridge Village (OBV) PUD in Talent, Oregon, which was sent to the City of Talent interim city manager requesting a reduction of fees for those of us trying to rebuild our homes. Other counties in the State have waived building permit fees and the neighboring town of Phoenix, Oregon has reduced their fees to \$3000 - 5000 range. We are asking the City of Talent to do the same.

Many owners are finding that construction bids are coming in over \$100,000 beyond what their homeowners insurance covers due to the rapidly increasing costs of materials and labor, given that we are all rebuilding at the same time. These fees represent at least 10 - 15% of this overage and includes fees that owners previously paid when they built their homes the first time, most within the last 10 years.

Response from the interim manager in Talent requests that the ARC present its case before the City Council this evening at the same time your committee is meeting. I am forwarding this request at the suggestion of State Representative Pam Marsh for consideration by your committee. The City of Talent is having multiple governing problems at this time due to the aftermath of the fire, the resignation of half of the city council members and the resignation and firing of many city staff. The processing of building permits is taking several weeks due to these difficulties.

Your consideration and support in our rebuilding efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
OLD BRIDGE VILLAGE
TALENT, OREGON

January 21, 2021

Jamie McLeod- Skinner
City Manager (Interim)
City of Talent, OR

RE: Building Permit Fees in the Almeda Fire Impact Zone

Dear Jamie,

The Alameda Fire that burned through our town last September was a devastating event for many Talent residents. All 47 homes in the Old Bridge Village neighborhood were lost along with many pets and personal belongings that are irreplaceable. We know that our neighborhood experience was not unique in the valley. As best as we can, we are picking up the pieces and working toward rebuilding our homes and replacing what we can. In Old Bridge Village, an Architectural Review Committee (ARC) was formed with overwhelming support from land owners in the neighborhood. The ARC is reviewing building plans for consistency with the Covenants, Codes and Restrictions that were established at the inception of the neighborhood in 2004. We have reviewed plans for over 25% of parcels in the neighborhood and are pleased to be able to retain the character and style of the pre-Alameda fire neighborhood. In most cases, homes will be rebuilt using the original building plans.

Since all of these homes have previously been permitted and occupied, we are writing this letter to formally ask you to waive Building Permit fees for homes in Talent that are being rebuilt in the aftermath of the Alameda fire. These Building Permit Fees may include Structural Permit Fees, Plan Review Fees, System Development Charges and Community Development Fees. We have heard from homeowners and builders who are at the city plan review stage that these fees can exceed \$10,000 per home with additional charges for homes with accessory dwelling units. It is our position that these fees have already been paid with the original permitting of our homes and that seeking to collect them again just creates more financial pressure for those who have already experienced great loss.

We recognize that there are real costs associated with plan review and inspection by City staff and we think that is reasonable for the City or recoup those costs. Considering that in most cases plans have already been approved for the same houses within the same footprints, these costs should be minimal.

We know that many of our neighbors outside of Old Bridge Village are in a similar position of trying to rebuild their homes and replace their belongings as cost effectively as possible. So, we are circulating this letter outside of our neighborhood asking others who were affected by the Alameda Fire to join us in asking you to reduce building permit fees for those of us who are rebuilding.

Thank you,
The Old Bridge Village Architectural Review Committee
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Cc: