

As an architect working with 25+ families impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire, I am very aware of the looming 1 year deadline to replace their structures and the limited resources available. There are many properties that will no longer meet current zoning requirements and their land will potentially be deemed unbuildable if they fall outside the 1 year window. I am asking that the state extend the deadline for replacement for RR / CR properties from 1 year to 5 years. If you look at how many families rebuilt after the CA fires, I think you'll understand why 5 years is a much more reasonable number. Many are overwhelmed by the trauma of having lost everything and the rebuilding process is another hurdle. Adding more time will allow for many more families to return home to their property.

Many of the families I am assisting have opted out of the FEMA / State clean up because the current forecast is that clean up may take 18 months, which will push them outside the 1 year replacement window.

For clarification: The deadline is to apply for permit, not have a completed project. However with so many homes impacted and the number of contractors, architects, engineers, etc available, this deadline will impact many. It is also having an impact on decisions being made that may not be the best for the state and their communities, as people who are aware of the deadline are rushing to get something in place and for many that means buying manufactured housing vs rebuilding site built construction. This will have an impact on the tax base for these communities. My greatest concern is that there are many families that will not know about the deadline to rebuild and will end up with unbuildable properties that have been in their families for generations.

Thank-you for listening.

Best,  
Stacia Hood, Architect / CAPS