

CITY OF VENTURA

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# NEWS RELEASE

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501 Poli Street  
Ventura, CA 93001

**For Immediate Release**

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**Strong Thomas Fire recovery efforts in the City of Ventura: first rebuild permit issued**

The City of Ventura has issued the first full-home Thomas Fire rebuild permit to property owners who lost their home in the fire last December. The City of Ventura Community Development Department worked closely with the homeowners and architect to issue a building permit. Approximately twelve (12) residential permits are in the plan check process with more homes are expected to complete the process and receive permits this month.

The Ventura City Council took several steps early on to help residents rebuild homes on fire-damaged properties by instituting a streamlined and expedited approach. After the Thomas Fire, policy changes were made to accelerate the recovery process such as allowing homeowners to maintain their legal nonconforming status and instituting a 14-business day turnaround for permit plan check. To help review rebuilding permits, the City contracted with outside firms to support the workload and ensure Thomas Fire rebuilding applications are given priority.

“We have made rapid progress,” said Mayor Neal Andrews. “It’s been just five months since the Thomas Fire and we will continue to work diligently and support the needs of our residents to reinvest in their properties.”

Additionally, the City established a Thomas Fire Rebuild office to expeditiously serve residents and improve the workflow. “It’s been a tremendous team effort,” said Community Development Director Jeffrey Lambert. “Collaborating with local architects early on and working with departments citywide has been the key to our success.”

In the City of Ventura, the Thomas Fire destroyed 524 homes and damaged approximately 168 homes. Just a handful of properties in Ventura have yet to be cleared of debris and are scheduled to be cleared in the next couple of weeks. In

addition to home rebuild permits, the City of Ventura Community Development Department has issued:

- 291 Repair permits, including water service
- 40+ Zoning Clearances

City staff has held more than 125 one-on-one meetings with homeowners and design professionals.

This release is available on the City of Ventura website at [www.cityofventura.ca.gov](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov).###