

## Requirements for Participation in the Thomas and Woolsey-Hill Fires Expedited Building Permit Process

The expedited building permit plan check process is for all structures damaged by the Thomas and Woolsey-Hill Fires in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County.

1. A complete building permit application must be submitted to the Ventura County Building & Safety Division no later than December 31, 2022 in order to be considered for the expedited plan check process. The initial Building and Safety plan check process will take between 10 to 15 working days (two to three weeks).
2. Previously unpermitted structures and additions do not qualify for this expedited process.
3. To be considered a replacement structure, the proposed structure must match the function of the previous structure and shall have square footage less than or equal to the previous structure.
4. Replacement structures that match the bedrooms, bathrooms and square footage of the previous structure (Permits issued by the Building & Safety Division, Assessor's Office property records, and other official County records may be utilized to demonstrate the size of the replacement structure on a case-by-case basis) do not need to submit a Water Will-Serve letter as long as these structures have documentation from a recognized Water Purveyor that an adequately sized water meter was approved (by the Water Purveyor) and is or will be installed.
  - These replacement water meters are not considered to be a new service connection (as defined in the Ventura County Water Works Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). If an existing water meter needs to be upgraded to meet fire sprinkler requirements, the upgrade of the meter size does not trigger the requirement of a Will-Serve letter. Any increase in the number of bedrooms, bathrooms or square footage will still receive an expedited review but will be treated as a new water connection and will be subject to all of the associated Water Works Manual requirements.
  - For the purposes of fire-flow requirements only, multiple permitted structures can be combined when calculating the total square footage as long as the system provides the minimum fire-flow requirement needed for the new structure.
5. Structures that are supplied by a private domestic well must demonstrate an adequate water supply by submitting a water well pump and recovery test completed in accordance with the Ventura County Water Works Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Supervision of the testing will be done by the Water Resource Division, Public Works Agency.
  - Under certain circumstances, recent previous well test results for water quality can be utilized in order to expedite the review process.
6. All rebuilt structures that require a fire sprinkler system (residential structures) must have that system approved by the Ventura County Fire Protection District.

- The existing fire-flow serving the property may be accepted, even if non-conforming to current codes. Fire flow shall be required in cases where no fire-flow exists.
  - The existing fire apparatus access serving the property may be accepted, even if non-conforming to current access standards.
7. Replacement structures that match the bedrooms, bathrooms and square footage of the previous structure and that utilize an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) will be evaluated by the Environmental Health Department for conformance to code at the time the OWTS was installed.
- Any increase in the number of bedrooms, bathrooms or square footage will still receive an expedited review but the OWTS will be evaluated for conformance to the 2016 Ventura County Building Code requirements.