

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-24-25

WHEREAS on January 7, 2025, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties due to fire and windstorm conditions that caused multiple fires, including the Palisades, Eaton, Hurst, Lidia, Sunset, Woodley, and Hughes Fires; and

WHEREAS these fires devastated communities across the Greater Los Angeles Area and collectively burned over 47,900 acres, destroying or damaging more than 16,250 structures, including homes, small businesses, and places of worship, placing this disaster among the most destructive in California history; and

WHEREAS since the fires began, I have issued numerous Executive Orders to provide relief to impacted communities, protect survivors and to expedite and aid recovery efforts, including orders suspending permitting requirements to enable Los Angeles to build back quickly, and safer and more resilient than before; and

WHEREAS on January 12, 2025, I issued Executive Order N-4-25, which suspended the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and permitting requirements under the California Coastal Act for projects to rebuild properties destroyed or substantially damaged by these fires, subject to certain conditions, in order to avoid procedural delay and costs for such rebuilding efforts; and

WHEREAS on January 16, 2025, I issued Executive Order N-9-25, which extended those suspensions to new accessory dwelling units on impacted properties and accelerated the occupancy of those units, and also suspended regulatory requirements to expedite the establishment of mobilehomes, manufactured homes, and recreational vehicles as temporary housing while rebuilding efforts on impacted properties proceed; and

WHEREAS on February 13, 2025, I issued Executive Order N-20-25, which clarified eligibility for suspensions under prior orders and provided guidance to local governments, and also extended the expiration dates and validity of certain building permits, and suspended state laws and regulations impeding the construction and reconstruction of housing and facilities as part of recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS for electric, gas, water, sewer and telecommunication infrastructure that must be repaired, restored, replaced, or rebuilt, utilities and providers and the communities they serve, can expeditiously upgrade and build back more modern, reliable, and resilient infrastructure to meet the communities' immediate and future needs; and

WHEREAS, to the extent that electric utilities elect to rebuild or move previously existing electric infrastructure underground, that work creates opportunities to more cost effectively upgrade other utility and provider equipment or facilities, such as gas, water, sewer, or telecommunication infrastructure by simultaneously building or moving such infrastructure underground or otherwise repairing, replacing or upgrading such infrastructure; and

WHEREAS my prior suspension of CEQA and the California Coastal Act, as clarified by Executive Order N-20-25, applies to electric, gas, water, sewer and

telecommunication infrastructure that was substantially damaged or destroyed as a result of this emergency, but certain projects, particularly ones that relocate, move underground, or upgrade existing infrastructure may not qualify for that suspension; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these Los Angeles County fires and windstorm conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. With respect to projects to rebuild electric and telecommunication infrastructure substantially damaged or destroyed as a result of this emergency—including the undergrounding, upgrading, and relocation of such infrastructure, if such changes are determined appropriate by the utility or provider—the following are suspended to the extent they would otherwise apply:
 - a. The California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code, commencing with section 21000), and regulations adopted pursuant to that division; and
 - b. Any requirement to obtain a permit under the California Coastal Act (Division 20 of the Public Resources Code, commencing with section 30000).
2. The suspensions described in Paragraph 1 shall also apply to projects to demolish, repair, replace, relocate or upgrade electric or telecommunication infrastructure in areas adjacent to such projects covered by Paragraph 1.
3. The suspensions described in Paragraph 1 shall also apply to other underground electric, gas, water, sewer, or telecommunication infrastructure projects that can be undertaken at the same time as, and in the same excavated site as, projects undertaken under the authority of Paragraphs 1 or 2.
4. Other state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency are hereby suspended to the extent necessary for expediting the projects described in Paragraphs 1-3, subject to the requirements of Paragraphs 5 and 6.
5. Individuals or entities who desire to conduct activities under the suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 4 shall first request that the appropriate Agency Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under the suspension. The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency shall use sound discretion in applying this Order to ensure

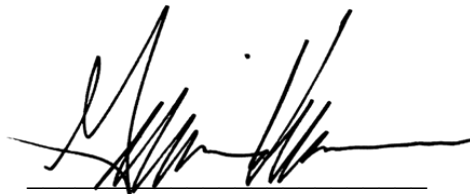
that the suspension serves the purpose of accelerating the projects described in Paragraphs 1-3, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment. Each Agency shall maintain on its website a list of all suspensions approved under this Paragraph.

6. Any activities performed under the suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 4 shall be in accordance with the State Environmental Protection Plan, or a comparable plan describing how such actions will balance expeditious fire recovery and environmental protection.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive, or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 27th day of March 2025.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH. D
Secretary of State