



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
18.	55	Favor	Alexandre Cunha	We, myself and family, would like to stress our strongest support for the county to facilitate issuing permits to rebuild our 100% burned house in Altadena. Also of great interest is the need of flexibility in the non like for like rebuild as changes are needed and we have now the opportunity to build better and stronger. New materials like hempcrete offer the best in class for fire resistance (perfect zero in a 0 to 450 scale, according to ASTM tests), thermal insulation, negative CO2, non toxic, mold and pest resistance, and so on. It is a wonderful natural material that meets the moment and much needed in rebuilding at the urban wildlife interface like Altadena. We urge the county to approve its use and adopt the already established IRC code on hempcrete so we can start rebuilding with it a healthier and fire resistance home. Please help us.
			Ariane Vielmetter	In the original memo notes for the interim ordinance to ease rebuilding rules in Altadena, there had been discussions of waiving the rule that required garages to be physically set back behind the front door of the house. This did not make it into the finalized ordinance as I had hoped. Our house burned to the ground on January 7 in the Eaton fire, and it was a home built in 1947 without any covered parking. We would like to take advantage of like-for-like rebuilding, and to add a garage to our rebuild. Because there is a significant grade shift halfway through our lot and because of the existing setback rules, there is no way for us to add a garage to our plan without putting it in front of our front door. We have tried every possible configuration and cannot get around this fact. Waiving this garage requirement would make a huge difference for us in our rebuild. Without having a workaround, we won't be able to rebuild like for like and would be forced to revert to more costly and time-consuming rebuilding alternatives. I am asking to please reconsider adding the exception to the rule that garages must be behind the front door to the interim ordinance. I know I am not alone with this concern - many of my friends and neighbors who are trying to rebuild or look at prefab options and who have narrow lots are facing the same issue, where they have to rule out designs where the garage is in front of the front door because of current ordinance law.
			Christina Mitchell	Please do away with the garage behind front door requirement! So many residents are struggling with architecture plans due to this restriction. Maintaining the restriction does nothing but hamstring those who wish to rebuild.
			Edward Meyers	This a common sense motion that will help us rebuild and move back to Altadena.



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18.	55	Favor	Felix Landerer	Dear Board of Supervisors, Thank you for considering the proposed building code updates in Altadena. We lost our house and everything in it in the Eaton fire. Updating the codes as proposed will make a HUGE difference in being able to afford to rebuild our lives. Unfortunately, the 'garage-door setback rule' was dropped from these updates. I kindly urge you to reconsider and put it back into these updates: having a garage in the back of properties is wasteful in terms of space, money and environmental aspects (i.e., more sealed land, less space for yards / native plants). Many neighbors we've talked with feel the same: flexibility to have a garage (or carport) in front of the house ('snout garage') is favored among neighbors. Thank you for all your support and helping Altadena to rebuild! Felix Landerer
			Steven S Lamb	First I want to thank Supervisor Barger for her ongoing efforts to make Regional Planning do the right thing and remove barriers to rebuilding. This motion is a good small step. It is unclear however if people will be able to build garages and car ports in front of the front door line. This has been a norm in Altadena since Harwell Hamilton Harris built the Lowe house in 1933 on Punahoe. This house was the first home with a garage in front was immensely influential, it also had the "front door" on the inside side facing away from the street and was the progenitor of most post war housing. We invented that. Regional planning, who know nothing and care nothing about the actual real architectural and cultural history of Altadena seek to take it and all others like it away by imposing universal irvine like standards on Altadena. The community plans were imposed upon Altadena . i know I have been involved in four of them. Each one involved two to three years of community visioning and volunteering only to have the planners at the end of the day say "Too bad you cant have that, this is what you are getting, suck it." There is absolutely no consent of the governed here. There is in fact no notification of the governed as evidenced by the large number of Altadenans I encounter who have no idea that this has been imposed upon their community and their rebuild. Our history is one of freedom and experimentation, of openness to individuality. The Department of Regional Planning and their standards seek to forever destroy the unique highly individual nature of Altadena and our homes and business district. They must be forced to work for us not against us and this is the job of the people who we elect to supervise them. Please continue to force them to do right by us.



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18.	55	Other	Emma Young	I am in favor of these changes, but please return the change to allow front-facing garages that are in front of the house/front door. Many lots in Altadena, including my own, are very narrow, and this flexibility is essential to rebuilding on narrow and unusually-shaped lots. Putting a front-facing garage in the rebuild design allows us to build a more fire-resistant home and garage, increasing setbacks and separation between adjacent structures, and allows for a more fire-resistant yard and landscaping design. It is absolutely possible to create a well-designed and appealing home that includes a front facing garage that is in front of the front door, while maintaining Altadena's character and charm, and providing essential design flexibility to lots with size and layout constraints. With limited funds and a priority for fire-resistant designs, allowing front-facing garages in front of the front door is a huge help that will enable many Altadenas to successfully rebuild a liveable home.
			Laura Wasielewski	Make it easier for homeowners. Make it harder for developers. Please get rid of the ridiculous rule about garage doors having to be on the same plane as the front door. Our home had an attache'd garage. It was in front of the front door, as 99% of traditionally designed homes with attached garages are. We want to rebuild about 300sf bigger to accommodate our family. Every architect who has looked at our proposed footprint/ floor plan has criticized the placement of the garage and front door and we tell them if we don't rebuild like for like then we HAVE to have the front of our house look like this because the county says so. It severely limits traditional design choices and prevents us from using inexpensive premade plans. We have to hire an architect just to try to design a home around all the county's burdensome design standards. It's very stressful and has impeded our progress toward rebuilding.
		Item Total	8	



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55.		Favor	Ariane Vielmetter	In the original memo notes for the interim ordinance to ease rebuilding rules in Altadena, there had been discussions of waiving the rule that required garages to be physically set back behind the front door of the house. This did not make it into the finalized ordinance as I had hoped. Our house burned to the ground on January 7 in the Eaton fire, and it was a home built in 1947 without any covered parking. We would like to take advantage of like-for-like rebuilding, and to add a garage to our rebuild. Because there is a significant grade shift halfway through our lot and because of the existing setback rules, there is no way for us to add a garage to our plan without putting it in front of our front door. We have tried every possible configuration and cannot get around this fact. Waiving this garage requirement would make a huge difference for us in our rebuild. Without having a workaround, we won't be able to rebuild like for like and would be forced to revert to more costly and time-consuming rebuilding alternatives. I am asking to please reconsider adding the exception to the rule that garages must be behind the front door to the interim ordinance. I know I am not alone with this concern - many of my friends and neighbors who are trying to rebuild or look at prefab options and who have narrow lots are facing the same issue, where they have to rule out designs where the garage is in front of the front door because of current ordinance law.
			Claire Phillips	Simplify and allow the process to move swiftly.
			James Saake	I lost a home in the Eaton fire. I'm fully supportive of this Ordinance Amendment. In my like-for-like rebuild, I'd like to increase the slope of the roof slightly.
			Jim Saake	
			Joanne Jordan	I lost my home in the Eaton Fire. I am in favor of relaxing some of the more restrictive zoning requirements in order to make rebuilding easier for Altadena citizens.
			Michael Tuccillo	My name is Michael Tuccillo, and I volunteer as the Neighborhood Captain for Zone 17 in the Altgether Community Organization, connected to over 100 households. I want to express my strong support for the proposed amendment to Title 22. Our community is in the midst of rebuilding after the Eaton Fire, and zoning flexibility is essential to ensure residents can return home without facing unnecessary barriers. These updates are a step in the right direction, balancing safety with the urgent need for recovery. I urge the Board to adopt this amendment so that families can move forward with rebuilding in a fair, timely, and resilient way.

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55.		Other	Chris Lindensmith	I support the amendment but am disappointed that it removes the waiver on garage requirements, particularly with respect to their location relative to front doors. Much of Altadena consists of lots that are not flat and not amenable to hiding garages behind houses. In rubio canyon, for example, many houses were built in the canyon with garages or carports at street level and separated from the houses. Without a waiver on the garage location requirements, getting planning and zoning exemptions to the current rules becomes another barrier (with cost and schedule impacts) to simply restoring housing similar to what we had before. The "like for like" has not been defined well enough to ensure that we won't suffer permitting delays without explicit guidance on allowing original garage and carport locations.
		Item Total	7	
Grand Total			15	