

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2004

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4082
Pager: 1-800-426-8689 #3253
dwert@sbcounty.gov

Board of Supervisors erases rebuilding fees for fire victims

The Board of Supervisors today gave a big boost to San Bernardino County residents whose homes were damaged by last year's wildfires to rebuild by waiving all county rebuilding fees.

The board agreed to two important retroactive changes to the requirements for a building fee permit waiver. Until today, residents who are replacing their homes with larger structures could not receive a waiver. Now, those residents will be eligible for a waiver covering their former square footage.

Also, uninsured or underinsured residents were once required to prove they did not have adequate financial resources to cover their losses. Such proof will no longer be required. No one whose home was damaged or destroyed by the Old or Grand Prix fires will be required to pay county building fees on their original square footage.

"This makes the Board of Supervisors' intent clear – to help the victims of these fires," said Second District Supervisor Paul Biane.

Residents who were denied waivers under the old rules may reapply for waivers under the new rules.

The new rules are designed to facilitate the rebuilding and upgrading of fire-damaged structures, including making the structures more resistant to future fires. The county also hopes to expedite the demolition of damaged structures and the rebuilding of new structures to eliminate blight.