

NEWS • News

SUBSCRIBER ONLY

A post Eaton-fire milestone: First property in Altadena fire zone gets a permit for rebuilding

The nonprofit Habitat for Humanity built the original home that burned down in the fire and submitted like-for-like plans for new home



A 4,058-square-foot lot in Altadena, seen on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, is the first property in the Eaton fire area to have building permits approved. Records show the owners purchased the home from Habitat for Humanity in Nov. 2023 after the nonprofit built the home. (Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)



It is a narrow lot in West Altadena, cleared of debris from a modest house that burned down in the Eaton fire and is now tagged ready for new construction.

The lot, at 2399 North Olive Ave., is the first property to receive permit approval for rebuilding by Los Angeles County authorities among the nearly 7,000 homes destroyed in the devastating fire, the county and other sources confirmed on Wednesday, April 9.

“It is the very first permit-ready property,” said Faith Mellinger, a spokesperson for the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. “It is a milestone.”

The three-bedroom, 1,100-square-foot house, was originally built with the help of Habitat for Humanity and sold at a reduced mortgage to a family who lived there since November 2023 until the Jan. 7 – Jan. 8 fire destroyed the home, Mellinger said.

“It is very exciting,” she said. “It is a testament to what Habitat for Humanity can do for other members of the community as well.”



Leaders and residents celebrate a Habitat for Humanity home in Altadena, back in 2023 (Courtesy, San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity)

The nonprofit resubmitted the old plans for the rebuild to the county at the [One-Stop Permitting Center](#) in Altadena, making it easier for approval since there were no changes, Mellinger said.

[Read More](#)

00:00

02:00

“This particular property was recently built on, so the initial building plans were easy to access,” Mellinger said. “It is a like-for-like approval process.”

- Also see: [Homes are beginning to take shape 3 months after Palisades fire](#)

Habitat for Humanity was issued the permit by the county on Wednesday afternoon, Mellinger confirmed.

The county's pace in issuing permits in the Altadena burn zone drew L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn [Barger's ire on Tuesday](#).

The Board of Supervisors in early March brought a permitting team to Altadena, creating the One-Stop Recovery Permitting Center in an empty building at 464 W. Woodbury Road, Suite 210, in Altadena.

The goal for weeks, voiced by Barger and others, was to cut the red tape to get people building back again, and quickly.

But even with the one-stop shop humming along, the bureaucracy was still winning. By Tuesday morning, no rebuild permits had been issued in Altadena, three months to date after the fire, reported Barger, whose district includes Altadena.

Barger called the situation “unacceptable,” adding the deliberate activity was spoiling the dreams of Altadena residents wanting to rebuild their homes.

“I’ve been keeping a close eye on the county’s one-stop permitting shop and to be candid — I’m not satisfied with the pace,” Barger said Tuesday.

In September 2023, Barger joined SGV Habitat and local leaders to celebrate the home — a lifelong dream for the family of five — on Olive Avenue. The family was the 100th family served by the nonprofit, as part of its “Expanding the American Dream” campaign.

It was touted as a milestone moment in a region where some estimates showed that yearly salary needed to buy a median priced home and comfortably make mortgage payments hovered around \$220,000 in L.A. County.

“The newly issued permit marks another important step towards Altadena’s recovery,” said Barger in an emailed response on Wednesday. “Hope and stability go hand in hand — and we need to keep accelerating this permitting work to the extent possible.”

The county confirmed the permit was issued, said Lisette Guzman, a spokesperson from the county Public Works.

But in the wake of the fire, the lot is surrounded by homes that were destroyed in an Altadena where concern is in the air about developers landbanking in the area — buying up burned parcels for future sales or developing.

The lot directly to the north still has debris and several burned out vehicles on the property. The neighborhood is just east of Lincoln Avenue and south of Figueroa Avenue, where some homes were destroyed but many homes and apartments were intact.

SGV Habitat for Humanity is working on helping 200 other households whose homes were completely destroyed, damaged or just needing repairs, Mellinger said.

“Some people just lost garages. Others want to build an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit built on a single-family lot),” she said. The group targets those in the Eaton fires who are underinsured and need help with figuring out permits and with finances to rebuild.

“We are looking to help 200 households, to help those most vulnerable,” Mellinger said.

Originally Published: April 9, 2025 at 5:56 PM PDT



The Trust Project ▼

Around the Web

REVCONTENT

Here's The Estimated Cost for a 1-day Gutter Guards Installation

LeafFilter Partner

Revealed: The Top Financial Advisors in The US

SmartAsset

1/2 Cup on an Empty Stomach Loses Belly Fat Like Crazy! Try It!

Health Headlines

Doctor Begg Americans With Neck Pain: "Stop Sleeping on These Pillows"

Sleep Digest Publication

Always Wrap Your Car Keys in Aluminium Foil, Here's Why

WG Life Hacks

The \$99 Hearing Aid Making Big Pharma Sweat

Oricle Hearing

This Veteran Tribute Glass is Taking California by Storm

Sherum



The Hummingbird Feeder is Taking California by Storm!

Dotmalls

Top PGA Coach: "This Driver Was Made for Amateurs to Stop Slicing"

Performance Golf

Amazon's Worst Nightmare: People Canceling Prime for This Clever Hack

Online Shopping Tools

Renew Your Passport Online — Here's How

GovPlus

Greta Thunberg's House Shocks The Whole World, The Proof in Pics

Health Triton

Forget Hearing Aids: This Simple Spray Changes Everything

MediLisk

1 Simple Hack to Slash Your Electric Bill (Try Tonight)

Nexo Gadget



Transform Your Favorite Pics into Breathtaking 3D Crystals

ArtPix 3D

She is Married to The Most Handsome Man on Earth

healthtrition

The Truth About Costco's Kirkland Meat Almost No One Knows

learnitwise

Farmer Finds Missing Cow After 8 Months – When He Gets Closer, He's Surprised

Happy in Shape

Experts Say This Drugstore Serum "Removes Wrinkles Like Crazy"

The Skincare Magazine

What to Know About Taltz for Psoriatic Arthritis

GoodRx

No More Costly Repairs! Erase Car Scratches in Minutes

Nexa

Caitlin Clark Steps Out With Her New Partner And Stuns Fans

Vetob

Puppy Refuses to Leave Railway Police Bursts Into Tears When They Discover Why

beachraider

Take a Look Inside Willie Nelson's Repulsive Home

oldmoneystyle

Put a Toilet Paper Roll Under the Toilet Seat at Night if Alone, Here's Why

Life Hacks Garden

Norah O'donnell is Married to This Beauty

Daily Sports Reporter

30+ Coolest Gifts Nobody Would Think of

Trending Gifts

9 Years Ago Most Beautiful Twins. Their Appearance Today Will Shock You

novelodge

You'll Never Guess What Common Item Eliminates Stinky Dog Breath Overnight!

ProDenta

Cruise Ship Encounters Pirates – Watch What The Captain Does Next

Happy in Shape

Dangerous Signs That You Have Tardive Dyskinesia (Take a Peek!)

Tardive Dyskinesia Treatment

What Causes Tardive Dyskinesia? The Real Reason Will Leave You Wide-eyed!

Tardive Dyskinesia

Dumbest Things We Spend Too Much Money on

The Penny Hoarder

5 Ways to Cut Your Most Expensive Bills Without Giving Up Anything

The Penny Hoarder

Arcadia: Modern 2-bed Senior Apartments – Take a Look Inside!

senior living

The Killer of Baldness Has Been Found! (Try This at Home)

Moerie

If Your Dog Follows You Everywhere, Here's What It Means

articlestone

Hidden Camera Reveals Hotel Bedding Dirty Secret

Blissy

If a Cat Bites Their Owner Heres What It Really Means

gloriousa

This Man Lives in a Cardboard House – Take a Look Inside

Tips and Tricks

People Over 45 With Neuropathy Are in for a Big Surprise (It's Genius)

Wellness Gaze Nuero

Endocrinologist: Do This Immediately if You Have High Blood Sugar

Viva Nura

Hair Problems? Not Anymore! Try This California Trick!

Moerie

Master Japanese Joinery–Secret Blueprints Inside

Woodworking

6 Ways to Save Money in 2025

The Penny Hoarder