

March 20, 2019

Robert McCoy
Mayor

Commissioner Dave Jones
Commissioner Michael Kahn
Commissioner Pedro Nava
Commissioner Carla Peterman
Commissioner Michael Wara
Executive Officer Evan Johnson
Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery
Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Public Hearing Venues in Thousand Oaks

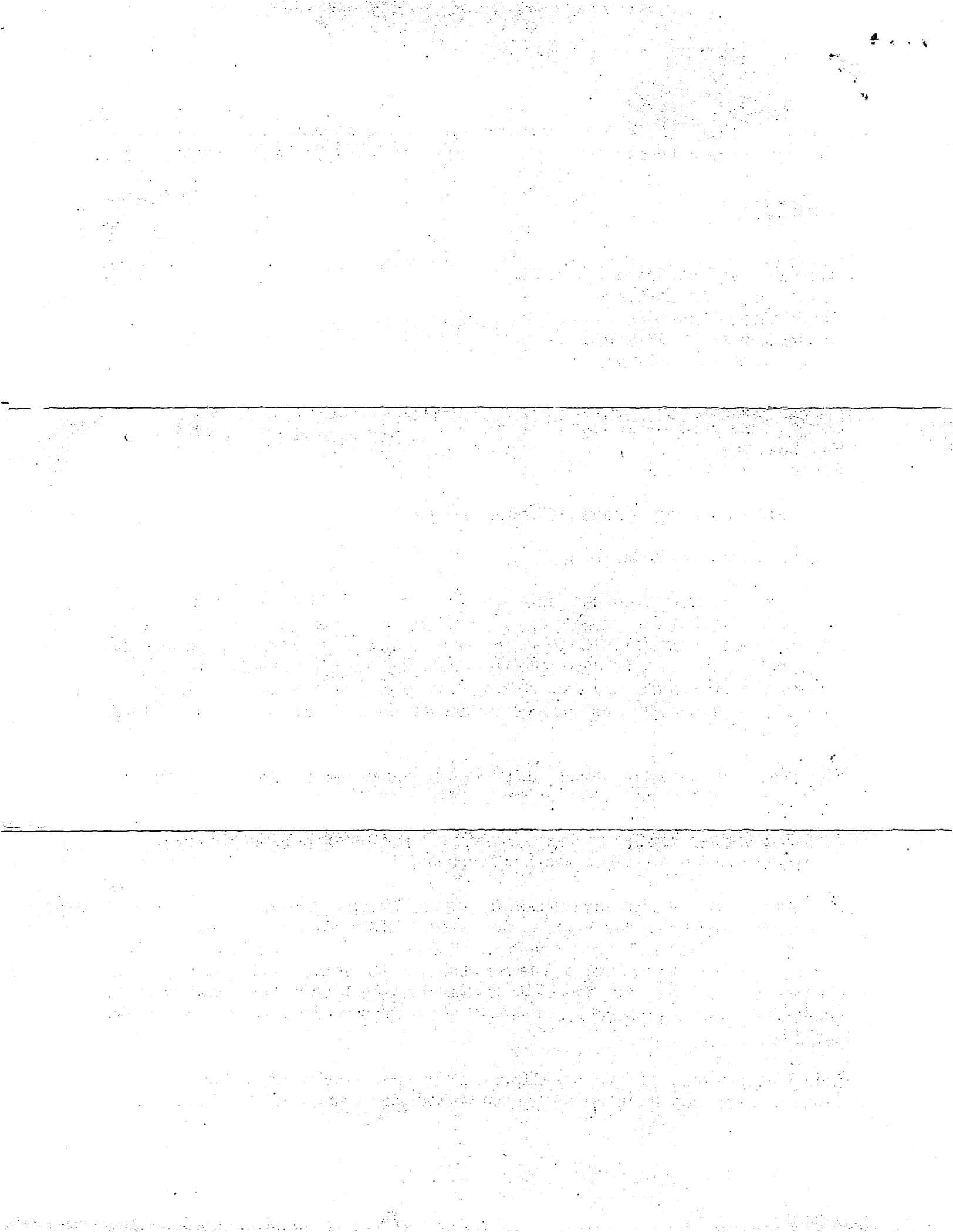
Dear Commissioners & Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for serving on this important commission. The City of Thousand Oaks appreciates the daunting task before you of holding public hearings with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Insurance Commissioner to assess the catastrophic wildfires that have affected California. My understanding is that the assessment will address issues surrounding the wildfires, the reduction of damage, and propose recommendations for changes to State law dealing with liability and cost to all affected parties.

The cities and County of Ventura recently experienced two devastating wildfires. The Thomas Fire in December 2017 burned 281,893 acres (440 square miles) across the cities of Santa Paula, Fillmore, Ventura, and Ojai. Deemed one of the State's most devastating wildfires, this horrific incident destroyed 1,063 structures, led to 23 fatalities, and 94,000 individuals were displaced or evacuated.

In November 2018, the Hill and Woolsey Fires swept through Thousand Oaks in Ventura County and neighboring Los Angeles County cities of Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, and Malibu, burning close to 100,000 acres. In Thousand Oaks alone, two-thirds of the City was evacuated. The fire destroyed 36 residential structures and two commercial buildings. An additional twelve residential structures were deemed uninhabitable and approximately 40 percent of the City's designated open space was scorched.

During the aftermath of the fire, the City held a Town Hall meeting at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza and set up a County Local Assistance Center (LAC) at the City's main



library for residents to obtain assistance from City staff, federal, state and local agencies. The City also designated an area across the street from the LAC for an insurance caravan where insurance companies set up mobile sites to meet with residents and clients impacted by the fires. A few weeks later the City assisted in establishing a FEMA public assistance center at a local mall.

The City Council also approved a Fire Recovery Plan and appropriated \$300,000 to hire contract staff to assist the Community Development Department in the permitting and re-building process. An additional \$250,000 was allocated to the Debris Removal and Mitigation Program. To date, all affected properties in Thousand Oaks have been inspected by the State (Cal-Recycle) and private firms. Debris removal has been completed on 9 properties.

It has come to our attention that the CPUC is considering locations to have four public workshops to seek stakeholder comment and testimony. The City of Thousand Oaks is an excellent location to facilitate these meetings, discussions, and civic engagement, especially by local residents affected by wildfires. The Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza has two venues to choose from: the 1,800 seat Fred Kavli Theater, or the 400 seat Scherr Forum Theatre. Both theaters have disabled access. These facilities are operated as an enterprise fund and will require a rental fee. Ventura County is also in close proximity to Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties which will draw significant participation by those affected by wildfires.

Should there be interest in hosting a CPUC meeting in Thousand Oaks, please refer to <http://civicartsplaza.com/rent-our-space> for technical information and pricing, or contact rental coordinator Marisa Hanke in our Cultural Affairs Department at (805) 449-2706.

The City appreciates your work on this important issue to our State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert McCoy". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Robert McCoy
Mayor