



**Office of the Mayor  
City of Los Angeles**

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

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**Contact: David Beltran**  
**(213) 978-0741**

### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA OUTLINES MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO CLEAN UP FIRE RAVAGED MOBILE HOME PARK**

*The \$1.5 million grant will allow fire victims to rebuild and eliminate safety and health hazard to surrounding community*

**LOS ANGELES** -- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today joined City Councilmember Richard Alarcon and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) officials to discuss a \$1.5 million public assistance grant enabling the City of Los Angeles to remove debris from the Oakridge Mobile Home Park devastated by last year's Sayre Fire.

"When the smoke cleared and the last flame was extinguished, the City of Los Angeles pledged to help the residents of Oakridge rebuild from the devastation left behind," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "Removing the fire debris will not only begin the process of rebuilding, but will eliminate the constant threat lingering in the ashes and loose debris threatening to once again endanger the well being of the surrounding community"

Funded by FEMA and CalEMA, the public assistance grant is allowing the City to remove the fire debris of the 487 destroyed homes and provide fire victims the opportunity to begin the process of rebuilding. Additionally, the clean up will permit residents of the over 100 homes that were undamaged, required repair, were uninhabitable because of access concerns and hazardous debris in the surrounding area—the ability to move back into their homes.

Affecting the surrounding community, the debris removal will also eliminate the public health and safety hazard officially declared by the LA County Department of Public Health. Due to the private ownership of the mobile home park, the California Department of Housing and Community Development and county

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health and safety hazard declarations provided the City the legal framework to assume the lead role in seeing through the debris removal effort in Oakridge.

“We have said from the beginning that the rebuilding process at Oak Ridge will not be a fast one, but with the cooperation and coordination of all levels of government - local, state and federal - we are doing it as quickly, efficiently and safely as possible,” said Councilmember Richard Alarcón. “Not a day goes by when I don’t think about the families and individuals who lost their homes or were displaced because of this disaster, and throughout this entire process I will continue to fight to expedite and bring resources to the process and to help the residents rebuild their lives.”

Of the \$1,698,815 debris removal costs, FEMA will assume \$1,225,275, while California will endure \$306,319 and the City of Los Angeles will bear the remaining \$102,106 in cost.

"I commend the City of Los Angeles for stepping forward and expediting debris removal at Oakridge Mobile Home Park in Sylmar. The City and our office worked together to secure \$1,225,275 from FEMA - 75 percent of the total cost of debris removal. With the support of FEMA and the state of California, we can help residents displaced by the Sayre Fire return to their homes and rebuild sooner," said Congressman Brad Sherman.

“Tom and I knew we had to bring all interested parties to the table, said Federal Coordinating Officer Mark Neveau. It took considerable consensus between the park owners, the city and county of Los Angeles and the state, but together we got it done. We proved that if we work in concert we can accomplish goals and set higher standards for disaster recovery,” said Neveau.

“We all recognize that recovery cannot begin for residents of Oakridge, as long as there is debris on the ground,” said Tom Maruyama CalEMA Statewide Operations Director. “According to local officials, November’s Sayre fire destroyed more homes than any other fire in the history of the City of Los Angeles. Approval of federal and state funding is a significant step toward recovery for Oakridge residents,” said Maruyama.

On November 18, 2008, President George W. Bush issued a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of California, triggering the release of federal funds to help fire victims and affected communities recover from the Southern California Wildfires.

The Sayre Fire, on November 14, 2008 consumed over 11,262 acres (17 square miles) and destroyed 487 of the 608 residences at the Oakridge Mobile Home Park in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. The quick action of the Los Angeles Police and Fire Department prevented any loss of life, as the fire engulfed the mobile home park in a matter of minutes.

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