County of Santa Barbara

Recovery and Rebuilding Process
Planning and Development Department

3rd Annual Santa Barbara/Ventura Market Trends Seminar February 26, 2019

Thomas Fire and Montecito Debris Flow

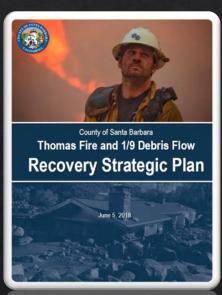


Recovery and Rebuilding Goals

- Main Recovery Objectives
 - ♦ Return residents and open businesses as soon as is safely possible;
 - Support the repair and rebuild of homes, businesses, and residents' livelihoods as soon as possible; and

Develop resiliency throughout the community through disaster preparedness, mitigation and improvements, and social and individual resiliency.





Initial Steps

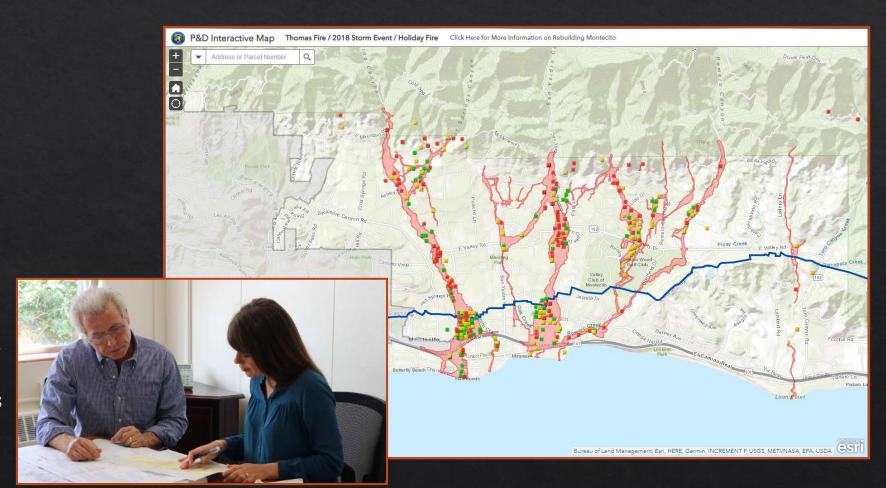
 Inspections of property and assessment of property damage and safety of structures



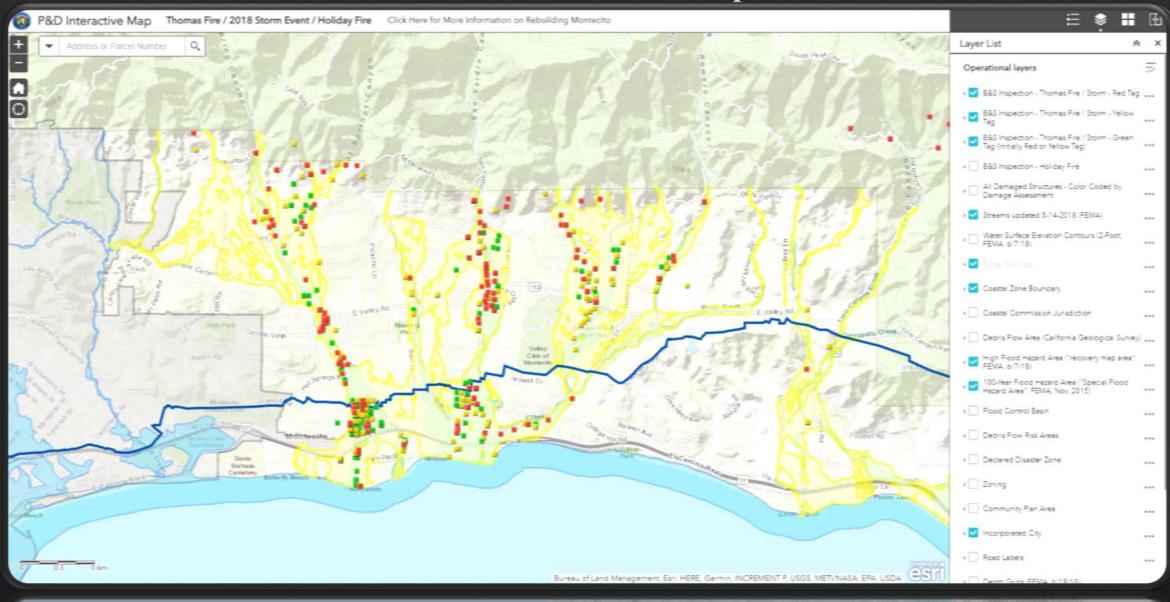


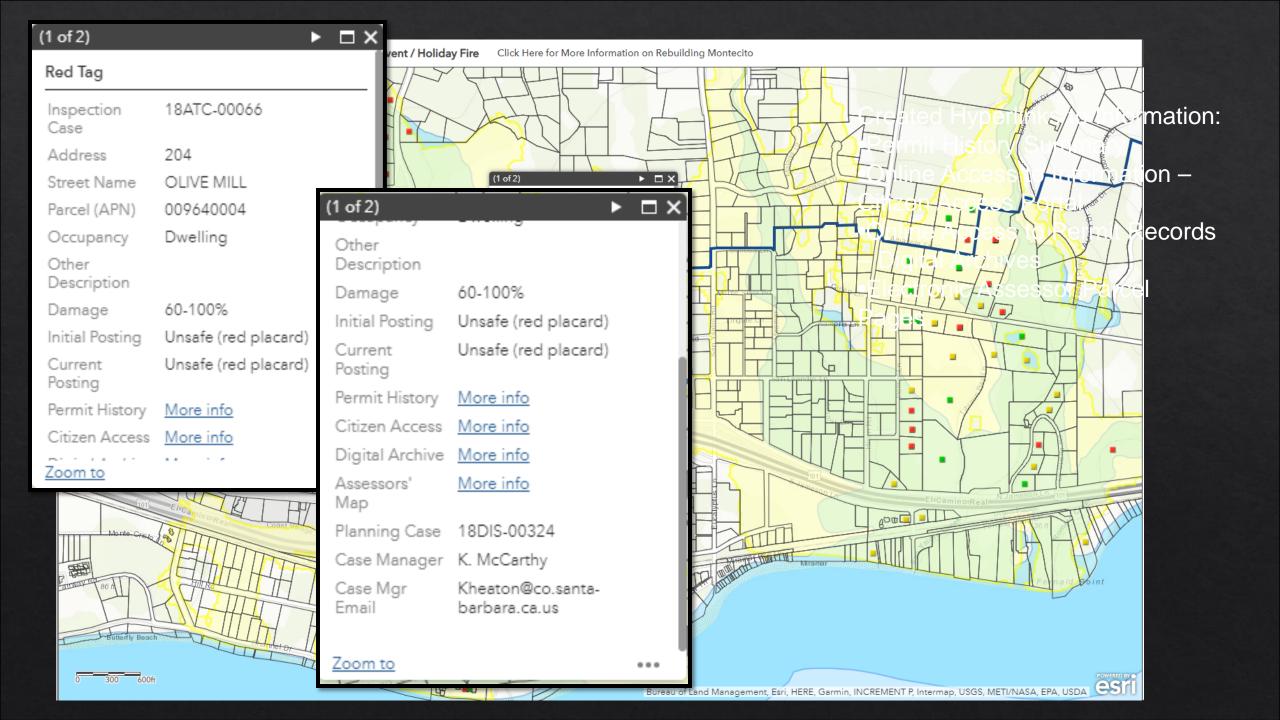
Approach to Rebuilding Efforts

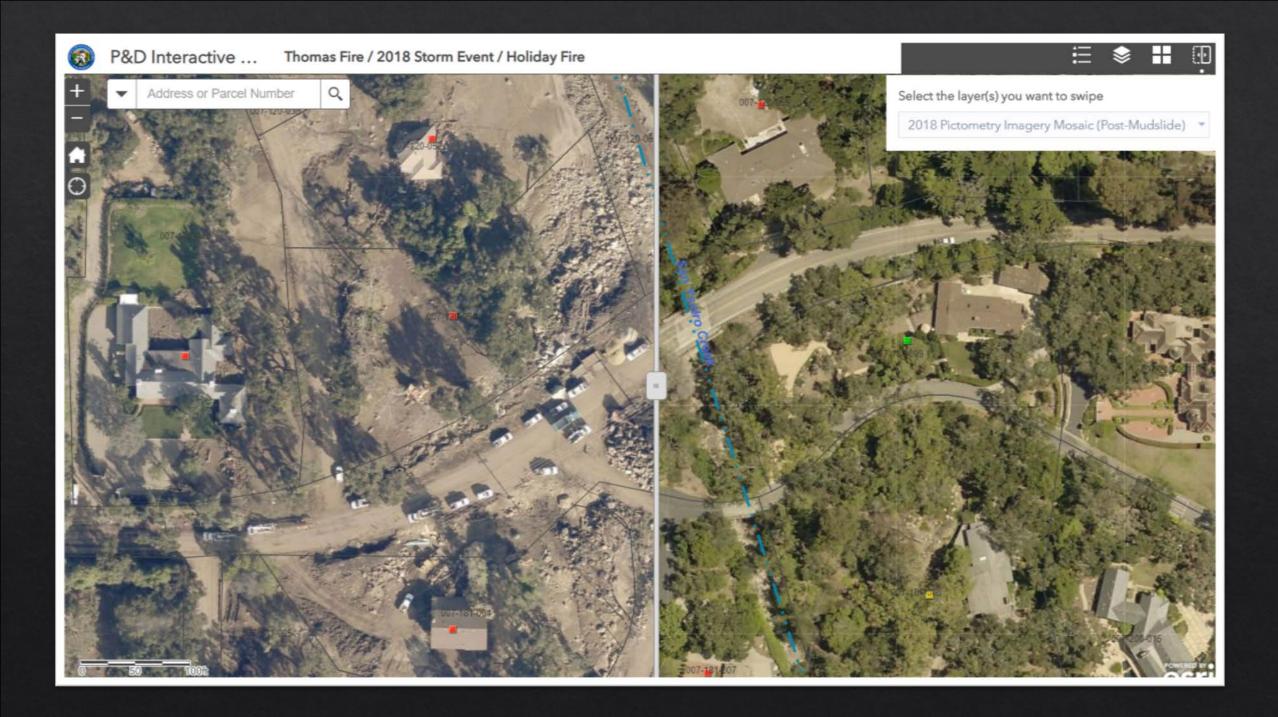
- Assigned Case Managers
- Developed Electronic Case File System
 - ♦ Safety Assessment
 - Citizen Access Portal
 - Permit History
 - Digital Archives
 - ♦ Property Information
 - Digital Parcel Pages
- ♦ Interactive Map
- Coordination with Flood Control
- Expedited permit process



Interactive Map







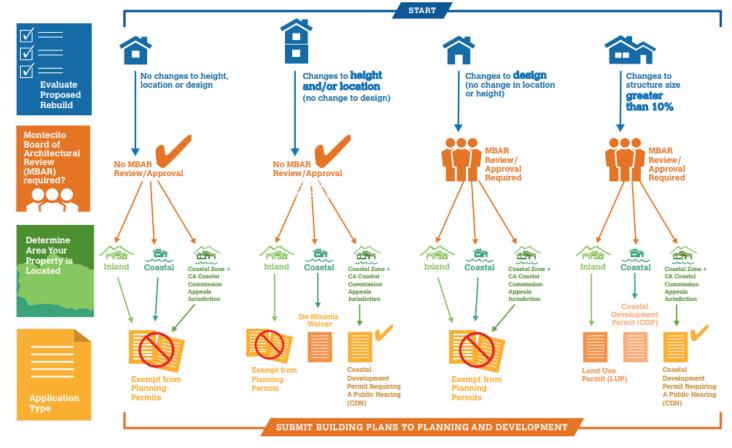
Code and Ordinance Revisions

- ♦ Santa Barbara County "Like for Like" ordinance Processed amendments to address changes in flood hazard and topography
 - Provided exemption from zoning if building is same size, even if the footprint or height changed to address elevation and flood hazard changes; architectural review required for substantial exterior changes.
 - Coastal Commission equivalent (de minimus waiver)
 - Ordinance amendments expedited locally and at the Coastal Commission
- ♦ Updated FEMA Recovery Maps Worked with FEMA to produce recovery maps to guide rebuilding
 - ♦ Encouraged property owners to delay rebuilding decisions until Recovery Maps were available

Permit Process

Permit Process Flow Chart

DISCLAIMER: This flow chart is intended to provide general guidance on the permitting process. If your rebuilding needs are unique or complex, please consult a Planning and Development case manager for assistance.







Timeline

- ♦ 1/9/18: Montecito Debris Flow
- ♦ 5/15/18: Like For Like Ordinance adopted by Board of Supervisors
 - ♦ 4/17/18 Montecito Planning Commission public debate
 - ♦ 4/25/18 County Planning Commission
- ♦ 6/19/18: Interim FEMA Flood Advisory Map available for use
- ♦ 7/11/18: Coastal Commission Action on De Minimis Waiver Process (Like for Like in the Coastal Zone)

Staffing and Resources

- Supporting the rebuilding has to be a priority.
 - ♦ Impacts to routine work assignments difficult to avoid.
- Support was possible with coordination through partnerships and assistance from volunteers.
- Staff support is critical.
 - ♦ Trained to deal with planning and building issues.
 - ♦ Provided training on dealing with people who have experienced trauma.
 - * Support staff in dealing with their own feelings and anxieties following the incident.

Government Finance

- ♦ Significant part of response efforts are reimbursed; recovery isn't, except through grants.
- Financial implications of disaster are substantial.
 - ♦ Loss of sales tax during the fire and debris flow.
 - Loss of transient occupancy tax while hotels are being repaired.
 - Property tax ramifications are longer term while properties are rebuilt.



Progress To Date

- Slow rebuilding process
 - ♦ Insurance funding issues
 - ♦ Information needs to rebuild
 - Indecision about rebuilding in the area





Lessons Learned

- ♦ The demands for data are high and variable.
- We don't set the pace for rebuilding.
 - We can only provide the tools to facilitate rebuilding.
- ♦ It's a long process and need to plan for the long term.
- ♦ Think of ordinance needs upfront.

