



**GOVERNOR
GAVIN NEWSOM**

Los Angeles fires: Go to [CA.gov/LAfires](https://ca.gov/LAfires) for information and resources

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Governor's Press Office: (916) 445-4571

Governor Newsom announces launch of new AI tool to supercharge the approval of building permits and speed recovery from Los Angeles Fires

What you need to know: The state of California is providing LA City and County a new AI-powered e-check software free of charge to speed the pace at which local governments are approving building permits.

LOS ANGELES – Leveraging the power of private sector innovation, Governor Gavin Newsom today announced the launch of a new artificial intelligence-driven software to aid Los Angeles City and County in accelerating the approval

process for rebuilding permits to help communities recover more quickly from the Eaton and Palisades fires.

“The current pace of issuing permits locally is not meeting the magnitude of the challenge we face. To help boost local progress, California is partnering with the tech sector and community leaders to give local governments more tools to rebuild faster and more effectively.”

Governor Gavin Newsom

The software, created by [Archistar](#), will be provided free of charge to the local governments and to users through a partnership between the state and philanthropic partners including [LA Rises](#) and [Steadfast LA](#) with contributions from Autodesk and Amazon.

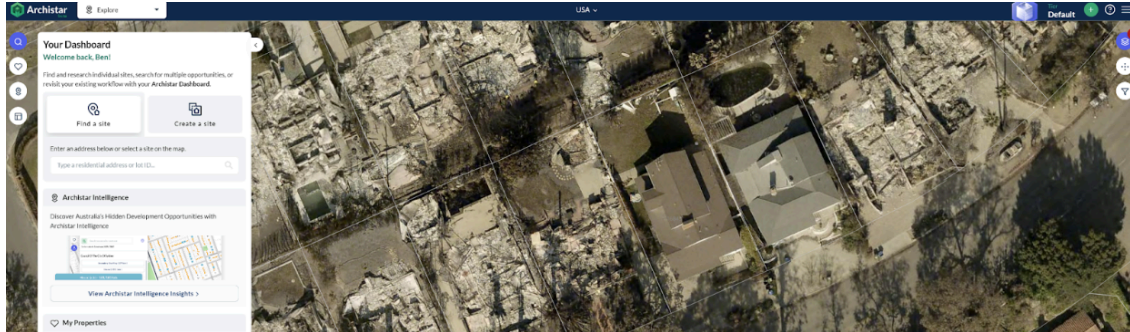
“Bringing AI into permitting will allow us to rebuild faster and safer, reducing costs and turning a process that can take weeks and months into one that can happen in hours or days,” **said Steadfast LA Chairman Rick Caruso.**

“Working with our coalition partner Mike Hopkins and Amazon, I’m proud Steadfast LA identified Archistar as the right company to develop and apply this game-changing technology. Now we can work with great philanthropic organizations, including LA Rises, to provide this critical tool at no cost to taxpayers. We will continue bringing forward new technology and ideas to cut through red tape and expedite this recovery.”

While the state has no direct role in the local permit approval process, Governor Newsom has worked aggressively to cut red tape, remove obstacles, and provide every available resource to local governments so they can fast-track permits and rebuild quickly.

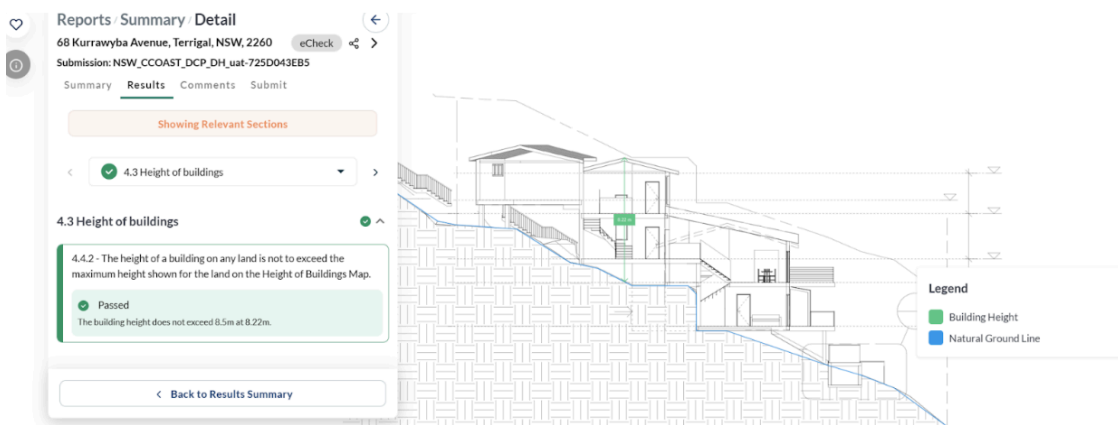
The software uses computer vision, machine learning, and automated rulesets to instantly check designs against local zoning and building codes in the assessment process for building permits. This technology will allow property

owners to pre-check their building plans before submission to ensure they submit valid plans, thus avoiding frustrating delays and expediting the review process once received by city or county staff.



Once fully implemented by local leaders, this e-check tool will improve efficiency, accuracy, transparency, and speed of the rebuilding process from the Eaton and Palisades fire while also improving the experience for disaster survivors.

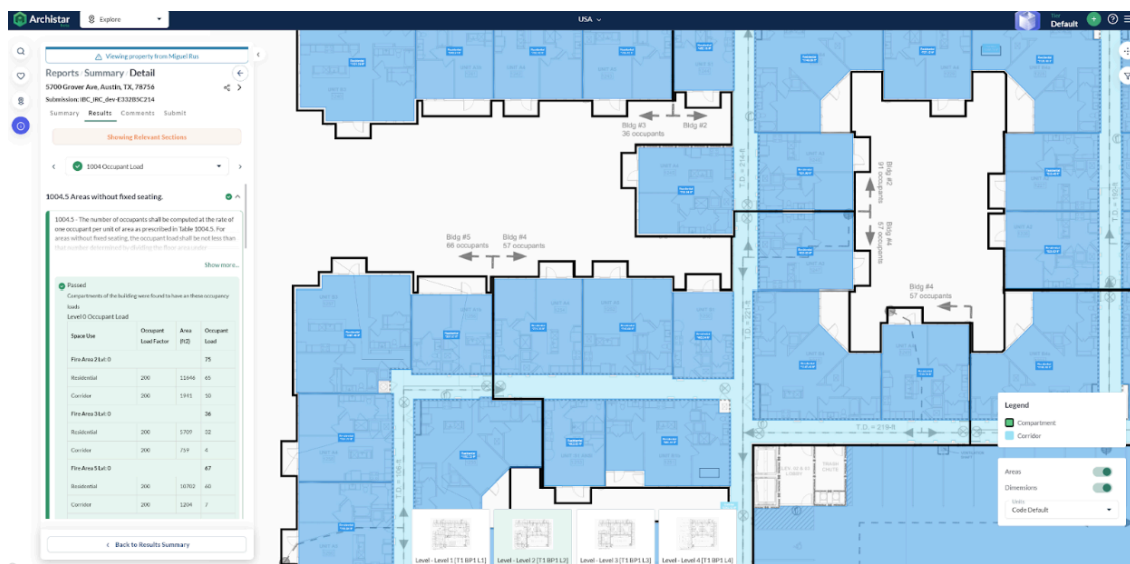
"Getting residents home quickly and safely is my top priority," **said Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.** "Last week, I signed an Executive Directive to spearhead an AI pilot program to streamline the permitting process for Palisades residents. With the announcement of this AI solution, we're infusing new technologies into City Hall processes to ensure nothing stands in the way of families getting home – and to keep our recovery effort on track to be the fastest in modern California history. I thank Governor Newsom and our County partners for their collaboration on this exciting effort."



The County of Los Angeles has also committed to using the software and passed a [Board Resolution](#) to establish a unified permitting authority for the Altadena one-stop recovery center.

“I’m excited to see Los Angeles County embrace innovative technology like Archistar to accelerate the rebuilding process in Altadena and neighboring communities recovering from the Eaton Fire,” **said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger**. “This AI tool has the potential to save homeowners valuable time by helping them submit code-compliant plans from the start. I appreciate Governor Newsom’s stewardship of this opportunity and SoCal Grantmakers for their fiduciary support. Their help—along with collaboration from our County’s permitting departments—helped make this opportunity possible. Our collective work will help ensure we’re delivering real, efficient solutions to those working hard to rebuild their lives. Our wildfire survivors deserve nothing less.”

“Together, government and philanthropy are standing with our community to ensure a safe, swift, and lasting recovery from the Palisades and Eaton Fires,” **said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath**. “With new AI-powered tools and LA County’s One-Stop Permitting Centers, we’re cutting red tape to help residents rebuild and return home sooner. I’m grateful to Governor Newsom, Steadfast LA, and LA Rises for their investment in our recovery.”



The technology is already being used by more than 25 forward-looking municipalities across the United States, Canada, and Australia, including cities like Vancouver, Austin, Houston and Seattle as well as states like Colorado,

British Columbia (Canada) and New South Wales (Australia). In addition to providing the software free of charge in Los Angeles, the tool is now available on a statewide contract that any local government can now access quickly to streamline their own plan review process.

Today's announcement is part of a broader effort to cut red tape and harness innovation in the LA fire recovery process.

Cutting red tape

Governor Newsom issued an executive order to [streamline the rebuilding of homes and businesses](#) destroyed — suspending permitting and review requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Coastal Act. The Governor also issued an executive order [further cutting red tape](#) by reiterating that permitting requirements under the California Coastal Act are suspended for rebuilding efforts and directing the Coastal Commission not to issue guidance or take any action that interferes with or conflicts with the Governor's executive orders. Additionally, he signed an executive order to [cut more red tape](#) and continue streamlining rebuilding, recovery, and relief for survivors. The Governor also [issued an executive order](#) removing bureaucratic barriers, extending deadlines, and providing critical regulatory relief to help fire survivors rebuild, access essential services, and recover more quickly.

Efficient, engaged, effective

Since the start of his administration in 2019, Governor Newsom has made efficiency and engagement a top priority, [implementing new technologies and practices that make government more efficient and responsive to the people it serves](#). In 2019, the Governor established the Office of Data Innovation to help advance this important work.

As the birthplace of tech, California is at the forefront in the study and implementation of AI in government. In 2023, Governor Newsom issued an executive order directing [state](#) agencies to utilize Generative AI technologies to improve state services and help solve important issues. Since that time, the state has integrated AI and other efficiency solutions to make state government work faster and even more effective.

To help provide the Los Angeles community with a stronger voice in the rebuilding and recovery efforts, Governor Newsom launched [Engaged](#)

[California](#), a new platform that gives Californians a unique opportunity to share their thoughts and connect with other people on topics that are important to them. It creates new opportunities for Californians to connect with their government to inform and shape policy through honest, respectful discussions.

The program was launched in February with the first use case focusing on the impacts of the Los Angeles wildfires.

Partnerships Key

Today's announcement was made possible through partnerships with philanthropic and community organizations who are aiding wildfire recovery in Los Angeles.

Autodesk is a global leader in design and make technology, empowering innovators across architecture, engineering, construction, product design, manufacturing, and media.

Steadfast LA is a civic nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the rebuilding of Los Angeles after the devastating wildfires by bringing together top leaders, bold ideas, and effective solutions to get things done right and fast.

LA Rises is a [unified recovery initiative](#) that brings together private sector leaders to support rebuilding efforts led by the city of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County and the State of California. In January, the Governor enlisted Dodgers Chairman Mark Walter, business leader and basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and Casey Wasserman, LA28 Chairperson and President to lead and recruit others to this private sector and philanthropic effort.

Track LA's recovery, including the latest air quality results, at [CA.gov/LAfires](https://www.ca.gov/LAfires).



Copyright © 2025 Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you have requested to receive Governor's Office press releases.

Our mailing address is:

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

1021 O Street, Suite 9000

Sacramento, CA 95814

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).