



City Council

July 16, 2024
Packet Addendum #1

From: [Tawnya Somauroo](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Tonight's Use tax ordinance - TWO AMENDMENTS PLEASE!
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 2:53:53 PM

Dear Council,

I am very happy to see use tax relief come before Council tonight for fences, walls, and accessory structures for damaged and destroyed properties after the Marshall Fire! Every little bit helps, especially at the end of the project when so many of us are scraping to pay for fences and landscaping. Almost everyone is facing insurance shortfalls for fences: most of us only had insurance coverage for the depreciated value of our fences, not replacement costs. I hope that you will vote to move this ordinance forward.

I have **two amendments** that I hope you will consider, however.

1) As presently drafted, the ordinance is only for the repair and rebuild of structures damaged or destroyed by the Marshall Fire. Some of us ended up needing to install retaining walls that did not have them before, myself included. In another case, a family had a very fairly large retaining wall that survived the fire but got destroyed during construction and now needs a complete rebuild. Repairing that wall is part of that family's journey to rebuilding their home. It would be helpful if the City would include **all** retaining walls, structures, and fences that are part of a Marshall Fire rebuild/repair (damaged in the fire or needed due to the rebuild).

Suggested amendment:

A. The building permit application is for repair or rebuilding of any structure requiring a city-issued building permit, including walls, fences, and accessory structures[**relating to the repair or rebuilding of homes**] that sustained direct fire, smoke, heat, water, ash or other damage from the Marshall Fire.

2) Please consider including solar panels in the use tax relief! Many of us installed or are working to install solar to meet the City's code and decarbonization goals. In my family's case, we pulled the solar out of our project and went with a solar farm initially so that we could determine our usage to properly size our system. Especially now that so many of us have learned that we are in the Xcel preemptive power-down area, many more of us will be adding solar to our homes.

Best regards,
Tawnya Somauroo
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