

## Don Taylor's Thomas Fire (TF) Recovery Map

In an effort to find a fact-based way to track recovery progress for parcels where structure damage was recorded in the Cal Fire Damage Report for the *Thomas Fire Incident* (December 2017), City GIS Systems Analyst Don Taylor created a list of these parcels, coded the damage from the Cal Fire report for each parcel, and, where known, included the City Permit Number that will address the damage, often resulting in a new building to replace the one destroyed in the fire. Permits associated with the clearing of debris, grading of the property, addressing emergency utility needs, building of retaining walls, and other recovery *supporting* activities have been excluded from this list – only the permits involved in the actual building of the replacement structures are considered for the purposes of this TF recovery study. In some cases, the same parcel is on the list more than once because more than one structure was damaged or destroyed on that parcel and permits for their reconstruction are kept as separate permits.

This magic “list” is in the form of a simple text file. When the web page for the *Thomas Fire Recovery Map* first loads into a browser, it reads through the list and uses the contents to help define and refine some of the available map layers by combining the information on the list with other information already available through various map services hosted by the City of Ventura GIS.

For example, the **City Permit Records** maintained in the City's *EnerGov* system are available through the City GIS as points on the map, located at the permit's job address, and some of the permit details are attached to those points. Using the *Permit Numbers* found in the TF recovery list to find specific permit points, the map is able to display just the TF recovery permits and even breaks them down into three categories, depending on certain milestone dates for those permits: *Applied Date*, *Issued Date*, and *Final Date*. The visibility of each set of permit points is controlled independently by a checkbox and each of these permit subsets has been given a different colored dot on the map:

- A permit with only an *Applied Date* is probably still going through the plan check process with Building & Safety. The permit cannot be issued until the plans are approved.
- A permit with an *Issued Date* (but no *Final Date*) has completed the plan check process and the project is most likely under construction.
- A permit with a *Final Date* has gone through all of the required inspections leading up to and including the Final Building Inspection.

**No End in Sight:** The initial sweep through the parcels on this list looking for permits to associate with the TF recovery was carried out in December 2019. Ongoing effort will be required to keep this permit list up to date as the property owners of roughly 30% of the parcels with damaged structures had not yet applied for their permits when the list was initially compiled, two years after the incident that caused the damage.

Don Taylor, February 21, 2020