



**NEWS RELEASE**  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **From Ashes to Opportunity**

### **Another Chance to Build Back Better, Safer, Faster, and More Efficiently**

**What:** A forum that will inspire and encourage fire survivors to rebuild their homes using proven fire resistant construction strategies that can also make the new home more environmentally friendly and energy efficient than the one they lost. Attendees will learn how to save time and money during their new home design process, and how to make the most of their insurance settlements.

Right now, those who lost homes to the Jesusita Fire are negotiating with insurance companies on replacement cost estimates. Insurance settlements will provide funds to meet any new building code requirements and energy efficiency upgrades since a home was originally built, but survivors are not required to build back exactly what they had. This forum, drawing on information provided at the "Ashes to Opportunity" Forum held last December after the Tea Fire, will educate participants on how to build back better, safer, faster, and more efficiently.

**Who:** The forum is hosted by the Community Environmental Council and co-sponsored by the Mission Canyon Association, the local chapters of the US Green Building Council (C4) and the American Institute of Architects, The Sustainability Project, Built Green Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Contractors Association, and Community Assisting Recovery, Inc. These organizations and representatives from local fire departments will be available to share resources and answer questions following the presentations.

**When:** Saturday, June 27, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
(doors open at 8:30 a.m., resource tabling session from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

**Where:** First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance Ave. (at the corner of State St. and Constance Ave.)

**Details:** Topics covered include:

- Building New Fire Resistant and Sustainable Homes – view case studies and videos of Tea Fire Survivors and rebuilders, green construction techniques, and a panel of permitting experts
- Proper Landscaping Pre and Post Fire – hear from a local arborist and landscape architects
- Fire Loss Prevention for Existing Homes/Properties – learn about survival of homes that experienced the Jesusita Fire, and fire-resistant construction techniques

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