

# POLITICO

## California Climate

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**TOUCHDOWN:** President **Donald Trump** vowed to waive federal hurdles to rebuilding in Los Angeles and order more water down to Southern California from Northern California rivers during his trip to the state today. How exactly will he do that? He didn't say. At least not yet.

Trump is now on his way back to Air Force One this evening after meeting with California elected officials from both sides of the aisle. Here's a rundown of what he did and saw while in town.



President Donald Trump spoke on the tarmac with Gov. Gavin Newsom at Los Angeles International Airport today. | Mark Schiefelbein/AP

**What Newsom did:** Gov. Gavin Newsom was waiting for Trump at the bottom of the stairs of Air Force One as promised, alone on the tarmac other than security personnel. The two shook hands, sort of hugged and exchanged words before making brief comments to the awaiting press — their first chat in five years since Trump left office the first time.

Newsom thanked the president for coming and made a personal appeal: “We’re going to need your help.”

“We’ll be talking,” Trump said. “We want to get it fixed.”

**What Trump saw:** Trump and first lady **Melania Trump** flew over the destroyed neighborhoods of Pacific Palisades in a helicopter before walking through the area to meet residents who showed them photos of their homes pre-fire. Trump also met firefighters lined up in front of their fire truck before sitting down with California politicians including **Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass**.

What Trump took away: He told Bass the homeowners he met with wanted to start rebuilding immediately and didn't want permitting delays. Bass said she was expediting the permits. "You can hold me to it," she told Trump.

**What else Trump said:** Trump made his clearest indications yet of what he wanted in exchange for federal disaster aid to California during stop earlier in the day in North Carolina: "I want to see voter ID, so that the people have a chance to vote, and I want to see the water released and come down into Los Angeles and throughout the state," he said (even though the state's water delivery system doesn't exactly work that way).

**What comes next:** Trump's policy demands create a tricky situation for some of the Congressional Republicans who would be voting on any federal boost in dollars to California, as our colleagues Melanie Mason, Blake Jones and Lindsey Holden report. Some California Republicans have signaled support for attaching strings to aid that would set guardrails around how the money can be spent, but many, especially from swing districts, have objected to unrelated conditions such as tying aid to a proposal to raise the debt ceiling.

And on water: Trump has already made a move to send more water to Central Valley farmers with a Day One memo ordering a review of existing federal rules. That will take 90 days.

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