



## PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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April 23, 2019

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors: Hon. Hilda Solis; Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas; Hon. Sheila Kuehl; Hon. Janice Hahn; Hon. Kathryn Barger – *via email*

Mayor, City of Los Angeles: Hon. Eric Garcetti; Los Angeles City Council: Hon. Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Council President; Hon. Mitch O'Farrell; Hon. Mike Bonin; Hon. Paul Koretz; Hon. David Ryu – *via email*

**Re: Los Angeles River Flood Protection and Mitigation**

Dear Supervisors Solis, Ridley-Thomas, Kuehl, Hahn and Barger; Mayor Garcetti; Council President Wesson and Council Members O'Farrell, Bonin, Koretz and Ryu:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) is the most broad-based organization in Pacific Palisades and has served as the voice of our community for 46 years. PPCC is a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils ([WRAC](#)), an alliance of 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles.

At its public board meeting on April 11, 2019, the PPCC Board unanimously passed the following motion addressing Los Angeles River flood protection and mitigation (motion recommended by WRAC leadership, as modified by PPCC):

*"Pacific Palisades Community Council requests that the County of Los Angeles coordinate flood protection and mitigation of existing flooding risks in the LA River area, with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City of Los Angeles and its various departments tasked with city planning, architecture, flood mitigation and street services, among others. We ask that all agencies study options to reduce the impact of flood, the costs of which will largely be borne by taxpayers, and that these studies include taking actions such as removing sediment build-up, reducing hardscape (e.g. parking lots, building footprints), expanding open spaces and increasing the size of spreading grounds, adding flood walls, adding dry wells to infiltrate stormwater into aquifers, adding swales to small medians and yards, strengthening dams and levees, and evaluating land use and zoning designations within the proximity of the river (which may result in downzoning), including with an eye toward recreational use and public access. We further urge the City and County of Los Angeles to request the U.S. Congress to authorize funding at the earliest possible time for a Flood Risk Management feasibility study to be conducted by USACE."*

We are advised that insufficient funding by Congress of USACE River operations and management has resulted in a failure to implement necessary flood mitigation measures (some of which were recommended decades ago in an extensive 1991 [USACE environmental report](#)). River divestiture as recently requested by the County Board of Supervisors will take many years to complete (if it ever occurs). In the meantime, City and County residents remain at risk for loss of life and property and will bear the burden of the massive costs necessary for repair and reconstruction in the event of catastrophic flooding.

PPCC urges the City, the County and all government agencies with a stake in the LA River to take concrete, meaningful steps *now* toward addressing River flood protection and mitigation, including requesting Congress to authorize sufficient funding for a feasibility study and, without further delay, conducting studies and coordinating implementation of much-needed effective, modern flood control measures.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



George Wolfberg, Chair  
Pacific Palisades Community Council

cc (via email):

Federal: Hon. Ted Lieu, U.S. Representative (via District Representative Janet Turner); Hon. Karen Bass, U.S. Representative (via District Representative Jacqueline Hamilton); David M. Van Dorpe, P.E. PMP, Deputy District Engineer, USACE; Philip J. Serpa, Acting Deputy Chief Operations Division, USACE; Eric L. Nguyen, Project Manager (LA River), USACE

State: Hon. Ben Allen, California State Senator; Hon. Richard Bloom, California State Assemblymember

County: Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works; Amy J. Bodek, Director of Regional Planning

City: Kevin James, President, Board of Public Works (via Executive Officer Fernando Campos); Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer; Adel H. Hagekhalil, Executive Director, Bureau of Street Services; Vincent P. Bertoni, Director of City Planning; Michael Affeldt, Director, LARiverworks (Office of the Mayor)