

Email Letter to LA Times

From: info@pacpalicc.org
To: sewell.chan@latimes.com, Terry.tang@latimes.com
Cc: davidcard22@gmail.com, letters@latimes.com, david.zahniser@latimes.com
Sent: 5/21/2021 7:50 PM
Subject: Fwd: Palisades Fire and Bonin Motion

Dear Mr. Chan and Ms. Tang:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) is disturbed to learn that in an editorial in the Sunday edition, the Los Angeles Times may be endorsing the motion by CM Bonin in CF 21-2035, including the proposal to "study" the use of state beach parking lots and public parks for homeless housing/habitation.

Please see PPCC's most recent letter linked in the email to Mr. Zahniser below, citing our compelling reasons why these sites, and in particular the Will Rogers State Beach parking lot, should be entirely off the table for study or use for this purpose. Here again is our recent letter to City Council: [5/16/21 PPCC Letter](#).

And here are PPCC's [Position Statement](#) and [Supplemental Position Letter](#).

This is a regional, not a local issue. Will Rogers State Beach is not Mr. Bonin's beach, nor Pacific Palisades' beach, nor even the beach of CD11 or the Westside of Los Angeles -- it is a state-owned, county-operated beach which belongs to and is enjoyed by **all citizens** of the City, the County, the region, and even the State.

Perhaps you are unaware, but the parking lot at Will Rogers is regularly used by LAFD, LAPD, LA County FD, and CalFire (the State) for emergency command operations. During the recent massive Palisades Fire event, our first responders placed critical equipment, vehicles and personnel *throughout the entire parking lot area* to the east of the Temescal Canyon entrance to the beach. For citizens of the region who experience these wildfires (including Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Topanga Canyon and beyond), this is a matter of life and death. The parking lot is critical and needs to be available to our first responders.

We agree that housing and services for the homeless are urgently needed. Accomplishing that goal should not mean that treasured public resources, or those that are used for vital emergency response, should be used for that purpose. We believe most reasonable people would agree that a "study" isn't needed to come to the conclusion that using Central Park in NY, or the La Brea Tar Pits here, or the Hollywood Bowl parking lots, or the LA County public library, *shouldn't even be considered for homeless housing*. The same is true with public beaches and parks -- and even more so with the Will Rogers State Beach parking lot, which is also a critical emergency resource.

We urge you to seriously consider exempting the state beach parking lots and public parks from your endorsement.

Best regards,

Chris Spitz
Secretary
Pacific Palisades Community Council
www.pacpalicc.org

[Note: Also separately sent to Mr. Chan – [WRAC Position Letter 5/18/21](#)]