



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

July 12, 2021

Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer (CAO)

Yolanda Chavez, Assistant CAO (overseeing the subject feasibility study)

Via email and submission to City Clerk filing portal

Re: Council File 21-0350; CAO Feasibility Study – Use of Will Rogers State Beach (WRSB) Parking Lot for Homeless Housing / Factors Demonstrating Infeasibility

Dear Mr. Szabo and Ms. Chavez:

Supplementing our letters to the CAO of June 10 and June 17, 2021,¹ Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) brings to your attention yet another wildfire that started in brush along PCH after midnight on July 9 and spread to the Tuna Canyon area of Malibu, near Pacific Palisades and other communities in the region of the Santa Monica Mountains: <https://abc7.com/malibu-brush-fire-tuna-canyon-road-pch-heat-wave/10873892/>.

As was the case with the catastrophic Woolsey Fire in November 2018, the massive Palisades Fire in May 2021 and the multi-jurisdictional hillside/encampment task force initiative in June 2021, we understand that the WRSB parking lot was used by fire agencies for staging and command during the recent Tuna Canyon fire. Water-dropping helicopters could be heard by residents of Pacific Palisades, including some of the undersigned, throughout the incident. The entire region – including the communities of **Malibu, Topanga Canyon** and **Pacific Palisades**, the larger **Las Virgenes area** and **extensive, sensitive state and federal parkland** (within the MRCA and SMMNRA) in the Santa Monica Mountains – was under potential threat. The use of the WRSB lot was critical during all of these events and remains critical due to the continuous threat of devastating wildfires.²

It is beyond question that the threat posed by these wildfires is imminent, grave and real. The threat affects not only tens of thousands of housed residents, but also the many unhoused individuals who are known to camp in the brush in hillside and canyon areas throughout this region. Retention of the WRSB parking lot for firefighting command and staging is essential to the safety of all who dwell in the region, housed and unhoused.

We also call your attention to the successful work of the **Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH)**, in particular as outlined in its recent July-August 2021 newsletter.³ We respectfully submit that **any evaluation of this proposed use would be incomplete, misleading and ultimately not useful for the Council's consideration, if it does not take into account the work and direct experience of PPTFH or the actual conditions and impacts on the unhoused as well as the housed inhabitants of the region.**

¹ See: <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PPCC-Letter-to-CAO.pdf> and <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PPCC-Supp-Letter-to-CAO.pdf>.

² “Hillside communities . . . are under continuous threat of a devastating wildfire” (LAFD).

³ See: <https://mailchi.mp/7d7d27fbc520/pptfh-newsletter-july-august-2021?e=b71ed9003b>.

Having said this, we are fully aware based on documents received in response to our Public Records Act requests that the feasibility study for this proposed use had actually begun by the fall of 2020 and was substantially completed in January 2021, *months before the above-reference motion was brought in City Council and the Council directed its preparation.*⁴ PPCC is extremely concerned that unknown to the public or most City Councilmembers, “feasibility” had apparently already been pre-determined, without consideration of all relevant facts and impacts, before a vote in Council had even taken place.

However, assuming that the study has not in fact already been completed, *we again invite you and your staff to visit onsite as soon as possible* with PPCC, PPTFH and the LAPD beach detail assigned to this area, for an accurate assessment of the feasibility – or, as PPCC strongly contends, the infeasibility and danger to the public – of using WRSB as a site for homeless housing.

Executive Committee, Pacific Palisades Community Council

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| David Card, Chair | Christina Spitz, Secretary |
| David Kaplan, Vice-Chair | John Padden, Organization Representative (P.R.I.D.E.) |
| Richard G. Cohen, Treasurer | Joanna Spak, Elected Representative (Area 1; Castellammare, Paseo Miramar) |

cc (via email):

City: **Hon. Eric Garcetti**, Mayor, City of Los Angeles; **Hon. Mike Feuer**, City Attorney; **Hon. Ron Galperin**, City Controller; **Hon. Nury Martinez**, President, City Council; **Hon. Joe Buscaino**, President Pro Tempore, City Council; **Hon. Gil Cedillo**, Councilmember, CD 1; **Hon. Paul Krekorian**, Councilmember, CD 2; **Hon. Bob Blumenfield**, Councilmember, CD 3; **Hon. Nithya Raman**, Councilmember, CD 4; **Hon. Paul Koretz**, Councilmember, CD 5; **Hon. Monica Rodriguez**, Councilmember, CD 7; **Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson**, Councilmember, CD 8; **Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr.**, Councilmember, CD 9; **Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas**, Councilmember, CD 10; **Hon. Mike Bonin**, Councilmember, CD 11; **Hon. John Lee**, Councilmember, CD 12; **Hon. Mitch O’Farrell**, Councilmember, CD 13; **Hon. Kevin de León**, Councilmember, CD 14; **Ralph M. Terrazas**, Chief, and **Armando Hogan**, Deputy Chief & West Bureau Commander, LAFD; **Michel R. Moore**, Chief, and **Jonathan Tom**, Captain III & West Division Commanding Officer, LAPD; **Patricia J. Huber**, Asst. CAO and Executive Officer; **Ben Ceja**, Asst. CAO; **Meg Barclay**, CAO’s office/Homeless Strategy

County: **Hon. Hilda Solis**, Chair, County Board of Supervisors; **Hon. Sheila Kuehl**, County Supervisor, CSD 3; **Hon. Janice Hahn**, County Supervisor, CSD 4; **Hon. Kathryn Barger**, County Supervisor, CSD 5; **Hon. Holly J. Mitchell**, County Supervisor, CSD 2; **Daryl L. Osby**, Chief, County Fire Dept.; **Gary Jones**, Director, and **Kerry Silverstrom**, Chief Deputy Director, County Beaches & Harbors Dept.; **Cris Liban**, Chair, Beach Commission; **Clark Stevens**, Executive Officer, and **R.C. Brody**, President, Board of Directors, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Joint City/County: **Heidi Marston**, Executive Director, LAHSA; **Wendy Greuel**, Chair, LAHSA Commission

State: **Hon. Gavin Newsom**, Governor, State of California (via Jason Elliott, Senior Counselor for Housing & Homelessness); **Hon. Ben Allen**, State Senator, SD 26; **Hon. Henry Stern**, State Senator, SD 27; **Hon. Richard Bloom**, State Assemblyman, AD 50; **Jack Ainsworth**, Executive Director, and **Steve Hudson**, District Director, California Coastal Commission; **Sam Schuchat**, Executive Director, and **Megan Cooper**, Regional Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy; **Guangyu Wang**, Chief Administrative Director, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission; **Wade Crowfoot**, Secretary for Natural Resources, and **Angela Barranco**, Undersecretary for Natural Resources, California Natural Resources Agency; **Armando Quintero**,

⁴ https://www.venicecurrent.com/news/beach-parking-lots-have-already-been-analyzed-for-housing-the-homeless/article_34e89a74-e0a1-11eb-ad49-9f0ea4cdb7ad.html

Director, and **Jerry West**, Angeles District (acting) Superintendent, California State Parks; **Rue Mapp**, Chair, State Park and Recreation Commission; **Jennifer Lucchesi**, Executive Officer, State Lands Commission; **Joseph T. Edmiston**, Executive Director, MRCA and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; **Tony Tavares**, Director, Caltrans District 7

Federal: **Hon. Diane Feinstein**, U.S. Senator (via Peter Muller, Deputy State Director); **Hon. Alex Padilla**, U.S. Representative (via Lauren Gallant, Sr. Field Representative); **Hon. Ted Lieu**, U.S. Representative, 33rd District (via Janet Turner, Field Supervisor); **Judge David O. Carter**, U.S. District Court Judge, Central District of California; **Cindy Orlando**, (Acting) Regional Director, Interior Region 8, National Park Service; **David Szymanski**, Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; **Tom Ford**, Director, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

Other: **Hon. Paul Grisanti**, Mayor, City of Malibu; **Hon. James Bozajian**, Mayor, City of Calabasas; **Hon. Denis Weber**, Mayor, City of Agoura Hills; **Carrie Carrier**, President, Topanga Town Council; **Kim Lamorie**, President, Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation; **Rachel Norton**, Executive Director, California State Parks Foundation; **Guillermo Rodriguez**, State Director, The Trust for Public Land; **Morgan Goodwin**, Sr. Chapter Director, Sierra Club/Angeles Chapter; **Shelley Luce**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Heal the Bay; **Tom Ford**, Executive Director, The Bay Foundation; **Bruce Reznik**, Executive Director, LA Waterkeeper; **Graham Hamilton**, LA Chapter Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation; **Sharon Browning** and **Sharon Kilbride**, Co-Presidents, Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness