

## Update on Developments – Bonin motion/beach homeless housing & City “anti-camping” ordinance

- Communications Committee efforts involving the beach.

Our PPCC team – Committee member Peggy Holter (an award-winning television journalist and producer) assisted by Youth Advisor Jack Coleman – has begun interviewing visitors to Will Rogers State Beach. We will report on the results at a later meeting.

- Public Records Act responses.

PPCC has received many documents in response to multiple Public Records Act requests to government agencies.

Additional documents are due to be produced in the coming weeks by the City, County and the State which may shed further light on relevant facts about this proposed project and on actions taken by public officials to move the proposal forward without constituents’ knowledge or input.

- Precedent - State/Cal Parks' refusal to allow a homeless shelter at another State Beach last year.

We’ve learned that in April last year, *when the beaches were closed due to pandemic orders*, the City of Half Moon Bay proposed to use a campsite at a State Park – Francis Beach at Half Moon Bay State Beach – for a temporary homeless shelter. We have now sent a letter to relevant state officials, reminding them that **the State declined to allow this use at the State Park**, even at a time when the beach was closed to public use. This recent letter is posted on our website and was sent out in an email blast; we will include a link in the minutes. [See <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PPCC-Letter-State-Agencies1.pdf>]

We have advised Senators Ben Allen and Henry Stern (Malibu, Calabasas) of the Cal Parks decision at Half Moon Bay and requested that they urge the Cal Parks Director to decline the proposed use at Will Rogers.

- Discussions with officials, other leaders.

The Chair and the Secretary had a positive meeting this week with the acting Superintendent of the Cal Parks Angeles District, which is where Will Rogers is located. He provided some helpful assistance and indicated that any decision will have to come not from him but from either of the two officials to whom our letter was addressed.

We have also had positive communications with leaders in the region of the Santa Monica Mountains. All are concerned about the proposal and in particular are concerned with the fire risk. We’re hopeful that their organizations will be able to take positions opposed to this use and will convey this to Supervisor Kuehl as well as their own Senator Stern.

- Recent actions and statements by CM Bonin/CD11 staff involving homeless enforcement or encampments at parks & beaches.

We are troubled by the dichotomy between the actions and statements of CD11 and the determination to site homeless housing on Will Rogers State Beach. Despite his public acknowledgment that “all Angelenos” should be able to enjoy our beaches and parks, the Councilmember is apparently still determined to proceed with a proposal that would *reduce access to the beaches by all Angelenos*.

- Status of LA City "anti-camping" ordinance (CF 20-1376).

After our last meeting the Executive Committee submitted a letter, linked in the agenda, supporting a proposed anti-camping ordinance which would have prohibited homeless dwelling in any public spaces if they were offered housing. The City Council recently voted on a watered-down version, with Councilmembers Bonin and Raman being the two No votes. For procedural reasons a unanimous vote was

required in the first round; since that didn't happen another vote will be taken after the Council returns from summer recess in late July, when only a majority vote is required and it is expected to pass. We expect our Councilmember to vote No again.

Under the watered-down version, homeless persons dwelling within 500 ft. of a designated sensitive area, such as beaches and parks, who failed to move after being offered housing could only be given a citation; they would not be arrested or otherwise forced to move. And even this process would only occur if the local Councilmember agreed to the designation of certain sensitive areas and signs were posted to this effect. We have doubts that our Councilmember will agree to such a designation in the area of Will Rogers or anywhere in the Palisades.

- Status of the CAO's feasibility study & what we may expect going forward.

As we explained in our recent letter to the State officials, the documents we've received indicate that the CAO's study was substantially completed before Councilmember Bonin's motion was even brought in City Council last March. We expect it to be finalized in a few weeks, with a report submitted to the Council Homelessness & Poverty Committee.

We've been told that the CAO's office has indicated that the operator for the site, Urban Alchemy,<sup>1</sup> has already been identified, and the City has established that the shelter will need to operate for 3 to 3 ½ years in order to be feasible. CAO staffers, including the assistant CAO who is overseeing the study, have recently met with the acting Superintendent of the Cal Parks Angeles District. We understand that they were told that the State hasn't yet taken a position on this matter.

Depending on whether the State weighs in, the matter may be heard in the Homelessness & Poverty Committee soon after City Council return from summer recess in late July; it would then be heard in City Council, possibly sometime in August or early September.

Based on everything we've seen so far, it appears that the City Council may be poised to move forward, unless the State (Cal Parks) says No. We hope the matter will end with the State refusing to give permission for this use on State Park land. But if the proposal does go forward, there will likely be many months of administrative review and permitting processes, including an eventual hearing before the Coastal Commission. A possible lawsuit would be considered only after these administrative processes became final and if the end result, at the Coastal Commission stage, were to allow the use. We are hopeful, however, that this won't become necessary.

Meanwhile, we've been told that it will be important to have follow-on letters to State officials from other organizations, urging the State to deny approval for this use. The Secretary will reach out to members to provide information about where these letters should go.

*David Card, Chair and Chris Spitz, Secretary, PPCC  
July 8, 2021*

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<sup>1</sup> Urban Alchemy is a non-profit which operates other homeless "tent" shelter sites in Los Angeles and San Francisco. It has been reported that the operational cost in Los Angeles exceeds \$2,600 per month per individual tent.