

## Email Letter to Mayor Garcetti 9/2/21 – re SB 9 and 10

**From:** <info@pacpalicc.org>

**To:** Mayor Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

**Cc:** <mike.feuer@lacity.org>, <ron.galperin@lacity.org>, <nury.martinez@lacity.org>, <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, <mike.bonin@lacity.org>, <ralph.terrazas@lacity.org>, <armando.hogan@lacity.org>, <michel.moore@lapd.online>, <richard.llewellyn@lacity.org>, <mary.hodge@lacity.org>, <andre.herndon@lacity.org>, <jeff.gorell@lacity.org>, <emmet.mcosker@lacity.org>, <anne.tremblay@lacity.org>, <arthur.mandel@lacity.org>, Brad Fingard <brad.fingard@lacity.org>, <joseph.avalos@lacity.org>, Kevin Taylor <kevin.taylor@lacity.org>, <claudia.monterrosa@lacity.org>, <rhys.williams@gov.ca.gov>, <davidcard22@gmail.com>, "bisnoff@gmail.com" <bisnoff@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 9/2/2021 11:23 AM

**Subject:** Re: Be prepared for every emergency

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) appreciates and agrees with your message below.

PPCC has compiled extensive information about emergency preparedness for our community (see our website [Disaster Readiness](#) page). We will participate later this month with Brentwood Community Council (BCC) in an Emergency Preparedness Town Hall, featuring numerous experts on wildfire prevention, surveillance and preparedness. These are matters of life and death which our communities take extremely seriously.

As you also know from recent correspondence: PPCC has expressed substantial concern about wildfire safety and evacuation issues in connection with the proposal to use Will Rogers State Beach for homeless housing (now deemed infeasible by the CAO), as well as with **Senate Bills 9 and 10**. These issues have come to the fore once again as a result of the devastating Caldor fire (where Los Angeles firefighters have now been deployed), which is advancing on South Lake Tahoe and has caused massive traffic jams during required evacuations.

In brief, ***these bills do not contain an unconditional exemption for the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (all of the Palisades)*** -- a provision crucial to public safety in VHFHSZ areas due to the increased density (more dwelling units, more people, more cars) that will inevitably arise and result in clogging of our routes of ingress and egress during required evacuations.

Our concerns are shared by BCC (a large portion of Brentwood is also in the VHFHSZ). Both of our communities have experienced risk of harm to lives and safety in difficult evacuations during huge wildfire events. See [Joint PPCC-BCC Letter](#) (January 2020). Fire and police leadership in Los Angeles (cc'd above) will attest to the need to ensure that evacuation routes in the VHFHSZ remain as clear as possible at all times and especially during fire events.

The League of California Cities also opposes these bills, in part due to the failure to contain a sufficient exemption for the VHFHSZ -- See [League Letter](#) (February 2021).

PPCC has now requested that Governor Newsom veto SB 9 and 10, in large measure because of the significant fire exemption issue -- see [PPCC Letter to Governor](#) (August 26, 2021).

We emphasize: provisions for exemptions based solely on *home hardening* are entirely insufficient to address the issue of *compromised evacuation routes* resulting from **additional density** -- again, something that neither of these bills addresses.

Your recent letter to LA City Councilmembers -- in which you explained your decision not to sign the two resolutions which the Council overwhelmingly passed to oppose SB 9 and 10 -- makes **no mention of the lack of an unconditional exemption for the VHFHSZ** and the resulting risk of harm to substantial areas of Los Angeles -- including Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Bel Air-Beverly Crest and other hillside and canyon areas. **We are gravely concerned with this omission.**

We are also very concerned that your position on the resolutions was not promptly conveyed, resulting in a delay in the City's ability to advocate the Council's position on these bills. We hope and trust that the City's lobbyist can immediately present the City's position to Governor Newsom and ask that he veto these bills.

PPCC now respectfully urges you, Mayor Garcetti, to reconsider your position and directly request that Governor Newsom in turn either veto these bills or at a minimum insist that an **unconditional exemption for the VHFHSZ be included in both SB 9 and 10**. By all means, as you urge below -- let's keep our City safe.

Thank you for your anticipated prompt attention to this serious matter of public safety.

Best regards,

Christina Spitz  
Secretary  
Pacific Palisades Community Council  
[www.pacpalicc.org](http://www.pacpalicc.org)

**From:** Mayor Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>  
**To:** Barbara <info@pacpalicc.org>  
**Sent:** 9/1/2021 2:45 PM  
**Subject:** Be prepared for every emergency

Hi Barbara,

Today marks the beginning of **National Emergency Preparedness Month** — a time to develop or revisit your emergency plan that will keep you, your family, and your neighborhood safe.

**Fire season is here, and as we've seen over the last few years and this week with**

**the Caldor Fire, our region is experiencing longer, more intense fire seasons.** And this intensity underscores the more extreme weather conditions we are seeing worldwide due to climate change.

In addition to the work the City is doing to [reduce our carbon footprint](#), L.A. is prepared to tackle our toughest fires with the best-equipped and most effective fire department in the U.S. We're also prepared to assist when others need our help, and this week, we answered that call by sending 44 LAFD firefighters and 10 engines to join the fight against the Caldor Fire.

**While our firefighters stand on the frontlines protecting our city, we all have a role to play.**

The Los Angeles Fire Department's [Ready, Set, Go! program](#) is designed to help every Angeleno prepare in the case of a wildfire. If you're a property owner, it's critical to clear brush around your property year-round to help prevent fires.

Keep an eye out for smoke. If you see it, call 9-1-1 immediately. It's also crucial to develop a wildfire plan in case of evacuation. To learn more about fire safety, visit [LAFD.org/ReadySetGo](#).

These steps go a long way in preventing and controlling fires, and, most importantly, keeping you and your family safe.

**We also must ensure that our friends, families, and neighbors are ready — not just for fire season but for every emergency.** The City of L.A. can help you prepare.

### **Ready Your L.A. Neighborhood**

The [Ready Your LA Neighborhood \(RYLAN\) Program](#) can help your family and your neighborhood prepare for any emergency.

RYLAN offers free tools and resources, including information on how to start your own emergency kit, tips on creating an emergency communication plan for your family,

and [free workshops](#) hosted by the Emergency Management Department (EMD) to help you and your neighbors better prepare.

You can even find [tips on how to keep your pets safe](#).

### **NotifyLA Emergency Text Alerts**

Through [NotifyLA](#), you can receive free and immediate alerts about local emergencies by phone, email, and/or text message. You can also sign up to receive important information about your neighborhood, schools, local businesses, COVID-19, and more.

Text "READY" to 888-777 or visit [NotifyLA.org](#) to receive free emergency alerts.

To receive the latest information about emergencies, preparedness, and more, follow [@NotifyLA](#) and [@ReadyLA](#) on Twitter.

Emergency preparedness is critical, and we all have a shared responsibility in keeping our city safe. The choices we make now can save lives and build an even stronger, more resilient Los Angeles.

Strength and love to all of you.

Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor