



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September 7, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
Governor's Office, State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Via email to:

Jason Elliott, Senior Counselor for Housing and Homelessness
Rhys Williams, Senior Advisor on Emergency Preparedness & Management

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Re: SB 9 (Atkins) and SB 10 (Wiener); REQUEST FOR VETO (serious public safety issue/failure to include unconditional VHFHSZ exemption)

Dear Governor Newsom:

Pacific Palisades Community Council supplements its letter to you of August 26, 2021¹ with the following information:

1. The Los Angeles City Council's resolutions in opposition to SB 9 and 10 became final on August 31, 2021 (Council File Nos. 21-0002-18 and 21-0002-21).
2. The City Council has engaged an advocate, Silvia Solis Shaw, who has written to the bills' authors notifying them of the City's opposition, with cc's to the Governor and the Assembly.
3. The City is engaged in the process of updating its Housing Element for the 2021-2029 cycle, including the development of a Rezoning Program to address shortfalls in achieving its RHNA targets. In response to concerns expressed by PPCC and others following the Initial Study, the City has expanded the environmental impact review of the Housing Element Update to include a broader review of potential wildfire impacts, including the impact of development in the VHFHSZs on emergency response and evacuation plans, wildfire hazards and risks.
4. The recently released Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) states: "**Environmentally sensitive areas, including Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) and areas vulnerable to sea level rise, will be excluded from the Rezoning Program, even if they have overlap with the above-described growth areas and higher resource areas.**" Thus, it appears that after environmental study, the City is poised to exclude VHFHSZ areas in Los Angeles from any rezoning to meet RHNA requirements.²
5. There has been **no environmental study of the impacts on the VHFHSZ statewide** if SB 9 and 10 were

¹ <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PPCC-Letter-Governor-SB910.pdf>.

² <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/community-plan-update/housing-element-news/draft-environmental-impact-report>.

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enacted as currently worded. Legislators by and large have no understanding or knowledge of specific conditions in Los Angeles' hillside and canyon areas and the resulting evacuation issues which form the basis for the Housing Element DEIR findings (although, of course, both our state senator and state assembly member share this concern).

We respectfully submit that it would be irresponsible to enact such sweeping legislation with no study or consideration of significant environmental impacts on the millions of Californians who reside in the VHFHSZ – especially when *an actual environmental study in Los Angeles led to the conclusion by City officials that rezoning of VHFHSZ areas for purposes of meeting RHNA targets should not occur.*

For all of these reasons, we again implore you to veto SB 9 and 10, or at a minimum require an unconditional exemption for the VHFHSZ.

Thank you again for your consideration and attention to this critical matter of public safety.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee, Pacific Palisades Community Council

David Card, Chair

David Kaplan, Vice-Chair

Richard Cohen, Treasurer

Christina Spitz, Secretary

John Padden, Organization Representative, P.R.I.D.E.

Joanna Spak, Area 1 Representative (Castellammare, Paseo Miramar)

cc:

Hon. Ben Allen, Senator (SD 26)

Hon. Richard Bloom, Assembly Member (AD 50)

Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Hon. Nury Martinez, Council President (CD 6)

Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember (CD11)

Hon. Paul Koretz, Councilmember (CD 5)

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