

Pacific Palisades  
Community Council



BRENTWOOD  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL

January 14, 2020

Assemblyman Richard Bloom  
2800 28th Street, Suite 105  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
Via email

**Re: SB50 – Opposition - Lack of Exemption in Very High Fire Hazard Zones**

Dear Assemblyman Bloom:

Senator Ben Allen, the Pacific Palisades and Brentwood Community Councils and the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils **oppose SB50**. As written, the bill is a **safety risk and does not exempt all parcels in Cal-Fire Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ)**. Our communities are extremely concerned as Pacific Palisades is located *entirely* within a VHFHSZ, as is most of Brentwood.

If our hillside areas had been developed using SB50 zoning before the Getty and Palisades fires of 2019, or the Mandeville Canyon fire of 1978, which burned from Brentwood through Pacific Palisades and Malibu to the ocean, the quadrupled population would have prevented swift, life-saving evacuation on roads needed for both emergency vehicles and residents. In fact, within the past 18 months, other California communities have witnessed residents perish in vehicles trying to escape canyon and hillside fires.

**We request your strongest possible advocacy to add an SB50 exemption for all VHFHSZ parcels.** SB50 remains ill-suited as a blanket State policy and we further urge you to review net impacts not addressed in the Bill, such as the lack of an affordable housing mandate, the clear-cutting of our urban canopy and old growth trees and no exemption for homes located outside transit corridors.

Thank you as always for your assistance.

Best regards,

David Card  
Vice Chairperson  
Pacific Palisades Community Council  
On Behalf of Chairperson George Wolfberg

Michelle A. Bisnoff  
Chairperson  
Brentwood Community Council

cc:

State Senator Scott Weiner, Senate District 11  
California Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair, California State Senate Appropriations Committee  
Allison Towle, District Director, State Senator Ben Allen  
Lisa Cahill, Brentwood-Palisades Deputy, District 11 Councilman Mike Bonin  
Ami Fields-Meyer, West Los Angeles Representative, Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Robin Greenberg, Chair, Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council  
Maryam Zar, WRAC Chair