

Letter to the Editor, Los Angeles Times
(published 5/29/21)

Will Rogers State Beach in Pacific Palisades is owned by the state of California, for the recreation and relaxation of all people of Los Angeles and beyond. Palisadian Will Rogers gave this beach to the public for this purpose, not for housing. We've always welcomed everyone to the beach.

Years ago, when homeless people started camping on this beach, Palisadians organized to offer a variety of services, including housing. That successful Pacific Palisades volunteer effort continues with compassion and action.

Public beaches need to be protected and ensured safe for all, housed or unhoused, to use but not to live at.

Los Angeles County, which operates Will Rogers, prohibits overnight dwellings on the beach. The California Coastal Commission protects open access to the beach. Firefighters use this beach for emergency command, staging and evacuation, as they did for the Palisades fire and others.

David Card
Pacific Palisades

The writer chairs the Pacific Palisades Community Council.