

Will Rogers State Beach/Homeless Housing Proposal

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

Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 9:41 AM

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Subject: Will Rogers State Beach/homeless housing proposal

To: Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources, California Natural Resources Agency; Angela Barranco, Undersecretary for Natural Resources, California Natural Resources Agency; Armando Quintero, Director, California State Parks; Jerry West, Angeles District Superintendent, California State Parks; Jason Elliott, Senior Counselor & Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Gov. Gavin Newsom

cc: Hon. Ben Allen, Senator, SD 26; Hon. Henry Stern, Senator, SD 27; Hon. Richard Bloom, Assemblymember, AD 50; Rue Mapp, Chair, California State Park and Recreation Commission; Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Director, California State Lands Commission; Jack Ainsworth, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission; Steve Hudson, District Director, California Coastal Commission; Sam Schuchat, Executive Director, California State Coastal Conservancy; Megan Cooper, Regional Director, California State Coastal Conservancy; Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; PPCC Executive Committee

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the most broad-based community organization and voice of Pacific Palisades since 1973.

We wish to call your attention to the attached letter from PPCC regarding an evaluation now being conducted by the Los Angeles City Administrative Officer (CAO) as to the **suitability of the Will Rogers State Beach (WRSB) parking lot for use for homeless housing**. This use has been proposed in a recent motion in Los Angeles City Council by Councilmember Mike Bonin. PPCC strongly opposes this use for many reasons, as detailed in the attached letter.

One of the primary reasons for our opposition is that the governing documents make clear that WRSB is a **State Park** which is to be used for **recreational uses by all members of the public**, not for housing of any kind. We also believe that the proposed use would violate the Coastal Act's core mandate to protect public access to the beach, shoreline and ocean (public trust land), and further, we have substantial concerns about wildfire risk to communities and State parkland in the region of the Santa Monica Mountains should the WRSB lot be effectively removed from use by City, County and State first responders -- as it has regularly been used for critical command, staging and evacuation during major wildfire events.

We hope and trust that as representatives of relevant agencies of the State of California (the owner of WRSB), you agree that homeless housing should not be sited on State Park or State Beach land, that doing so would be unprecedented, that as a matter of equity and justice the public's right of access to our treasured State Parks,

State Beaches and the entire California coastline must be preserved, and that the proposed use is prohibited by law on the WRSB parking lot.

We respectfully request that at the earliest opportunity, State officials convey to the relevant local government authorities -- the City of Los Angeles (City Council and Mayor) and County of Los Angeles (County Board of Supervisors) that **the State of California as the land owner does not approve of or agree to the use of the WRSB parking lot for this purpose.**

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important issue.

Best regards,

David Card
Chair
Pacific Palisades Community Council
www.pacpalicc.org

Attachment: PPCC Letter to CAO dated 6/10/21