



## PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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June 17, 2021

Richard H. Llewellyn, Jr., City Administrative Officer (CAO)

Matt Szabo, CAO appointee (*effective 7/4/21*) / current Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Garcetti

*Via email and submission to City Clerk filing portal*

Re: Council File 21-0350; CAO Feasibility Study – Use of Will Rogers State Beach Parking Lot for Homeless Housing / Factors Demonstrating Infeasibility

Dear Mr. Llewellyn and Mr. Szabo:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) brings to your attention the following news video, which aired on KCAL 9 at 9pm and 10pm and on CBS 2 at 11pm on Tuesday evening, June 16, 2021:

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/video/5693996-homeless-couple-believed-responsible-for-dangerous-fire-ignited-in-the-center-of-palisades-bowl-mobile-home-park/>

This reports on a dangerous fire at the Palisades Bowl mobile homes complex, which sits across PCH from the Will Rogers State Beach (WRSB) parking lot. The residents believe that a couple experiencing homelessness walked into the complex and deliberately started the fire. As we noted in our letter of June 10, 2021,<sup>1</sup> the entrance to Palisades Bowl is easily accessed from PCH; with good reason, residents of that complex are very concerned about their safety.

As we also noted in our June 10<sup>th</sup> letter, the Palisades area currently experiences fires caused by homeless individuals on the beach and in our nearby bluffs. Whether on the beach, in bluffs or in the Palisades Bowl, these fires are extremely dangerous. As LAFD can attest,<sup>2</sup> fires can easily cause embers to fly into surrounding brush areas and threaten the entire community – *including the many homeless individuals who camp in the bluffs and are hidden in the brush*. Such fires can even spread into the wider region, as we have seen with the recent Palisades Fire. That is the reason why, as explained in our June 10<sup>th</sup> letter, the multi-jurisdictional encampment task force initiative took place on June 1 in Pacific Palisades, using the WRSB parking lot for their command post.

**The risk to public safety caused by the proposal to place homeless housing at the WRSB parking lot is completely unacceptable.** Under no circumstances should homeless housing be sanctioned for any location in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Executive Committee, Pacific Palisades Community Council

David Card, Chair

Christina Spitz, Secretary

David Kaplan, Vice-Chair

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

Richard G. Cohen, Treasurer

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

cc: City, County, State, Federal officials, and other relevant entities and individuals (on p. 2, following)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PPCC-Letter-to-CAO.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> LAFD: “Flying embers from a wildfire can destroy homes up to a mile away.” <https://www.lafd.org/ready-set-go>

cc (via email):

City: **Hon. Eric Garcetti**, Mayor, City of Los Angeles; **Hon. Mike Feuer**, City Attorney; **Hon. Ron Galperin**, City Controller; **Hon. Nury Martinez**, President, City Council; **Hon. Joe Buscaino**, President Pro Tempore, City Council; **Hon. Gil Cedillo**, Councilmember, CD 1; **Hon. Paul Krekorian**, Councilmember, CD 2; **Hon. Bob Blumenfield**, Councilmember, CD 3; **Hon. Nithya Raman**, Councilmember, CD 4; **Hon. Paul Koretz**, Councilmember, CD 5; **Hon. Monica Rodriguez**, Councilmember, CD 7; **Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson**, Councilmember, CD 8; **Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr.**, Councilmember, CD 9; **Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas**, Councilmember, CD 10; **Hon. Mike Bonin**, Councilmember, CD 11; **Hon. John Lee**, Councilmember, CD 12; **Hon. Mitch O'Farrell**, Councilmember, CD 13; **Hon. Kevin de León**, Councilmember, CD 14; **Ralph M. Terrazas**, Chief, and **Armando Hogan**, Deputy Chief & West Bureau Commander, LAFD; **Michel R. Moore**, Chief, and **Jonathan Tom**, Captain III & West Division Commanding Officer, LAPD; **Patricia J. Huber**, Asst. CAO and Executive Officer; **Ben Ceja**, Asst. CAO; **Yolanda Chavez**, Asst. CAO; **Meg Barclay**, CAO's office/Homeless Strategy; **Paula Gerez**, President, Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa

County: **Hon. Hilda Solis**, Chair, County Board of Supervisors; **Hon. Sheila Kuehl**, County Supervisor, CSD 3; **Hon. Janice Hahn**, County Supervisor, CSD 4; **Hon. Kathryn Barger**, County Supervisor, CSD 5; **Hon. Holly J. Mitchell**, County Supervisor, CSD 2; **Daryl L. Osby**, Chief, County Fire Dept.; **Gary Jones**, Director, and **Kerry Silverstrom**, Chief Deputy Director, County Beaches & Harbors Dept.; **Cris Liban**, Chair, Beach Commission; **Clark Stevens**, Executive Officer, and **R.C. Brody**, President, Board of Directors, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Joint City/County: **Heidi Marston**, Executive Director, LAHSA; **Wendy Greuel**, Chair, LAHSA Commission

State: **Hon. Gavin Newsom**, Governor, State of California (via Jason Elliott, Senior Counselor for Housing & Homelessness); **Hon. Ben Allen**, State Senator, SD 26; **Hon. Henry Stern**, State Senator, SD 27; **Hon. Richard Bloom**, State Assemblyman, AD 50; **Jack Ainsworth**, Executive Director, and **Steve Hudson**, District Director, California Coastal Commission; **Sam Schuchat**, Executive Director, and **Megan Cooper**, Regional Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy; **Guangyu Wang**, Chief Administrative Director, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission; **Wade Crowfoot**, Secretary for Natural Resources, and **Angela Barranco**, Undersecretary for Natural Resources, California Natural Resources Agency; **Armando Quintero**, Director, and **Jerry West**, Angeles District Superintendent, California State Parks; **Rue Mapp**, Chair, State Park and Recreation Commission; **Jennifer Lucchesi**, Executive Officer, State Lands Commission; **Joseph T. Edmiston**, Executive Director, MRCA and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; **Tony Tavares**, Director, Caltrans District 7

Federal: **Hon. Diane Feinstein**, U.S. Senator (via Peter Muller, Deputy State Director); **Hon. Alex Padilla**, U.S. Representative (via Lauren Gallant, Sr. Field Representative); **Hon. Ted Lieu**, U.S. Representative, 33<sup>rd</sup> District (via Janet Turner, Field Supervisor); **Judge David O. Carter**, U.S. District Court Judge, Central District of California; **Cindy Orlando**, (Acting) Regional Director, Interior Region 8, National Park Service; **David Szymanski**, Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; **Tom Ford**, Director, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

Other: **Hon. James Bozajian**, Mayor, City of Calabasas; **Hon. Paul Grisanti**, Mayor, City of Malibu; **Carrie Carrier**, President, Topanga Town Council; **Guillermo Rodriguez**, State Director, The Trust for Public Land; **Morgan Goodwin**, Sr. Chapter Director, Sierra Club/Angeles Chapter; **Shelley Luce**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Heal the Bay; **Tom Ford**, Executive Director, The Bay Foundation; **Bruce Reznik**, Executive Director, LA Waterkeeper; **Graham Hamilton**, LA Chapter Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation; **Matt Wersinger**, Chair, Westside Regional Alliance of Councils; **Sharon Browning** and **Sharon Kilbride**, Co-Presidents, Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness