



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

March 20, 2025

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Hon. Traci Park, LA City Councilwoman, CD 11
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, LA City Councilwoman, CD 5
Hon. Heather Hutt, LA City Councilwoman, CD 10
Hon. Nithya Raman, LA City Councilwoman, CD 4
Barbara Romero, Director and General Manager, LA Sanitation
Hon. Kathryn Barger, Chair, LA County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Lindsey Horvath, LA County Supervisor, SD 3
Gary Jones, Director, LA County Beaches & Harbors
Hon. Lana Negrete, Mayor, City of Santa Monica
Elaine Polacheck, Interim City Manager, City of Santa Monica

Via email to all addressees

Re: Request to immediately address hazardous coastal wildfire debris

Dear City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles and City of Santa Monica leaders:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has for 52 years been the voice of Pacific Palisades – the community that was devastated by the Palisades Fire. Pacific Palisades hosts Will Rogers State Beach (WRSB), which was used by the EPA to store and sort toxic debris from the fire and where hazardous fire waste has been deposited along the shoreline – as can be observed along all beaches in the region, from Topanga Beach to WRSB, Santa Monica Beach, Venice Beach and Dockweiler State Beach.

The PPCC Executive Committee believes that the hazardous debris condition along our regional beaches is **a serious threat to public health and safety which requires immediate attention**. Acting on behalf of the PPCC Board, pursuant to PPCC bylaws, the Executive Committee has therefore approved the following motion:¹

“Whereas the recent devastating wildfires have left the LA streets and landscape covered with a multitude of toxic chemicals, heavy metals, hazardous materials, ash and fire debris;

“Whereas the recent heavy rainstorms have washed an enormous amount of this toxic material down to our coastline;

¹ This is a modified version of a motion that the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) Board unanimously passed on March 17, 2025, for recommendation to all 14 Member Councils of WRAC. See:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/request-to-address-wildfire-coastal-debris-catastrophe/>. Venice Neighborhood Council has also passed a modified version of the motion; other WRAC Member Councils are expected to take up the motion in due course.

“Whereas the EPA and FEMA, against strong public opposition, have chosen to use the beach lots along our coast as sorting sites;

“Whereas our beaches are now covered with hazardous fire debris and black sludge;

“Whereas no significant water/beach testing information has been released to the public;

“Whereas the Palisades community, which hosts Will Rogers State Beach, was the epicenter of the Palisades Fire and has been most severely impacted by the catastrophe;

“Whereas Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) believes that the motion by Councilwoman Park in CF 25-0006-S69 (requesting that data from testing of ocean water by the City Bureau of Sanitation, the County Dept. of Public Health and County Beaches & Harbors be shared with City Council), while important, is only a first step, and that urgent additional measures are needed immediately to protect public health and safety;

“PPCC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), therefore strongly urges that this catastrophe be taken seriously, with an immediate plan to fund, test, share information, and protect our coastal environment and the millions of people who enjoy it, by City of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica and Los Angeles County authorities with respective operational control of our beaches in the region, including Dockweiler State Beach, Venice Beach, Santa Monica Beach, Will Rogers State Beach and Topanga Beach.

“PPCC further urges that one or more of the Councilmembers who represent WRAC member councils (Hutt, Park, Raman and/or Yaroslavsky) bring a resolution in Council immediately 1) to address this catastrophe on all beaches over which the City has operational control, and 2) to request that the City of Santa Monica and Los Angeles County, respectively, take further, immediate action to address the catastrophe on all beaches over which they have operational control in the region, including without limitation Will Rogers State Beach (County Beaches & Harbors).”

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

The PPCC Executive Committee:

Sue Kohl, President; Quentin Fleming, Vice-President; Jenny Li, Treasurer; Beth Holden Garland, Secretary; Maryam Zar, Chair Emeritus; Chris Spitz, Elected Representative (At-large); John Padden, Organizational Representative (PRIDE)

cc:

Hon. Ben Allen, State Senator, SD 24

Hon. Jacqui Irwin, State Assemblymember, AD 42

Steve Hudson, District Director, South Central Coast and South Coast/LA County, California
Coastal Commission