



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September 14, 2025

Hon. Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
via Vishesh Anand, Deputy Regional Director

via email

Re: Request Governor's Veto of SB 79 (Wiener)

Dear Governor Newsom:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) – the voice of the Palisades community that was destroyed in the unprecedented Palisades Fire – again respectfully writes to you regarding SB 79.¹ **We now urgently request your VETO of the bill.**

As you know, SB 79 would mandate streamlining of dense housing, with ministerial, “by right” approvals, to permit very tall, multi-family buildings, including in single-family zones, near major transit stops. Like SB 9, the bill fails to include an unconditional exemption for the VHFHSZ and thus compromises public safety in our community.²

Our Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin oppose SB 79, as does the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, our City Councilwoman Traci Park, and many other elected officials and leaders. Despite strong opposition, the bill passed narrowly in the legislature.

As stated in our August 9th letter, your Emergency Order # N-32-25 responsibly recognized and acknowledged the direct, massive harm to constituents in the VHFHSZ from the results of terrifying emergency evacuations during the Palisades Fire (under then current density levels). SB 79 presents a clear risk of even greater harm from increased density in all VHFHSZ areas, including in Pacific Palisades.

We respectfully submit that highly controversial legislation such as SB 79 – which would have such an enormous impact statewide, poses critical public safety risks, is strongly opposed by so many respected city and state leaders and communities, and was passed only by a very narrow margin – should never be enacted. **Again, we urge you to take responsible action and VETO SB 79.**

¹ PPCC strongly opposes SB 79; we originally requested your assistance regarding the bill on August 9, 2025. See: <https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/PPCC-EC-Letter-Gov.-Newsom-SB-79.pdf>.

² Sen. Wiener has publicly dismissed PPCC's concerns, on the grounds that we do not have major transit stops in our community. These comments are irresponsible. Pacific Palisades is currently a virtual wasteland. The fact that major transit stops (as defined in the bill) aren't located now in the Palisades *does not mean that they would never be added in the future* – after the rebuild, at a different time, by different elected officials, with different ideologies and goals that are not necessarily aligned with protection of our community or other communities in the VHFHSZ. The author has never responded to us and has refused to include a full exemption for the VHFHSZ. **This is a matter of grave concern for the future safety of Pacific Palisades.**

Thank you for your support and anticipated prompt attention to this critical request.

Sincerely,

Sue Kohl and Christina Spitz

Sue Kohl, President
Christina Spitz, At-large Rep & Land Use Committee Chair
Pacific Palisades Community Council

cc (via email):

Hon. Ben Allen, Senator, SD 24
Hon. Jacqui Irwin, Assemblymember, AD 42
Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Hon. Hydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Attorney
Hon. Traci Park, City Councilmember, CD 11