

Questions from PPCC Elected Reps regarding the Pedestrian Bridge Project – July 2026

PPCC At-large Representative Chris Spitz and Area Six Representative Lorie Cudzil respectfully submit the following questions to CD 11, the LA City Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and Arellano Associates (outreach consultant to the City on the pedestrian bridge project), in advance of the community meeting scheduled for July 16, 2026.¹ Please note: The terms “you” and “yours” as used below refer to the City of LA, CD 11, BOE, Arellano Associates and any consultants or agencies involved with outreach, environmental review, design and/or permitting of the bridge project.

1. Regarding environmental review of the project:

- What agency or entity prepared the Preliminary Environmental Analysis Report (PEAR)? (https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Potrero-PCH-Ped-Bicycle-Bridge_PEAR.pdf)
- Do you intend to engage in further environmental review of the Pedestrian Bridge project, beyond the PEAR?
- What would trigger the need to undertake further review of the project, *e.g.*, an MND, EIR or other CEQA or NEPA documents?
- Who would receive notice of the preparation of any such environmental documents?
- Would residents and community organizations be permitted to comment on draft environmental documents for the bridge project before they are finalized?
- Who/what agency would make the final determinations for such documents?
- Will you commit to providing all pertinent environmental documents to PPCC and the community in a timely manner and in advance of any final determinations?

2. Regarding the PEAR’s conclusions as to the project’s impact on “community character”:

- What was the basis for the PEAR’s conclusions that the bridge project “would not present the potential to evoke any measurable impact on the character and cohesion of the community” and “would not degrade community character”; that “community impacts

¹ Ms. Spitz was elected by and represents all Palisades residents, businesses and property owners; Ms. Cudzil was elected by and represents all residents of PPCC Area Six – the area where Potrero Canyon is located. Both are residents of Area Six (where each lived before the Palisades Fire and where each intends to rebuild and return). Both are in regular communication with Area Six residents and also with Palisadians throughout the community, not only in their capacity as elected PPCC representatives, but through their volunteer service with other Palisades organizations or entities, *e.g.*, the Palisades Community Recovery Coordination Council and its Advocacy Advisory Task Force (CRCC/ATF - Spitz) and the Palisades Long Term Recovery Group (Pali LTRG - Cudzil). Both are also aware that although the bridge had supporters and opponents before the Fire, in the Fire’s aftermath, Palisadians have questions and concerns about the project’s necessity and why it is going forward when (1) the community was destroyed and critical infrastructure projects vital to the recovery are unfunded or only partially funded, and (2) a pedestrian trail that will provide coastal access (required by the Coastal Commission) is already being developed. A survey of the community’s *current* position on the bridge has not been undertaken to date.

[of the bridge project] would not be substantial”; and that a “community impact assessment [of the project] would not be required”?

- When were these conclusions reached? If reached before the Palisades Fire on January 7, 2025, do they remain your conclusions post-Fire, and if so, on what basis?

3. Regarding the PEAR’s conclusions as to community support for the project:

- What was the basis for the PEAR’s conclusions that “the public appears to generally support the project,” and that the project is “not anticipated to result in public controversy”?
- When were these conclusions reached? If reached before the Palisades Fire on January 7, 2025, do they remain your conclusions post-Fire, and if so, on what basis?
- What efforts have you made to determine if the community continues to support the project, considering the Palisades’ devastation and the fact that key infrastructure and safety improvements are needed for the recovery which remain unfunded or underfunded?
- What outreach with the community, if any, have you engaged in since the last community meeting about the bridge project in October 2025?
- Have you spoken individually with any community members or groups about the project, and if so, with whom, when and what was the outcome?
- If it becomes evident during further outreach that the public no longer supports the project, would the only outcome be “increased cost/schedule for the PA/ED phase,” as noted in the PEAR? Or, would you support a community-initiated request to redirect the balance remaining from the \$11 million in funding from the State (currently restricted to use for the bridge) to critical post-Fire infrastructure or other recovery needs in Pacific Palisades?
- If the community does not support going forward with the bridge, do you know whether the balance of the \$11 million would have to be returned to the State’s General Fund (instead of being redirected to other Palisades needs)?

5. Regarding the pedestrian trail and a Coastal Development Permit for the bridge.

- Why has information about the City’s development of the pedestrian trail – *required to provide coastal access* under the existing Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for Potrero Canyon – not been mentioned in the notices about the bridge project and/or the PEAR?
- At the community meeting on 7/16/26, will you address the fact that there is an alternate route for coastal access that is required and is now under development?
- Will you be applying to the Coastal Commission for a new CDP or an amendment to the existing CDP to allow the bridge to go forward? If so, when will that occur, and will the

community receive advance notice of the application? What is your understanding as to the need to apply for a new CDP or CDP amendment for the bridge?

6. Regarding community concerns about public safety and security.

- Have you taken into account changed conditions and concerns about increased theft and other crimes, as well as evidence of illegal fires in canyon and bluff areas, occurring since the 2025 Fire? Did you know that on July 10, 2026, a fire destroyed a residential home under construction after the Fire (suspected due to copper wire theft/not yet confirmed)?
- Are you aware that City officials have informed the community that due to lack of funding, Park Rangers cannot be assigned to patrol Potrero Canyon; that private security cannot be retained to patrol the park; and that increased police presence in the Canyon or elsewhere in the Palisades is not feasible?
- What is the current plan, if any, to provide adequate security going forward, including if/when the bridge is completed? Are funds available to provide security for the Canyon and if so, from what source?
- Are you aware that Potrero Canyon gates and locking mechanisms have had numerous problems since the park opening and before the Fire, e.g., no programmable remote option, gates being left open/not latching properly, requests for RAP staff to check gates to make sure they were closed and locked at sunset every night (to our knowledge such monitoring did not regularly occur) – as reported on PPCC’s website?
- Is there a plan for gates to be installed at entrance points from and to the beach and the pedestrian bridge, and if so, will they have locks with programmable remote options?
- Will RAP or other staff be required to inspect all gates at the pedestrian bridge every night before park closure to ensure they are latched, locked and secured shut? How can residents be assured that this will in fact occur nightly?
- Is there a plan to install more secure locks or gates, or higher fencing, or to implement any other safety measures, to deter persons from entering the park overnight via the proposed pedestrian bridge? If so, please describe any such plan and whether funding has been identified and will be available.
- Will the bridge have gates with locks at each end (i.e., at the beach parking lot entrance and at the entrance closest to Potrero Canyon)? Have you discussed with County Beaches & Harbors its ability to have nightly staff inspections of bridge gates located in the beach parking lot area, to ensure they are properly latched and locked?

7. Regarding funding and cost estimates to complete the bridge project.

- Do you have a revised estimate of the cost to complete the project? Has your prior cost estimate (between \$13 - \$18 million, depending on inflation, as provided at the

community meeting in October 2025) increased or changed? If so, what is the current cost estimate and what is it based on?

- What has been paid to date for the services of consultants or other vendors with respect to the bridge project? Please detail the nature and amount of any such payments.
- What is the current balance of the \$11 million in funding for the bridge?
- Have any other funding sources been identified or secured to cover the estimated cost to complete the project, beyond the original \$11 million? Please describe any efforts to secure additional funding for the bridge.

Submitted July 13, 2026

by C. Spitz, PPCC At-large rep and L. Cudzil, PPCC Area Six rep

Thank you in advance for considering and responding to our questions.