



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

April 16, 2025

Hon. Kathryn Barger, Chair, LA County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Lindsey Horvath, LA County Supervisor, SD 3
Hon. Holly Mitchell, LA County Supervisor, SD 2
Gary Jones, Director, LA County Beaches & Harbors

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. 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:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, in Council Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Council Districts 4 and 10 – from Westchester / Playa del Rey to Pacific Palisades, and from Venice to South Robertson. Our Alliance collectively represents over 500,000 Angelenos.

Much of the shoreline in the City of Los Angeles is in CD 11 – where beautiful beaches are visited annually by millions of persons from the region and beyond. Three beaches are hosted respectively by WRAC member councils: *Pacific Palisades NC* (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 continues to be deposited along the shoreline); *Venice NC* (world-renowned Venice Beach); and *NC Westchester / Playa del Rey* (Dockweiler State Beach / DSB). The hazardous waste can be observed – and has been observed by numerous constituents of WRAC member councils – *along all beaches in the region*, from Topanga Beach to WRSB, Santa Monica Beach, Venice Beach and DSB.

WRAC member councils believe that the hazardous debris conditions along our regional beaches is **a serious threat to public health and safety which requires immediate attention**. Accordingly, a super-majority (9) of WRAC member councils has approved the following motion:

“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;

“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;

“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.

“WRAC 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.”¹

The following WRAC member councils have passed the above motion or modified versions in keeping with its spirit: Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC; Brentwood NC; NC Westchester/Playa del Rey; North Westwood NC; Pacific Palisades CC,* Venice NC,* West LA-Sawtelle NC, Westside NC and Westwood NC.

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

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz

Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz
Chair and Vice-Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
www.westsidecouncils.com

cc (via email):

Hon. Ben Allen, State Senator, SD 24
Hon. Jacqui Irwin, State Assemblymember, AD 42
Hon. Rick Zbur, State Assemblymember, AD 51
Hon. Tina McKinnor, State Assemblymember, AD 61
Steve Hudson, District Director, South Central Coast and South Coast/LA County, California
Coastal Commission

¹ We understand that Supervisor Horvath has initiated efforts to mitigate debris conditions at WRSB; we also appreciate the motion by Councilwoman Park in CF 25-0006-S6 (calling for testing of ocean water). While these steps are important, WRAC believes that *urgent action and larger, coordinated measures* are needed immediately to protect public health and safety.

