



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

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April 23, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 1461 (Allen) State of Emergency and Local Emergency: Landslide
Notice of Support (As amended March 18, 2024)

Dear Senator Caballero,

The City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to support SB 1461 (Allen) which would include landslide among the conditions constituting a state of emergency or local emergency.

The California Emergency Services Act (Act) authorizes the Governor to declare a state of emergency and local officials and local governments to declare a local emergency when specific conditions exist. The Act authorizes the Governor or the appropriate local government to exercise certain powers in response to that emergency. The terms "state of emergency" and "local emergency" are defined as a duly proclaimed existence of disaster or extreme peril conditions to the safety of persons and property within the state. Such conditions are defined in law and inclusive of fire, storms, drought, riot, epidemic, or cyberterrorism, among others. Landslides, however, are not currently included in the definition of disaster causes and conditions.

Located in South Orange County, Laguna Niguel's topography is prone to earth movement. Landslides have caused previous disasters in the City's history, including the 1998 Via Estoril Landslide, which destroyed nine homes. Currently, the City of Laguna Niguel is actively addressing deep-seated earth movement along a major arterial road, which has caused all southbound lanes to be closed. The City is actively addressing this issue, and the estimated cost to complete the permanent repair is \$22 million.

SB 1461 would appropriately include a landslide, defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope under the direct influence of gravity that travels at a speed of at least one inch per year, among those conditions constituting a state of emergency or local emergency. This will support both the state and local governments when landslides cause catastrophic impacts to communities, roadways, and other infrastructure. When emergencies are declared, greater resources, funding, and authorities support the state and local governments in responding as expeditiously as possible to protect life and property.

For these reasons, the City of Laguna Niguel supports SB 1461 (Allen) and encourages the Senate Appropriations Committee to vote in support.

Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Kevin O'Connor, Management Assistant, at koconnor@cityoflagunaniguel.org.

Sincerely,



Kelly Jennings
Mayor