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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**PATRICIA C. BATES**  
THIRTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
RULES

August 27, 2019

California Coastal Commission  
1121 L Street, #503  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Commissioners,

As you know, three women lost their lives to a tragic bluff collapse in Encinitas, California, on August 2, 2019. To help prevent future tragedies and save lives, I ask you to reconsider this critical issue to ensure that the commission is not hindering bluff stabilization efforts that do not involve “managed retreat.”


The Encinitas victims – Elizabeth Cox, Anne Clave, and Julie Davis – were part of a large family gathering at a local beach celebrating Ms. Cox’s fight against breast cancer. Due to coastal erosion, a roughly 30-foot-wide chunk of a cliff crashed down onto the victims without warning. While we cannot change the past, it is imperative that the local, state, and federal governments work together to prevent future tragedies on our coast.

At the federal level, I support efforts by U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, and U.S. Representative Mike Levin, to convince the federal Office of Management and Budget to approve funding for the Encinitas-Solana Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project, also known as the San Diego County Shore Protection Project. Funding approval for this project would be a significant step in the right direction.

While we wait for federal action, the commission can also help cities and homeowners to stabilize coastal bluffs by allowing sea walls and beach replenishment when feasible. I have heard from frustrated constituents and local government officials about being unable to shore up local bluffs with non-managed retreat strategies due to commission opposition. Every option to protect the coast and private properties should be on the table.

Thank you in advance for consideration of my request for more flexibility to protect our coast. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
PATRICIA C. BATES  
Senator, 36<sup>th</sup> District