



September 15, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Request for Emergency Declaration

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are writing to urgently request that you proclaim a State of Emergency for the coastal regions of Southern California, particularly in Orange County, following the severe coastal destruction caused by recent storm surges and extreme swells. Cities have already declared local states of emergency as mounting tidal erosion threatens key public infrastructure, damages coastal rail corridors, and leaves residential neighborhoods highly vulnerable. Oceanfront homes are facing catastrophic structural damage, with dozens of properties already red-tagged as uninhabitable or yellow-tagged due to compromised foundations, breached seawalls, and destroyed decks. A formal state declaration is critical to unlocking state disaster relief resources, expediting emergency permitting for shoreline protection, and enabling affected homeowners to access financial and recovery assistance right away.

In addition, communities in Los Angeles County have suffered significant coastal damage, highlighted by the breaching of a seawall on the Long Beach Peninsula that forced brief evacuations for about 20 homes and damage to local boardwalks. Expanding state support to include Long Beach will ensure these heavily impacted neighborhoods receive the immediate assistance required to repair damaged sea defenses and safeguard residential properties from further erosion.

Lastly, state resource allocation is urgently required to repair and reopen the LOSSAN (Los Angeles–San Diego–San Luis Obispo) rail corridor through San Clemente, where powerful wave overtopping and slope erosion have forced an indefinite suspension of passenger and freight services. As the second-busiest intercity passenger rail line in the nation, this 351-mile artery serves as a critical economic and transit lifeline for Southern California, moving millions of Metrolink, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, and essential freight commuters annually. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and local crews are working aggressively on emergency slope stabilization and rock placement along the tracks, but local resources alone cannot cover the

massive financial burden of ongoing track stabilization and sand replenishment. Immediate state transportation funding, Caltrans emergency support, and expedited regulatory permitting are vital to securing the coastal tracks and restoring full intercity transit service. Direct state investment in the LOSSAN corridor will not only address immediate track stabilization, but will also provide the critical funding required for long-term resiliency planning, including necessary track realignment and coastal defense projects, to ensure our regional transit network is fully prepared for increasingly severe climate impacts.

Thank you for your prompt consideration and steadfast leadership in protecting California's coastal communities and vital infrastructure. I look forward to working alongside your administration to ensure our residents and transit corridors receive the swift relief they need. If you need more clarity or information, please reach out to my Chief of Staff, Donna Cleary, at Donna.Cleary@asm.ca.gov. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,



Laurie Davies
Assemblywoman, District 74



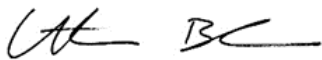
Diane Dixon
Assemblywoman, District 72



Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember, District 67



Tony Strickland
Senator, District 36



Catherine Blakespear
Senator, District 38



Josh Lowenthal
Assemblyman, District 69