

CITY COUNCIL

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ADMINISTRATION

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CITY OF LOMITA

September 18, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 92814

RE: AB 986 (Muratsuchi) SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom,

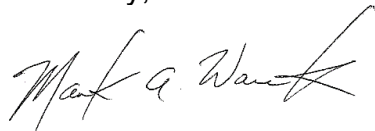
On behalf of the City of Lomita, I am writing to express our strong support of AB 986 (Muratsuchi) and to respectfully urge you to sign this critical legislation into law. This bill, which amends the California Emergency Services Act, would add landslides and conditions exacerbated by climate change to the list of events that can be declared a state or local emergency. This measure has earned strong support from both the Assembly and Senate, reflecting a broad recognition that landslides are true emergencies that pose serious and growing threats to municipalities and residents across the State.

AB 986 is a direct response to the ongoing and accelerating landslide activity in our neighboring City of Rancho Palos Verdes, which has damaged homes, displaced residents, disrupted utilities and transportation networks, and significantly strained local finances. Most recently, the devastating landslide in the City of Rolling Hills Estates destroyed homes and forced families to evacuate with little notice, highlighting the unpredictable and catastrophic nature of these events. These incidents demonstrate the urgent need for statutory recognition of landslides as emergencies that demand coordinated state and local responses. Our communities are highly vulnerable as landslides and climate change-driven disasters are not yet included in the statutory definition of emergencies.

In Lomita, we are particularly concerned because of our location in the foothills of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Our southern neighborhoods are situated near unstable terrain that is increasingly susceptible to movement due to climate-related factors such as heavy rains, extreme weather, and prolonged drought cycles that compromise soil stability. Even localized landslide activity has the potential to damage homes, threaten infrastructure, cut off critical roadways, and place significant burdens on City resources that are already limited. Without the ability to declare a landslide-related emergency, Lomita and other cities in similar positions lack the tools and access to resources necessary to protect residents, stabilize public facilities, and recover from these unpredictable but increasingly common events.

For these reasons, the City of Lomita urges your signature on AB 986. This legislation would provide essential relief and flexibility to local governments as we work to protect our communities in the face of climate change and natural hazards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Waronek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "W".

Mark Waronek
Mayor

- c. The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
City of Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
City of Lomita City Council
League of California Cities, cityletters@calcities.org