



CITY OF
T O R R A N C E

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 986 (Muratsuchi) State of Emergency and Local Emergency: Landslides and Climate Change.
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Amended March 24, 2025)*

Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Torrance is pleased to support AB 986 (Muratsuchi), which would expand the definition of state and local emergencies to include landslides and preexisting conditions worsened by climate change.

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, riots, epidemics, or cyberterrorism, among others.

Despite the enormous risks and costs landslides pose, legal frameworks currently fail to recognize them explicitly as events eligible for state emergency assistance. As a result, local governments are left without access to vital resources needed to prevent damage and safeguard public safety. The absence of financial and logistical support forces them to shoulder the full burden of response and recovery, leaving communities exposed to escalating harm and economic hardship.

This measure will support both the state and local governments when landslides and climate change cause catastrophic impacts on 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.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
September 18, 2025

For these reasons, the City of Torrance is pleased to support AB 986 (Muratsuchi). Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



George K. Chen
Mayor
City of Torrance

cc. Senator Ben Allen & Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi
Jeff Kiernan, League Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email)
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org