

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 7  
In Support of Isla Vista Bluffs Safety**

**WHEREAS**, the Isla Vista bluffs have a tragic history that involves members falling from coastal bluffs on both private and public properties, leading to grievous injuries and loss of life, emphasizing the dire need for improved safety measures. 13 people at least have died since 1994, the earliest known incident. Most recently Benjamin “Benny” Schurmer, an SBCC student, passed away due to a fall from the bluffs on September 2, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Isla Vista bluffs have an erosion rate of six inches annually, bringing potential hazards ever closer to the properties of Del Playa oceanside, signifying the urgency of safety improvements. Del Playa oceanside is one of the densest neighborhoods in Isla Vista and is likely one of the densest areas in California situated atop a coastal bluff; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Barbara has an existing bluff erosion policy focused on ensuring the structural safety of properties adjacent to the coastal bluffs, **WHEREAS**, communities like Dana Point in Orange County demonstrate the feasibility of implementing aesthetically pleasing high plexiglass fencing that guarantees resident safety without compromising ocean views; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of the Isla Vista Community Services District, in collaboration with Supervisor Laura Capps, are paving the way for heightened coastal bluff safety and educational outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Capps' eight-point plan delineates crucial strategies including, but not limited to, enhanced fencing, innovative lighting solutions, prominent warning signage, public restroom facilities, comprehensive educational initiatives, strategic horticulture, memorials, and reinforced enforcement policies; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol and drug use have been factors in cliff falls in Isla Vista, and while educational efforts play a crucial role, it is evident that structural improvements are needed to enhance protection for both residents and visitors; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Barbara Community College District Board of Trustees endorses Supervisor Capps' comprehensive eight-point plan for Isla Vista bluff safety, urging the County of Santa Barbara, the California Coastal Commission, and private property owners for swift implementation to protect the community.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Trustees of the SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT this 5th day of October, 2023 by the following vote:

Aye: Trustees Abboud, Everett, Croninger, Miller, Gullap-Moore, and Stoddard

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Trustee Gallardo

Concur: Student Trustee Kofoed



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Jonathan Abboud, President  
Santa Barbara Community College District  
Board of Trustees



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Erika Endrijonas, Ph.D.  
Superintendent/President and Secretary/Clerk  
to the Board of Trustees