



Office of 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Laura  
Capps

# ISLA VISTA BLUFFS SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

County Board of Supervisors  
November 7, 2023

# Benny Schurmer



# Other Lives Lost to Cliff Falls

1994 Brian Scott Miller

1997 Andrew Litvinchuk

2001 Clint McDonnell

2001 Timothy Baptista

2003 Robert Caraval

2005 Tyler VonRuden

2009 Noah Krom

2012 David Propp

2013 Giselle Ayala

2014 Sierra Markee-Winkler

2018 Alessandro Esquivel

2022 Chasen Alibrando

2023 Benny Schurmer

**\*There is no cumulative record showing all the victims of cliff falls**







# Collaborative Process with the Community and Stakeholders

IV Community Services District, IV SAFE, Associated Students of UCSB, IV Foot Patrol, Property Owners, County Parks, County Planning and Development, Families who have lost children to cliff falls



# Focus of Today

Fence Heights, Fee Waivers for Private Property Owners along the bluffs

Directing Staff on Lighting, Signage and Horticulture Options



# IV Safety Enhancements

- **Fence Heights:**
- Proposed amendments aim to increase minimum height from 4 feet to 6 feet in County Parks and from 3.5 feet to 6 feet for railings and fencing along the bluffs on private property.
- Permitting Fee Waiver proposed to facilitate safety improvements by waiving fees for good cause on Private Property



# IV Safety Enhancements

- **Lighting:**
- Request Parks staff to engage lighting design consultants for enhanced lighting options.
- **Warning Signs:**
- Collaborating with County Parks for well-lit and durable signage.
- **Horticulture:**
- Exploring the use of shrubs and bushes as natural barriers to discourage trespassing.

# Additional Items In The 8 Point Plan

- **Education:**

- Collaborating with community groups for educational efforts on bluff safety.

- **Public Restrooms:**

- Recognize the need for public restrooms near cliffs; exploring permanent options.

- **Memorial:**

- Supporting the establishment of a memorial to commemorate lives lost due to cliff falls.

- **Updates to Festival and Social Host Ordinances:**

- To be discussed at a future meeting. Stakeholder group led by IVFP and IVCSO. Not part of today's action.

- **Alcohol and Drug Use Considerations:**

- Acknowledge the role of substance use in cliff falls; emphasizing the importance of safety measures.

# Recommended Actions

- That the Board of Supervisors:
- On November 7, 2023:
- Receive and file report on raising the heights of bluff fencing and railings in Isla Vista and on permitting requirements for different zoning types along Del Playa in Isla Vista (Attachment 1);
- Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance to amend Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 10, titled Building Regulations, Article II, Part II, section 10-14.2 to raise the mandatory height for railings and fencing along the Isla Vista Bluffs (Attachments 2 & 3);
- Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 4991, Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Fee Ordinance, to allow Director of Planning and Development to waive permitting fees for good cause for fencing and railings along the Isla Vista Bluffs (Attachments 4);
- Find that waiving permitting fees for fencing and railings on private property along the Isla Vista bluffs is necessary to meet the social needs of the population of the County, including public safety, and this fulfills an important public purpose of enhancing public safety;
- Read the title of the above Ordinances and waive full reading of the Ordinances;
- Direct Community Services Department, Parks Division staff to revise the existing project to move bluff top fencing in County Parks in Isla Vista to include increasing the height of the existing fence from 4 to 6 feet and submit any required permitting;

# Recommended Actions (cont.)

- Direct Community Services Department, Parks Division staff to report back on options for lighting, warning signs, reducing vandalism of warning signs, the use of horticulture options as a natural barrier, and community collaboration for public restrooms at County Parks on the Isla Vista Bluffs;
- Approve budget revision #9422 (Attachment 6) that includes the following:
  - Use of South County- Trails and Open Space set-aside in the amount of \$180,000 to provide funding for Community Services Department, Parks Division, to fund and revise existing bluff fencing project to increase fencing height to six feet; work with consultants and community stakeholders on lighting and landscape design and collaboration with Isla Vista stakeholders;
  - \$90,000 from the FY 2023/2024 2<sup>nd</sup> District 990 allocation that was budgeted to each supervisor's office and \$10,000 from FY 2022/23 2<sup>nd</sup> District 990 fund balance to provide funding to reimburse the County up to \$100,000 for permitting fees and Planning and Development staff time that may be waived for good cause to process permit applications from private property owners along the Isla Vista Bluffs; and

# Alessandro Esquivel



# Chasen Alibrando



# Questions?

