

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

# Isla Vista Rental Inspection Pilot Program

Board of Supervisors,  
Office of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District

January 14, 2025



## Goals of an Isla Vista Rental Inspection Pilot Program

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- Improved health and safety of Isla Vista residents.
- Help ensure safe, habitable living conditions of current rental housing stock in Isla Vista.
- Increased accountability for landlords and property owners.
- Reduction of emergency interventions.
- Support young, low-income tenants.
- Isla Vista-specific pilot program. No intention to expand beyond Isla Vista.



## Background

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- UC Santa Barbara's failure to meet its housing goals outlined in its 2010 Long Range Development Plan
- March 2024: Settlement reached with UC Santa Barbara
  - \$3.7 million payment to County to fund projects and programs that address Isla Vista community needs.
  - 3,500 new student beds
  - Up to 1,874 faculty and staff units
- Extensive community outreach to assess Isla Vista's most pressing needs. **Safe housing rose to top.**
- July 2024: Board unanimously approved project list with settlement funds, including a proactive rental inspection pilot program.



## Isla Vista At A Glance

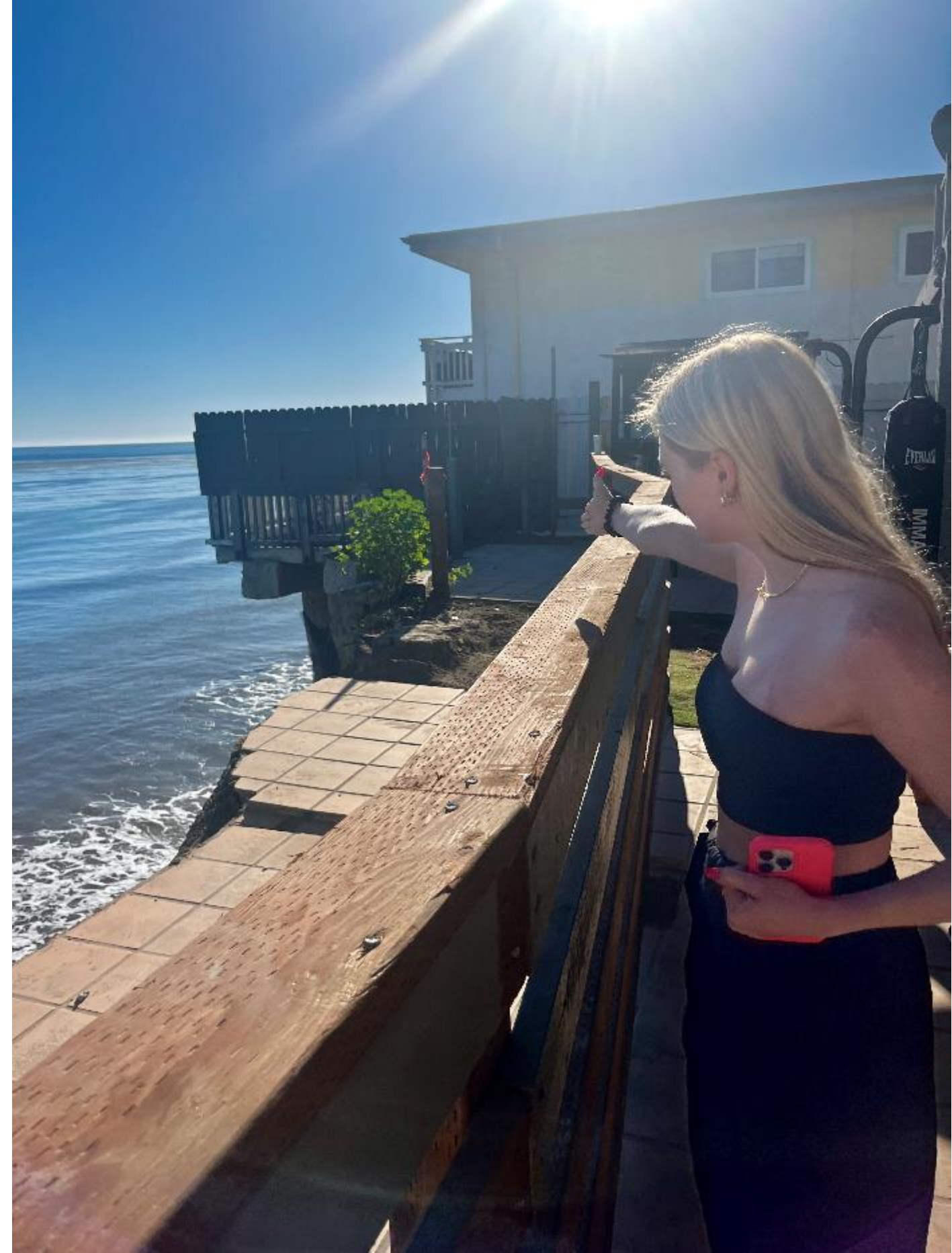
- One of the most densely populated areas in the entire country
- 97% renters
- 86% college-student aged
- 72% poverty rate



# Housing Safety Complaints

- Presence of mold
- Fences in disrepair along bluffs
- Rodents/insects
- Lack of smoke detectors
- No heat
- Exposed electrical wiring
- And more...





## Recommended Actions

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That the Board of Supervisors:

- Receive and file this report on the unsafe and substandard housing conditions of rental housing units in the community of Isla Vista and discuss a potential pilot rental housing inspection program;
- Direct the Planning and Development Department to prepare an ordinance to create and implement an Isla Vista Rental Housing Inspection Pilot Program;
- Determine that this report does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5); and
- Provide direction to staff, as appropriate.



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# Thank You

