

March 22, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: City of Goleta Cathedral Oaks Crib Wall Repair

Dear Senator Alex Padilla:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce to express our support for the City of Goleta's funding request for the Cathedral Oaks Crib Wall Repair project. The recent atmospheric river storms of 2023 and 2024, combined with intense winter storms in January and February of 2017, have caused severe erosion to the crib wall structure and associated slopes, road, shoulder, and bikeway. The purpose of this project is to conduct permanent repairs to mitigate further structural damage to the crib wall and backfill. The Chamber is dedicated to the economic health and vitality of our region, and we recognize the role that maintaining safe transportation infrastructure plays in the role, especially in the face of recent weather events.

The damage caused by high-intensity runoff, infiltration, and migration of stormwater has resulted in sinkholes, surface erosion of slopes, and material loss through the face of the crib wall. The damaged sections of the crib wall and supported slopes now threaten the safety of adjacent Cathedral Oaks Road and bikeway and the road and bikeway are now permanently closed. The proposed project aims to repair the damaged sections of the crib wall, shoulder, road, and bikeway to prevent any future accidents and to improve safety for all who use this infrastructure.

The City's funding request will allow the City of Goleta to address the critical damages to the Cathedral Oaks crib wall and strengthen the infrastructure in this area. We fully support this project and appreciate the City's efforts to ensure the safety of its residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Kristen Miller
President & CEO
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce