EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS the City of Rancho Palos Verdes is home to four out of five sub-slides that comprise the Greater Portuguese Landslide Complex, which was discovered in 1956 and had been sliding at an average of several inches per year; and

WHEREAS the land movement under the City of Rancho Palos Verdes has accelerated significantly following the 2023 and 2024 severe storm events and is now sliding at an average of 9 to 12 inches per week; and

WHEREAS local governments or utilities serving the area could not immediately predict how the acceleration of land movement would impact residences and businesses in the area; and

WHEREAS the Governor's Office of Emergency Services has been coordinating with emergency response officials in Los Angeles County for nearly a year, including providing Rancho Palos Verdes city officials and county officials with technical assistance, offering guidance on the Standardized Emergency Management System, attending supporting the local assistance center, facilitating the federal mitigation grant that is helping to support the recent groundwater work in the area, and helping officials with initial damage estimates; and

WHEREAS on August 29, 2024, the acute accelerated land movement impacted a utility line that resulted in a spot brush fire on the Southern California Edison (SCE) Shoreline Circuit, leading to a determination by SCE that it is no longer safe to operate portions of this circuit; and

WHEREAS on September 1, 2024, due to the threat to public safety, SCE shut off power to a portion of the Shoreline Circuit indefinitely, affecting 140 residences and 53 businesses in the Portuguese Bend community; and

WHEREAS on September 2, 2024, SCE shut off the power to another 105 residences in the Seaview Community due to the threat to public safety, with the power to 20 of these residences shut off indefinitely; and

WHEREAS the indefinite nature of the power shutoffs has the potential to threaten the habitability of impacted residences throughout the affected communities; and

WHEREAS the power shutoffs have threatened the disruption of the city sewage system, the failure of which would cause an imminent public health concern and threaten the habitability of residences throughout the affected communities; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Sheriff has issued evacuation warnings to some City of Rancho Palos Verdes residents impacted by the disruption to basic utility services; and

WHEREAS local authorities are likely to require state assistance for any necessary evacuations and temporary sheltering of impacted residents; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to the acute acceleration of land movement that has impacted the provision of basic utility services; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the acute acceleration of land movement impacting the provision of basic utility services, by reason of its magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authorities are inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by the acute acceleration of land movement impacting the provision of basic utility services; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of this acute acceleration of land movement impacting the provision of basic utility services.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes due to the impacts of the acute acceleration of land movement on the provision of basic utility services.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.

2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 3rd day of September 2024.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY WEBER, PH.D.
Secretary of State