

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0549

October 17, 2019

Chair Marcy Kaptur
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Mike Simpson
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

Thank you for your work in drafting a strong Energy and Water Development appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2020. The bill includes many priorities for Members on both sides of the aisle, and I was proud to support it on the House floor. I am writing to make you aware of an urgent coastal protection project in my district and ask that you provide as much funding as possible for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shore protection investigations so that the Corps has the resources to begin work on the project.

On August 2, 2019, the lives of three of my constituents were lost due to a bluff collapse at Grandview Beach, in Encinitas, California. Julie Davis, Annie Clave, and Elizabeth Charles were at the beach celebrating Elizabeth's victory over breast cancer. Suddenly, a bluff along the beach collapsed and they were torn from the lives of their loved ones. Our San Diego community has mourned their loss and I am committed to ensuring that we do not experience this type of incident again. Tragically, bluff collapses have killed eight people in North County San Diego in recent years.

Fortunately, our region has a solution ready to address the dangers caused by bluff collapses. Authorized in 2016, the Encinitas-Solana Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project is designed to stabilize tall bluffs that erode due to high-energy storm swells. Bluff erosion poses a threat to life and safety, as well as property and critical infrastructure such as Southern California's main passenger and freight rail corridor. The cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach have been strong non-federal partners as they actively worked with the Army Corps to develop this project. In fact, they have secured all necessary non-federal funding for project Planning, Engineering & Design (PED) activities, and now await Federal PED funding.

I have personally spoken with Assistant Secretary for the Army (Civil Works) R.D. James about the Encinitas-Solana Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project and he supports our efforts. The project also enjoys the support of the Army Corps' Los Angeles District and South Pacific Division. It is past time that Congress and the Administration begin adequately funding this project so that we can avoid the devastating loss of life in the future.

As you work to write final FY2020 appropriations bills, I ask that you provide adequate resources for this project by making available at least \$5,000,000 in additional funding for shore protection investigations, as is included in the Senate's Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. I also urge you to include language that sets aside \$905,000 for the PED phase of beach renourishment projects that have been authorized by Congress for construction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Levin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the "i" in "Levin".

MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress

CC: Chair Nita M. Lowey, House Appropriations Committee
Ranking Member Kay Granger, House Appropriations Committee