



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 7, 2024

Dear Isla Vista Property Owners and Property Managers,

I write to you today alongside parents of children who have lost their lives to the bluffs in Isla Vista. Fourteen lives have now been lost that we know of - fourteen lives too many. While there are many factors that play a role in these accidents, the threshold question remains: **How many deaths will it take to do the right thing?**

This recent tragedy is a stark reminder of how dangerous bluff-top properties can be. **We need to implement common sense safety precautions now.** The Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors has passed an 8-point bluff safety plan, based on the feedback from all relevant stakeholders including property owners.

One simple but powerful measure is raising your fence or railing height to six feet. The County is doing so on its land, which the residents of I.V. appreciate (please see their reactions in the KEYT story [here](#).) My office has financial resources to help cover associated permit fees for the construction of a higher fence. Reach out to my colleague Eleanor Gartner (egartner@countyofsb.org).

After extensive outreach, very few property owners have followed the County's lead to raise their fence heights. Railings and fences, including the one where the accident recently happened, remain at 3 or 4 feet and many are in disrepair. Please see the photos below.

The bottom line: We need you to step up and help.

This is a community-wide issue to tackle. The County has newly installed six foot fencing along County parks, "hostile horticulture" has been planted along the bluffs, lighting is being installed, increased bluff education is happening in partnership with UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara City College, and the Isla Vista Community Services District, and a memorial for the young people who have lost their lives is being designed and constructed. **It's your turn now to do your part and raise your fence heights.**

Please begin the process to enact these safety precautions. Do the right thing. Help save a life.

Sincerely,

Second District Supervisor
Santa Barbara County

CC:

Heather Alibrando, mother of Chasen Alibrando (2022)
Ana Esquivel, mother of Alessandro Esquivel (2018)
Siobhan Markee and Lon Winkler, parents of Sierra Markee Winkler (2014)
Beth Krom, mother of Noah Krom (2009)

