



# City of Malibu

23825 Stuart Ranch Road · Malibu, California · 90265-4861  
Phone (310) 456-2489 · Fax (310) 456-3356 · [www.malibucity.org](http://www.malibucity.org)

---

**September 4, 2024**

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 1297 (Allen) – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Malibu, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1297, authored by Senator Ben Allen, and to respectfully urge you to sign this vital piece of legislation into law. SB 1297 is a critical tool in our comprehensive strategy to improve road safety along the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), which has unfortunately become notorious for hazardous conditions that endanger both residents and visitors.

Malibu is fully committed to an "all of the above" approach to road safety on PCH. This includes long-term infrastructure improvements, public education, and crucially, enhanced law enforcement. Recently, we brought the California Highway Patrol (CHP) back to Malibu with a dedicated task force of three officers, working in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). As a result of these combined enforcement efforts, citations for speeding have increased significantly, and we have seen a reduction in injury collisions by 36%. This encouraging statistic demonstrates that enforcement works.

The need for these measures cannot be overstated. As of the date of this letter, there have been 4,790 hazardous traffic citations issued in Malibu this year, including 3,404 for speeding alone. Additionally, we have recorded 166 traffic collisions, with 41 resulting in injuries. Tragically, our community experienced another fatality on July 4th, bringing the total number of lives lost on PCH in Malibu to 61 over the past ten years. These numbers represent not just statistics, but families devastated by preventable tragedies.

Our ongoing partnerships with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and California Highway Patrol (CHP) are another key aspect of our strategy. Together, we are working to reimagine this vital corridor through long-term infrastructure changes that will enhance safety for all road users and have contracted additional traffic Patrols from CHP and LA County Sheriff. The speed camera systems authorized by SB 1297 will complement these efforts by providing an immediate and effective means of deterring speeding and reducing accidents.

Governor Newsom, the tragic events of the past year, including the heartbreaking loss of four Pepperdine students due to a speeding motorist on October 17, 2023, have reinforced the importance of taking decisive action to improve road safety on PCH. In less than one year since the tragic accident the

legislature swiftly passed SB 1297. By signing the bill into law, you will build on our collective efforts to date and empower the City of Malibu to take the necessary steps to protect our community and the millions of visitors who travel this iconic highway each year.

We urge you to sign SB 1297 into law without delay, so we can begin implementing these life-saving measures as soon as possible. Your support is crucial in our mission to make PCH safer for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration and for your unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Doug Stewart  
Mayor, City of Malibu

**CC:**

Senator Ben Allen  
Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin