



City of Malibu

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September 4, 2024

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

RE: Support for SB 1509 (Stern) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Malibu, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1509, the "NOT in California Act," and to urge you to sign this critical piece of legislation into law.

SB 1509 proposes a necessary amendment to existing traffic laws by designating repeat violations of driving 26 mph or greater over the posted speed limit on roads with a speed limit of 55 mph or less as a two-point violation for passenger vehicles. This measure is of particular importance to our community as it directly addresses hazardous driving behaviors on one of our most vital and vulnerable roadways—the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH).

Speeding remains a significant concern on our roads, contributing to numerous accidents and fatalities each year. Over the last five years, Malibu has had the highest number of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from vehicle crashes among similarly sized cities. Compared to all cities of every size, Malibu is ranked 91st highest out of 482 cities, despite being one of the smallest cities in the state. As of this year, there have been 4,790 hazardous traffic citations issued in Malibu, including 3,404 for speeding alone. Additionally, we have recorded 166 traffic collisions, with 41 resulting in injuries. These alarming statistics underscore the urgent need for enhanced measures to curb reckless driving.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the heartbreaking loss of Pepperdine students, it is clear that more must be done to prevent such devastating accidents. SB 1509 will serve as an additional tool in our toolkit for improving road safety, complementing our existing efforts, and further deterring dangerous driving. By enforcing stricter penalties for repeat speed violations, this legislation will help ensure that our roads are safer for all who travel on them—drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike. It aligns with the City of Malibu's ongoing efforts to promote safe driving habits and protect our residents and visitors from preventable accidents and fatalities.

In supporting SB 1509, we reaffirm our commitment to reducing traffic-related injuries and deaths within our city and across the state. The two-point violation for excessive speeding is a practical and impactful step toward curbing the alarming rates of traffic violations and improving overall road safety in California.

We urge you to consider the widespread benefits of this legislation and its potential to save lives. Please sign SB 1509 into law, reinforcing California's dedication to the safety and well-being of its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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 extending to the right.

Doug Stewart
Mayor, City of Malibu

cc: Senator Henry Stern