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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of annual maintenance dredging of the Santa Barbara Harbor, which is critical to maintaining safe operations for the harbor's commercial activities, including Coast Guard operations, oil spill response, commercial fishing, visiting cruise ships, and recreational boating.

The construction of Santa Barbara Harbor Breakwater in the 1920's created an impediment to the natural transport of sand downcoast resulting in shoaling of the Federal Channel and potential coastal erosion at several coastal communities.

Since 1972, federal funding through the US Army Corps of Engineers has ensured these vital annual dredging operations to keep the Harbor safe and operational. Management of the harbor sediment also encourages unobstructed creek flows/sediment delivery through drainages that empty into the ocean along the waterfront and into the ocean, that in turn translates to reduced flood risk for the City of Santa Barbara residents and infrastructure. Removing sediment obstructions in the harbor and surrounding area also allows more sediment pass-through from the creeks, which contributes to down coast nourishment and reduction in erosion potential.

This annual project has consistently been included in the President's Annual Budget Request to Congress. Federal funding for this effort is critical and fully supported by the County of Santa Barbara.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest  
Washington Representative

DWG: awg